



DANCE
HEGINBOTHAM

ELECTRONIC PRESS KIT



ABOUT DANCE HEGINBOTHAM

The mission of Dance Heginbotham is to move people through dance.

Dance Heginbotham (DH) is a New York-based contemporary dance company committed to supporting, producing, and performing the work of choreographer John Heginbotham. With an emphasis on collaboration, DH enriches national and international communities with its unique blend of inventive, thoughtful, and rigorous dance theater works.

Founded in 2011, DH quickly established itself as one of the most adventurous and exciting new companies on the contemporary dance scene, and is celebrated for its vibrant athleticism, theatricality, and commitment to collaboration. DH has shared the stage with music icons including Alarm Will Sound, Brooklyn Rider, Joshua Bell, Ethan Iverson, Colin Jacobsen, Gabriel Kahane and Shara Nova, and members of The Knights orchestra.

Well-known for his 14-year tenure as a dancer with Mark Morris Dance Group, Artistic Director John Heginbotham creates work known for its “tight formal structure and inventive movement, bolstered by a disarming wit and strangeness” (*The New Yorker*). In recognition of his unique artistic vision, John received the 2014 Jacob’s Pillow Dance Award.

DH had its world premiere in January 2012 at The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts and has since been presented by Arts Brookfield, Baryshnikov Arts Center, Brooklyn Academy of Music, Carolina Performing Arts, Duke Performances, Harkness Dance Festival, Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival, The Joyce Theater, Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts, the Metropolitan Museum of Art, and Vail International Dance Festival, among others. In 2016, DH toured Indonesia, Laos, and the Philippines as cultural ambassadors of the United States with the DanceMotion USASM program, a project of the US Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs (ECA), produced by BAM.

Dance Heginbotham has been invited to participate in creative residencies at BAM Fisher, Baryshnikov Arts Center, Brooklyn College, CUNY Kingsborough, Jacob’s Pillow Dance Festival, The Krannert Center for the Performing Arts, LMCC's Extended Life program on Governors Island, NCCAkron, The Ringling Museum, The Watermill Center, and White Oak.

In Spring 2020, as New York City went into lockdown due to the COVID-19 pandemic, John and Dance Heginbotham shifted focus from preparing in-person performances to the creation of dance and theater works specifically for video., including our ongoing *24 Caprices* project. DH celebrated its 10th Anniversary in January 2022 with an in-studio performance at the historic Martha Graham Studio Theater. Early July 2022 brought the world premiere of a new evening-length work, *The Planets*, performed to Gustav Holst's music of the same name, with the Greater Bridgeport Symphony, conducted by Eric Jacobsen, followed by performances in August with The Knights chamber orchestra, lead by Jacobsen, at the acclaimed La Jolla Music Festival in California. DH performed at Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival in August 2022, showcasing the ongoing collaboration between John Heginbotham and composer and pianist Ethan Iverson. The program featured their first work together, *Easy Win* (2015), as well as two World Premieres, *The Understudies* and *Dance Sonata* set to brand-new scores composed by Iverson.

DH's busy 2022 summer season was capped off by the premieres of *Caprices 8* and *9* on ALL ARTS in August. *Caprices 1-9* continue to be available for viewing on all ALL ARTS platforms.



Principles of Uncertainty © C Duggan



Scratchband © Ben DeFlorio Photography

JOHN HEGINBOTHAM



Originally from Anchorage, Alaska, **John Heginbotham** is a Brooklyn-based choreographer, performer, and teacher. John graduated from The Juilliard School in 1993 with a BFA in Dance, and was awarded the Martha Hill Prize for Sustained Achievement in Dance. John was a member of the Mark Morris Dance Group (MMDG) from 1998 – 2012, performing lead roles in *L'Allegro, il Penseroso, ed il Moderato*; *The Hard Nut*; *Four Saints in Three Acts*; and *Romeo and Juliet: On Motifs of Shakespeare*. During his time with MMDG, he toured across the United States and abroad alongside artists including Mikhail Baryshnikov, Yo-Yo Ma, Emanuel Ax, The Bad Plus, and Zakir Hussain, and performed with opera companies including The Metropolitan Opera, New York City Opera, and the English National Opera.

