



## ABOUT THE COMPANY

A contemporary dance company based in New York City. Founded in 2014 by Fadi J. Khoury and Sevin Ceviker. Through its performances FJK Dance supports cross-cultural dialogue, bringing diverse people together through a unique fusion of dance genres from classical ballet to ballroom and Middle Eastern to jazz. At its core, FJK uses partnering techniques from Standard and Latin ballroom dance, connecting it with the extended lines and flow of contemporary ballet. Dance, an unspoken language, speaks broadly about the universal human condition and spirit. Movement, form, and the energy expressed on stage establishes a connection with the audience.

The Company continues its commitment to building a cross-cultural dialogue as we engage with diverse audiences around the globe and here in the U.S. Our work draws from the opportunities and collaborations developed through our international and national touring. In countries such as China, Japan, and Lebanon, we have laid the foundations for



understanding and appreciation between cultures and people previously unfamiliar with each other. Our “Fusion of Culture and Dance” program allows us to educate and share opportunities in finding connections within our differences. To this end, we offer workshops, performances, and lecture demonstrations at educational institutions and non-profit organizations. FJK Dance is actively involved at Kings County Hospital (Brooklyn, NY) through our **Artist-in-Residence** in the Behavioral Health Services, Wellness and Recovery Division. We support the hospital’s efforts to create greater awareness and acceptance in our society for those with mental illness. FJK Dance provides a pro bono dance class for staff and also presents “site-specific dance installations” and canvas painting in public areas on the hospital campus. Fadi Khoury’s background of growing up in Iraq and Lebanon provides a unique insight into how ‘Middle East meets West’ with a strong sense of connection and appreciation for people from diverse backgrounds.

**FJK Dance is made possible by the outstanding support of its founding members.**

Kiendl & John Gordon, Amy R. Cousins, Deanna Drobner,  
Genevieve Young, Ann Rakoff, Omar Fattal, Sevin Ceviker and Fadi J Khoury

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## THE PROGRAM

### WORK IN PROGRESS

In isolation, self-reflection becomes a challenge, and extensions are dreams! The space is divided into three distinct worlds which intersect: my world, my imagination, and the outside (real) world.

While at home during the 2020 lockdown, I used my painting practice to meditate, create, and process my feelings. The lines and curves were compositions of movements and stories of my body reaching out, seeking a connection in isolation. At times, it was almost as if I was dancing on the paintings. Beginning in May 2020, I was invited to collaborate on a virtual performance and workshop with Manhattan based art gallery Maison 10. Together, we shared a common goal to help improve people’s morale and generate positive energy. The project was consistent with my volunteer and community outreach work at NYC Health + Hospitals within the behavioral health division.

Music: Claude Debussy

Solo Piano: Melody Fader

Choreography and Design: Fadi J Khoury

Dancers: Dayanis Mondeja, Sarita Apel and Fadi J Khoury



**FJK Dance is grateful for the support of CUNY Dance Initiative residency, at On Stage at Kings Borough Community College, in building the foundation of this piece.**

*Mirage*

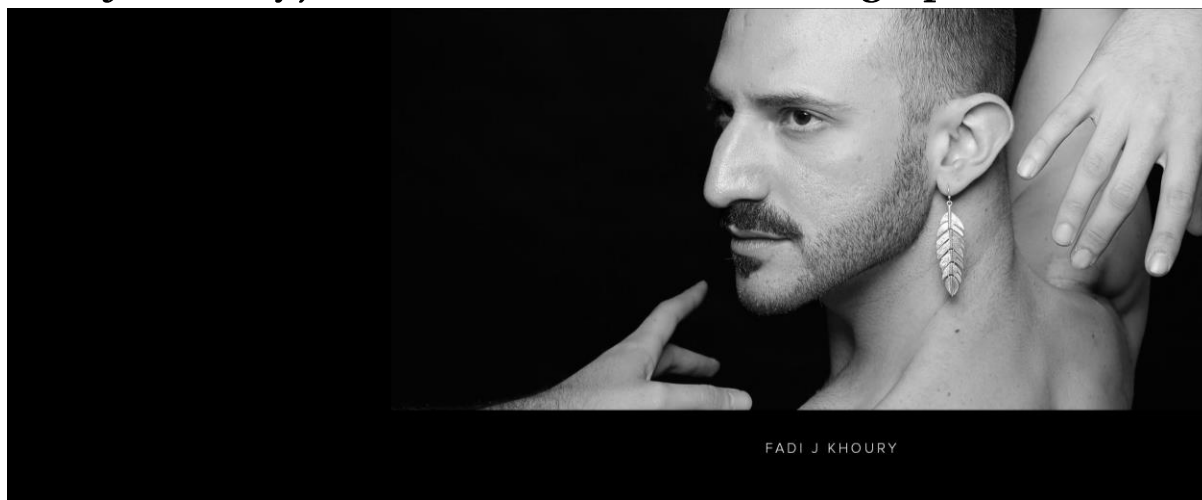
Human stories from the Middle East.

