

PHILADELPHIA 2021 GLOBAL WATER DANCE

SATURDAY, JUNE 12 ~ 7:00 PM 2021

VERVET DANCE

PENN TREATY PARK
ON THE DELAWARE RIVER
1301 N BEACH ST
PHILADELPHIA, PA 19125

LAND/ENVIRONMENT/ HISTORY ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We acknowledge that the land on which we dance, live, and gather were the ancestral lands of the indigenous people of the Lenape and that Penn Treaty park is the historic site of the Penn/Shackamaxon treaty in which the Lenape agreed to share part of this land with William Penn and other white colonialists.

We are grateful for access to this land and water and hope that the agreement between William Penn and Tamanend and the associated Quakers and Lenape was as peaceful as it has often been described. We condemn the violence of colonialism which forced indigenous people from their homeland and destroyed their way of life, health, and wellbeing.

In addition to acknowledging the history of this land, we take action to repair violence to people, land, and water.

PHILADELPHIA 2021 WATER DANCE

choreographed by LOREN GROENENDAAL
with collaboration from cast

Original Music Composed and Performed by ANDY THIERAUF

Global Water Dance Music Composed by
MARYLEE HARDENBERGH AND NICOLAS SOTO URREA

Global Water Dances directed by VANNIA IBARGUEN

Dance performed by
JENA ROSE BARTON, LOREN GROENENDAAL, LINDSEY HUSTER,
KATHERINE KIEFER STARK, SHARI KORNELLY, CHLOE MARIE,
ISABELLA MOJARES, KATE SEETHALER, JENNY ROE SAWYER,
JONATHAN STEIN, MARGOT ELECTRA STEINBERG,
AND YOUTH DANCERS OF VERVET DANCE

Box Office Manager BENJA NEWNAM
Photography by JH KERTIS | Graphic Design by CELINE MCBRIDE



GRATITUDE
Thanks to Penn Treaty Special Services District for financial support, Philadelphia Dance Projects, and The Friends of Penn Treaty Park for their administrative support.

Thanks to Sean Thomas Boyt, Amalia Colon-Nava, Miryam Coppersmith, Derek Freeh, Curt Haworth, Headlong Dance Theatre, Jen Kertis-Viet, Katherine Kiefer Stark, Mascher Space Cooperative, The Naked Stark, PlayArts, Margot Electra Steinberg, Andy Thierauf, the University City Arts League, and Sandi Vicenti for your extra support of services and/or for lending tools to make this project as sustainable possible.



ARTIST BIOS

VERVET DANCE is a Philadelphia-based contemporary modern dance company directed by Loren Groenendaal working and playing on the ancestral lands of the Lenape. The dance works draw on both the legacy of modern dance and cross-cultural influences to create innovative movement vocabularies and imaginative choreographies that steward better relations between people and environment through art. Vervet strikes a unique balance between classic forms, new ideas, and ancient purposes for dance. Although subject matter varies, what is characteristic of the company is an ongoing intellectual diligence meeting a curious playfulness and an exploration of the visual and visceral components of dance. www.vervetdance.org

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR/ CHOREOGRAPHER/DANCER

LOREN GROENENDAAL (she/her) is the Artistic Director of Vervet Dance, the Choreographer of the Local dance for the Philadelphia 2021 Global Water Dance, and a dancer in the Local Tidal River Dance. She was born in rural central Pennsylvania and nurtured on a forested mountain in the ancestral homeland of the Susquehannock on a tributary of the Juniata River that flows to the Susquehanna River and the Chesapeake Bay. Her childhood in this natural environment and her belief that humans are part of nature, informs her aesthetic. In 2003, Loren settled in Philadelphia between the Delaware and Schuylkill Rivers on ancestral land of the Lenape. Over the years, she has found and built a large network of creative people with whom she collaborates and most of her creative work is under the moniker, Vervet Dance.



This is her first time leading a Global Water Dance event, but not her first time creating site-responsive dance outside ("Surrender and Support"), inspired by nature ("Ornamentation"), and in a creative ensemble ("In the Light"). Her work often investigates the community-building possibilities of live art, the spectrums between improvisation and composition and ritual and performance. She has a pattern of making dance about the patterns in nature. She is a proponent of curiosity, complexity, adaptability, empathy, and freedom. Much of her work is "semi-composed," meaning she designs some elements and encourages freedom of expression by her collaborators. When movement is choreographed, she draws from her experience with modern, postmodern, contemporary, release, Balinese, folk, social, breakdance, and contact improvisation for movement material and aesthetic inspiration.

She holds the following degrees in Dance: BA (Oberlin College), MFA (UNC Greensboro) and CMA (Laban/Bartenieff Institute of Movement Studies). Loren teaches improvisation at Muhlenberg College to dance and theatre majors as well as creative dance for children and adults with Koresh Kids Dance, University City Arts League, and freelance. She has been a guest educator and performer regionally and internationally – in Italy and Indonesia, from Canada to Mexico and many places between.

