



K*STAR*PRODUCTIONS

KENDRA KIMBROUGH DANCE ENSEMBLE
BLACK CHOREOGRAPHERS FESTIVAL
KSP STUDIOS

MEDIA CONTACT: Kendra Barnes, 510.697.2274 or kendrakbarnes@gmail.com



Pictured: (L-R): Paige Mayes, Cria Merchant, Jhia Jackson, Linda Steele II; Photo Credit: Jason Hairston

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

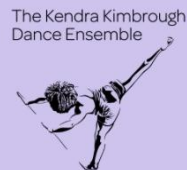
**KENDRA KIMBROUGH DANCE ENSEMBLE ANNOUNCES
25TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION GALA “MOMENTUM”
FEATURING EXCERPTS OF THEIR NEW WORK ‘THE GOLDEN THREAD’
*Virtual & Live Auction, guest artists, live musicians, cocktails, dinner catered by Kingston
11, Honoring Deborah Vaughan & Amara Tabor Smith, and music by DJ ‘CJ Flash’***

June 17, 2022 at Agency Oakland, 2150 Livingston Street, Oakland

Tickets: Starting at \$125

Oakland, May 13, 2022 — The Kendra Kimbrough Dance Ensemble (KKDE) celebrates its 25th Anniversary Gala, June 17, 2022 at Agency Oakland. This exciting event will feature an excerpt of *The Golden Thread* by Artistic Director Kendra Kimbrough Barnes and Associate Artistic Director Yeni Lucero, in collaboration with Delina Patrice Brooks. The evening also features guest artists, vocalists Jasmine Gatewood and Jennifer Johns, and DJ Chris ‘CJ Flash’ Jourdan.

1501 Martin Luther King Jr Way, Oakland, CA, 94612



We invite you to this monumental celebration of K★STAR★PRODUCTIONS/KKDE's 25th Anniversary. Conceived simultaneously in 1996, upon Director Kendra Barnes' graduation from San Francisco State University, she was inspired to create a vehicle that would allow her to continue choreographing and bringing the community together on the stage. Today, **K★STAR★PRODUCTIONS** (fiscally sponsored by Dimensions Dance Theater) serves as a performing arts presenting organization for the *Black Choreographers Festival: Here & Now*, The Kendra Kimbrough Dance Ensemble (KKDE), and KSP Studios located inside of the Flax Art & Design Store in Oakland, CA.

The goal of **K★STAR★PRODUCTIONS** is to make culture exchange accessible to the community at large with a focus on African American constituents. This goal is attained by forming alliances, traveling, producing concerts, workshops and master classes, hosting public symposiums, and providing professional development information to new forming dance companies.

The evening of celebration includes Cocktails, Full Dinner, Performances including an excerpt of KKDE's 2022 Premiere work! *The Golden Thread* takes us on a journey through different worlds wherein *unique* timing and tempos are essential to the livelihood of its people. Each world reveals a distinct key that unlocks their barrier to *momentum*, that special vehicle on which ease and magical alignment take place. This work is a collaboration between KKDE, written and co-directed by Delina Patrice Brooks, music by Madiou Diouf and costumes by Ismael Acosta. Recently added to the cast is acclaimed guest artist Jasmine Gatewood.

Barnes and Lucero's creative process for *The Golden Thread* is entirely collaborative and incorporates conversations and research on momentum, time, timing, and tempo. Slated for premiere in the Fall, KKDE with Delina Patrice have created a magical and fantastical world, sure to dazzle and inspire audiences of families and dance enthusiasts alike.

The dancers of the Kendra Kimbrough Dance Ensemble are Zak Dylan, Olivia Eng, Joseline Granados, and Mika Lemoine plus guest artist Jasmine Gatewood. Current KKDE member Olivia Eng will reunite with Alumni members Frances Sedayao, Korea Venters, and Linda Steele II. The three will be joined by Bay Area favorite Jennifer Johns and will perform excerpts from Resilience In-Joy (2020) and ReDzONE (2019)

The goal for this 1st annual gala is to bring in \$25k, \$1k for every year of K★STAR★PRODUCTIONS and KKDE's existence. The event includes a Virtual Auction Beginning on May 17th as well as a Live Auction. Items have been donated by acclaimed local artists Mark Harris and others, Studio Rental at KSP Studios, Dance Classes, Black Choreographers Festival Tickets and more. We are honored to recognize bay area dance pioneers Deborah Vaughan and Amara Tabor Smith for their exemplary work in sustaining and creating momentum in the arts community.

We invite you to join us for an evening of merriment, cocktails and dinner to celebrate our 25th Anniversary year! So let's share a toast to years of endorsing dance culture throughout the local art community. To promote healthy, cultural, inclusive dance practices throughout the bay area!

