



- Kimberly J.

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#### Makyla Bates (cont.)

She began training at Chicago Multicultural Dance Center (CMDC), under the direction of Homer Bryant at age 11. This is where she discovered the true meaning of classical techniques. She graduated from Chicago High School for the Arts (ChiArts) and studied in New York at the Dance Theater of Harlem and Alvin Ailey Summer Intensive Programs. She also trained with the Deeply Rooted Summer Intensive and Emerging Choreographers. She successfully completed Alonzo King LINES Ballet Professional Training Program in 2020. Currently trained in Ballet/Pointe, Hip-Hop, Contemporary, African, Modern, and Jazz. Makyla is an original Hiplet Ballerina. She was part of the viral sensation and had the opportunity to perform on Good Morning America, TedTalk and in the US Virgin Islands, St. Thomas. She was recently featured on the Kelly and Ryan show and looks forward to the many dance opportunities to come.

#### Nia Towe | Hiplet Ballerina

Nia Towe is a Chicago based dancer from Oak Park. She received a Bachelors in Dance from the University of Missouri Kansas City. While in school she worked with Kansas City Friends of Alvin Ailey and danced at Debbie Allen's Key to the City ceremony. After graduating she performed with Eleoné Dance Theatre on America's Got Talent, Moncler's Paris Fashion Week, and the 51st World Dance Conference on Dance Research in Athens Greece. This is Nia's second season touring with the Hiplet Ballerinas Company.

#### Taylor Edwards | Dance Captain, Hiplet Ballerina, Hip - Hop, Heels

Chicago native, Taylor Edwards, is a graduate of the University of Missouri Kansas City with a BFA in Dance. She received her early training in dance from The Sammy Dyer School of Theater, Chicago Multicultural Dance Center, and The Chicago High School for the Arts, and has also trained with Deeply Rooted Dance Theater. She is fluent in many styles of dance including Ballet, Modern, Jazz, Hip Hop, Tap, Contemporary, Jazz Funk, and Improvisation; has worked and performed with companies such as Deeply Rooted Dance Theater, Owen Cox Dance Group, and Wylliams Henry Dance Company. Taylor has choreographed and danced for many different artists including Chicago's very own Kanye West, Tink, and Chance The Rapper.

#### Trevon Lawrence | Dance Captain, Hiplet Ballerina, Hip - Hop, Heels

Born and raised on the westside of Chicago, Trevon started dancing at the age of 4 at Lorianne Grey Dance studio. Later she joined Chicago Multicultural Dance Center and the Chicago High School of the Arts. Trevon began dancing Hiplet during her time at CMDC and is one of the choreographers of "Thunder." Trevon has performed in many shows with Hiplet, highlights being Paris Fashion Week and the Lunar New Year parade in Hong Kong. In 2020 she had the opportunity to perform and choreograph for Chance The Rapper's Virtual Concert: Chi-Town Christmas and has recently received the opportunity to perform with Tink at Big Jam 2022. She is still evolving her knowledge of dance and aspires to become a commercial dancer, through being a part of the Hiplet and a Chicago based company named "Redd's Angelz".

### A Season to Celebrate

This season we celebrate the 10-year anniversary of the APGFCU Arena at Harford Community College, which has hosted over 600 community, entertainment, and sporting events over the past decade. We are extremely fortunate to have the APGFCU Arena, along with the Chesapeake Theater, Amoss Center, Black Box Theater, recital halls in Joppa Hall, Chesapeake Gallery, and Hays-Heighe House on our campus to offer live, quality arts programming and events.

Harford Community College's mission is *Grow. Achieve. Inspire. Contribute.* Our events and arts programming embody the College's mission as we experience live arts together. Human connection, creativity, and collaboration strengthen our campus and community. We hope you will join the celebration this season for a great lineup of concerts, family programming, dance and theater productions, exhibits, and community celebrations.

We want to continue to provide you with the best possible experiences before, during, and after the show. Please share your suggestions about the ways we may make your experience unforgettable. Contact the Ticket Office at 443-412-2211 or email me at <u>srutherford@harford.edu</u> with your ideas, feedback, and suggestions.

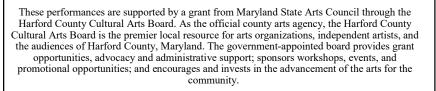
Thank you for supporting the arts and live events in Harford County. We hope you will join us for this celebratory season!