John received a 2018 Guggenheim Fellowship and the 2014 Jacob's Pillow Dance Award in recognition of his unique choreographic vision and promise. John was a Research Fellow at the National Center for Choreography at The University of Akron (NCCAkron), was awarded a 2017/18 New York City Center Choreography Fellowship, was a 2016 Fellow at NYU's Center for Ballet and the Arts, and is a two-time recipient of the Jerome Robbins Foundation New Essential Works (NEW) Fellowship (2010, 2012).

In addition to his work with Dance Heginbotham, John is active as a freelance choreographer. Most recently, John choreographed Episode 1 "Meet the Family", Season 3 of Netflix's hit series *Umbrella Academy*. He created a new ballet, *RACECAR*, for The Washington Ballet as part of their NEXTsteps series in October 2019. In 2015, John choreographed Daniel Fish's highly-acclaimed Bard SummerScape production of *Oklahoma!*, which received its New York City Premiere at St. Ann's Warehouse in October 2018, and opened on Broadway at Circle in the Square on April 7, 2019 for a limited engagement through January 2020. *Oklahoma!* won the 2019 Tony Award for Best Revival of a Musical and recently completed a National Tour throughout the US. *Oklahoma!* enjoyed an acclaimed run in London at the Young Vic Theatre in 2022 and opened on London's West End at Wyndham's Theatre in February 2023, receiving the 2023 Olivier Award for Best Musical Revival.

In 2016, John was invited to return to Bard to create the evening-length work *Fantastique* in collaboration with renowned puppeteer Amy Trompeter. *Fantastique* had its New York City premiere at the Skirball Center for the Performing Arts in November 2018. In 2016, he was commissioned to create *First* for Juilliard Dance: New Dances. In July 2014, John created his first ballet, *Angels' Share*, for Atlanta Ballet's Wabi Sabi Project. In December 2013, he choreographed Isaac Mizrahi's *Peter & the Wolf* for Works & Process at The Guggenheim, which has become an annual holiday event. John's work has been featured in the music videos of Fischerspooner and NICKCASEY, and in the live performances of cabaret artists Lady Rizo and Our Lady J.

John's growing list of opera commissions include: *La Traviata* at San Francisco Opera (2022); John Adams' *Girls of the Golden West*, directed by Peter Sellars, at San Francisco Opera (2017) and Dutch National Opera (2019); *Candide* with the Orlando Philharmonic (2016) and The Knights (2018, 2019); *The Magic Flute* at the Opera Theatre of St. Louis, directed by Isaac Mizrahi (2014); Handel's *Alceste* with the American Classical Orchestra (2014); *Macbeth* with the Manhattan School of Music Opera Studies Department (2014); and *Maria de Buenos Aires* at the Cork Opera House (2013).

As a teacher, John offers dance master classes in the United States and abroad. He has taught at institutions including Princeton University, Barnard College, George Mason University, Laban Centre in London, School of Visual Arts, University of California, Berkeley, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, and the University of Washington. He was invited to give the keynote address to the Utah Dance Educator's Conference in November 2016. John is the Director of the Dartmouth Dance Ensemble, and is a founding teacher of Dance for PD®, an ongoing collaboration between the Mark Morris Dance Group and the Brooklyn Parkinson Group.

COLLABORATORS



ETHAN IVERSON (Composer) Pianist, composer, and writer Ethan Iverson was a founding member of The Bad Plus, a game-changing collective with Reid Anderson and David King. During his 17-year tenure, TBP performed in venues as diverse as the Village Vanguard, Carnegie Hall, and Bonnaroo; collaborated with Joshua Redman, Bill Frisell, and the Mark Morris Dance Group; and created a faithful arrangement of Igor Stravinsky's *The Rite of Spring* and a radical reinvention of Ornette Coleman's *Science Fiction*.

