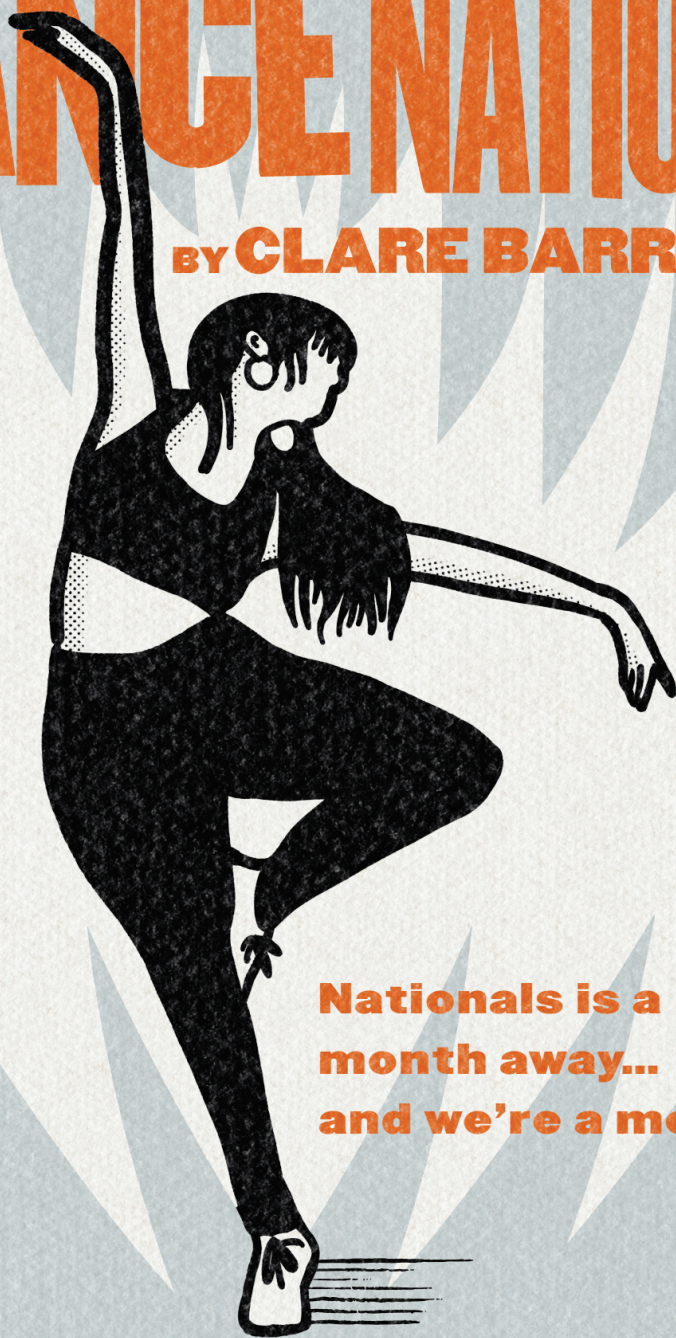


DANCE NATION

BST

BY CLARE BARRON



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A thirteen-year-old girl is a wolf. She is fierce, she is blood-spattered, she is hairy.

The dance troupe at the center of Clare Barron’s *Dance Nation* is in the midst of an epic metamorphosis. Newly minted teens, the girls (and lone boy, who is an honorary girl) are bursting with hormones but determined to dominate the Boogie Down Grand Prix in Tampa Bay. They have entered that liminal space between the childhood magic of a lucky toy pony and the adulthood magic of using their bodies and minds to shape the world around them. The awkward, embarrassing ordeal of puberty cannot overpower these girls’ gnashing fangs and savage spirits.

By setting *Dance Nation* in a middle school-age dance studio, Barron highlights one of the most difficult aspects of growing up: adapting to some pretty extreme physical changes almost overnight. Who is more in touch with their body than a dancer? Suddenly, the girls have less and less control over the physical space they inhabit. They are emotional, confused, frustrated. They might as well have been bitten by a werewolf while they slept.