Star Ruthfr

Stacy Rutherford Director for Events & Conferencing General Manager for the APGFCU Arena

## Special Events and Performances are made possible in part through funding from:





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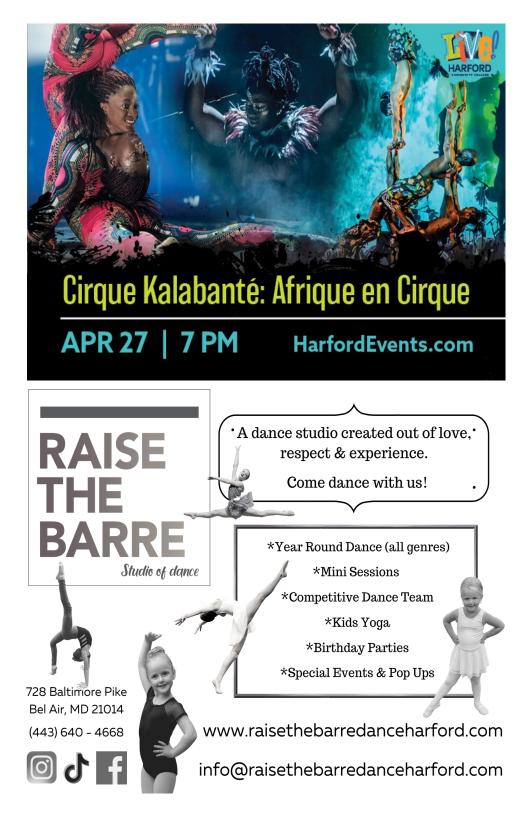
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This event is supported by Harford Community College and its Board of Trustees and is intended to illustrate the College's mission to grow, achieve, inspire and contribute.

#### MISSION

Grow. Achieve. Inspire. Contribute.



#### Brandon Avery | Hip - Hop, Heels

Brandon Avery, native of South Holland, IL, taught himself urban dance techniques and later joined Clear Vision Dance Team in 2006. His formal dance training began at Knox College, and continued with the Chicago Multicultural Dance School, Gus Giordano Dance School, and Ballethnic Academy of Dance. Avery has performed with/for Mielle Orgaics, Ballethnic Dance Company, Anthony Burrell's Project AB, Red Clay Dance, Joel Hall Dancers, and MTV2. He has choreographed for Donavan "Korporate" Price, Drew Sidora, and Praize Productions, Inc. Currently, he is the choreographer for Aya Ito, an instructor for Praize Productions, Inc., a dancer for Mikey Everything and The Haus of Everything, a member of the Pioneering HOUSE of Alain Mikli, and the founder/instructor of Hips & Heels by Brandon Avery<sup>™</sup>. This is Brandon's second season performing and touring with the Hiplet Ballerinas Company."

#### Brandy Ford | Dance Captain, Hip - Hop, Heels

Brandy is a Chicago native and started as a figure skater from age 4-16. After figure skating, she transitioned into dance and was trained at Studio One Dance Theatre. After high school she took on dance as her full-time career. With the help of her mentors, Tanji Harper and Daz Harris, she has been able to work with some amazing choreographers and artists. Brandy is beyond excited to be touring with Hiplet Ballerinas and hopes to continue to be an inspiration.

#### JC Hopkins | Hip - Hop

JC started dancing at the age of 8 watching Aaliyah videos where he knew this is what he wanted to do. He started taking it seriously when he joined his first studio "Dance Expressions," where he met Cyx Wynne, who trained and helped take his journey to new levels. He joined a well-known Hip Hop company, Hip Hop ConnXion, where he stayed for 7 years until he met Tanji Harper who brought him on as the choreographer for *The Happiness Club* and she is the executive director and founder of Blu Rhythm Crew, where he is the General & Artistic Director. He can't wait to hit the stage with Hiplet.

#### Kris Bellvié | Hip - Hop

The American actor, model, dancer, and choreographer is one of the newest members of the Hiplet Ballerinas dance company. He appeared in the 2022 feature film *North of the 10 and* has made recurring appearances in the *Power Book IV: Force* television program and was a recurring dancer in season six of *Empire*. He has toured and worked with the artists Dlow, Nathan Napalm Palmer, Sir The Baptist, and D. Lylez. Other credits include performances with Kelly Clarkson, Chris Brown, Twista, Social Club Misfits, Kanye West, Mario, Da Brat, and Black Eyed Peas. In all of his hard work, Kris has been able to uplift and provide outlets for the youth in the form of dance programs, tutoring and mentoring. This is Kris' second season touring with the Hiplet Ballerinas Company.

#### Makyla Bates | Hiplet Ballerina

Makyla (Kyla) Bates is a Southside Chicago native and began dancing at Mayfair Dance Academy at the age of three...

## **HIPLET BALLERINAS**

## FEB 26 | 3:00 PM AMOSS CENTER



#### Act 1: "The Journey, The Evolution"

"As an African American man in Ballet, Homer Hans Bryant has always been ahead of his time. See this artistic depiction of The Dream, The Struggle, and The Evolution of Hiplet."

