



DANCERS UNLIMITED
NYC & HAWAII



Media Kit 2019

www.DUHawaii.com





Dancers Unlimited

Dancers Unlimited is a bi-coastal professional company based in NYC and Hawaii. It creates thought-provoking and refreshing work while giving back to our communities. Established in 2009, the company has presented work in festivals and showings in Hawai'i, NYC and Asia.



History

Established in 2009, Dancers Unlimited (DU) formed to offer free youth dance classes on Furlough Fridays in Hawai'i, when Hawai'i DOE canceled school on Fridays due to funding cut. The company has since presented work in NYC, Hawai'i and China, produced National Dance Week Hawaii & Bboy In Shanghai USA Finals, and offered scholarships to dancers in NYC and Hawai'i.

In 2010, DU presented its first full-length repertoire at Shanghai World Expo. The company represented the USA Pavilion and performed on stages through out the Expo, and provided street shows to guests in queue for the Pavilion. DU's Shanghai debut led to the company and its Artistic Director, Linda Kuo, working with various education and creative partners in Shanghai, including the US Embassy, Youth Town, MCreative Center, Qianshuiwan Culture Center, and Bboy In Shanghai. In 2011, DU presented the first Bboy In Shanghai Hawai'i Qualifier & USA Final, that provided American Breakdancers the opportunity to attend the World Finals in Shanghai. In 2012, DU collaborated with House DJ company A Room Of House for an evening celebration of contemporary artists, musicians and dancers from Hawai'i at Qianshuiwan Culture Center.

In 2014, DU established its NYC company, DUNYC. The company has since performed on stages through out NYC, including Ailey Citigroup Theatre, Jazz Choreography Festival, NY City Center Studios, Triskelion Arts Center, NYC 10 @ Dixon Place, Queens Summer Outdoor Festival, and Time Square Open House Festival. Rooted in the street and underground dance scenes, DUNYC continues to perform at industry showcases including Sybarite: Love in Love and Boogieland Central/Funkbox NYC.

In January 2019, DUNYC and DU Hawaii united for the first time on Oahu for its community engagement projects and performances at Oahu Fringe Festival. In March 2019, DUNYC produced two sold-out evening productions at Mark O'Donnell's Theater at The Actors Fund Arts Center, featuring choreography by award-winning choreographer Sekou Heru (Dance Fusion NYC, MOPTOP Family) and original music by Grammy-nominated artist Carolyn Malachi.



Mission

Artistry:

The essence of Dancers Unlimited is creating powerful movement narratives for the advancement of our community, as well as communities we enter. Our artistic voice blends Contemporary, Street and Club dance styles while being rooted in cultural practices. Our work seeks to inspire healing, generate dialogues and elevate authentic expression.

Community Engagement:

Dancers Unlimited was created to address our community's needs during Furlough Fridays, and we have remained rooted in growing and refining our community programs. We have worked with partners in US and abroad to provide public dance classes and events. Recently we launched MoveMeant For Every Body, a program designed to encourage authentic movement expressions to facilitate community dialogues and celebrate the individual body.

Linda Kuo

Director

Linda Kuo is the director and choreographer of Dancers Unlimited, a bi-city company based in Honolulu and NYC. As a choreographer, Linda's work has been presented on stages in NYC, Hawaii and abroad. Some of her choreographic credits include: Shanghai World Expo 2010, US Embassy in China, The Contemporary Museum of Honolulu, Honolulu Academy of Art, NYC 10 / NYC Dance Week, atPeridance Capezio Center, Triskelionn Arts SummerFest, Oahu Fringe Festival, and Honolulu Biennial 2019.



Born in Taiwan and raised in Hawaii, Linda comes from a background rich in cultural diversity. She grew up dancing the Hula, which helped cemented her belief in dance as the backbone of cultural identities and resilience. Her choreography addresses social and cultural issues while fusing contemporary and cultural dances with a strong emphasis on authentic & diverse storytelling.

Linda has a versatile dance background in Hula, Ballet, Jazz, Contemporary, Hip Hop, House, Swing, Hustle, Voguing and Waacking. She continues House dance and Capoeira training with House Dance Pioneer, Sekou Heru. Recently, she studied with Urban Bush Women at the Summer Leadership Institute at New York University. She's also an alumni of 92nd Y's Dance Education Lab.