Still, the 2019 Pulitzer Prize Board described *Dance Nation* (a Pulitzer Finalist) as “a refreshingly unorthodox play that conveys the joy and abandon of dancing.” Local Sacramento dancer Kelley Saia is an Artistic Director at Hawkins School of Performing Arts in Folsom. She remembers her own experience growing up: “I was an incredibly shy child with zero interest in any extracurricular activities.” But upon enrolling in her first dance class, Kelley found herself becoming more comfortable in her own skin. It was “like I was meant to be there. I loved that I was good at something.”

This transformative power that Kelley experienced as a child takes center stage in *Dance Nation*. The indomitable, bawdy, exuberant teens must embrace the innate magic that comes with their changing bodies. They cast their spells through dance and not even puberty can stop them from getting that trophy!

CONTENTS

- 3 The Show
- 7 The Director
- 7 The Playwright
- 7 The Cast
- 9 The Cast
- 10 The Cast
- 10 The Creative
- 11 The Creative
- 14 The Staff
- 18 The Board
- 19 The Sponsors

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CAST

Amina.....	Gabriela Ortega*
Zuzu.....	Ure Egbuho*
Sofia.....	Amy Kelly*
Ashlee.....	Stephanie Altholz*
Maeve.....	Alissa Doyle*
Vanessa/Moms.....	Stephanie McVay*
Connie.....	Meher Mistry*
Dance Teacher Pat.....	Dave Pierini*
Luke.....	Rob Karma Robinson*

CREATIVE

Producing Artistic Director/Director.....	Buck Busfield
Executive Producer.....	Jerry Montoya
Associate Artistic Director.....	Lyndsay Burch
Artistic Producer.....	Dave Pierini
Playwright.....	Clare Barron
Stage Management.....	Lynnae Vana*
Scenic Design.....	Samantha Reno
Lighting Design.....	Wade McKenzie-Bahr
Special Effects.....	Keith Richardson
Costume Design.....	Gina Coyle
Technical Director.....	Ron Madonia
Choreographer.....	Jacob Gutierrez-Montoya
Scenic Change.....	Larri Russell
Production Assistant.....	Clarissa Faith Gorchinski
Special Thanks.....	Hawkins School of Performing Arts

Dance Nation is a One Act Play.

*The actors or stage managers employed in this production are members of the Actors' Equity Association, the Union of Professional Actors and Stage Managers in the United States.

*Taking Photographs or making video or audio recording
during the performance is strictly prohibited*



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DIRECTOR:

Buck Busfield

Buck has been involved with B Street since it was founded by his younger brother Timothy in 1986. In his tenure at B Street, Buck has served as musician, composer and director. Buck is also a writer, having penned dozens of sketches and plays for B Street's School Tour, Family Series, Sketch Comedy Series and Mainstage. In 2018, Buck's long-held vision of a small, Midtown performing arts center was realized with the opening of the beautiful Sofia Tsakopoulos Center for the Arts. It was a labor of love, achieved by the efforts of the most talented, passionate and hard-working staff found anywhere; most notably, Bill Blake, Jerry Montoya and Lyndsay Burch, a brilliant acting company, a visionary and savvy board, and the profound generosity of an entire community.

PLAYWRIGHT:

Clare Barron

Clare Barron is a playwright and actor from Wenatchee, Washington. Her plays include *You Got Older*, which received its world premiere with Page 73 and appeared at Steppenwolf in 2018 (Obie Award for Playwriting, Drama Desk Nomination for Outstanding Play, Kilroys List, and Susan Smith Blackburn finalist); *I'll Never Love Again* (The Bushwick Starr, NYTimes & Time Out Critics' Picks); *Baby Screams Miracle* (Woolly Mammoth, Clubbed Thumb); and *Dance Nation*, which will appear at Playwrights Horizons in 2018 and won the Relentless Award established in honor of Philip Seymour Hoffman and the Susan Smith Blackburn Prize. She is also the recipient of a Whiting Award, the Page 73 Playwriting Fellowship and the Paula Vogel Award at the Vineyard.