1. Film: "My Journey from Ballet to Hiplet" by Homer Hans Bryant

#### 2. "The Dream"

Choreography by Taylor Edwards Music by: Camille Saint-Saëns

"The Dream" is an original piece choreographed for the HUMAN | MOTHER | BLACK Exhibit by artist, Ashley Jan.

#### 3. "Be Free"

Choreography by Taylor Edwards Music by Aretha Franklin, a remix

#### 4. "It's Hiplet"

Choreography by Homer Hans Bryant Music by Fernando Jones and Homer Hans Bryant with the voice of Homer Hans Bryant

5. Film: Interview with Homer Hans Bryant, the creator of Hiplet



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### THE JOHN CARROLL SCHOOL provides quality *Dance education* for dancers ages 3-18.



## Visit our website for registration details and our upcoming 2022/2023 performance calendar:

JC Ballet Academy: arts.johncarroll.org/ballet-academy JC College Preparatory Dance Program: arts.johncarroll.org/dance

Contact Program Director, Laura Ward-Moran at Lwardmoran@johncarroll.org



College Preparatory



#### 6. "Rhythm, The Soul of Life"

Choreography by Homer Bryant, William Gill, Cameryn Stevens, and others.

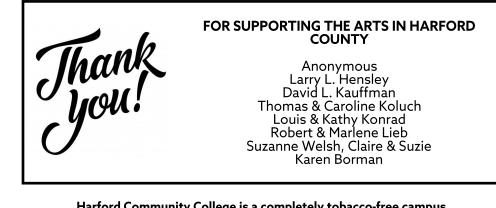
Music by Phil Cochran and Legacy, A-Star, DJ Micks

"Rhythm, The Soul of Life," premiered in 1994 with the original Bryant Ballet Company. The roots of Hiplet began with the Bryant Ballet Company in the 1990s. "Rhythm The Soul of Life" is a journey through the diaspora of African American dance, showcasing a variety of African and Afro-Caribbean dance techniques intertwined with Classical Ballet and Pointe.

#### 7. "From Ballet to Hiplet"

Choreography by Homer Bryant, Kris Bellvié, Trevon Lawrence, and Imani Sailers. Music by Black Violin and Nuttin' But Stringz.

"From Ballet to Hiplet" is a play on the Ballet Hip Hop fusion showcasing how two opposites can come together. Ballerinas and Hip Hop dancers trade moves to classical violin music set to a Hip Hop beat. Featuring Homer Bryant's signature piece 'Jammin,' "From Ballet to Hiplet" is a crowd favorite.



#### Harford Community College is a completely tobacco-free campus.

As a courtesy to fellow patrons, please refrain from talking during performances.

The use of photographic or recording devices of any kind is prohibited in the theater. Please silence all cell phones and electronic devices.

Please note that your attendance at this performance constitutes consent for the College taking and using photographs for promotional and other purposes.

\* Late entry will be permitted during the pauses between completed works.

#### What is Hiplet?

The only company in the world to perform this signature, trademark style, Hiplet Ballerinas of Chicago, Illinois fuses classical pointe technique with African, Latin, Hip-Hop and Urban dance styles rooted in communities of color. Promoting inclusivity in both their cast and audience, Hiplet (pronounced "hip-lay") features true-toned tights, modern music and dancers of all shapes, sizes and colors.





111 THOMAS ST. BEL AIR, MD 21014 410.838.1263 Mon – Sat 10am-9pm



#### **Gwenne Godwin |** Production Stage Management / Tour Management, Lighting & Projection Design

Gwenne is passionate about many things and is fortunate to work in fields that she loves. She is a lighting designer, production stage manager, master electrician, tax preparer and urban farmer. She has worked with numerous dance companies over the years and is always amazed at the dedication, passion, athleticism, and beauty they exhibit in their performances. It's an honor to share my artistry with such talented individuals. Life is short, dance like no one is watching. Grow your own veg and share it.

#### Meet The Cast

#### Alexandria Franklin | Hiplet Ballerina

Training with Homer since the age of 11, Alexandria Franklin graduated from Howard University and began her professional career shortly after. Her credits include the NBA dance team the Washington Wizard Girls, Brooklyn Ballet, Neglia Ballet, UniverSoul Circus and Royal Caribbean International. She joined the Hiplet Ballerinas in 2017 and has danced in Paris Fashion Week, Le Coq Sportif Korea SS18, Visa Japan "New Normal," G-Star Raw Uniform of the Free, as well as the Fox TV shows Empire and The Big Leap. Alexandria has also had the opportunity to dance for artists such as Chance The Rapper, Vic Mensa and Jamilah Woods.

