

MAR 21+22

A theatrical dance journey
down the rabbit hole

UNDERLAND X ALICE

by **Kontara Morphis**



COMMUNITY
SUPPORTED
ART
23+24 SEASON

**new
Hazlett
theater**

Directed by
Zachariah Washington

UNDERLAND X Alice

A theatrical dance journey down the rabbit hole

MARCH 21+22

NEW HAZLETT THEATER

Kontara Morphis Director, Choreographer, CSA Artist 23+24

Zachariah Washington - Director

CAST

(in order of appearance)

Ashley G. Ford - Alice

Martel Brown - Mad Hatter/Willie

C. J. Lee - The Rabbit/Booker

Michia Carmack - Queen of Spades/Rose

Arnita Thompson - The White Queen/Ida

Austin Dooley - Young Mad Hatter

Kaylee Wilson - Young Queen of Spades/Rose

ENSEMBLE

Sharonda Whatley

Calina Womack

Tyra Raquel Galloway

Quinn Hoy

Marissa Lily

Jazmine Bailey

Arnita Thompson

Rickia Davenport

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NEW HAZLETT THEATER

PRODUCTION

Rickia Davenport - Asst. Choreographer

Alyse M. Hogan - Stage Manager

Jennifer Wilson - Crew Chief

Broughton Ganaway - Lighting Designer

Tucker Topel - Set Designer

Ramin Akhavijou - Composer

Schereéya - Dramaturg

Scott Andrew - Projections Manager

Martel Brown - Skate Instructor

Karla Payne - Acting Coach

Sakinah Shaahid - Lowman - Fight Instructor

Yusef Shelton - Rapper | Artist | Songwriter

Anqwenique Kinsel - Singer

Calina Womack - Dance Captain

Wren Howison - Costume Consultant

Jordyn Walker - Stage Crew

Sarah Jackson - Stage Crew

CONTENT WARNING

sounds and images suggesting sexual assault

UNDERLAND X Alice

SONG LIST

Scene 1

“Let the journey begin” - Ramin Akhaviijou

Scene 2

“The Freeman Dining Room” - Ramin Akhaviijou

Scene 3

“Alice’s Bedroom” - Ramin Akhaviijou

Scene 4

“Alice’s 13th Birthday Party” - Ramin Akhaviijou
“Rose’s Entrance” - Ramin Akhaviijou

Scene 5

“Tulsa Massacre” - Ramin Akhaviijou

Scene 6

“Down the Rabbit Hole” - Ramin Akhaviijou

Scene 7

“The Dance of Multiple Alice’s” - Ramin Akhaijou

Scene 8

“Welcome to Underland” - Ramin Akhaviijou

Scene 9

“Rabbit’s Clock and Speciality Shop” - Ramin Akhaviijou

UNDERLAND X Alice

SONG LIST

Scene 10

“Anya Mmiri” - CKay and feat. PinkPathress

“Echos” - Travis Scott feat. Beyonce

“A Journey through Hatter Memory” - Ramin Akhavijou

“Let It Go” - Yusef Shelton Da First and Semaj

“Hatter’s Mental Breakdown” - Ramin Akhavijou

“Heartbeat of the Queen” - Ramin Akhavijou

“Zombie Party” - Too Many Zooz

Scene 11

“Dance of Spades” - Ramin Akhavijou

Scene 12

“Look at Me” - Madeaux (Viktoria Modesta & Cakes da Killa)

“Fear the Queen” - Ramin Akhavijou

“Everything Changed” - Anqwenique Kinsel, Piano played by
Howie Alexander

Scene 13

“The White Queen meets Alice” - Ramin Akhavijou

“From the Swat” - Tobe Nwigwe

“The Mandalorian” - Ludwig Goransson

Scene 14

“The Battle for Dominion” - Ramin Akhavijou

Scene 15

“Victory/ White Queen’s Coronation” - Ramin Akavijou

“King’s Avenue” - Too Many Zooz

Scene 16

“Alice’s New Reality” - Ramin Akhavijou

ABOUT the SHOW

UNDERLAND x Alice is seen through the looking glass of an alternate world. What starts as a trek to safety leads to chance encounters with loved ones, revealing not everyone is who they seem to be. This dance theater work is a journey of self-realization, visibility, and discovery.