Loren is a life-long vegetarian and is passionate about more people eating less meat for a more efficient, healthier, and kinder world. She is also passionate about waste reduction, sustainability, and reversing global climate change. She volunteers with Philly Thrive to work on these global environmental goals locally.

As an artist, educator, and person, she is most interested in creating structures that allow for freedom. She desires more connection and adaptation between people and builds opportunities for people to collaborate and create. She believes the universe is dancing and we are dancing with the universe.

COMPOSER/MUSICIAN OF LOCAL DANCE AND SOUND OPERATOR FOR GLOBAL DANCE:

ANDY THIERAUF (he/him) is a Philadelphia based percussionist who specializes in the creation and performance of contemporary music. He performs regularly with the Arcana New Music Ensemble, Orchestra 2001, and dance/percussion duo STBxAT in addition to collaborating with composers, choreographers, and theater artists. Andy teaches at Settlement Music School and is an adjunct professor of percussion at Kutztown University. Andy is drawn to the sounds of water and how it can change the sound of other materials. He has done several field recordings of watersheds and has used hydrophones to record instruments underwater. Andy has collaborated with Vervet Dance in "Boing!", "In the Light," and "Surrender and Support." www.andythierauf.com



GLOBAL DANCERS

JENA ROSE BARTON (she/her), is a freelance movement artist who holds a BFA in Dance Choreography and Performance with Spanish Minor from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro. Her post-collegiate experience began as a company dancer in Theatre West Virginia's 2018 summer season. From there, she joined the West Virginia Dance Company for their 2018-2019 tour. She moved to Philadelphia, PA in August of 2019 where she conceptualized and founded her movement platform, Ginkgo and Hawthorn, to make space for what she is so eager to discover within interdisciplinary art. Jena is passionate about access to clean drinking water (Flint, MI is STILL without clean water!), microplastics, and reducing global climate change. She is thrilled to share space and create with all collaborators in the Global Water Dance.

LINDSEY HUSTER (they/them) is a Philly-based mover, choreographer, and performing artist. They completed an artist residency with Headlong Performance Institute in 2019. In 2020, they performed "pep," – a pandemic pep rally that reimagines the cheer vocabulary – in the Leah Stein fall studio works. They are the choreographer and a former captain of the mummies brigade, the Vaudevillains. Lindsey is interested in access to clean drinking water and slowing climate change. They are thrilled to perform and collaborate in the Global Water Dance.

KIMYA IMANI JACKSON (she/her) is from Champaign, IL and Atlanta, GA. This midwestern Georgia peach is a dancer, performance artist, Pochinko clown, choreographer, and a PhD trained Biobehavioral Health scientist from The Pennsylvania State University. She has a B.A. in Psychology from Spelman College and Ph.D. in Biobehavioral Health from The Pennsylvania State University. When not creating or thinking about creating, she is evaluating medical/allied health professionals. Kimya is passionate about access to clean water for drinking, cooking, washing, enjoying, contemplating, and using in spiritual rituals. She is very excited about dancing in Global Water Dance at Penn Treaty Park!

SHARI KORNELLY'S (she/her) first love is dance! She is also a cultural anthropologist who designs playful learning programs for the Free Library of Philadelphia. Shari grew up in the southwest of the US where water scarcity was of great and long concern. Shari believes prioritizing water as a life giving force rather than a commodity is an issue of global equity. Shari is very excited to be part of a dance that has been performed around the world.

ISABELLA MOJARES (she/her) was born and raised in Miami, FL. She is an arts administrator and freelance dance artist. After graduating from Kenyon College with a BA in dance and art history, she moved to Philadelphia to serve as a dance fellow with ArtistYear. Isa has spent much time in our near large bodies of water and water shows up in her movement. The Global Water Dance is Isa's first performance in Philly and she is thrilled to be a part of this project.



LOCAL TIDAL RIVER DANCERS

KATHERINE KIEFER STARK (she/her) is a dance artist and educator based in West Philadelphia the ancestral lands of the Leni Lenape. She creates dance projects collaboratively with The Naked Stark, is adjunct faculty at Widener University, and is a freelance dancer. Katherine approaches dance holistically, exploring movement as culturally informed, politically charged, and aesthetically particular. Her philosophy is deeply informed by theories from the People's Institute for Survival and Beyond, Dr. Ann Dils, and Dr. Brenda Dixon Gottschild as well as the studio practices of BJ Sullivan and Jeremy Nelson. Katherine has danced in Vervet Dance's "In the Light," "SWARM!", "Ornamentation," "ColorFULL," "Giving In," and "Secondary Colors." Katherine finds around bodies of water energizes and centers her and makes her feel connected to the large web of all life. She is passionate and active about waste reduction and sustainability. Katherine loves collaborating with dancers and organizers with visions for a more just and healthy world for all.

