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Velocity Dance Center + the Henry Art Gallery Present

SEAN DORSEY DANCE

Trailblazing transgender choreographer Sean Dorsey returns to Velocity for one weekend only! *BOYS IN TROUBLE* is a timely and urgent commentary on contemporary masculinity, placing a trans and queer lens onto intersectional questions of embodiment, violence, Black queer love, whiteness, shame and posturing.

OCT 17-20 / 7:30PM

Velocity Founders Theater 1621 12th Ave. on Capitol Hill

Tickets \$20 advance (\$25 at the door); \$17 MVP members; \$15 under 25 (w/ ID); \$50 Patron

[WEBSITE](#) / [FACEBOOK](#) / [TICKETS](#)

SEATTLE – Trailblazing transgender choreographer Sean Dorsey returns to Velocity for one weekend only! *BOYS IN TROUBLE* is a timely and urgent commentary on contemporary masculinity that places a trans and queer lens onto intersectional questions of embodiment, violence, Black queer love, whiteness, shame and posturing.

BOYS IN TROUBLE features full-throttle dance, raw emotion, irreverent humor, exquisite queer partnering and intimate storytelling ... all performed with Sean Dorsey Dance's signature technical precision, guts and deep humanity. In turns powerful, explosive, irreverent, devastatingly honest, sensual and humorous, *BOYS IN TROUBLE* is a groundbreaking examination of American masculinity's deep roots in Trouble.



“a visually stunning, emotionally rich, and profoundly timely examination of masculinity and gender by one of the nation’s most visionary choreographers”

– *San Francisco Bay Times*

“poignant ... Dorsey’s signature mix of happiness, heartbreak, confessional dialogue, salty language, goofy humor and gorgeous partnering”

– *San Francisco Chronicle*

Recognized as the nation’s first acclaimed transgender modern dance choreographer, Sean Dorsey’s ability to bring us into conversation with toxic masculinity, the trans revolution, white supremacy and attacks on trans bodies and civil liberties manifest in this powerful work. *BOYS IN TROUBLE* features full-throttle dance, raw emotion, irreverent humor, exquisite queer partnering and intimate storytelling, all performed with Sean Dorsey Dance’s signature technical precision, guts and deep humanity.

With his award-winning fusion of contemporary dance, storytelling and theater, Sean Dorsey is blazing a trail celebrated by critics and sold-out audiences alike. Dorsey has been awarded five Isadora Duncan Dance Awards, and was recently awarded a Dance/USA Artist Fellowship. Dorsey has been named “San Francisco’s Best Dance Company”(SF Weekly) and named in Dance Magazine’s “Top 25 to Watch.”

“lush, expansive dance ... poignant”

– *PBS-KQED*

“stunningly gorgeous powerful movement ... remarkable choreography”

– *Fairfax Connection*

“epic work ... powerful, moving, hilarious”

– *Miami Herald*

Dorsey created *BOYS IN TROUBLE* over a 2-year period, after visiting communities across the US where he hosted community forums on Masculinity, recorded interviews, and taught free movement workshops for transgender, gender-non-conforming, cisgender, gay, bi, and queer people on the masculine spectrum. *BOYS IN TROUBLE* is performed by: Sean Dorsey, Brian Fisher, ArVejon Jones, Nol Simonse and Will Woodward. Original music composed by: Alex Kelly, Anomie Belle, LD Brown, Jesse Olsen Bay and Ben Kessler. Lighting Design by Clyde Sheets. Costume Design by Tiffany Amundson. Technical Direction by Emily Paulson.

After making its World Premiere in San Francisco in May 2018, *BOYS IN TROUBLE* has launched a 2-year, 20-city international tour – bringing the company to Maui, Stockholm Sweden, Los Angeles, Austin, Atlanta and Seattle, among many more cities. Sean’s time in Seattle will include a workshop at Gay City Arts and a Speakeasy panel with Three Dollar Bill Cinema at the Seattle Queer Film Festival. We can hardly wait!

BOYS IN TROUBLE was commissioned by: Bates Dance Festival, Dance Place (Washington DC), 7 Stages Theater (Atlanta), Queer Cultural Center (San Francisco), San Francisco LGBT Community Center, Maui Arts & Cultural Center (Maui) and Highways Performance Space (Los Angeles) – and



was created with generous support from the California Arts Council, Creative Work Fund, Fleishhacker Foundation, Kenneth Rainin Foundation, National Dance Project, National Performance Network, Phyllis C. Wattis Foundation and San Francisco Arts Commission.