“I am hoping that people find themselves within some character or scenario. I want people to reflect on themselves. I want it to really resonate with people and create some sort of change or provoke some sort of self-discovery that pushes them forward. Dance is something that’s healing, not just entertainment.”

Kontara Morphis



WHO'S WHO



Kontara Morphis | Writer, Creator, CSA Artist 23+24
(she/her) is a choreographer creating thought-provoking, emotionally resonant, and visually stunning dance pieces. Kontara is Artistic Director of K-Theatre Dance Complex and lends her talents to many other area organizations. Kontara believes dance has the power to communicate complex ideas and emotions in a way that words cannot.



Zachariah Washington | Director
(they/them) is honored to be back at NHT in their directorial debut for the CSA 11 Series! Zachariah, a Point Park alumni, originally from Austin, is an emerging theater artist in the Pittsburgh area focusing on directing, producing, and acting. They would like to thank Kontara Morphis, their creative partner for the opportunity and their friends and family.
IG: @iam_zachariah | Email: zmwashington@outlook.com



Rickia Davenport | Assistant Choreographer
(she/her) is a native of Pittsburgh's Hill District and South Hills areas who has taught dance for 12 years. Rickia attended Potomac State College in West Virginia and has a strong background in Hip Hop, Ballet, and Contemporary Dance. She serves as the Arts Education director with K-Theatre Dance Complex and is a lead dance instructor for Propel Charter Schools. In addition to dance, Rickia is also the proud CEO of Kai FiTT. Kai FiTT focuses on fitness, mental wellness, and health. "Sometimes its the Journey that teaches you a lot about your destination."

WHO'S WHO



Alyse M. Hogan | Stage Manager

(she/her) is a 2017 University of the Arts graduate with a BFA in Production Management. Recent Stage Managing credits include a Kim El play *The Sunday God Gave Me* directed by Rita Gregory and New Black Horizons American Menu. Alyse will be stage managing the upcoming CSA 11 production *APIS* written by Lindsay Goranson and closing out the CSA season. IG: @amhproductions



Jennifer Wilson | Crew Chief

(she/her) attended CAPA, graduating in 2004, where she majored in violin and viola. At Chatham University she was the stage manager for multiple productions between 2005 and 2007. She worked in various technical positions in live entertainment at Cedar Point from summer 2006 thru fall 2009. She was a stage manager for Ohio Light Opera during summer of 2008. In 2012 thru 2018 she co-created, produced and directed *Trans Voices* in Pittsburgh.



Broughton Ganaway | Lighting Designer

(he/him) is a consultant, audio, video, lighting and scenic designer based in Pittsburgh. He has apprenticed in the mentioned fields for over 15 years and has a variety of experience in multiple genres and settings. He considers himself to be a creative in story telling and modernization.

Wren Howison | Costume Consultant

(they/them) is a rustbelt queer visual artist, fashion designer, stylist, educator, and lover of human, animal, and emotional relationships. An Art Institute trained graphic designer, their recent work includes exhibitions at 707 Penn a Pittsburgh Cultural Trust gallery, collaborations with Demeatria Boccella Productions LLC and Rhinestone Steel Queer Fashion Show, personal styling for private clients, arts-based youth mentorship, and custom home interior painting. They live in Swissvale, PA with Ruby the tiny terrier, and keep their family close.

WHO'S WHO



Tucker Topel | Set Designer

(he/him) is an alum of Point Park University with a Bachelor of Fine Art in Scenic Design. He works with numerous companies in and around the city such as Point Park University, Mercyhurst University, The Collective, Pittsburgh Musical Theater, Little Lake Theatre, Pittsburgh CLO Academy and more. Tucker's most recent design credits include *Spring Awakening* (The Collective), *Newsies* (Point Park University), *Jersey Boys* (Pittsburgh Musical Theatre), *Saturday Night* (Mercyhurst University) and *What Kind of Woman* (off the WALL). | tuckertopel.com



Ramin Akhavi | Composer

(he/him) centers his work on the intersection of technology and music perception, profoundly influencing his compositions. His passion lies in exploring the dialectic interplay of sounds, which serves as a driving force in both his creative and scholarly pursuits, as he scientifically investigates this interplay through interdisciplinary projects as well. His enthusiasm for science and technology manifests in his diverse compositional approaches, evident in his extensive body of work. Ramin has earned numerous national and international honors, scholarships, and recognitions for his compositions.