Iverson also has been in the critically-acclaimed Billy Hart quartet for well over a decade and occasionally performs with an elder statesman like Albert "Tootie" Heath or Ron Carter. For over 15 years Iverson's website *Do the Math* has been a repository of musician-to-musician interviews and analysis, surely one reason *Time Out New York* selected Iverson as one of 25 essential New York jazz icons.

In 2017 Iverson premiered the score *Pepperland* for the Mark Morris Dance Group and with Aaron Greenwald co-curated a major centennial celebration of Thelonious Monk at Duke University. In spring 2018 Iverson premiered *Concerto to Scale* with the American Composers Orchestra and in fall 2018 released *Temporary Kings*, a duo album with Mark Turner on ECM.



COLIN JACOBSEN (Violinist & Composer) is "one of the most interesting figures on the classical music scene" (*The Washington Post*). An eclectic composer who draws on a range of influences, he was named one of the top 100 composers under 40 by NPR listeners. He is also active as an Avery Fisher Career Grant-winning soloist and a touring member of Yo-Yo Ma's famed Silk Road Ensemble. For his work as a founding member of two game-changing, audience-expanding ensembles – the string quartet Brooklyn Rider and orchestra The Knights – Jacobsen was selected from among the nation's top visual, performing, media, and literary artists to receive a prestigious and substantial United States Artists Fellowship. In the last few months, he has been doing the proverbial "hunkering down" in Brooklyn with his wife, Maile Okamura, a dancer and costume designer, and their daughter Mimi, (age 4). Aside from woodshedding Paganini Caprices during this time thanks to Dance Heginbotham, he is learning how to learn again from Mimi.



MAILE OKAMURA (Costume Designer, Videographer, & Performer) A San Diego native, Maile studied classical ballet with Lynda Yourth, Steven and Elizabeth Wistrich and at San Francisco Ballet School. She has danced with Boston Ballet II, Ballet Arizona and for over 20 years with Mark Morris Dance Group. She currently performs with Pam Tanowitz Dance. Maile has designed and constructed costumes for Dance Heginbotham, Mark Morris Dance Group, Pam Tanowitz Dance, Tanglewood Music Festival, Houston Ballet, Atlanta Ballet, Bard College, Middlebury College, and American Classical Orchestra. Over the past year, she has collaborated with John Heginbotham and Colin Jacobsen on the video project, *24 Caprices*, as video editor.

DH w/ ETHAN IVERSON



Easy Win © Jaime Kraus courtesy of Jacob's Pillow

An evening of work in collaboration with Ethan Iverson, the critically acclaimed jazz composer, pianist, and Blue Note Records recording artist. The program features three works: *Easy Win* (2015) a delightful ode to the repetition, drama and humor of a dance class; followed by *The Understudies*. Set to a violin and piano duet, *The Understudies* was praised by *The Boston Globe* as “heartbreaking, suspenseful” and “simply, beautiful in its beautiful simplicity.” The grand finale for the collaborative program is *Dance Sonata*, Heginbotham’s joyous new work set to Iverson’s jazzy four part composition. **Performed with live music.**

RUNNING TIME

60 minutes, no intermission

Intermissions and pauses can be added in consultation with company.

TOURING PERSONNEL

Performers*: 8 dancers (7 dancers + 1 understudy)

Administrative/Tech: 1 technical director, 1 rehearsal director, 1 artistic director or executive director

Total: 11

View program trailer: <https://vimeo.com/764689718>

View excerpts of each work: <https://vimeo.com/762367661>

Request full length: sandyg@pentacle.org

THE PLANETS



The Planets © Sam Zausch courtesy of La Jolla Music Society

An invitation to journey through our celestial environment, John Heginbotham reimagines the stage for an immersive evening of music, dance and theater. Guided by Gustav Holst's orchestral masterpiece of the same name, *The Planets* is a visual and auditory delight, propelling audiences to the farthest reaches of the cosmos from the fiery worlds at the core of our solar system to the icy bodies slowly orbiting in the far distance. **Performed with live music.**

RUNNING TIME

50 minutes, no intermission (can be performed twice in one evening)

