

BT DANCE PROJECT COLLABORATORS and PERFORMERS

Composers/Musicians

Rafael Cohen was a dancer before he was creating sound scores. He has made commissioned audio work for choreographers such as Malinda Allen, Jordan Fuchs, Esther Baker, Jessica Morgan, and Sarah White among others. His fascination with acoustic and electronic sounds grew in parallel to his passion for improvisation and movement. Merging these interests has been a natural extension of his experiences. The incorporation and manipulation of chance elements has always been central to Mr. Cohen's creative process, whether in site specific improvisational work or in the inclusion of field recordings in his sound scores. Some samples of his work can be found at <http://www.myspace.com/coucang>

Amadou Kienou is a master griot drummer who has two solo CD's released and two albums with his musical group Foteban. Kienou was born in Ougagoudou, Burkina Faso into a griot family and his father is the renowned Baba Kienou. Amadou has also toured with Compagnie Salia Ni Seydou as musical composer and he was the musical director for les Bourgeois du Burkina. He has performed and taught workshops in festivals in Columbia, Cameroon, Germany, France, Guyana, USA, and many other countries. www.amadoukienou.com

Aboubacar Kouyate is a master Djembe drummer who currently performs and teaches throughout the US. He was born in Conakry, Guinea into a family of Griots, traditional musicians and oral historians. Aboubacar began his musical training on the balafon at the age of five with his father Ibrahim Kouyate. In 1996 he became a master drummer with les Ballets Merveilles de Guinea and performed extensively throughout Africa, the US, and Europe. In 2002 he helped establish the Drum Café in New York City.

Raige Pierson has long held a vision of the revival of the sweet and haunting sounds of old-time music, particularly the mountain ballads sung since the early 19th century in the mountains of West Virginia, where she grew up singing in a Baptist church. While staying true to the spirit of Old-time and honoring its rich traditions, Raige simultaneously recreates and reinvents this richly melodic music for the 21st century. She pushes the boundaries of folk music, blurring categories with her fiery, soulful performances. Counted among her influences are artists as diverse as Jean Ritchie, Hazel Dickens, Joni Mitchell, Siouxsie Sioux, Sinead O'Connor, Kurt Cobain and Loretta Lynn. Drawing upon ten years of collecting American roots music and vintage amplified dulcimers, her sets range from soulful old-time ballads and rocking string-and-rhythm dance band music to traditionally-inspired original pieces. Raige's LA-based Appalachian roots rock band To the Dogs has performed in some of the city's premiere rock clubs including repeat shows at THE KNITTING FACTORY, TEMPLE BAR, THE SMELL, THE VIPER ROOM, and THE HOUSE OF BLUES, Hollywood. Raige's theatrical work has been positively reviewed in the *Los Angeles Times* and *LA Weekly*. She was awarded an LA Weekly Award for her first acting role (Swap Nite, 1993). She is thrilled to have begun artistic collaboration with the ever-so talented Esther Baker-Tarpaga and the BT

Dance Project. <http://www.myspace.com/tothedogsband>

Michael West is currently a Graduate Student in Composition at UCLA where he studies with Paul Chihara, Charles Fox, Roger Bourland and Ian Krouse writing for the concert stage, film and dance. He received his Bachelor's of Music in Composition from Cal State University, Northridge (CSUN) with an emphasis on Electro-Acoustic Composition, Piano Performance and Recording; he studied with Liviu Marinescu, Daniel Kessner and Daniel Hosken. Michael's music has been described as unique and powerful conveyances of the abstract; inspired by visual/performance arts and sound itself. His ultimate goal is to achieve an emotional reaction from all his listeners regardless of their musical background. www.michaelashleywest.com

Visual and Set Designers

Laura H. Andrade obtained her MFA from the Design | Media Arts Department at UCLA in 2005. As a designer and Media Artist, she is interested in exploring new vocabularies emerging from the fusion of dance, performance and technology. Currently, Laura is participating in the European dance program MIRA, in its edition in Seville (Spain), where a group of international artists from different disciplines are collaborating in the project "Bauhaus-Catedrales". Her new project "Catedral Cinetica" was recently screened in the Experimental Art Festival Zemos98, in Seville (Spain).