CAST:

Gabriela Ortega, Amina

Gabriela Ortega is an actor, playwright and director born and raised in the Dominican Republic. Gabriela is excited to be making her B Street Theatre debut! As an actor and writer, Gabriela is passionate about collaborating with fellow latine and artists of color in new play development. She originated the role of Diana in Liliana Padilla's Susan Blackburn Award-winning play *How to Defend Yourself*, which she had been with since an early workshop at the Ojai Playwrights Conference. Gabriela is also a solo-performer and has toured her one-woman show, *Las Garcia*, across sold-out venues in Los Angeles. She is currently developing her new solo show "23nMe" through the inaugural Sundance Institute Interdisciplinary fellowship. Theatre credits include: *How to Defend Yourself* (Lincoln Center Theatre, Humana Festival 2019), *Electricidad* in Luis Alfaro's *Electricidad* (Center Theatre Group), *Las Mujeres del Mar* (Playwright's Arena), *Member's Only* (Los Angeles Theatre Center), *Lovesick* (Victory Gardens Theatre). She is a graduate of the University of Southern California's BFA acting program, a proud ensemble member of In the Margin and is based in Los Angeles.



Ure Egbuho, Zuzu

Ure (LA / NYC) is thrilled to be making such an epic return to stage, but she is honored to be able to share this experience with the incredibly talented artists at B Street Theatre. This will be her first main-stage production and her first time in their gorgeous new space! Previous B Street Theatre Family Series Credit: *The Conductor*. Some NY Credits include: *A Christmas Carol In Harlem*, *A Song To Keep The Wolves Awake*, *Bar Dykes*, *Riot Antigone*, *Good Friday*, *Scraps*, *Syncing Ink* and *The Fre* by Taylor Mac. Regional Theatre Credits include: *No Child...*, *Ragtime*, *Freedom Train*, *That High Lonesome Sound*, *At The Vanishing Point*, *Little Shop of Horrors*, *Caroline, Or Change*, and *Hairspray*. Special thank you's to all of the amazing people that Ure has had the chance to learn from and grow with at the Sacramento State Department of Theatre



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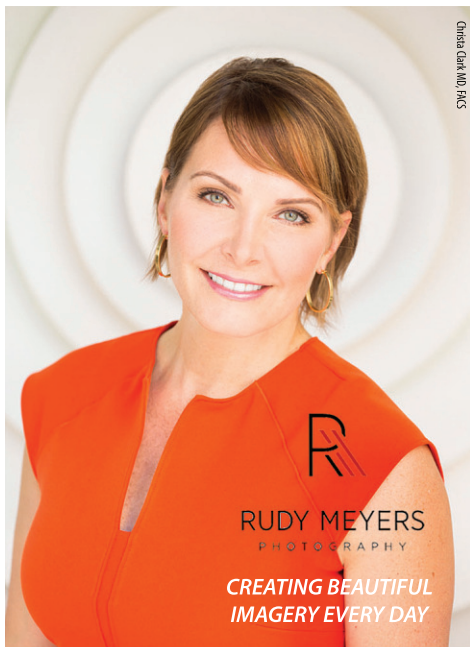
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Christa Clark M.D. FACS

