



2020

A TALE OF TWO

RENA BUTLER

This fall, Hubbard Street opens Season 43 with a virtual presentation of new work by Rena Butler, *A Tale of Two*. Our 4-week series of videos and study guides takes young people through a deep dive into one of the film's core concepts: Dance as Advocacy.

A TALE OF TWO

A Study Guide for the Student Matinee

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A TALE OF TWO

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Register for the
Student Matinee



Student Matinee

The student matinee for A Tale of Two by Rena Butler will be available from November 2 - November 13, 2020. A live q & a with artists from the performance will be held on Friday, November 13, 2020. Students and Teachers may submit questions to the artists [using this link](#) if they cannot attend live or during the chat of the Q & A. The Q & A will be recorded and distributed to those that registered for the student matinee.

VOCABULARY



LET'S GO!

A hand-drawn graphic featuring the text "LET'S GO!" in a black, handwritten font. Above the text is a small, stylized drawing of a person's head and shoulders. A thick black arrow curves from the bottom right of the text towards the word "VOCABULARY" in the main title.



First, let's start with some important terms.

* Videographer ●

● A videographer is a person who films the work. For *A Tale of Two*, the videographer and the choreographer collaborated as Co-Directors.

* Choreographer ●

● A person who composes the sequence of steps and moves for a performance of dance. For *A Tale of Two*, the videographer and the choreographer collaborated as Co-Directors.

* Composer ●

● A composer is a musician who is an author of music in any form, including vocal music (for a singer or choir), instrumental music, electronic music, and music which combines multiple forms.

MEET THE ARTISTS



Rena Butler

Choreographer & Co-Director

Rena Butler is a dance/choreographic artist from Chicago. She trained at The Chicago Academy for the Arts, studied overseas at Taipei National University of the Arts, and received her BFA from SUNY Purchase Conservatory of Dance. Companies she has danced for include Hubbard Street Dance Chicago, Kyle Abraham/Abraham.In.Motion, Bill T. Jones/Arnie Zane Company, Manuel Vignouille/M-Motions, The Kevin Wynn Collection, and David Dorfman Dance. In 2013, Rena was featured as an Artist 'On The Rise' by Dance Magazine. Her choreographic work includes BalletX, Hubbard Street Dance Chicago, Boston Dance Theater, The New Orleans Museum of Modern Art, CHTV Stories in Switzerland, a dance film for Third Coast Percussion in collaboration with Dev Hynes/Blood Orange, The Ailey/Fordham School, SUNY Purchase Conservatory of Dance, and more. Butler served on the consortium for Chicago Dancemakers Forum, and co-directed DanceLab — a free, choreographic course for local Chicago teens, where the students of varying socioeconomic backgrounds were able to find commonality in creation. In 2019, Butler was the recipient of the prestigious Princess Grace Award for Choreography. Butler recently joined Gibney Company as an Artistic Associate in New York City, and is continually shaping her choreographic voice by creating for various dance companies across the United States.

Talya Koylass

Videographer

Talia Koylass is a DC-based director and producer. She's the founder of Motion/Pictures Dance Project, a production company dedicated to the creation of dance-based content, and has shown films at festivals around the country as well as been awarded commissions, residencies, and grants for her work. Talia has worked with companies such as Cineflix Productions, Food Network, Big Beach, New City, Vam Studio, Full Spectrum Features and other Chicago and New York based production companies on short films, feature films, television series and music videos. Talia spent the summer of 2019 working as the Operations Manager for the 47th Annual Dance on Camera Festival with the Dance Films Association and Film at Lincoln Center and began pursuing her MFA in Film at Howard University this Fall. Talia received her BFA from The Ailey School/Fordham University in 2013.



MEET THE ARTISTS



Darryl J. Hoffman

Composer

Darryl J. Hoffman is a Bronx, NY native composer, currently based in Chicago. With his life long love for music, he developed a curiosity for sound and began creating at the age of 13. His resume of compositions include works on Kansas City Ballet for choreographer Stephanie Martinez, in collaboration with cellist, Desiree Miller (2016); Danceworks Chicago with choreography by Owen Scarlet (2016); Visceral Dance Chicago's "Synapse", choreographed by Nick Pupillo (2017); Minnesota Dance Theatre, for choreographer Darwin Black (2017); three Philadanco works choreographed by Anthony Burrell & Christopher Huggins (2018-2019); works for Hubbard Street Dance Chicago & Ballet X, choreographed by Rena Butler (2018-Present); and compositions for Ebony Williams' pieces entitled "Title IX" (2018) & "Victoria" (2019). In 2020, he served as Musical director for Regional Dance America's National Choreography Summer Intensive.

Shawnee Dez

Shawnee Dez is a singer/songwriter and community builder, hailing Chicago's South Side. Having performed on various stages from Lincoln Hall, to Lollapalooza, Shawnee intently engages her audience by way of a dynamic multi-ranged alto melodic sound. When off the stage, she activates spaces for creative youth to express unapologetically. Shawnee earned her BFA in Cultural Studies from Columbia College Chicago, concentrating in Urban Studies and Black World Studies. Currently she works with a number of Chicago based organizations such as: Young Chicago Authors as a featured artist, LTAB judge, and guest host; After School Matters with West Town Bikes as a after school bike instructor, and Fifth Dimension Collective Studio, where she organizes and hosts a well-respected open mic. at The Ailey School/Fordham University in 2013.



Alencia Norris

Alencia Norris is an emerging singer/songwriter from Chicago, with a passion for music of all genres. Alencia honed and developed her musical talents as an attendee of Bradley University where she was allotted many opportunities, including singing backup for Barry Manilow and touring overseas in Denmark and Norway. Alencia's music is an amalgamation of colors and timbres from R&B, jazz, classical and neo-soul. Her love for writing poetry drives the lyrical intensity of her songs. Alencia's music tackles complex topics from societal division to unrequited love. Her song "Black Butterfly," about the challenges faced by black people in America was sung and toured by Chicago Children's Choir. She is influenced by artists such as india.arie, and Corrine Bailey Rae.

PREPARING FOR THE PERFORMA NCE

TRAILER



ARTICLES
TO READ



[See Chicago Dance](#)

[The Chicago Sun Times](#)

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BE AN
ADVOCATE



Rena is from Chicago and this piece asks what will be your call to action? [Find resources here](#) and share your dance advocacy with us [@hubbardstreetdance](#).

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THE REFLECTIVE PROCESS: READING THE DANCE TEXT

* What do
your eyes
see?

- With our eyes and ears, we are identifying the facts, not the opinions, of a dance.
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- How many dancers are in the piece?
- Do they dance together (in unison) or separately?
- What pathways are they creating? Are they straight? Curved? Zig-zagging? A combination?
- What kinds of energy are being used? Do the dancers' movements appear to be heavy? Light? Sharp? Smooth? Free? Bound?
- How does the choreography use time, rhythm, and tempo?

* What does
your mind
imagine?

- With our mind, we are exploring our imagination, creating our opinions of the dance from the evidence we gathered with our eyes and ears.
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- How does the dance make you feel?
- How does what your eyes see come together with what you imagine?
- Do you create a narrative — imagine a story — when you put these things together?
- How do the elements other than the movement — such as the costumes, the lighting, the set and props, or the music — influence what you imagine is happening during the piece?

THANK YOU!

Join us next week for the student
matinee of Rena Butler's new dance film,
A Tale of Two.





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EDUCATION + COMMUNITY
PROGRAMS