Sarah Jackson | Stagehand

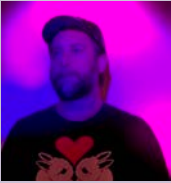
from Wilksburg, PA. Sarah currently works with At It's Betts Production Company as a stage hand and assistant stage manager.

WHO'S WHO



Schereéya - Dramaturg

(he/they) is a multi-disciplinary artist, advocate, writer, and fulltime fae. Currently based in Pittsburgh, Schereéya's practice focuses on freedom: Freedom of play, of joy, of magic and whimsy, of the ability to know oneself. Schereéya brings an Master of Arts in Theatre from University of York (UK) and 20+ years of theatre experience to *UNDERLAND x Alice*. Recent credits include directing *Myles Away* with Chronic Insanity (Nottingham, UK) which opened at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival in 2023.



Scott Andrews | Projection Manager

(he/him) is a queer multimedia video, installation, performance artist, media designer, educator, and curator. His works have been exhibited nationally and internationally. Media Design and VFX projects include various projects locally at the Kelly Strayhorn and New Hazlett Theaters. Scott is a Visiting Lecturer in Studio Arts at the University of Pittsburgh, an Adjunct Professor in the School of Art at Carnegie Mellon University, and co-curates *TQ Live!* (CMoA). www.scottnandrew.com (photo - Rowan Keslar)



Karla Payne | Acting Coach

(she/her) is an actor, voice-over artist, poet and drama coach. Recent credits include performances for The Barnstormers Theatre in NH and City Theatre, Barebones Productions, New Horizon Theater, and Pittsburgh Playwrights Theater Company in PA. In 2023, she notably appeared as Martha Pentecost in August Wilson's *Joe Turner's Come and Gone* and Beverly Jenkins in *Chicken & Biscuits*. She was also featured in the film short *As I Please*, scored by the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra. Karla launched InnerVisions Coaching & Wellness, providing acting and spiritual life coaching. Karla is a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. and the Pittsburgh chapter of The Pierians, Inc.

WHO'S WHO



Sakinah Shaahid-Lowman | Fight Instructor

is a Pittsburgh native who was raised in Garfield. She took on fencing at the age of 8 and continued onto Temple University on a full scholarship for fencing. Sakinah has competed around the country and world and hold many titles under her belt. She is a Hall of Famer, NCAA first team All-American, Junior Olympic champion, just to name a few. Sakinah has a fencing program called SNS City Fencing where she teaches fencing to inner city students all over Allegheny County. One of her favorite quotes is “She said she would, So she did.”



Yusef Shelton | Rapper | Artist | Songwriter

also known as Ys1, emerges as a trailblazing artist from the heart of Pittsburgh. With roots in Homewood, his music reflects urban experiences, blending raw talent and compelling storytelling. Overcoming adversity, Yusef turned pain into purpose, birthing a professional career from shattered beginnings. His journey led to original music, business grants, and performances at prestigious venues. Yusef’s resilience is encapsulated in his “Da First” merch line, urging supporters to embrace authenticity. Recent releases include three mixtapes and the 2023 album *Ignite*, recorded during a residency at New Hazlett Theater.



Anqwenique Kinsel | Singer

is a master teaching artist, serving learners from early childhood to adulthood. In addition to her vocal and performance practice, ANQWENIQUE consults as a teaching artist, program designer, and cultural advisor. She was commissioned by the Pittsburgh Cultural Trust to create an original story for early childhood audiences in collaboration with composer Doug Levine entitled *Jazz Time!* ANQWENIQUE serves as Director of Programs for Arts Education Collaborative - a diverse network of educators immersing young people—regardless of appearance, ability, income, or zip code—in powerful, personally relevant arts learning that transforms their sense of self, ability to share thoughts and feelings, and capacity to shape communities.