PERFORMANCE DATES + TIMES

- > Thursday October 17, 2019; 7:30PM
- > Friday October 18, 2019; 7:30PM
- > Saturday October 19, 2019; 7:30PM
- > Sunday October 6, 2019; 7:30PM

Location: Velocity; 1621 12th Ave, Seattle

Tickets: \$20 advance (\$25 at the door); \$17 MVP members; \$15 under 25 (w/ ID); \$50 Patron

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ABOUT THE ARTIST:

SEAN DORSEY is an award-winning San Francisco-based choreographer, dancer and writer. Recognized as the U.S.' first acclaimed transgender modern dance choreographer, Dorsey has toured his work to 30 cities.

Dorsey was recently awarded a Dance/USA Artist Fellowship. He has been named "San Francisco's Best Dance Company" (*SF Weekly*) and named in *Dance Magazine's* 25 To Watch. He has been awarded five Isadora Duncan Dance Awards and the Goldie Award for Performance.

Dorsey's works are a fusion of full-throttle dance, luscious partnering, intimate storytelling and theater. Highly physical, accessible, rooted in story, and danced with precision and guts and deep humanity, Dorsey's works have been praised as "exquisite...poignant and important" (*BalletTanz*), "trailblazing" (*San Francisco Chronicle*) and "evocative, compelling, elegant" (*LA Weekly*).

Dorsey has been awarded major support from the National Endowment for the Arts, National Dance Project, National Performance Network, Dance/USA, Doris Duke Charitable Foundation, Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, Creative Work Fund, California Arts Council, San Francisco Arts Commission, James Irvine Foundation, Kenneth Rainin Foundation, Fleishhacker Foundation, Phyllis C. Wattis Foundation, Wallace Alexander Gerbode Foundation and William and Flora Hewlett Foundation.



Dorsey's work has been commissioned by: American Dance Festival, Bates Dance Festival (Lewiston), Dance Place (Washington DC), Queer Cultural Center (San Francisco), The Theater Offensive (Boston), 7 Stages (Atlanta), Maui Arts and Cultural Center (Maui), Velocity Dance Center (Seattle), Links Hall (Chicago), and Highways Performance Space (Los Angeles).

Dorsey is a leading national advocate for Trans Equity in dance – and has worked for equity for transgender and gender-nonconforming artists in the field for 20 years. Dorsey's program [TRANSform Dance](#) provides trans-supportive education, engagement and advocacy to forward trans equity and justice in Dance.

Sean Dorsey Dance is currently on a 20-city international tour of [BOYS IN TROUBLE](#) – **a timely and urgent commentary on contemporary masculinity** that places a trans and queer lens onto intersectional questions of embodiment, violence, Black queer love, whiteness, shame and posturing in *BOYS IN TROUBLE*.

Dorsey's previous evening-length dances are a trilogy of works exploring censored, buried or forgotten parts of LGBTQ history: [THE MISSING GENERATION](#) (2015), [The Secret History Of Love](#) (2013), and [Uncovered: The Diary Project](#) (2010).

[THE MISSING GENERATION](#) gives voice to LGBTQ longtime survivors of the early AIDS epidemic. Dorsey created the work over a 2-year period after recording oral history interviews with longtime survivors. These survivors' voices and remarkable real-life stories are featured in the work's Izzie Award-winning soundscore.

Dorsey is also the founder and Artistic Director of [Fresh Meat Productions](#), the US' first nonprofit of its kind. Fresh Meat Productions invests in the creative expression and cultural leadership of transgender and gender-nonconforming communities. [Fresh Meat's year-round programs](#) include the popular annual FRESH MEAT FESTIVAL of transgender and queer performance, Sean Dorsey Dance's local and touring performances, FRESH WORKS creation commissions to trans and queer artists of color, a national education program, and TRANSform Dance – a national education, engagement and advocacy program promoting Trans Equity in dance.

COLLABORATORS:

Choreographed and written by: Sean Dorsey

Movement created and performed by: Sean Dorsey, Brian Fisher, ArVejon Jones, Nol Simonse, Will Woodward

Original music composed by: Alex Kelly, Jesse Olsen Bay, Ben Kessler, Anomie Belle, LD Brown/Grey Reverend

Soundscore designed, written and narrated by: Sean Dorsey

Additional text by: ArVejon Jones and Nol Simonse

Sound Recording/Mixing: Grace Coleman, Laura Dean

Technical Director / Stage Manager: Emily Paulson

Lighting Designer: Clyde Sheets

COMPOSER/MUSICIAN BIOGRAPHIES

Jesse Olsen Bay is a composer, performer, and teacher who lives in Sebastopol with his partner Frieda and children Yarrow (7) and Altair (1). He collaborates frequently with dancers, and is half of the avant-folk duo Ramon & Jessica. He currently accompanies and teaches in the Theater Arts Department at Sonoma State University, and is studying to become a music therapist. www.jesseolsenbay.com