Music: Schubert, piano trio in E-flat played by Emilie-Anne Gendron (Violin), Michael Haas (cello), Melody Fader (Piano)

Dancers: Tim Ward, Sarita Apel, Estefano Gil, Elisa Toro Franky and Fadi J Khoury

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## **Fadi J. Khoury, Artistic Director & Choreographer**



Fadi J. Khoury's innovative style – both as dancer and choreographer – showcases his life-long immersion in a world of dance forms. He was born in Baghdad, Iraq, surrounded by the folkloric music and dance of Arab culture. His father, also a dancer and choreographer, was the Artistic Director of the National Iraqi Ballet. Through his father, Fadi was exposed to diverse approaches to dance in Mesopotamia, still present in Assyrian, Syriac, and Bedouin folkloric dances of the Middle East.

When Fadi was thirteen, he moved to Beirut, Lebanon, where he trained in Classical Ballet, Folkloric Dance, and also in Modern, Jazz, and Ballroom. Still in his teens, he began experimenting with the eclecticism that has defined his work ever since. By seventeen, he was dancing professionally with the Rahbani Musical Theatre, while studying at the Lebanese Fine Arts University.

In 2005, Fadi joined the Caracalla Dance Theatre, touring the Middle East and North Africa. He moved to the United States in 2009 and performed with Caracalla at the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C. He was awarded a scholarship to further his ballet and modern dance training with the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theatre in New York City. There he collaborated with distinguished choreographers such as Gary Pierce, Earl Mosley, Elisa Monte, Venti Petrov and Edward Simon. He also toured the U.S. and Latin America with NY2Dance, and performed Nejlá Yatkin's *Oasis* and *Wall* dance theatre pieces.



Fadi's multi-cultural background, versatility, and passion for dance allowed him to establish a career in Ballroom as lead instructor, dancer and choreographer at the Arthur Murray Dance Center in New York City. From 2009 – 2013, he placed first in the Top Teacher awards from Arthur Murray International.

Though Fadi had assimilated several dance forms, he was not at home in any of them. In 2014, inspired by a successful collaboration with Sevin Ceviker, he created his own company, where he could continue to refine his distinct, personal style. Every FJK Dance performance reflects his unique mix of experiences, unlike anyone else's in the current dance scene and still exuberantly evolving.

In 2018, Fadi received a CUNY Dance Initiative award and the opportunity to perform the first production of "UnTold" at the John Jay College of Criminal Justice. Fadi was recently appointed as the first dance "Artist-in-Residence" at Kings County Hospital, Brooklyn, Wellness and Recovery Division, Behavioral Services, "to use dance to remove the stigma of, and to enable the public to better understand, mental illness."

## DANCERS



Elisa Toro Franky (Colombia)



Elisa Toro Franky is a professional dancer, teacher, and choreographer based in New York City. She is featured in works that integrate ballet, tango, ballroom, and Middle Eastern styles. Elisa currently performs with FJK Dance, with whom she toured to China in 2017. She also worked as Program Director of Accent Dance NYC, an education and performance organization that provides access to dance in underserved communities. Elisa has performed with Dardo Galletto Dance at the Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival, and with Christopher Caines Dance. In May of 2021, Elisa was invited to collaborate with El Puente Presente and a New York Philharmonic string quartet as part of the Bandwagon series. In June of 2021, Elisa performed at I Heart Dance NYC, where dancers from top NYC companies are invited. In September of 2021, she was a featured ballerina in Rhina Valentin's 'Sancocho' production, in celebration of the Hispanic Heritage Month at Lincoln Center Restart Stages.

Born in Bogotá, Colombia, Elisa trained with Cuban mentors and traveled twice to Cuba for international ballet intensives and competitions. She came to the United States in 2004 to train at the Miami City Ballet School, to later dance with the Washington Ballet Studio Company, the Dance Theatre of Harlem Ensemble, and the New Jersey Ballet.

#### **Timothy Ward (Abita Springs, Louisiana)**

Timothy Ward grew up in Abita Springs, LA, graduated high school at the New Orleans Center for the Creative Arts, and earned a BFA in dance from the Juilliard School. He has worked with two dozen different choreographers in NYC. In 2019 he has and will work with Douglas Dunn, Dusan Tynek, Pat Catterson, Yvonne Rainer, Julia Gleich, Alison Cook Beatty, Mark Morris, and Molissa Fenley. Tim is delighted to finally get to perform with FJK Dance.