WHO'S WHO



Ashley G. Ford | Alice

is 15 and a Pittsburgh native. She began dancing at the age of three. Currently, Ashley attends Pittsburgh CAPA. She has had the privilege of being instructed by many talented artists through The Legacy Arts Project, Sankofa Village for the Arts, K-Theatre Dance Complex, Dance Theater of Harlem, Debbie Allen Dance Academy, and Balafon Youth Dance Ensemble. Ashley has performed at many venues across Pittsburgh and the surrounding area as well as in parts of Washington, D.C., Florida and Raleigh, NC and is now known as a National Artist.



Martel Brown | Mad Hatter/Willie | Skate Instructor

is a seasoned artist, educator, and roller skating enthusiast. 30+ years of experience in the arts, currently instructing and directing with PGH SK8 Collaborative. Fusing movement and creativity, Martel shares his passion and expertise with the community, inspiring through performance and mentorship.



C. J. Lee | The Rabbit/Booker

is a Pittsburgh native and versatile artist excelling in acting, dance, and choreography. Starting from a young age, he has been captivating audiences with his performances since second grade in 2003. Joining esteemed dance groups like NAKA Entertainment and KG Dynasty at the age of 14, C.J. showcased his exceptional talent. In 2018, he embarked on his professional acting career, working on 13 productions for prominent platforms like Netflix, Paramount, Showtime, Peacock, and Discovery. Now, he is eagerly preparing for his first onstage production in 13 years, *UNDERLAND x Alice*.

WHO'S WHO



Michia Carmack | Queen of Spades/Rose

started dancing at 8 when she received an Academy of Nevada Ballet Theatre scholarship through an after-school dance program. At age 15, Michia was accepted to the Las Vegas Academy of the Arts, where she was a dance major. Michia has performed on the Las Vegas Strip with the Nevada Ballet Theatre's *Nutcracker*, Cirque du Soleil's *A Choreographers Showcase*, and has serenaded Florence Henderson, Debbie Allen, and Olivia Newton-John for the Las Vegas Black and White Ball. Among her many accomplishments, Michia graduated from The Ailey School's Certificate Program and became the Associate Artistic Director, rehearsal director, and teaching artist for the Hill Dance Academy Theatre, Pittsburgh.



Arnita Thompson | The White Queen/Ida | Ensemble Dancer

is a dancer and choreographer from Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Following her completion of her undergraduate career at Clarion University of PA, where she obtained a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology, Arnita dived into many performing arts opportunities in the city. Currently she is a Teaching Artist for K Theatre Dance Complex, a dance instructor for PearlArts studios in conjunction with the KST's Alloy Studios and a pole instructor at Chrome Empire Pole Dance Studio. She is beyond thrilled to be a part of bringing this classic story with a creative and bold twist to life.



Sharonda Whatley | Ensemble Dancer

began dancing as an adult 15+ years ago with a small faith-based studio in Columbus, OH. She quickly grew to love dance as a creative & expressive outlet. Sharonda has had the privilege of dancing with Leap of Faith Dance Studio, Tapestry Performing Arts Company, Cleveland Dance Project, and most recently Mojuba! Dance Collective. She has trained in Afro-Modern, Liturgical, and Jazz. Sharonda also teaches a dance fitness class multiple times a week.