Anomie Belle: Seattle-based queer experimental electronica artist and multi-instrumentalist, Anomie Belle's material grapples with issues ranging from suburban alienation to the human condition, sexuality, and critiques of corporate power. Anomie's style is due in equal parts to a life dedicated to refining classical technique (most notably on violin), and shaped through her meticulous studio production that pushes the boundaries of granular synthesis and vocal processing. Anomie's music is electronic, classical, moving, sensual, glitchy, emotive and pure, often evoking a world all its own. Anomie's collaborators include Antibalas, Sneaker Pimps, Posies, Mr Lif and Yppah. She has toured with such diverse talents as Bonobo, Floating Points, Tricky, Little Dragon, Emancipator, Bajofondo, Ott, and Cifika and formed her own string quartet to perform alongside The Album Leaf. Her music has also been featured in an array of video games, feature, films and television shows (Xbox, Showtime, MTV, etc). www.anomiebelle.com

Grey Reverend is the solo project of songwriter L.D. Brown. L.D's music has been showcased on MTV, ABC, NBC, HBO, BBC and other networks worldwide, and has been featured on NPR's All Things Considered, as well as The Huffington Post. Besides currently working as musical director, guitarist and vocalist with "The Cinematic Orchestra" UK, L.D. has released three Grey Reverend records and has collaborated with artists throughout the world. www.greyreverend.com

Dr. Alex Kelly is a cellist, composer, and professor. He composes and performs with major symphony orchestras, chamber orchestras, new music ensembles, string quartets, cello quartets, big bands, jazz combos, rock bands, hip-hop crews, klezmer bands, world music ensembles, theater companies, radio productions, ballet companies, modern dance companies, and circus troupes. Dance companies he has worked with include LINES ballet, Margaret Jenkins, Lizz Roman, Beth Fein, Axis Dance Company, Les 7 Doigts de le Main, and since 2008, Sean Dorsey. Alex was part of the composing team that won a 2016 Isadora Duncan Dance Award for outstanding achievement in Music/Sound/Text for the original soundscore for THE MISSING GENERATION. www.alexkelly.com

Ben Kessler is a composer, arranger, mixing engineer, sound designer, and multi-instrumentalist from Saline, Michigan. He has performed with numerous groups, and has collaborated with Sean Dorsey on many previous projects over the last 14 years. In addition to working in his studio, Ben currently teaches private music lessons, runs a klezmer group for



2nd to 5th graders, and is the musical director of a 19-piece big band. He has collaborated with Dorsey since 2005.

TECHNICAL AND PRODUCTION TEAM BIOGRAPHIES

Emily Paulson (Technical Director and Stage Manager) is a Stage Technician and the Training Director for IATSE Local 107. She's been blessed to work with Sean Dorsey Dance and the Fresh Meat Family since 2012. As Stage Manager and Technical Director her goal is to create a supported, safe, consistent and loving atmosphere for the dancers, so that they can deeply experience and transmit the dance to the audience. Bringing Sean's vision to life across the country has been a mind-blowing experience. It is an honor to share this important work with the people and to have a part in shaping American history. The added bonus of touring with such talented, diverse and lovely friends, feeds Emily's soul. Thank you to Sean and Shawna, and all of the Dancers for all that you do!

Clyde Sheets (Lighting Designer) is a theater educator and designer, designing works for Theatre, Ballet, Opera, and Contemporary Dance over the past 25 years. Clyde began working with Sean Dorsey Dance in 2006, designing *The Outsider Chronicles*. Clyde and Sean collaborated on *The Diary Project*, *The Secret History of Love* and *The Missing Generation*. Other designs by CS includes Deborah Slater's *Hotel of Memories* receiving an Izzie for Set and Lighting design. Clyde also received a Bay Area Circle Critics Dramatic Production award for *Metamorphosis* at Aurora Theater, *Woyzeck* for Shotgun Players, both directed by Mark Jackson. Clyde has taught design and collaboration at Mills College in Oakland, Grand Valley State University and Interlochen Arts Academy. Clyde is currently the Director of Comparative Arts at Interlochen Arts Academy.

Tiffany Amundson (Costume Designer) has been happily creating costumes and clothing as a career since 1993. Originally based in theater, she has explored circus, fashion, bridal, dance, burlesque, drag, and millinery projects. After spending 9 years proudly making the magic of Teatro Zinzanni come alive, she has since been a maker for film and television, SF Ballet, and countless independent design projects. Always up for a creative challenge, she has recently been dipping her toes into a punk marionette project as well as a newfound obsession with the idea of creating miniature vignettes. The road however always leads back to the spontaneity and community of theater, dance, and the magic of quirky designs that bring confidence and a smile to those who see and wear them. She is so pleased to be working again with the talented members of Sean Dorsey Dance!

Grace Coleman (Sound Recording and Mixing) is a freelance audio engineer who has also worked as a house engineer at Different Fur Studios. She has been lucky to work with many Bay Area artists such as K.Flavy, The She's, Pllush, Shawna Virago, Chuck Prophet, P-Lo, and Sage the Gemini, to name a few. She is so honored to have been able to work with Sean Dorsey on such an amazing project (BOYS IN TROUBLE).