TOURING PERSONNEL

Performers*: 5 dancers (4 dancers + 1 understudy)

Administrative/Tech: 1 technical director, 1 rehearsal director, 1 artistic director or executive director

Total: 8

View *The Planets* trailer: <https://vimeo.com/760037470>

View *The Planets* excerpts: <https://vimeo.com/760006385>

Request full length: sandyg@pentacle.org

DH MIXED REPERTORY



Villa © Amber Star Merkens

Offering a thoroughly delightful curated evening of dance featuring *Villa*, *Caprice #1*, *Caprice #4*, and *Lola*. DH's mixed repertory program features a mix of the company's signature athleticism, humor, and theatricality. The perfect blend of wit, charm and meticulous musicality for dance audience. **Program can be performed to recorded music or with live musical accompaniment by local musicians.**

RUNNING TIME

60 minutes, no intermission

Intermissions and pauses can be added in consultation with company.

TOURING PERSONNEL

Performers*: 8 dancers (7 dancers + 1 understudy)

Administrative/Tech: 1 technical director, 1 rehearsal director, 1 artistic director or executive director

Total: 11

* Option to add a DH musical guest.

View mixed repertory trailer: <https://vimeo.com/793454429>

REPERTORY DETAILS



Lola feat. Joshua Bell © Scott Suchman courtesy of John F. Kennedy Center & NSO

Lola (2017) Run Time: 30 minutes

Composer: Édouard Lalo

Score: *Symphonie Espagnole*

Performers: 7 dancers

On the occasion of the company's 5th Anniversary, Dance Heginbotham returned to The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts for the World Premiere of *Lola*, choreographed to Édouard Lalo's *Symphonie Espagnole* and performed live on stage by world-renowned violinist Joshua Bell and the National Symphony Orchestra, led by conductor Michael Stern. *Lola* celebrates the interplay between musician and dancer, creating vibrant action and delicate moments amongst the performers.

View Lola trailer: <https://vimeo.com/589487352>

Request full length: sandyg@pentacle.org

Caprice #1 & #4 Run Time: 3 minutes & 8 minutes

Composer: Niccolò Paganini

Performers: 1

Villa (2016) Running Time: 20 minutes

Composer: Heitor Villa-Lobos

Performers: 5 dancers, 1 musician

"The work's five women, joined by Jordan Dodson on guitar, perform this in almost militaristic unison, achieving a delicate serious-silly balance. Their expressions, though subdued, aren't blank, suggesting plans being hatched or emotions slyly stowed away, just beneath the surface," - *New York Times*

View Villa trailer: <https://vimeo.com/793035728>

Request full length: sandyg@pentacle.org

YOU LOOK LIKE A FUN GUY (outdoor / site-specific)



You Look Like A Fun Guy © C Duggan

PREMIERING FALL 2023

Inspired by John Cage's interest in mycology and methods of creation, Dance Heginbotham's *You Look Like a Fun Guy* is a roving performance that can move fluidly between outdoor and indoor settings and celebrates Cage's spirit — virtuosity and risk, serious curiosity and playfulness. *You Look Like a Fun Guy* may occur both outdoors and indoors with audience members journeying along with the action, potentially including a guided mushroom walk/tour. *You Look Like a Fun Guy* will be set to music by Gyorgy Kurtag and John Cage, as well as to original music composed by Colin Jacobsen. Curious and impressionistic, *You Look Like a Fun Guy* is not an ode to John Cage, though he is at its heart. *You Look Like a Fun Guy* will happily reflect his personality and the seriousness and the playfulness of Cage's compositions.

Co-commissioned by The Ringling in Sarasota, FL as part of its Ecoperformance Commission, an arts-driven focus on residencies, conversations, performances, activities and films about ecology, climate, culture and environmental justice.