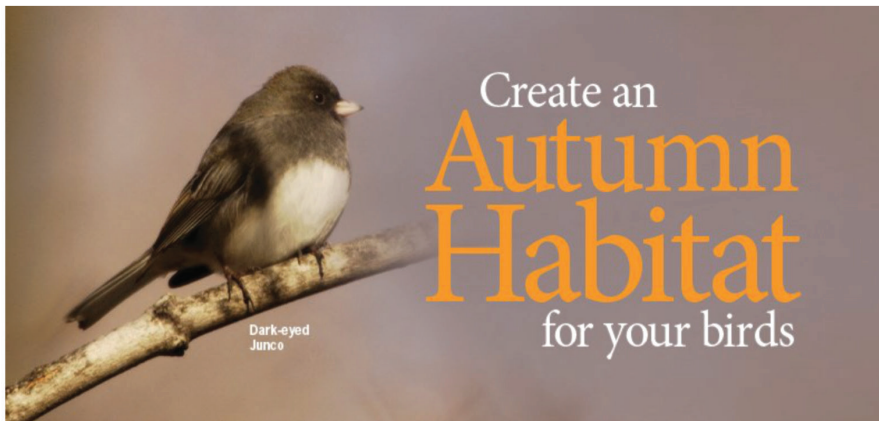


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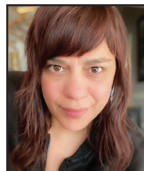
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CAST

and Dance. Also, shout out to the many brilliant, fierce, inspiring members of The Fled Collective! Ure would like to extend her appreciation and gratitude to her wonderful family and friends for all of their constant love and support. She would also like to thank her loving partner, Thomas Ruan and her supportive managers, Dovin Milligan and Marlisa Patterson. Most importantly, thank you to everyone just trying to do their best to stay sane, stay safe and keep others safe during this crazy time. Take care out there! Be sure to follow Ure Egbuho on TikTok: @ureooray and Instagram: @j.ure_e

Amy Kelly, Sofia

Amy is incredibly thrilled to be back. She is a member of the B Street Theatre Core Acting Company. Recent Mainstage credits include: *The House on Haunted Hill*, *The Ladies Foursome*, *One Man, Two Guvnors* and *Treatment*. Recent Family Series credit include: *A Christmas Carol*, *Charlotte's Web*, *The Sword in the Stone* and *The Wizard of Oz*. Writing credits include: *Treatment* and *Surprise Party at the End of the World* (New Play Brunch - October 2018). Amy is also a teaching artist with the B Street Theatre Conservatory and has been featured in B Street Theatre's live podcast, *Poison Boot*. Her film credits include *Nick and Tristan Go Mega Dega* (2010), *West Hollywood Motel* (2013), *Honest Abe the Backstory* (2020) and many others. She was featured in one of LA's longest running comedy shows *All About Walken: The Impersonators of Christopher Walken*. TV credits include *Free Radio*, *New York Goes to Hollywood* and Netflix's *Thirteen Reasons Why*. You can follow her on the web @ Youtube.com/amykellytv. Special thanks to the Sofia, Amy's family and fiancé.



Stephanie Altholz, Ashlee

Stephanie is a B Street Theatre Core Company Member. She literally could not be happier to be back on these stages. Recent Mainstage credits include: *One Man, Two Guvnors*, *Airness*, *We're Gonna Be Okay* and *The Last Match*. She co-starred in and co-wrote *Treatment* with company members Tara Sissom and Amy Kelly. Upstairs at the B credits include: *Maximum Occupancy* and *Seekers of the Strange*. Other Mainstage credits include: *Hand to God*, *Speed-the-Plow*, *Handle with Care*, *5 Lesbians Eating a Quiche* and *The Explorers Club*, and many more. Family Series credits include: *Charlotte's Web*, *Alice In Wonderland*, *Robin Hood*, *Frankenstein*, and others. Regional Theater credits include: *Alabaster*, *Slowgirl*, *reasons to be pretty*, and *Clybourne Park* (Capital Stage).



Alissa Doyle, Maeve

Alissa is thrilled to make her Mainstage debut! You have also seen her in four B Street school tours around Northern California, including Fantasy Festivals 29 & 30, as well as in *The Behavior of Broadus* at Capital Stage and *Grapes of Wrath* at Sacramento Theatre Company. Alissa is a resident Teaching Artist at the B Street & hopes to do all her students proud. Thank you to my B Street family for giving me a home. All my love to Ry & B.