CHLOE MARIE (she/they) seeks to question what success means in systems dominated by the white male patriarchy. Specifically, in education; as a Native Hispanic Black American, Chloe found herself extremely under-represented. She was constantly confronted by the lack of acknowledgment of the individual experience within the homogenized expectations of academia. She constantly questions the state of this country and what it does to our bodies' capacities to create movement. She's interested in how the patterns of the world surrounding art creation permeate movements styles, habits, trends, and what fundamentally foment audience engagement. Chloe enjoys waters' natural healing abilities and believes in its importance to ecosystems, and is fascinated how much water is to weather shifts and human experiences. She is interested in access to clean water and less water waste. Chloe has danced in Vervet Dance's "In the Light" and "Ravishing and Ravenous." She believes in creating collaborative work in hopes to penetrate the hive mind with the truth that art is an important way to decipher the human experience and hopes to grow and move forward all together.

KATE SEETHALER (she/her) is a dance artist, choreographer, movement educator, improviser, and Pilates instructor living on Lenape land in the Strawberry Mansion neighborhood of Philadelphia. She recently added the role of mother to her life's roster, and will enthusiastically show you roughly 8,000 pictures of her child if you ask her to. Kate currently teaches Pilates at Movement Source on Passyunk Ave and collaborates with Meghan Frederick on their duet dance project Carnivore. Kate has danced in Vervet Dance's "SWARM!" and "... of changes." Kate enjoys water's power to literally move—as well as emotionally move—things, people, places both with great, quick force and also slowly over time. She is interested in waste reduction and sustainability.

MARGOT ELECTRA STEINBERG (she/they) is a Philadelphia-based dancer, choreographer, improviser, contact dancer, and teacher. She currently teaches movement at PlayArts, Philly In Movement, and in Philadelphia Public Schools through Koresh Kids Dance. Margot has performed in works by Donald McKayle, Sharon Vazanna, Noa Eshkol, and David Gordon, and has performed for The Naked Stark, Leah Stein Dance Company, Meredith Stapleton, Paige Phillips, Randall Anthony-Smith, Mira Treatman, Sean Thomas Boyt, and more. Margot has danced in Vervet Dance's "In the Light," "Surrender and Support," "Ravishing and Ravenous," and "... of changes." Margot enjoys moving with, through, against water and is interested in clean water access and sustainability.



JENNY ROE SAWYER (she/her) is obsessed with water! She works at the Philadelphia Water Department and has created dances in water. In 2013, she created Upstream in the Wissahickon Creek, then toured this work to the Morris Arboretum, and Spring Creek in State College, PA. She has danced in/around Philadelphia for many years and has performed with Vervet Dance's "In the Light," "Surrender and Support," and "Boing!" Jenny and Loren collaborated on a dance about the importance of water in 2007 called "Vital and Vanishing." Jenny has professional expertise in reducing combined sewer overflows in the waterways of Philadelphia. She is also passionate about reducing sea level rise, ocean warming and acidification and providing access to clean drinking water.

JONATHAN STEIN (he/him) has had a 50-year career as a legal aid lawyer at Community Legal Services, Philadelphia and has performed in two dozen dances since 1989 including works by Stephan Koplowitz, Leah Stein, Headlong Dance Theater and Jerome Bel. He is a founding writer and editor at thInKingDANCE. Jonathan has been deeply involved with lead poisoning reduction and is passionate about sustaining plant and human life. A bubbly water toast to Loren and fellow performers!

YOUTH OF VERVET DANCE: Dancing in the Philadelphia 2021 Global Water Dance are three children who have trained with Vervet Dance Artistic Director Loren Groenendaal in her freelance creative movement program Loren Teaches Movement. These youth learned the Global Water Dance and the Participatory Dance in their classes this spring. They were integrated into the Local Tidal River Dance just a week ago. Look out for their exuberant rain storms that pass through while the adults dance depicting the Delaware River and/or its tributaries. These amazing youth artists are remaining unnamed in print for their protection. The 5 and 7 year old youth recently started studying with Loren, but they did so with great gusto weekly for all of the 2020-2021 school year- in a beautiful park, on some-what difficult Zoom, and even on some rainy and windy days outside. Loren was continually impressed by their creativity, enthusiasm, and resilience. It was in part due to student interest in dancing in the rain that inspired Loren to invite them to be in this water dance. The 5 year old is a budding engineer who often shared his new inventions upon arrival to dance class. He has made solutions to unique problems (like how to bolt an inflated balloon to something). The 7 year old has great skill in speaking and moving with confidence and clarity at the same time. (Try it. It's harder than it sounds!) She is making connections between her Qi Gong and creative dance practices and the movement of water. She also has a strong aesthetic eye for fashion and dance composition. The 5 and 7 year olds are passionate about cats, both small and large, kitties and TIGERS! The 11 year old has been studying with Loren for several years. Loren is incredibly proud of how his movement and creation skills have expanded and refined over the years. He has great focus and a willingness to share his individuality. He brings both incredible athleticism and delicate finesse to his dancing movement. He also plays clarinet, squash, and soccer. Loren is so grateful for these three young artists. She hopes you find them as inspiring as she does!

