Choreographer Biographies:

Rachael Harding grew up in Northern California. She holds a BFA in Dance and a BS in Business Management from the University of Arizona. For five years, Mrs. Harding was a member of the Cleo Parker Robinson Dance Ensemble in Denver. In her final season with the company she also served as Assistant Rehearsal Director. Rachael spent time traveling and living in Europe as a freelance artist while also touring throughout the States as a solo dancer with winds quintet, Imani Winds. “Josephine Baker: A Life of Le Jazz Hot.” She has worked with Denver-based companies; Davis Contemporary, Interweave Dance Theatre, Kim Robards, Moraporvida and Opera Colorado. Mrs. Harding has worked with renowned choreographers such as Donald McKayle, Eleo Pomare, David Rousseau, Sean Curran and Christopher Huggins. She is currently an MFA in dance candidate at the University of Colorado at Boulder.

Rachael would like to thank Stephanie Kobes for her support and friendship throughout their graduate school journey and for the collaboration and discussions about race that lead to the creation of the piece. Here We Are. She would like to give a special thanks to Nada Diachenko, Erika Randall and Gabe Masson for their encouragement and choreographic feedback. Rachael thanks Cleo Parker Robinson who continues to inspire and mentor her and Michelle Knudsen for all of their photographic time, artistry and friendship. She thanks the dancers in Memoir Sketches and Surfaced for the shared collaboration and passion to dance. Lastly, Rachael would like to thank her family and husband Jared for their continuous love and support of her dreams.

Stephanie Kobes is a performer, choreographer and teacher. She is a 2005 graduate of Iowa State University where she received a Bachelor’s degree and graduated with distinction in Journalism with minors in Dance and Sociology. Upon graduation she moved to New York City where she performed with Isabel Gataulski and Friends Dance Company as well as with Socha Sereff Dance Theatre. She trained and studied under many artists while in NYC including Nia Love, Kat Lib, Paul Taylor, David Parsons, Amy Marshall, and Alexandra Beller to name a few. Her dance for camera work has been presented at the Sans Souci Festival of Dance Cinema, NeXus Dance Concert, tanzArt ostwest in Giessen, Germany, and Chez L’Etoile. Stephanie Kobes is deeply grateful for the steadfast collaboration and support of all her dancers throughout this process and to Rachael Harding for a shared belief in a controversial issue worthy of collaboration. She is profoundly thankful for the guidance of all the Dance Department faculty here, especially Michelle Ellsworth and Onye Ozuzu. A special thanks also to Nia Love for making the trip here and for her continuous inspiration. Stephanie would also like to thank Amy Stewart, Vernon Windsor and Jennifer Medina who’s teaching is the reason why she is here today and David & Connie Leserman, Amy Kenney, Katiti King, Katie Kirkpatrick, Julie Murphy, Hayley Muth, Jessica Roberts, Taylor Augustine, Lyndia McNaughey, Tiffany Stone, DeShawn Marshall, Kelsey Chilton, Page Jenkins, Whitney Lewis, Jado Tant, IPL, Miles Davis, Exodo II, Juan Blas, Montserrat Orquesta del Plata, and the company she also served as Assistant Rehearsal Director. Rachael spent time traveling and living in Europe as a solo dancer with winds quintet, Imani Winds, in “Josephine Baker: A Life of Le Jazz Hot.” She has worked with Denver-based companies; Davis Contemporary, Interweave Dance Theatre, Kim Robards, Moraporvida and Opera Colorado. Mrs. Harding has worked with renowned choreographers such as Donald McKayle, Eleo Pomare, David Rousseau, Sean Curran and Christopher Huggins. She is currently an MFA in dance candidate at the University of Colorado at Boulder.

The University of Colorado at Boulder DEPARTMENT OF THEATRE & DANCE PRESENTS:

HERE WE ARE

Choreography/Dancers: Rachael Harding & Stephanie Kobes
Music: Mahalia Jackson Amazing Grace, Sweet Honey in the Rock, No More Auction Block For Me, The Mighty Clouds of Joy Swing Low Sweet Chariot, Martin Luther King Jr., We Shall Overcome, Yes sung by Jeanine McCann & Onye Ozuzu
Text: Maya Angelou, Million Man March Poem
Read by Vernon Windsor, other text by Rachael Harding & Stephanie Kobes
Sound Score Editing: Rachael Harding & Stephanie Kobes
Video/Video Editing: Stephanie Kobes

INTERRUMPTION

WHAT IS SO

“Life must be understood backwards; but... it must be lived forward.” ~Soren Kierkegaard

Choreography: Stephanie Kobes and dancers
Dancers: Taylor Augustine, Kelsey Chilton, Taylor Cook, Page Jenkins, Lyndia McNaughey
Music: Explosions in the Sky
Text: Taylor Augustine, Kelsey Chilton, Taylor Cook, Page Jenkins, Lyndia McNaughey
Sound Score Editing: Stephanie Kobes

MERE IMAGES

Choreography: Stephanie Kobes and Performers
Dancers: Esme Kundanis-Grow, Toby Hanks, Cherie Hill, Alden LaPaglia, Bella Marsh, Courtney McGuire, Tara Rynders, Neri Torres
Music: Philip Glass
Text: Toby Hanks, Cherie Hill, Page Jenkins, Stephanie Kobes, Lyndia McNaughey, Tara Rynders, Neri Torres
Sound Score Editing: Stephanie Kobes

SURFACED

Choreography: Rachael Harding and Dancers
Dancers: Hayley Muth, Nicole Dagesse, Tara Rynders, Page Jenkins, Kelsey Chilton
Music: FiguFreslarin–Kronos Quartet

CHOREOGRAPHY/DANCERS

Stephanie Kobes and Dancers
Dancers: Nicole Dagesse, Cherie Hill, Tara Rynders
Music: Zoe Keating
Text: Nicole Dagesse, Cherie Hill, Stephanie Kobes, Tara Rynders

SOUND SCORE/VIDEO EDITING

Stephanie Kobes

MELODY SKETCHES

Choreography: Rachael Harding
Dancers: Elizabeth Werler, Taylor Cook, Britney Kirkpatrick, Julie Murphy, Hayley Muth, Jessica Roberts, Taylor Augustine, Lyndia McNaughey, Tiffany Stone, DeShawn Marshall, Kelsey Chilton, Page Jenkins, Whitney Lewis, Jado Tant
Music: 3000 Ans Supervielle, Exodo II Juan Blas, Flamenco Sketches Miles Davis, Montserrat Orquesta del Plata

PUBLICATIONS

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Anja Hose

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Scenery/Props

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Light Board Operators

Katarina Devine

Video Technician

Much thanks to Michelle Knudsen for the poster, postcard, and program photo.

The Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

Turn off cell phones and pagers during the performance. Remember no food, drinks, and/or flash photography.

Please

ARTS

Camera your paper your news.

Photos by Tom Tumolo.