Stephanie McVay, Vanessa/Moms

Stephanie is an original B Street Company Member and is thrilled to be back home in Sacramento. Stephanie was last seen at The Sofia Mainstage in *A Doll's House, Part 2* and the short-lived *Byhalia, Mississippi*, and at Capital Stage in *The Wickhams: Christmas At Pemberley*. Other B Street Mainstage shows include: *Vanya*, *Sonia*, *Masha*, and *Spike*, *Other Desert Cities*, *Sexy Laundry*, *Mending Fences*, *A Skull in Connemara*, *The Book of Liz*, *Juno and the Paycock*, and *The Underpants*. Stephanie has also had the pleasure of acting in several of Buck Busfield's original works for the main stage. TV credits: *911 Lone Star*, *Generation*, *MOM*, *The Romanoffs*, *Super Store*, *Baskets*, *The Great Indoors*, *The People vs DJ Simpson*, *The Office*, *Big Love*, *True Blood* and *Parks and Recreation*, to name a few. Film: *Swan Song* (in theatres and streaming now!), *Gemini*, *I do...Until I Don't*, *Another Gay Movie*, *Gypsy '83*, *Edge of Seventeen-*



CAST

Meher Mistry, Connie

Meher is in Sacramento from Mumbai, India to be a part of *Dance Nation*. Her first show at the B Street Theatre was *The Conference of The Birds* followed by *Junie B Jones is not a Crook*. Meher has performed in several productions in Mumbai and other Indian cities, including Disney India's *Beauty and the Beast*, *Monsoon Wedding*, *The Truth*, *Uncle Vanya*, *The Sound of Music*, *Lucrece*, *Jesus Christ Superstar*. Television credits include *The Week That Wasn't*, *Made in Heaven*, *Good Karma Hospital*. Film credits include *Silvat*, *Bansuri*, *Do Cup Chai*. Meher can also be seen in several national commercials in India: Google Pay, Amazon, Fisher-Price and Pepsodent to name a few. Instagram handle - @mehermistry. She is thrilled to be back on the B Street stage.



Dave Pierini, Dance Teacher Pat

Dave is the Artistic Producer at B Street Theatre and a member of the Core Acting Company. Mainstage Credits include: *Popcorn Falls*, *Holmes and Watson*, *The House on Haunted Hill*, and *The Legend of Georgia McBride*. Directing credits include: *The Sword In The Stone*, *Treasure Island*, *The Ladies Foursome*, and *Airness*. Writing credits include: *The House On Haunted Hill*, *A Moving Day*, *Going West: The Story of the Transcontinental Railroad*, and *Snow White & Rose Red*. Dave is a member of the Maximum Occupancy improv trio with Tara Sissom and Stephanie Altholz.



Robert Karma Robinson, Luke

Robert Karma Robinson a Brooklyn/Houston native. Some might remember his B Street debut last year in the short-lived run of *Byhalia, Mississippi*. Since the pandemic shuttered the Sofia he has been a consistent participant in the B Social online offerings. He is returning to The Sofia as a full-fledged B Street Company Member. YAY HEY! Some of his most notable credits include *The Blowin of Baile Gall* by Boston playwright Ronan Noone at The Vineyard Playhouse on Martha's Vineyard, as well as the world premiere *Expedition Six* (written/dir. Bill Pullman) at the Kennedy Center. Last year he was seen in Ricardo Khan's *Satchel Paige* and *the Kansas City Swing* at Saint Louis Rep. and Cincinnati Playhouse In the Park, respectively. He also played Tom Robinson in Montana Repertory Theater's national tour of *To Kill A Mockingbird* for the 50th anniversary of the book. Rob received his BFA from the University of Evansville and then MFA from the National Theatre Conservatory. He is glad to be working to live rather than living to work as so many are in these trying days! One love.