#### Allison Harsh | Hiplet Ballerina

Allison Harsh (Allie) was born and raised in Omaha, Nebraska where she began her dance training. She earned her BFA in Dance Performance from the Conservatory of Music and Dance at the University of Missouri Kansas City. Allie's dance training also includes the Kansas City Ballet, and Deeply Rooted Dance Theatre. She performed with the Kansas City Friends of Alvin Ailey for 3 years before joining Hiplet Ballerinas in 2019 and also dances as a member of Redd's Angelz. Enjoy the show!

#### Ben Marshall | Hip - Hop

Ben Marshall began training at the Chicago High School for the Arts. Later, he started and led a small dance group made up of him and his peers, performing original works for John Schmitz's Dance Chicago showcase series, as well as producing his own shows. After graduating from ChiArts, he attended the University of Michigan. In 2018, he graduated from U of M, and joined the Hiplet Ballerinas in August of 2022.



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#### Saturday, December 3, 2022 – A Snowman's Holiday

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Saturday, May 20, 2023 - Organ Symphony presenting a 19th century masterpiece by Camille Saint-Saëns

#### Bel Air High School, 7:30pm

SSOrchestra.org for repertoire & ticket info





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#### Act II: The Arrival, The Revolution

1. "Missing You"

Choreography by Nina Rose Wardanian Music by Roberta Flack, Aretha Franklin and Angie Stone.

"Missing You" is a departure from typical Hiplet, featuring contemporary choreography with a more mature approach. Chronicling the ebbs and flows of women as they navigate personal relationships, "Missing You" is an emotional journey of love, loss and sisterhood.



#### 2. Film: "Because Of Them We Can"

A short film by Nia Cooper set to the Maya Angelou poem, "Phenomenal Women."

A tribute to African American women dancers who came before Hiplet and performed through obstacles, paving the way for today's dancers to express themselves freely.

#### 3. "Motown Revue"

Choreographer: Tanji Harper Music: A medley of Motown classics.

Let's take a trip down memory lane as we explore the iconic sounds of Motown. From the Temptations to Diana Ross, we have it all. Not only is this piece about the music, it's about capturing the essence of the time. This is a fun piece that will leave you with a smile and make you want to do the hustle and a little two step.

#### 4. "React"

Choreography by Trevon Lawrence and Anthony Sampson

Music by The Pussycat Dolls. World Premiere 2021 Extended version of the Hiplet Ballerinas America's Got Talent Season 16 audition.

#### 5. "The Hiplet Experience"



#### 6. "Chicago Suite"

Choreography by Homer Bryant, Blair Cartlidge, Anthony Sampson, Brandy Ford, Jayda Perry

Music by Future Force, Chance The Rapper, Ric Wilson, and others. Hiplet honors its geographical roots by featuring dances to music by local Chicago artists. Chicago's music scene is earthy and diverse, from blues to jazz, rap to house, and everything in between.

#### 7. "Pasos (Steps)"

Choreography by Rebecca Alaman Music: Mama Guela by The Spanish Harlem Orchestra

#### For more information: www.hipletballerinas.com

#### COMPANY BIOS

#### Homer Hans Bryant | Artistic Director & Founder

Homer Hans Bryant, the creator of Hiplet<sup>™</sup>, is a former principal dancer with the Dance Theater of Harlem and a former member of Prima Ballerina Maria Tallchief's Chicago City Ballet. His professional credits include the Broadway production of *Timbuktu* with the legendary Eartha Kitt and the motion picture *The Wiz* with Diana Ross and Michael Jackson. In 1990, he opened his own studio, Bryant Ballet, with a focus to offer all dancers, but especially low-income students and dancers of color, an entry into classical ballet. By 1997, the mayor of Chicago renamed his school the Chicago Multi-Cultural Dance Center (CMDC) in honor of the studio's work in the community. Other teaching and training experiences include working with the original casts of Cirque Du Soleil's *Mystere, Alegria, Quidam,* and *Saltimbanco*. Homer Bryant was also a quest instructor at the Dance Open Ballet Festival in Russia, where he taught his unique body alignment/floor barre technique at the Bolshoi Ballet Academy, the Kirov Ballet Academy, and the Boris Eifman School. Over the years, Bryant has continued to incorporate hip-hop and ballet, eventually coining the term Hiplet™ in 2009. CMDC has trained many dancers who now perform with Cirque Du Soleil, Alvin Ailey, in Broadway productions, and more. CMDC is the only contemporary ballet school in the world that teaches Hiplet<sup>™</sup>.