LD Dean (Sound Recording and Mixing) is a freelance Producer and Sound Engineer who has been providing excellent sound for the Bay Area and beyond for over 10 years. LD has had the privilege of working with artists such as Kronos Quartet, Salman Rushdie, The Dead Kennedys, Amanda Palmer, Angélique Kidjo, GAYmous, Shawna Virago, Sean Dorsey and many others.

DANCERS' BIOS

**All dancers use he/him/his pronouns*

Brian Fisher (Dancer) has performed on Broadway, off Broadway and on national tours. He has danced in works by Alvin Ailey, Kurt Joos, Igal Perry, Sonya Delwaide, Mark Franco, Lar Lubovitch, Doug Varone, Amy Siewert and Robert Moses. He has worked with ODC/San Francisco, Mark Foehringer Dance Project, the San Francisco Opera, Rosalind Newman and Dancers, Peninsula Ballet Theater, Berkeley Ballet Theater, Western Ballet and Diablo Ballet. He earned an Isadora Duncan Award. Brian teaches at San Francisco Ballet, ODC/San Francisco and the Conservatory for Contemporary Dance Arts. This is Brian's eleventh season with Sean Dorsey Dance.

ArVejon (Ar Vé yon) Jones (Dancer) is a graduate of San Francisco State University's Dance Department. He enjoys dancing many different styles of movement and is a huge believer in using dance as a form of therapy, as well as, a tool to spread love and empathy. ArVejon has performed works by Sean Dorsey, Robert Moses, Dar Vejon Jones, Brenda Way, KT Nelson, Kimi Okada, Kat Roman, Diane Arvanites, Jean Appolon, to name a few. He currently teaches AfroContemporary at LINES/ SF Dance Center, Jazz at San Francisco State University, and Zumba at the Federal Court House's Fitness Center. He is excited to be dancing his 5th season with Sean Dorsey Dance!

Nol Simonse (Dancer) grew up in Washington, D.C., and trained at the Boston Conservatory of Music. He moved to San Francisco in 1997, and is a founding member of Kunst-Stoff, Janice Garrett and Dancers, Garrett+Moulton Productions, and Sean Dorsey Dance. Nol has strong collaborative friendships with Sue Roginski, Eric Kupers, Stephen Pelton, Kara Davis, and Christy Funsch. Nol and Christy are co-directing a performance which will premiere at Dance Mission Theater in the fall of 2018. This is Nol's tenth season with Sean Dorsey Dance.

Will Woodward (Dancer) Originally from Hawai'i, Will began formal dance training under the direction of Kelly Roth at the College of Southern Nevada. After a five-year hiatus, he began dancing again in Monterey, CA with Deanna Ross, Jackie Adams, and the Monterey Dance Collective. In 2012 he moved to San Francisco, and has since performed with Blue Scorpion Dance Theatre, Palanza Dance, Peninsula Ballet Theatre, Tim Rubel Human Shakes, James Graham Dance Theatre, Printz Dance Project, and San Francisco's premiere burlesque group: Baloney. This is his third season with Sean Dorsey Dance.



ABOUT VELOCITY

Velocity is Seattle's forward-thinking laboratory and essential incubator for artists, new dance works, critical conversations, community, and teachers. A national nexus for dance, Velocity is recognized as a leader in a new dance development in the US and is instrumental in making Seattle a destination city with one of the most active dance communities in the nation. With artist-led classes and workshops daily, performances weekly; two annual festivals, the Seattle Festival of Dance Improvisation and Strictly Seattle; year-round subsidized studio and theater rentals; and ongoing humanities programs that activate thoughtful conversations; Velocity is a portal for those new to dance and an important community resources. Velocity is Seattle's only dedicated contemporary dance venue where groundbreaking work and disciplined practice coexist.

Home to hundreds of independent dance artists and renowned for producing innovative, cutting-edge work, Velocity's artist development programs have fostered the early work and careers of Cherdonna, Zoe Scofield, Dani Tirrell, Kate Wallich, Danielle Agami, Alice Gosti, Kim Lusk, Coleman Pester and 100s more; and was the first to bring to Seattle the work of art stars Tere O'Connor, Miguel Gutierrez, Anouk van Dijk, Bebe Miller, Deborah Hay, Ralph Lemon, Faye Driscoll, Monica Bill Barnes and many more.

Velocity also supports YC2 in partnership with Studio Kate Wallich, a platform for young dance professionals entering the working field to exercise artistic agency while receiving consistent contracted training, rehearsal and performance opportunities.

Velocity advances contemporary dance and movement-based art by fostering the creative explorations of artists and audiences through an invested commitment to education, creation, performance, inquiry, community participation, and inter/national exchange.



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