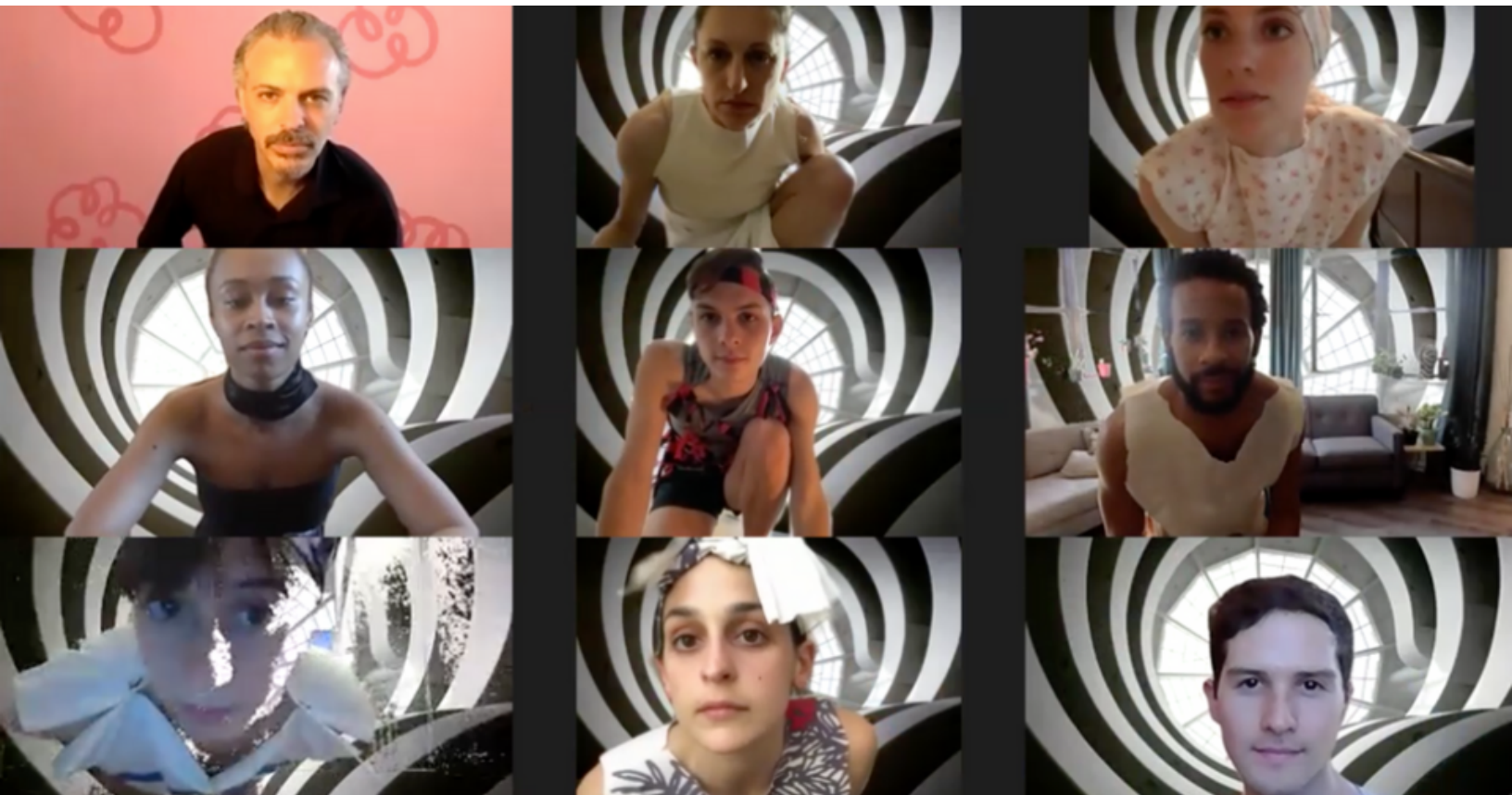
TOURING PERSONNEL

Performers*: 3-8 dancers, 1 musician

Administrative/Tech: 1 technical director, 1 artistic director

View *You Look Like A Fun Guy* trailer: <https://vimeo.com/776698996>

VIRTUAL COMMISSION | 24 Caprices



24 short dances on film during these unprecedented times. In March 2020, Dance Heginbotham (DH) was rehearsing *Dance Sonata*, a brand new work with composer Ethan Iverson set to premiere this summer 2020 at Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival. With that work disrupted, a compelling idea emerged when Works & Process at the Guggenheim approached Artistic Director John Heginbotham with the opportunity to create a Works & Process Artists (WPA) Virtual Commission. Using Niccolò Paganini's *24 Caprices* as an inspirational launching point, Dance Heginbotham joins forces with violinist Colin Jacobsen, "one of the most interesting figures on the classical music scene" (*The Washington Post*), to explore the caprices' delightful, dark, and melancholic turns.

Filmed in New York City over the coming year, *24 Caprices* is Dance Heginbotham's ambitious, new virtual dance project, featuring John, Colin, and a team of dancers and surprise guest artists. Each caprice is a captivating jewel, rhythmically intricate and varied in range, capturing a moment in this unprecedented time.

COMMISSIONERS*: There are a total of 24 Caprices to be developed and are offered at three commissioning levels that vary in cast size: Ampio, Medio, and Piccolo. Running times for the films will range between 1:30 to 7 minutes in length and are not directly related to cast size.

THREE (3) COMMISSIONING OPTIONS:

- Ampio (large): This caprice offering features up to 9 company dancers, Colin Jacobsen on violin and a creative team that includes John Heginbotham (choreographer), Maile Okamura (videographer), and Jody Elff (sound design).
- Medio (medium): This caprice includes approximately 5 dancers alongside violinist Colin Jacobsen. Creative team includes John Heginbotham (choreographer), Maile Okamura (videographer), and Jody Elff (sound design).
- Piccolo (small): A small but mighty caprice, this offering features a special guest artist from the Dance Heginbotham family. Additional personnel to realize this caprice include: Colin Jacobsen (music), John Heginbotham (choreographer), Amber Star Merkens (rehearsal director), Maile Okamura (videographer) and Jody Elff (sound design)