Christina Choe is a documentary filmmaker, video artist, TV editor and screenwriter. She has screened her short films, "Turmeric Border Marks" & "United Nations of Hip Hop" at numerous film festivals worldwide, including the AFI Film Festival, Seattle, and Palm Springs Shorts Festival. In 2002 she received a New York Foundation for the Arts (NYFA) fellowship grant. She has also toured internationally as a live VJ with Rennie Harris Puremovement's award-winning "Rome & Jewels" and taught video workshops for youth at Paper Tiger TV & Scribe Video Center. For the past few years, she has worked as a TV editor/asst. editor for ABC, VH1, HBO and the History Channel. Most recently, she was named a 2007 fellow for the KOFIC (Korean Film Council) Filmmaker Labs for her feature script, "Guess Who's Coming For Kimchee", which will take her to Pusan Film Festival and IFP Market, to present her script. www.christinachoe.com

Eben Goff recently moved to L.A. to join the graduate visual arts program at UCLA. He comes to us from Butte, Montana; still trailing dust from three years of artistic investigation of the town's infamous copper mine. Montana triumphs and adventures include his residency at the Butte Silver Bow Arts Center, exhibitions at Aunt Dofe's Hall of Recent Memory (Willow Creek), and his work as painting instructor at the Montana State Hospital for Psychiatric Disorders (Warm Springs). His work is currently on view as part of the 'International Language' exhibit at the Holter Museum in Helena and touring Texas as part of the ArtHouse sponsored group show, 'New American Talent'.

Peter Melville is a visual artist working in combined media and design for performance. His artwork has been exhibited and collected in: Canada, Japan, United States, and Germany. In 1980-85 he was a company member (Performer/Design Associate/Film

Curator) for the DIA Art Foundations Robert Whitman Theatre Project, an experimental theater group based in NYC. Noted exhibitions and performance tours: "Blam, Pop, Minimalism and Performance 1958-64" Whitney Museum of American Art, NYC, 1984 "-60-80 attitudes/concepts/images" Stedelijk Museum, Amsterdam, 1982. Melville has been a Resident lighting Designer for the Whitney Museum of American Arts Performance Series, and was the faculty TD at the NYU Tisch School of the Arts, Performing Arts Institute, 1985-2001. Melville's designs for dance theater include those for: Doug Varone, Lance Gries, the Wooster Group, more recently Marianne Kim, Cheng-Chieh Yu, and David Rousseve (for video). www.petermelville.net
www.yudancetheatre.com

Collaborating Choreographers

Wilfried Souly is a choreographer, dancer, drummer and Taekwondo expert. He was born in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso and started to study and perform dance and music in 1994 with the very acclaimed artistic ensemble "Le Bourgeon du Burkina." In September 2000 he co-founded *Compagnie Tâ* with Olivier Tarpaga and Auguste Ouédraogo and co-choreographed "*Tin Suka*" (2001) and "*Buudu*" (2002), which was selected as a finalist at the fifth choreographic encounters of Africa and Indian Ocean in Madagascar, and "*Traces*" (2006), a collaboration between *Compagnie Tâ* and French association of visual artist "*Genies de la Bastille, Paris.*" He has collaborated with international choreographers and performed in works such as "Space i Tiempo" choreographed by Robert Battle (USA) and Gerardo Delgado (Mexico) in Tampico, Mexico and "Dole Danle" with Company E.Go (French Hip Hop) directed by Eric Mezzino and Gilles Schamber in 2006. He has performed and taught dance and drumming in festivals and universities throughout France, UK, Germany, Tunisia, Cameroon, Senegal, Canada, Spain, French Guyana and the USA.

Andreya Ouamba is director of *Compagnie Iere Temps*, which has performed at numerous festivals worldwide. He is from Congo Brazzaville and currently lives in Senegal and France. His work won first place for the African and Indian Ocean Choreographic Competition in 2006.

Taisha Paggett is a Los Angeles based choreographer, dancer, teacher, and co-founder of the dance journal project, *itch*. Her work is inspired by various discourses on the body as an expressive tool and is interested in bridging the sensibility and discourses of both the visual and performing arts. Before moving to Los Angeles she lived in New York City where she performed with the Stanley Love Performance Group, Fiona Marcotty and Kraig Patterson, and studied movement technique primarily through Movement Research. Prior to NYC, she attended UC Santa Cruz where she received an undergraduate degree in Art History. Her work and collaborations have been presented at several California venues including Highways Performance Space in Santa Monica, Center Stage Theater in Santa Barbara, LACE, and at the San Francisco Art Institute. Her most recent short dance work presented for *Then* was borne out of her work with CHAMP (Community HIV/AIDS Mobilization Project) and as a new member of the Los