#### **Sarita Apel (Germany)**

Sarita Apel was born in Wiesbaden, Germany. She received her Bachelor of Dance in 2011 at Codarts, Rotterdam Dance Academy. Receiving the Prins Bernhard Cultuurfonds scholarship of the Netherlands she went on to study at The Ailey School in NYC as a scholarship student. Subsequently, she was a member of Graham 2. In NYC, Sarita is currently also dancing for ARIM Dance, CR Dance Company and Dardo Galletto Dance. With her partner Andres Bravo she performs Argentine Tango and became the "ATUSA" US Tango Salon Champion of 2019. This is Sarita's first season with FJK Dance.

#### **Sayuri Tanabe (Japan)**

Sayuri Tanabe was born in Kanagawa, Japan. Since moving to New York in 2008, she has participated in summer intensive including New York University and the Hofesh Spector Company and performed in the works of choreographers Juan Rodriguez and Seyoung Kim a couple of years later. Since 2012, She has been working with Sae Nagamatsu and proactively performed charity performances for the Great East Japan earthquake disaster and contributed to the reconstruction. As a dancer, she has performed many pieces and worked with designer Akiko Elizabeth Maie of fashion brand Nepenthes. She is also participating in a project sponsored by the Japanese consulate led by Jazz composer Migiwa Miyajima and Director Kasumi Kyo, which had been planned before the pandemic.

#### **Dayanis Mondeja (Cuba)**





Dayanis Mondeja was born in Santa Clara, Cuba, where she studied modern and folkloric dance at the Vocational Art School and then later at the National Art School in Havana, Cuba. After graduation she danced with the National Contemporary Dance Company which toured Mexico performing "Carmina Burana" and other works. Dayanis eventually emigrated to Miami and danced for the Mosaic Dance Project. During her time in Miami, she also performed at the Latin Grammy Awards and has appeared in music videos with the likes of Mark Anthony, Jason Derulo, Laura Pausini, and Zion & Lennox. Dayanis now resides in New York where she continues to teach at various art schools and performs at venues throughout the city today.

### **Leonel Linares (Venezuela)**

Leonel Linares started dancing in his hometown of Mérida, Venezuela when he studies included Venezuelan folklore, Latin Jazz, hip hop, Contemporary, acrobatics, modern and Ballet. He was awarded a scholarship to study with the Joffrey Ballet School in New York City in 2004-2006, His professional career includes Ballet Nuevo Mundo de Caracas under the direction of Zhandra Rodriguez, Ballet Teresa Carreno, Compania Danza Actual under the direction of Macarena Solorzano, Ballet de Marjorie Flores, he worked as a choreographer for one of the Venezuela's TV networks VENEVISION under the production of Joaquin Riviera, performing for many Latin singers, Dancing with the stars and for one of the biggest beauty pageant Miss Venezuela and TV series such as "Somos tu y yo". He was invited to dance with compania Imagen Latina in Los Angeles for the World Salsa Congress, Minnesota Dance Theatre, Ajkun Ballet Theatre, Contemporary Ballet Theatre, Revolucion Latina, Morales Dance, Ballet Des Moines, Leonel Linares is the Ballet Master of Staten Island Ballet, Founder of La Casa de la Cultura Venezolana en NY and also got his first certification in Vaganova technique... His has done commercial work for Latin Artists such as Liz, Rosa López, Diveana, Oscar de Leon, Alejandra Guzmán, Olga Tañón and J Balvin, Executive/Artistic Director of Sol Dance Center.

**Estefano Gil (Caracas, Venezuela)** Estefano began his training at Ballet-Arte School. In 2005 he joined Ballet Teresa Carreño performing Demi-Soloist and Soloist Roles. In 2007 he joined Caracas Contemporary Ballet under the Artistic Direction of María Eugenia Barrios. In 2008 he traveled to Colombia and became a member of and soloist in The Colombian Ballet Company- INCOLBALLET directed by Gloria Castro. Estefano has been part of International Ballet Festivals in Cali, Colombia and his native Venezuela and performed with these companies in Belgium, Holland, Russia, Guatemala, and the Dominican Republic among others. Beginning in 2012, he has performed as a Guest Artist in the Staten Island Ballet, New England Ballet, AxelRod Contemporary Ballet and FJK Dance Company. His Repertoire includes: *Midsummer Night's Dream, The Nutcracker, Swan Lake, and Our Waltzes*, among others.