* Sole commissioner and co-commissioner opportunities also available.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITIES



DANCE FOR PD® with JOHN HEGINBOTHAM

(Length: 60-90 minutes, Maximum Participants: 30, Live Music Preferred)

Dance for PD®, a program of Mark Morris Dance Group, was born from the idea that people with Parkinson's disease could benefit from the insight and specific techniques and methods used by dancers to guide their own bodies and minds. This award-winning, research-backed program strives to increase coordination, balance, flexibility and strength through music and movement from a broad range of dance styles.

In classes led by professionally trained dancers, participants experience the grace, fluidity and power of dance in a social, joyful and supportive environment. No dance experience is required. In chairs, at a barre, or moving across the floor, you will explore elements of modern dance, ballet, creative improvisation, tap, social dancing, and Dance Heginbotham company repertory while music energizes, enriches and empowers.

LIMITED MOBILITY WORKSHOP

(Preferred Length: 1.5 hours, Maximum Participants: 40)

Requirements: sufficient lighting for proper visibility of floor; chairs; piano (if live music is not available, a CD player is acceptable).

Led by Artistic Director John Heginbotham and founding Dance for PD teacher, this is a customized dance workshop which emphasizes the creation of a gentle, focused space for dancing to occur. A sensitivity to the specific concerns of people with limited mobility is inherent but the class is centered on the aesthetic, athletic, and expressive possibilities of dance. Requirements: sufficient lighting for proper visibility of the floor; chairs; piano (if live music is not available, a CD player is acceptable).

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

MASTER CLASSES

Beginning/Intermediate/Advanced Contemporary Technique (Length: 1.5 hours, Live Music Preferred)

Led by Artistic Director John Heginbotham or company dancers, this class focuses on developing techniques for moving efficiently and expressively, with consciousness, strength, and grace. Special attention is paid to exploring and understanding the role of musicality in dancing. Each class begins on the floor, incorporating the anatomically sound movement principles of 20th Century dance pioneers Irmgard Bartenieff and Rudolf Laban. A standing, ballet-informed center follows, and the class concludes with a series of dynamic traveling and jumping combinations.