The 25th Anniversary Season of the Kendra Kimbrough Dance Ensemble is made possible by the generous funding of the Camilla Chandler Family Foundation, Zellerbach Family Foundation, and individual donors. KKDE/K★STAR★PRODUCTIONS is fiscally sponsored by Dimensions Dance Theater.

Tickets for **Kendra Kimbrough Dance Ensemble's 25th Anniversary Gala** are \$125 each, \$200 VIP (Includes toast with KKDE, early entry, and VIP seating). A Table for 8 is \$800. Special artist discount codes available.

Attendees can choose from the following Sponsorship table and ticket options:

- Single Ticket (\$125) – Reserved seating for one
- VIP Ticket (\$200) – Reserved seating for one
- Patron Individual (\$500) – Prime reserved seating for one
- Patron Ticket Couple (\$750) – Prime reserved seating for two
- Patron Table (\$800) – Reserved seating for eight
- Sponsorship Half Table (\$1,000) – Reserved seating for four
- Sponsorship Tables (starting at \$2,500) – Prime reserved seating for eight

To purchase tickets, go to <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/320893580337> OR <http://bidpal.net/KStar25>

Hi-Res Photos are available for download at www.kkde.net/press

Company Website: www.kstarproductions.org / www.kkde.net

Please note: All guests are required to show proof of vaccination upon entry of Agency Oakland, along with photo ID OR a Negative PCR test (taken within 72 Hours) or Antigen test (taken within 24 Hours). Proof of vaccination can be provided in the form of CDC card or picture of your CDC card. Guests will also be required to wear masks indoors unless eating or drinking.

###

*****FACT SHEET - CALENDAR LISTING*****

WHAT:

25th Anniversary Gala “Momentum” Live Event & Virtual Auction

WHERE:

Agency Oakland, Oakland CA

Virtual Auction: <http://bidpal.net/KStar25>

WHEN:

Friday June 17, 2022 @ 6:30pm

WHO:

K★STAR★PRODUCTIONS home of the Kendra Kimbrough Dance Ensemble (KKDE)

Jasmine Gatewood

Jennifer Johns

DJ CJ Flash

Deborah Vaughan

Amara Tabor Smith

ADMISSION:

Tickets, starting at \$125, are available online here. For more information visit kstarproductions.org

Call 510.560.5533

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/320893580337> OR <http://bidpal.net/KStar25>

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

510.560.5533

kkde.net@gmail.com

www.kkde.net

MEDIA PLEASE NOTE:

To request an interview or photos, please contact Kendra Barnes at kendrakbarnes@gmail.com.

ABOUT INFO

ABOUT THE KENDRA KIMBROUGH DANCE ENSEMBLE

Founded in 1996 by Kendra Kimbrough Barnes and co-led with Associate Artistic Director Yeni Lucero (2021), KKDE's mission is to bridge diverse cultures and communities through thought-provoking performances that address common human experiences. The Company represents a range of ages and body-types and incorporates elements of theater & dance to engage audiences about sociocultural issues.

KENDRA BARNES (she/her), Bay Area native, Contemporary & African Diasporic choreographer, and instructor who recently choreographed Cal Shakes' "Winter's Tale" and as co-choreographer of Black Odyssey was a finalist for TBA's Best Choreography Award. As Choreographer for the African-American Shakespeare Company she received a Broadway World award for best choreography and TBA Finalist for Outstanding Ensemble of a Play (For Colored Girls). She is founder of K★STAR★PRODUCTIONS, a dance space inside of Flax Art & Design - Downtown Oakland and the presenting organization for KSP Studios, the Kendra Kimbrough Dance Ensemble (KKDE), & co-presenter of the Black Choreographers Festival: Here & Now. She currently teaches dance at UC Berkeley and is an Adjunct Professor at St. Mary's College of CA's LEAP Program. Kendra made her film debut as the Executive Producer of KKDE's Resilience In-Joy (2021) in collaboration with Jennifer Johns and is on her second ED project Momentum In-Love (2022).

YENI LUCERO (she/her), Born in Chalchuapa, El Salvador, Yeni began her training in West African dance at the age of 15 with Mama Naomi Washington and Papa Zak Diouf. She graduated with a BA in Dance and Choreography from San Francisco State University, studying Haitian Dance, Dunham, Limon, Ballet, Congolese, Jazz, and received further training at the Ailey School. Lucero has performed with Ron K. Brown/Evidence, Robert Moses' Kin, Kendra Kimbrough Dance Ensemble, Diamanou Coura, Paco Gomes, Alayo Dance Company, and Delina Patrice. She has also appeared in multiple music videos and most recently with Kev Choice and the San Francisco Symphony. Lucero has taught at many schools and organizations in the Bay Area and internationally, including Sonoma State University, Pixar Animation Studios, Lines Dance Center, Adobe, Bottle Rock Festival, Elmhurst Community Prep Middle School, San Francisco Salsa Rueda Festival, The National Dance Company of Mozambique and Cuba. Ms. Lucero served many years as a Teaching Artist Specialist for the Alameda County Office Of Education, and a proud, full time Oakland dance educator/Specialist Chair and founder of Cox Academy Dance program. Most recently she joined KKDE as Associate Artistic Director, she is very blessed to have joined such a powerful purposeful Dance Company, and is looking forward to what the future brings.