Collaborators

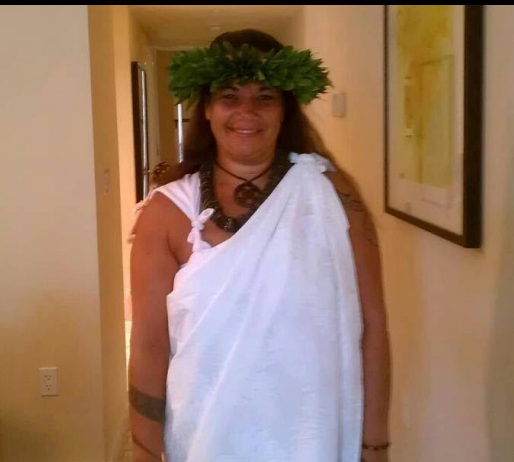


Sekou Heru (Dance Fusion NYC, MOPTOP Crew)

A Hip Hop and House dance pioneer, Sekou has served as DU's advisor since 2014. His unique dance style fuses an array of forms from hip-hop, house, martial arts and even fitness training. He has performed with Jazzy Jeff/Fresh, Prince, Mariah Carey, Michael Jackson, Will Smith, Aretha Franklin's, MC Lyte's and Foxy Brown/JayZ. Sekou's choreography for Fall Out Boy's "Dance Dance" music video has won many awards, including Viewer's Choice at the MTV Video Music Awards and two Teen Choice Awards.

Sekou played the main character Malcom X in his most recent stage performance "The Greatest" with The Peggy Choy Dance Company at La Mama Theater in New York and the University of Madison in Wisconsin. The work examines the life and times of boxing great Muhammad Ali and his meeting with Malcolm X.

Sekou is one of the most respected House dance teachers around the world. As our advisor, Sekou brings to the company his performance and training expertise, while offering artistic feedback for our repertoire work.



'Auli'i Aweau

'Auli'i has served as DU's cultural and spiritual advisor since 2010. With her background in counseling and spiritual work, as well as Hawaiian cultural education, 'Auli'i brings to the company a plethora of tools to create socially powerful work that speaks to our authentic experiences. 'Auli'i is also the founder and Kumu of Na Wahine o La'akea, DU's sister Hula group with a mission to heal individuals and communities through the art of Hula and Hawaiian cultural practices.



Jermaine Fletcher (DJ Maineframe)

Maineframe is our in-house music producer, responsible for most of the music in our repertoire work. Maineframe grew up in a musician family with a heavy Jazz influence. He started producing music in high school, and his work has been featured in commercials, featured films and TV productions including Bric TV's Brooklynification and The Curators of Hip Hop documentary series. In addition to making music, Maineframe is a multi-media artist who has worked for Bloomberg Media, ESPN and The Grammy Academy.



Jonathan Michaels

Dancers

Hawaii

Keala Fung
Amanda Harpstrite
Rikita Turner
Nathaniel Whittaker

NYC

Britnee Hay
Eugene “Bboy Spyderman” Jordan IV
Edward Lathan IV
Gabriela Messina
Sammi Tai
Kareem Woods
Hara Zi



CYPHER: Homecoming

CYPHER: Homecoming embraces the dance circle as a place of HUEMan connection, expression and celebration. It pays tribute to our ancestors on and off the dance floor, who have connected and empowered us all with dance steps and meaningful movements. A special 10-minute slot has been build into the production to showcase or collaborate with local talents wherever the show is presented.

Number of dancers: Company Ensemble and local dancers

Length: 60 minutes

Original Music: DJ Maineframe and Nadelle Scott.

Tech notes: Video projection and live DJ if possible

CYPHER: Homecoming is a collection of the following repertory:

Club Heads

Club Heads investigates the soulful side of dancing, and our kinetic and spiritual connection with each other as we dance.

The movements are inspired by the street style and club dance scenes in NYC, specifically dance parties where dancers gather and cypher. Club Heads explores how dancers communicate through letting loose and redefining ourselves on the floor.

Choreographers: Linda Kuo & Amanda Spilinga

Number of Dancers: 6

Length: 6 minutes



Original Paths

Original Paths is a reflective piece that explores finding peace, love, and joy in chaos. The work is a dedication to our mentor and ancestor, Marjory Smarth. We strive to live up to Marjory's wise words, "I love myself. I do what I love. I love those who love me."