Angeles based audio action collective Ultra-Red. She has an ongoing collaborative practice with visual artist Ashley Hunt that has taken form as video, sound and installation projects. She has also done freelance writing for *Dance Magazine*. As a dancer, Taisha has also worked extensively in the projects of David Rousseve, Cheng-Chieh Yu, Victoria Marks and Kelly Nipper, and recently assisted Yvonne Rainer in the development of *Agon*. In December 2006 she traveled to Burkina Faso with BT Dance Projects to present their work "Grass Undone". Taisha is currently completing an MFA in the Department of World Arts and Cultures at UCLA. www.taishapaggett.net

Performers In Current and Past Projects

Laurel Fanya House has been an avid student of traditional and popular Congolese and West African dance techniques for over ten years. She has worked on HIV/AIDS, agriculture, and dance related projects throughout South Africa, Swaziland, and Mozambique and recently returned from studying contemporary African dance in Senegal and Burkina Faso. She has performed with Company Yelessa Antoinette, Ballet Kodja, and Les Quatre Etoiles in France and Switzerland.

Shelley Wilcox is currently studying within UCLA's World Arts & Cultures Department. Shelley danced professionally with Laura Gornstein Miller's *Helios Dance Theater* for 4 years. She's had the pleasure of performing and working with esteemed choreographers, such as Maria Gillespie, Carmella Hermann, Jose Reynoso, Olivier Tarpaga, Esther Baker-Tarpaga, and Sheetal Ghandi. Much of her recent work has been focused on postmodern dance and contemporary West African dance. Shelley is a certified instructor of Vinyasa Yoga, Pilates based movement, and GYROTONIC® Expansion System. She is co-owner and teacher at The Pilates Room & Yoga Lounge in Hermosa Beach, where she enjoys teaching the local community.

Josette Wiggans is multi talented dancer. She dances for the Jazz Tap Ensemble and tours as a freelance tap dancer around the world. She teaches tap dance and dance in numerous Los Angeles schools. She was featured in the *Dance Magazine* for her performing with her brother Joseph Wiggans.

Sarri Sanchez earned her B.A. in World Arts and Cultures from UCLA in 2005. Pursuing her post-college dancing career, she is currently a member of Holly Johnston's Ledges and Bones Dance Project, and performs with many other local artists, including, most recently, Liz Hoefner and Nicole Finis Smith. Her own choreography has been shown at UCLA and Highways Performance Space. In her spare time, Sarri works part-time as an SAT tutor and full-time as an editor for Yahoo! Search Marketing.

Nicole Finis Smith is native to the Bay Area. Her choreography has premiered at the Freud Playhouse, Kaufman Family Garden Theater, Carpenter Center, and Highways Performance Space. She has performed in works by Rennie Harris, Meredith Monk, David Dorfman, Maria Gillespie, Annie Rosenthal-Parr, and Taisha Paggett. She performs as a solo spoken word artist.

Ally Voye began her dance training in choreography, improvisation and contemporary technique in Salt Lake City, Utah at the Life Arts Center. She holds a B.A. from UCLA in World Arts and Cultures with a dance emphasis. Her video choreography was selected for the 2005 American College Dance Festival. She was chosen to participate in the Jacob's Pillow Choreographer's Lab with Susan Marshall and Suzanne Carbonneau in the summer of 2005. Locally, has worked with choreographers Victoria Marks, Maria Gillespie, Cid Pearlman, Jia Jia Wu, Esther Baker, Flora Wiegman-Heitzler, Kristen Smiarowski, Peter Carpenter and Alesia Young, Michelle Bloom and Kim Vetter.

Maya Zellman is a recent graduate from UCLA's Department of World Arts and Cultures. Since her commencement she has been busy with dance performances including a New York tour with her salsa company, *contra-tiempo*, a two month run of a Hip-Hop theatre show, "J.O.B. the Hip-Hopera," weekly performances with Brasil Brasil Cultural Center, and concerts at Loyola Marymount University, UCLA, and RedCat Studio at Walt Disney Music Concert Hall. Maya has also ventured deep into teaching; she currently teaches at Heart Beat House Dance Studio, The Boys and Girls Club, Brentwood Middle School, as well as giving private dance lessons.

Photographers

Antoine Tempe www.antoinetempe.com

Lilian Wu <http://www.wac.ucla.edu/person.php?pid=54>

Ben Gancos www.bengancos.com