CREATIVE

Lynnae Vana, Stage Management

Lynnae joined the B Street Theatre as a Stage Manager upon completion of the 2010-2011 B Street Internship Program. Her B Street credits include: *The Forever Question*, *Holmes and Watson*, *The Legend of Georgia McBride*, *We're Gonna Be Okay*, *The Ladies Foursome*, *Dry Powder*, *One Man, Two Guvnors*, *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?*, *Bloomsday*, *Hand to God*, *Treatment*, *Becoming Dr. Ruth*, *Speed-the-Plow*, *Handle with Care*, *Red*, *The Price*, *Bars and Measures*, *Buyer and Cellar*, and B Street's School Tour *The Golden Spike*. Lynnae is a proud graduate of Elon University where she earned her bachelor's degree in theatrical production and design and theatre arts. Lynnae has also worked lighting, sound and props design for several productions at the B Street Theatre.

Samantha Reno, Scenic Design

Samantha is heading into her 9th season (!) designing for B Street Theatre. She has designed well over 130 productions over the course of her career, and some of her favorite B Street productions include *Popcorn Falls*, *The Forever Question*, *Ironbound*, and *A Doll's House Part 2*. She is currently the resident scenic designer for Cincinnati Shakespeare Company in Cincinnati, Ohio, where she now resides with her husband and two children, and she is also happy to be working with the Cincinnati Opera and the Northern Kentucky University Department of Theatre & Dance on a plethora of projects that are keeping her on her toes! Miss you, Sacramento! Special thanks to everyone at B Street Theatre for keeping her around!

CREATIVE

Wade Mckenzie-Bahr, Lighting Design

Wade Mckenzie-Bahr is the Master Electrician and Resident Lighting Designer with the B Street Theatre. Recent credits include: *We're Gonna Be Okay*, *Airness*, *The Forever Question*, *The Last Match*, and *Martin Luther King Jr. & The Sound of Freedom*. Previously Wade was an assistant stage manager on *Hand to God*, and the assistant road manager for *Walk In Our Shoes*. Wade has been a part of the local Sacramento theatre community for years, working with such companies as Green Valley, Big Idea, Sacramento State, Hawkins School of Performing Arts, and Falcon's Eye Theatre. He has a degree in theatre from California State University, Sacramento.

Jacob Gutierrez-Montoya, Choreography

Jacob Gutierrez-Montoya is thrilled to be back at B Street. Recent B Street credits include, *The Legend of Georgia McBride* and *The Wizard of Oz*. Jacob has been a member of the vibrant theatre scene in Sacramento for over a decade. He's choreographed productions for B Street Theatre, Sacramento Theatre Company, Green Valley Theatre Company, Musical Mayhem Productions, Roseville Theatre Arts, The New York Musical Festival (Generation Me), and a variety of other companies. *Diner en Blanc*, *Sanremo Young* (Italian National Television), and three Grand Prize titles from the International Choreographers Festival are among his international credits. Most recently, he directed works for Green Valley Theatre and Big Idea Theatre Company where he is a company member. He has worked as a dance educator in Sacramento for over ten years, including at the Sacramento Ballet, Northern California Dance Conservatory, and STC. Jacob is the artistic director of Sacramento Contemporary Dance Theatre and co-owner of Hawkins School of Performing Arts. He received his dance education at the University of Nevada Las Vegas and is currently finishing an Artist-in-Residency at UC Davis. Special thanks to this cast and crew and his brilliant husband Elio. Merde!

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Board President

Garry Maisel's commitment to our region is evident in his every action as president and CEO of Western Health Advantage. Garry has provided leadership to support various community charities and causes. An active community board member, Maisel lends his expertise and experience to the Mondavi Center for the Performing Arts, Crocker Art Museum, American Leadership Forum, Mercy Foundation (past Board Chair), The Non-Profit Resource Center and WEAVE.





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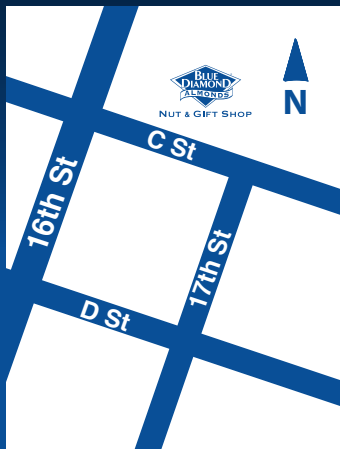


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