CHOREOGRAPHY WORKSHOP

(Length: 2 hours, Live Music Preferred)

Led by Artistic Director John Heginbotham, students learn to develop movement material for solo and groups, through various problem-solving activities. Participants will be asked to create dance studies focused on musical structures, narrative, physical interaction, and partnering. The class will end with time devoted to viewing and discussing the work created. Live music is an essential part of this class.

Q&A

Artistic Director John Heginbotham and Managing Director will offer a brief history of John's career and Dance Heginbotham's history, and will then take questions from students. Topics covered in the past include: Artistic Process, Interdisciplinary Collaboration, Dancer Health & Wellness Advice, The Life of a Dancer, Arts Management/Producing, and Current state of American Modern Dance.

LECTURE DEMONSTRATION

Lecture/demonstrations offer audiences, including dance students and non dancers alike, community groups, seniors, and more, an informal performance while providing a sneak peek at DH's creative process. Lec/dems can be adaptable to meet the needs of the presenter and audience interests. Run time: 50 minutes with 10 minutes for Q&A. NOT Full company –may include musicians if possible.

SCHOOLTIME MATINEE

DH offers schooltime matinee programs to more deeply engage students in dance, artistic collaboration, and DH's creative vision. DH performs a range of repertory with live music, providing time for Q&A with the Artistic Director, dancers, and musicians. Run time: 50 minutes with 10 minutes for Q&A. Full company.

Artist is available for both pre-and post-performance discussions.

VIRTUAL OFFERINGS

VIRTUAL PRESENTATION

24 Caprices Watch Party!

Join John Heginbotham, Colin Jacobsen, and featured performers as they share with audiences the journey of creating an original dance work in the midst of Covid-19. Audiences will gain insight into the collaborative process at the heart of *24 Caprices*, as well as the challenges and inspiration uncovered while working in this new, virtual platform. The evening includes a screening of 2-3 completed Caprices, as well as the world premiere of the commissioned Caprice. A Q&A session with the audience will follow. The virtual event can be shaped to meet the interests and engagement goals of the commissioner.

Details:

- Approximately 60 minutes (40-minute multimedia presentation which includes screening of up to 3 completed caprices as well as a discussion with featured artists. 20-minute Q&A session to follow).
- Technology: Zoom
- Moderator shall be provided by presenter or can be provided by Company upon request.
- Presenter to provide virtual stage manager to run the technology and stage manage the event.
- Company requests a virtual technical rehearsal approx. 2 weeks before the event to run through the technology and ensure a smooth run.

MOVEMENT WORKSHOP

For Dance Departments or Community Organizations (can adapt as needed).

60-minute zoom class plus 15-minute Q&A with John Heginbotham

Depending on class size, John may be joined by additional DH company members

Classes offered in:

- Beginning/Intermediate/Advanced Contemporary Technique
- Composition
- Limited Mobility Workshop

PRESS QUOTES

"[Heginbotham has] a true theater artist's instinct for commanding his audience."

-*The New York Times*

"The mind of John Heginbotham is a magical place. For the past several years, he's begun to make his mark with dance works that display an admirable combination of tight formal structure and inventive movement, bolstered by a disarming wit and strangeness. ... Audiences have a chance to enter into Heginbotham's entertaining universe, and they shouldn't miss it. ...His works seem to have personalities of their own. You want to know them."

-*The New Yorker*

"Watching a new dance by John Heginbotham is like witnessing the introduction of a new language. It seems familiar, for it's built from bits of our experience, or things we've seen before. But he raids the grammar and vocabulary and syntax we know and cobbles together something strange and alluring, leaving us off balance, but pleasingly so."

-*The New Yorker*

"...it could be that those of us at these early performances will never forget that we saw Dance Heginbotham back when."

-*Boston Globe*

"Once in a while we experience one of those serendipitous evenings in which we show up with few expectations, only to encounter an oasis of structure, understated virtuosity and, best of all, musical intelligence..."

-*Dance Tabs*



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