CREATIVE COLLABORATORS:

Delina Patrice Brooks is a multi-hyphenate whose work has been commissioned/presented by Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, National Performance Network, CounterPulse Theater, The Black Choreographers Festival, LA Women's Theater Festival, Dance Brigade's D.I.R.T Festival, AfroSolo Festival and more. A

member of several Bay Area theater and dance companies, Delina was also the movement director for Casa de Spirits, a play written & directed by Roger Guenveur Smith for Campo Santo. She wrote and produced the Izzie-award winning evening-length play, “An Open Love Letter to Black Fathers” and the short film series “Bare Soles Bare Soul”, whose premiere sold out at Oakland’s Historic Grand Lake Theater. She’s toured the U.S. and Western Europe with The Living Word Project and Youth Speaks, and choreographed and danced for Nas & Damian Marley, Kanye West’s Sunday Service at Coachella and Chance the Rapper on SNL among others. In 2018, Delina transitioned into the TV/Film industry and has since supported Showrunners and Directors with shows on HBO, Fox, Hulu, Disney/Freeform, ABC and NBC

Madiou Diouf, Composer hails from the United States, Senegal and Liberia, West Africa. Growing up with a strong percussion background he was first taught by his father Dr. Zakarya Diouf at a young age to play both djembe and sabar drum orchestra. In 1998, Madiou landed his first big gig, playing with renowned musicians in the '98 Olympics followed by the 2005 BET Awards opening act. Currently a Sound Arts major at Expressions College for Digital Arts, he is also a producer and founder of Spoken Hands Productions.

Ines Amanaz Harris, Gala Event Planner For 20 years, Explores her passion for the travel industry and organizes corporate and special events. She’s held a number of roles but her latest challenge after earning a Master in Marketing & Sales Management from The Paris La Sorbonne Business School : has been helping SME businesses to improve their notoriety and grow through her contributions as a Marketing, Branding & Sales Consultant.

Ismael Acosta, Costume Designer Originally from Sonora, Mexico, Ismael received his dance training from Escuela Superior de Musica y Danza de Monterrey. After graduating he danced with the Ballet de Monterrey until 2009. Ismael performed with Cuerpo Etereo, a modern dance company, throughout Mexico and the USA until 2012, then moved to San Francisco to become part of the bay area dance community.

DANCERS:

Olivia Eng, REHEARSAL DIRECTOR and DANCER, has great passion for dancing, music, traveling, photography and poetry. She graduated from the University of California, Irvine, focusing on Dance Performance and Sociology. She is grateful to have studied with and performed works by Donald McKayle during her time there. She loves and continually studies West African, House, Hip-Hop, Modern, Bhangara, Bollywood, Afro-Brazilian, and Salsa dance. She has performed throughout the U.S., Singapore, Mexico, Cuba, and New Zealand, with various companies and has studied dance in Africa and Europe. She currently lives in the San Francisco Bay area as a freelance dance artist, performer, choreographer, and teacher.

During a hiatus after a series of traumatic surgeries for a congenital spine defect, she was inspired to begin developing the S.C.A.R.S. (Strength, Courage, and Resilience of the Soul) Project, with a mission to highlight the power of healing through the intersection of art, dance, storytelling and cross cultural exchange. She also dances with See Through Soul and Duniya Dance and Drum Company. Dance and art is a healing practice for Olivia and she feels blessed to share her creative passion as a way to overcome struggles, bring together community, connect people from around the world, and offer a platform for others to heal. She is deeply grateful to be dancing and performing again. Olivia also teaches Pilates, with an emphasis in rehabilitation, to help people heal from their injuries.

Zak Dylan, DANCER "If you were to ask his grandmother, she would tell you that Zak, born and raised in San Francisco, came into this world dancing. After enough leaping and spinning around his family's Bayview home, at age 7 he began taking kid's dance classes with Micaya at Dance Mission. At age 9 he joined City Shock SF, a youth Hip-Hop Dance troupe, associated with Culture Shock Oakland, and led by Darnell Carrol. At age 15, Zak began training Capoeira under Mestra Marcia Cigarra in the Mission district, deeply attracted to the improvisational format and rhythmic flow of the martial art. His path within Capoeira led him to Brazil on four different trips, where he trained in Rio de Janeiro under various masters and competed in international competitions. At age 25, while in Brazil he was granted the high rank of Instructor. In 2018, he began training House dance and other club/street styles at MVMNT Studio in Berkeley under members of the legendary breaking/house crew, Circle of Fire. Coming full circle back to dance, he has found the greatest joy in weaving his foundation of Capoeira into his other styles, onto the dance floor of his favorite environment: the club. In joining the KKDE, Zak is inspired to deepen his spiritual journey in movement with the challenge of taking on new forms of dance and collaborating with fellow artists. Zak received his Associates degree in Arts & Humanities from City College of San Francisco in 2014; his Bachelor's in Society & Environment from University of California, Berkeley in 2016."