VERVET DANCE



global water dances



ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP

This Global Water Dance event itself is a call to appreciate and care for the water. We put on the Philadelphia 2021 Global Water Dance as sustainably as possible. We minimized our carbon footprint by reducing the use of electricity by rehearsing outside in the temperate hours just before sunset. Some vaccinated dancers carpooled to rehearsal, some took SEPTA and a few even biked to rehearsal. The only new or disposable objects (aside from the postcards for promo and program) that were purchased for this event were needed for COVID-19 transmission prevention. All of the costume comes from the wardrobes of the performers or was purchased at a thrift store for an earlier dance project. Many objects like the chairs and water coolers were borrowed from friends and other organizations.

Dancing in water helps us empathize with nature and feel more inspired to give it care. We hope you feel inspired too to rainwater run-off and global climate change.

In many sections of Philadelphia, the sewer system is very old and was not designed to manage the volume of wastewater and stormwater runoff we currently generate. Unfortunately, this means that when it rains enough to overwhelm our sewer system, the excess is released directly into our creeks and rivers, untreated sewage and all. Climate change is likely to make this problem worse by increasing the amount of rainfall during storms. While the city is working to address this issue, it will take all of us pitching in to help. We encourage you to consider how you can help prevent rainwater from reaching the sewer by catching the rain that runs off of your roof in a rain barrel or on a soft surface like a garden that can absorb the water. Hard surfaces like pavement cause a lot of run-off. Your individual actions can add up to make a significant positive impact!

A portion of the proceeds from ticket sales will be donated to the LENAPE NATION OF PENNSYLVANIA in honor of the stewardship to the land and water of the Delaware River Valley that the Lenape provided for so long and the education and support the Lenape Nation provides for the future. We are also donating to THE SCHUYLKILL CENTER FOR ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION who both care for the Schuylkill river and its surrounding ecosystem as well as educating people how to do so themselves. The last part of the proceeds will be used by Vervet Dance to compensate the artistic collaborators and prepare for another inspiring performance, like inspired by nature and working for healing.

ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION TO MINIMIZE GLOBAL CLIMATE CHANGE

We also encourage you to take action to work to minimize your carbon footprint by minimizing the use of fossil fuels. Yet, individual lifestyle actions alone will not reverse global climate change, only governmental policy changes and more broadly united actions can achieve this. So we also encourage you to think about getting involved in a localized environmental action group with a global agenda like Philly Thrive, Sunrise Movement, and Earth Quaker Action Team.

PHILLY THRIVE is the organization credited with shutting down the PES Oil Refinery in South Philadelphia and is now working to have this site properly cleaned up and restored. Thrive works to build grassroots power for a just transition from the polluting, extractive fossil fuel economy to a cleaner, more equitable future to support Philadelphians and the world. www.phillythrive.org/

SUNRISE MOVEMENT is a youth led movement to stop climate change and create millions of good jobs in the process. They work in local divisions towards national goals. The work to make climate change an urgent priority across America, and the corrupting influence of fossil fuel executives on our politics, and elect leaders who stand up for the health and wellbeing of all people. www.sunrisemovement.org/

EARTH QUAKER ACTION TEAM (EQAT) is a grassroots, nonviolent action group including Quakers and people of diverse beliefs, who join with millions of people around the world fighting for a just and sustainable economy. They are working to reduce climate change and produce good jobs. www.eqat.org/

GET INVOLVED IN DANCE

If you would like to stay informed about VERVET DANCE's upcoming events, please sign up at the mailing list at the welcome desk or emailvervetdance@gmail.com. You can learn more at www.vervetdance.org

Perhaps you want to be in the next GLOBAL WATER DANCE. . . If so reach out to Loren/Vervet about being in the Philadelphia 2023 Global Water Dance or make your own event at another body of water. More info at www.globalwaterdances.org/

In the meantime, if you would like to get moving yourself, please consider taking creative movement, modern dance or Laban/Bartenieff movement studies with Loren Groenendaal. She is taking a hiatus for Summer 2021, but you can learn more at WWW.LORENTEACHESMOVEMENT.COM

THANK YOU FOR ATTENDING THE PHILADELPHIA 2021 GLOBAL WATER DANCE!