Choreography: Amanda Spilinga & Linda Kuo

Original Music: DJ Mainframe

Number of Dancers: 6-8

Length: 5 minutes

ReasonsLegacy

reasonsLegacy is an ongoing work in progress that celebrates the cultural legacies of dance. The work contains reflections from our dancers as they explore and define their personal legacies, while exploring the dance lineage of NYC dances.

reasonsLegacy involves original music, art work, journaling & discussions inspired by Harlem's heritage dance, Swing/Lindy Hop.

Choreography: Linda Kuo

Length: 6 min

Number of Dancers: 6



3017: Time & Again

Time and Again reflects upon human conditions and humanity. We imagine what our collective future will look like in a thousand years. The multimedia production embraces humanities at its best and its worst, while drawing inspiration from youths today for a future that we want to preserve for them. We also want to inspire our audience to remember the resilience, innocence, faith and love that are innate to humanity.

Choreography: Hara Zi & Linda Kuo

Collaborator: Infinite Advocates

Length: 8 min

Number of Dancers: 5



Missing You

Created by the company advisor, and award-winning Choreographer Sekou Heru, Missing You celebrates our loved ones and embraces our connections with our ancestors. The repertoire is inspired by the legacies of street dance pioneers Marjory Smarth, Kid Dynamo and Voodoo Ray.

Choreography: Sekou

Music: Missing You by Larry Heard

Length: 7 min

Number of Dancers: 10

Tech Notes: Video Projection if available



HERstory

HERstory examines gender roles, definitions and identities, and what femininity means to the different genders. The work explores our own unique experiences with womanhood and femininity: frustration, desire, confusion, power, creation and much more.

Choreography: Brit Hay

Traffic: Cujo

Music: DJ Maineframe

Length: 8 min

Number of Dancers: 8-10



I'mMigration

[work in progress]

I'mmigration is an immersive dance installation that explores the challenges and promises that are attached to being an immigrant, and being a body on a foreign or unfamiliar land. Each dancer's (im)migration narrative is weaved into the choreography, the movement represent how our experiences shape our identities and perspectives.

Another theme in the work is our journey through the waters/oceans that separate and divide us. The theme is based on the Polynesian tradition of wayfinding, while paying tribute to our friend's family who inspired our original exploration with their story as refugees on a boat from Vietnam.

Choreography: Linda Kuo
Original Music: DJ Outsource & DJ
Mainframe
Length: 7 min
Number of dancers: 5
Tech Notes: Projection

I'mmigration is designed to be an accessible experience engaging the public. Artists and Immigrant meet-ups are scheduled to share immigrant stories and explore collaborative work. Our repertoire is ever-changing based on the communities we enter, and the stories we represent.

Community Events & Workshops

Organization Partnership

Our highly qualified teachers specialize in offering a diverse style of classes to students of all ages and levels.

For schools and nonprofits, we give a % of all moneys collected back to supporting the arts programs or your charitable causes. Free classes can be arranged for charitable events.

Programs are available in Hawaii (Oahu) and New York City.





moveMEANT for Every Body

Our MoveMEANT events are experiences designed for 3 purposes:

1. to facilitate community dialogues
2. to explore the freedom of authentic movement
3. to create powerful moveMEANT narratives from ourselves for our community

Rooted in the belief that dance is a powerful tool for resilience and progress, MoveMEANT events are facilitated as a moving workshop, retreat, and/or a panel discussion.

No dance experience necessary and all abilities are welcome.

[Click here](#) to watch our video on moveMEANT workshops.

For booking, email info@duhawaii.com

Press



"Kuo's goal is to continue to celebrate Hawaii's diverse cultures in the creative form of dance, while sharing that spirit of Aloha with everyone."

-Nicole Kato for Honolulu Midweek

"reasonsLegacy brought the new into the old with (its) lighthearted choreography that dug down into the roots of Jazz dance. (It) mashed elements of swing with hip hop and breakdancing had a reminiscent feeling of the happiness you feel when watching Pharrell Williams' 'Happy.' With breakout solos and spunky partnering it left one smiling from ear to ear."

-Ninoshka De Leon Gill for JCE Magazine

Please visit our press page for additional media coverage:

<https://duhawaii.com/category/press/>



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