Mika Lemoine, APPRENTICE, is from Oakland, California (Ohlone land), Mika Lemoine has over a decade of experience performing and teaching. She most recently held the title of Teaching Artist Mentor at Destiny Arts Center. In 2017, Mika co-founded See Through Soul, an Oakland-grown dance company that practices healing and storytelling through movement. She has a BA in Dance from UCLA's department of World Arts and Cultures which informs her work at her company. Mika specializes in House dance, Hip Hop dance, and Waacking, and toured with Contra Tiempo Urban Latin Dance Theater (LA), Versastyle Dance Company (LA), and Embodiment Project (SF). Most recently, she danced in dana e. fitchett's evening length work neverfoundneverlost and currently performs with Mix'd Ingridt's (Oakland).

Joseline Granados, APPRENTICE, Joseline "YO\$HI" Granados (pronouns she/her) is an Oakland-based Creative Director, dancer, choreographer and dance instructor from Los Angeles, CA. She has trained in dance for over 15 years and has taught dance professionally for over 6 years. She moved to San Francisco in 2016 to pursue her dance career and in 2018, she graduated with a Bachelor's degree in Dance from San Francisco State University. After college, Joseline began to teach her Reggaeton workshops, using her impressive background in various dance styles such as: ballet, modern, jazz, hip-hop, heels, dancehall, afro dance, afro house and bachata.

ADMINISTRATION

Ashley Rivera Cobo, or as some may know her as "Cindy", is a Bronx native multidisciplinary artist with a background in music, studio art, and visual media. She graduated from Occidental College with a double major in Critical Theory & Social Justice, and Studio Art. Now based in California (Los Angeles and Bay Area) Ashley has worked for various start up companies, production studios, directors, and musicians under the mission of Black artistic collaboration, and is currently the founder/owner of a creative assistance agency, Creative.Sol LLC.

GUEST ARTISTS:

Jasmine T.R. Gatewood, was born in Florida to Ms. Antoinette Gatewood and the late Reverend James A. Gatewood. She graduated with her B.A. in Theatre Arts-Performance from Alabama State University, Montgomery, AL, and her Master's in Acting from California Institute of the Arts School of Theatre, Santa Clarita, CA. She Studied Abroad with a Concentration in Culture at the University of Ulsan, Ulsan, South Korea. She loves what she does living true to Philippians 4: 13 "I can do all things through Christ which strengthens me." "I get an overjoyed sensation that races through my veins when I am able to break down and build up self to create new characters. It is so amazing to me to witness the power of storytelling when it manifests itself throughout an audience because someone can always relate and even if only one person is touched my job was done."

Chris "C.J. Flash" Jourdan - DJ, is an extremely talented DJ, songwriter, producer, arranger and musician. He produces everything from Hip-Hop to Jazz and is considered one of the Bay Area's original Hip-Hop pioneers. His history as a DJ goes back to 1982 when he began experimenting heavily with the turntables. His popularity grew as a party DJ, and earned him a spot on what was then the Bay Area's hottest underground music show - Music For The People on KALX 90.7FM in Berkeley.

HONOREES:

Deborah Vaughan (Dimensions Dance Theater) Under the artistic leadership of co-founder Deborah Vaughan DDT has become widely recognized for its presentation of both traditional dances and contemporary choreography drawn from African, Jazz, and Modern dance idioms. The diversity and inclusiveness of DDT's repertoire is unique to the company, and has contributed greatly to its reputation for innovative dynamism.

Amara Tabor Smith (Deep Waters Dance Theater) spent a decade as a dancer, then Associate Artistic Director with the internationally acclaimed Urban Bush Women dance company of New York City, where she was a part of developing the company's early community engagement methodologies.] As founder of Deep Waters Dance Theater, she creates choreographic work rooted in ritual and exploring issues facing people of color and the environment.

ANNIVERSARY PLANNING COMMITTEE

Tracey Cherry

Kimberly Cleghorn

Lisa Gaines

Ines Amanaz Harris (Gala Event Planner)

Ruth Harris

Tasha Henneman

Terrance Holliday

Wendy Jones

Chi Chi Okonmah

Celine Schein

Karla Quintero
