



FACT SHEET

# **DANCE NATION**

by **Clare Barron**  
Directed by **Jenna Place**

<b>CAST</b>	
<b>Ashlee</b>	Brigid Cleary*^
<b>Luke</b>	Louis E. Davis*
<b>Sophia</b>	Megan Graves*
<b>Moms/Vanessa</b>	Yesenia Iglesias*
<b>Amina</b>	Jasmine Joy*
<b>Connie</b>	Shubhangi Kuchibhotla
<b>Zuzu</b>	Ashley D. Nguyen
<b>Maeve</b>	MaryBeth Wise*^
<b>Dance Teacher Pat</b>	Michael Wood* <sup>◇</sup>

<b>CREATIVE TEAM</b>	
<b>Director</b>	Jenna Place
<b>Choreographer/Asst. Director</b>	Nikki Mirza
<b>Scenic Designer</b>	Paige Hathaway
<b>Costume Designer</b>	Moyenda Kulemeka
<b>Lighting Designer</b>	Sarah Tundermann
<b>Sound Designer</b>	Kenny Neal
<b>Intimacy and Violence Director</b>	Mallory Shear
<b>Production Stage Manager</b>	Bailey Howard*
<b>Assistant Stage Manager</b>	Conri Connell, Cat Moreschi

\*Member, Actors' Equity Association, the union of professional actors and stage managers in the United States

<sup>◇</sup>Dance Captain

<sup>^</sup>National Players alumni

Previews: **September 28 - 30, 2022**

Invited Press Opening: **Sunday, October 2, 2022 at 1:45pm**

**Runs until October 30, 2022**

Regular performances are Wednesday - Saturday at 7:45 pm and matinees on Saturday and Sunday at 1:45 pm, and a Wednesday at 1:45 pm on Wednesday, October 5. There is no matinee on Saturday, October 1.

There will be a **sign-interpreted performance on Thursday, October 20 at 7:45 pm** and an **audio-described performance for the blind and visually impaired on Wednesday, October 12 at 7:45 pm**. Audience members who wish to use these services should contact Weldon Brown, Director of Sales and Audience Experience(wbrown@olneytheatre.org) to confirm.

Tickets are available from \$54 - \$79 and can be purchased at [olneytheatre.org](http://olneytheatre.org) or 301-924-3400. Discounts available for groups, seniors, military and students.

## **HEALTH AND SAFETY**

Patrons are required to wear masks in performance spaces. Masks are not required while in lobby areas. No food or drink is allowed in the theatre. Proof of vaccination or negative Covid test is no longer required. Visit [OlneyTheatre.org/vax](http://OlneyTheatre.org/vax) for more information.

## **SPECIAL EVENTS**

### **Competition, Women, and Camaraderie**

Saturday, October 1 at 5:00 pm

Mulitz-Gudelsky Theatre Lab

Free for members or to stream/\$10 general public

In *Dance Nation*, a pre-teen dance troupe navigates ambition, friendship, and desire as they claw their way to the Nationals in Tampa Bay. The journey is anything but easy. As Abby Lee Miller of TV's *Dance Moms* warns, "Do it right, because somebody, sometimes your best friend, is waiting for you to screw up so she can take your place." Olney Theatre Center assembles a panel of women who clawed their way to the top of their fields to discuss how competition and sisterhood coexist. Panelists for this event will include Miss Maryland 2022 Kayla Willing as well as Dr. Chandni Shah, a clinical psychologist who grew up immersed in dance as an essential element of her South Asian cultural background and is also trained in a classical style of Indian dance known as Bharatnatyam.

### **Community Dance Team Showcase!**

Saturday, October 8 at 4:00 pm

1938 Original Theatre

Free

Living in the DMV we're surrounded by many amazingly talented competitive diverse dance teams. To celebrate our production of *Dance Nation*, we've invited local high school and college level teams who compete in Step Dance, Irish Dance, Dance Twirl, Cheer and South Asian Dance to strut their stuff on the Olney Theatre stage. Featured groups will include Baila4Life Latin Dance Group, Montgomery County Public Schools' Latin Dance Competition Winners and students from Centerstage Academy of the Arts and Culkin School Of Irish Dance. Come experience the energy and excitement as each team presents their unique dance style dancing to win, in our case, the hearts of the audience!

# ABOUT OLNEY THEATRE CENTER

## Mission

Olney Theatre Center for the Arts produces and curates theatrical performance for the diverse audiences in our community, and educates, learns from, supports and inspires a more inclusive generation of theater-makers.

## Vision

We strive to become an arts and culture powerhouse, redefining the American regional theater movement by cultivating and sharing the creativity of our community.

## History

Founded in 1938 as a summer playhouse, Olney Theatre Center (OTC) now produces world and American premieres of plays and musicals, and reimaginations of familiar titles year-round; presents the work of leading companies and artists; tours nationally and locally; teaches students of all ages; and mentors a more inclusive generation of theatremakers. For more than 8 decades, OTC has brought impactful theater performance and education to our community, helping to grow the vibrancy and vitality of our home in the Washington, DC region.

Over the years, some of the biggest names in theater and film have appeared on our stages, including Tallulah Bankhead, Helen Hayes, Jessica Tandy, Hume Cronyn, Bob Fosse, Phillip Bosco, Eve Arden, Eva Gabor, Burl Ives, Jose Ferrer, Carol Channing, Olivia d'Havilland, Tony Randall, Paulette Goddard, Dorothy and Lillian Gish, Jane Seymour, Anne Revere, Frances Sternhagen, Arthur Treacher, James Broderick, Olympia Dukakis, Sir Ian McKellen, Marica Gay Harden, John Colicos, Uzo Aduba, Alan Cumming, Cheyenne Jackson, Robin de Jesus, Wilson Jermaine Heredia, among many, many others.

Olney Theatre is now the cultural anchor of a rapidly changing region and serves one of the most diverse, best educated, and wealthiest counties in the country. Situated on the unceded land of the Piscataway-Conoy people, the Olney area was once a rural farming community with a unique Quaker heritage. Now the area is occupied by every kind of family that makes up 21st Century America, along with major corporations, shopping districts, civic associations, non profit organizations and a diverse collection of houses of worship. Montgomery County's 1 million residents play a dynamic role in the Baltimore-Washington corridor, and are a driving force behind the region's creative economy.

As of September 2021, Olney Theatre Center employed 40 full time staff, 20 part-time positions, 26 early career apprentices and players, and more than 400 professional artists. The Theatre intends to continue expanding to better meet the needs of our community.

For more information, please visit [olneytheatre.org/history](http://olneytheatre.org/history)

Follow Olney Theatre Center on Twitter, Instagram, and TikTok @olneytheatre and on Facebook at [facebook.com/olneytheatre](https://facebook.com/olneytheatre).

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