WHO'S WHO



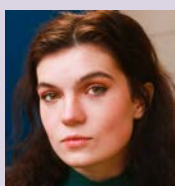
Calina Womack | Ensemble Dancer | Dance Captain

has been training since age 4 in tap, ballet, jazz, contemporary, modern and african dance. She was a principle dancer in Justin Emeka's *A Midsummer Nights Dream in Harlem*, a featured dancer at the August Wilson for Pittsburgh Ballet Theater meets Dance Theater of Harlem Gala and former Reed Dance II member who danced at the Netflix Oscar Awards Gala at the Pennsylvanian, Black Nativity at The Stephen Foster Memorial and many Legacy Arts Dance Africa Pittsburghs at the Kelly Strayhorn Theater. "Only those who risk going too far can possibly find out how far one can go" | IG: @queen_calina_royale



Tyra Raquel Galloway | Ensemble Dancer

began dancing at three years old, at Visionary Performing Arts Academy and continued her training at Pittsburgh CAPA 6-12. Throughout her years of dancing, Tyra found joy in performing and love in the art of motion. While her career is focused in fashion, Tyra never lost touch with her passion for movement, continuing to take Modern dance courses throughout college. Her most rewarding performance is a duet dedicated to her family for their continuous support.



Quinn Hoy | Ensemble Dancer

is a queer Pittsburgh-based actor ecstatic to be making their New Hazlett Theater debut, and thankful to be working with such amazing artists! They are in their last semester at Point Park University where she will receive her Bachelor of Fine Arts in self-directed Theatre Arts with a minor in Musical Theatre. Credits include Big Storm Performance Company's *Or Forever Hold Your Peace*, Pittsburgh New Work Festival's *Nemeses*, and Bridges Theatre Company's *How to be a Heartbreaker!* Outside of dance and theatre, Quinn is passionate about their work as an Associate Producer in the nonprofit project "Be Gay (Do Crime)", bringing safe queer spaces to Pittsburgh college youth through drag art. IG: @quinnhoyarts

WHO'S WHO



Marissa Lily | Ensemble Dancer

A native of Pittsburgh, Marissa Lily is a recent graduate of the American Musical and Dramatic Academy in New York City. Marissa Lily is not only a dancer, actress and singer but also a production assistant on major network TV and film productions. She's an entertainment, creative and arts lover. She has an equal passion for producing behind the scenes, entertaining in front of the camera and performing on stage. Recent film credits include *Mayor of Kingstown*, *Rustin* and *Driveaway Dolls*. She is IATSE 489 Wardrobe certified. She has performed in various stage productions in New York and Pittsburgh. She thrives in fast paced environments and easily connects with people of all walks of life.

Email: itsmarissalily@gmail.com | IG: [itsmarissalily](https://www.instagram.com/itsmarissalily)



Jazmine Bailey | Ensemble Dancer

is a Pittsburgh native and CAPA Dance Department alum, passionately explores the essence of Black Dance in her artistic journey. As a teaching artist at K- Theater Dance Complex, she shares her love for movement and culture with students of all ages. Jazmine's performances uniquely blend traditional Black Dance elements with her own creative expression and experience, delivering authentic and diverse narratives. Whether in the studio or on stage, she continues to make a profound impact, celebrating the universal language of dance and its power to inspire and unify communities.

WHO'S WHO



Multiple Alices

Mar'Ciya Angely (Propel East), Aeron Williams (Propel East), Avery Penn (The Ellis School), Michiah Wilkes (Propel East), Tameera Lynn Toole-Fowler (Propel East), Arianna Ward (Propel McKeesport), Destiny Sanaa (Sister Thea Bowman), Kaylee Wilson (The Ellis School), Gabby Bunch (The Ellis School), London Corbett (Propel East), Zionna Morrer (Propel East)

(Not Pictured)

Kenli Hull (Propel East), Dylaina Joiner (Propel East), Zora Rose (CAPA), Neima Shakur (The Ellis School)



UNDERLAND x Alice
is made possible by a special and generous donation from
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new
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theater

TEXTURE

CONTEMPORARY BALLET

2024-2025 SEASON



PHOTO: RACHEL HARMAN DESIGN: YOUR FRIENDLY KREATIVE ARTIST: KATIE MILLER

SPARK OF RADIANCE

JULY 12-14, 2024

NEW HAZLETT THEATER

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SEPTEMBER 20-22, 2024

NEW HAZLETT THEATER

TEXTURE CHOREOGRAPHY

PROJECT

DATE TBD

LOCATION TBD

SOUND IN MOTION

MARCH 28-30, 2025

NEW HAZLETT THEATER

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