### **Gianni Goffredo (Milan, Italy)**

Gianni started his training at La Scala Ballet School in Milan. He continued his education at the Ballett-Akademie Hochschule für Musik und Theater in Munich, Germany and graduated in 2012. Immediately after graduation Gianni moved to New York City where he began his professional career with DeMa Dance Company, Peridance Contemporary Dance Company and Eglevsky Ballet. He later joined "Les Ballets Trockadero de Monte Carlo" and toured



internationally with “The Trocks” including in Asia, Europe and the Americas. Gianni has been mentioned by *The New York Times*, *The Times in London*, *The Japan Times* in Tokyo, *Dance Europe Magazine*, among others. Gianni resides in NYC and is an international guest artist.

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## MUSICIANS



Fader-Gendron-Haas Trio

Melody Fader, Emilie-Anne Gendron, and Michael Haas formed the Fader-Gendron-Haas Trio after the inaugural concert of the "Melody and Company" chamber music series in May of 2015. All three members of the trio were born and raised in Connecticut, yet it wasn't until they met in New York City (where they are currently based), and after they graduated from the Juilliard School, that they began making music together. Their ever-growing repertoire encompasses the hallmarks of the standard classical and romantic trio repertoire alongside newly commissioned works. The group's numerous performances, particularly in the tri-state area, are regularly funded by grants from the Puffin Foundation and the Queens Council on the Arts. The Fader-Gendron-Haas Trio is delighted to be making their debut at the Shandeele Festival this summer.

*Emilie-Anne Gendron, violin*

Lauded by the *New York Times* as a “brilliant soloist” and by *Strad* for her “marvelous and lyrical playing,” violinist Emilie-Anne Gendron enjoys a dynamic career based in New York City. A



committed chamber musician, she is a member of the Momenta Quartet (Artists-in-Residence at Binghamton University), whose eclectic vision encompasses contemporary music of all aesthetic backgrounds alongside great music from the recent and distant past.

Ms. Gendron has been on the roster of the Marlboro Music Festival and Musicians from Marlboro since 2011, and also appears with A Far Cry, Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center, Chamber Orchestra of Philadelphia, Orpheus, Talea Ensemble, Sejong, and IRIS Orchestra (as one of its concertmasters). She is a founding member of Ensemble Échappé, a new-music sinfonietta, and the Gamut Bach Ensemble, in residence at the Philadelphia Chamber Music Society. Her extensively varied international appearances have included festivals in Russia, Finland, Indonesia, South Korea, and Jordan; and major venues across the Americas, Europe, and Asia, in direct collaboration with such artists as Teddy Abrams, Rachel Barton Pine, Bruno Canino, Leon Fleisher, Richard Goode, Anthony McGill, Edgar Meyer, Gil Shaham, and Jörg Widmann, among many others.

A dual citizen of the U.S. and Canada, Ms. Gendron was trained at the Juilliard School where her teachers were Dorothy DeLay, Won-Bin Yim, Hyo Kang, David Chan, and Axel Strauss. She holds a B.A. in Classics from Columbia University (*magna cum laude* and with *Phi Beta Kappa* honors), and a Master of Music degree and the coveted Artist Diploma from Juilliard.

[www.emilieannegendron.com](http://www.emilieannegendron.com)

*Michael Haas, cello*

Hailed as a “sterling musician” by the Washington Post, cellist Michael Haas engages audiences in New York City and around the world. As a member of the acclaimed Momenta Quartet he enjoys performing new and adventurous works alongside those of the classical canon. He also maintains a busy and varied performance schedule in New York, appearing with ensembles such as the Orchestra of St. Luke’s, American Symphony, Ensemble Échappé, Mark Morris Dance Group, Argento Chamber Ensemble, and Trinity Wall Street’s NOVUS NY.

A member of the Momenta Quartet since 2010, he has recently performed at the Library of Congress and the National Gallery, and participated in the 2017 Ostrava Days Festival for new and experimental music in the Czech Republic. Dedicated to the creation and performance of new music, Momenta has worked with over 120 living composers and premiered over 100 new works, including commission grants from Chamber Music America and the Koussevitzky and Barlow Foundations. This season marks their debut at the chamber music societies of Philadelphia and Louisville. Momenta released its debut album “Similar Motion” on Albany Records in 2015.

An experienced orchestra musician as well, Mr. Haas was a member of the New Haven Symphony and performs regularly with the New Jersey Symphony, IRIS Orchestra, and Princeton Symphony. Originally from Windsor, CT, he holds degrees from the Curtis Institute of Music and Juilliard School. His primary teachers include David Soyer, Peter Wiley, Joel Krosnick, Darrett Adkins, and Marcy Rosen.





*Melody Fader, piano*

Pianist Melody Fader enjoys a busy career as a soloist, chamber musician, vocal and dance accompanist. She has performed in such iconic New York venues as Lincoln Center's Alice Tully Hall and Carnegie Hall's Weill Recital Hall and internationally in Belgium, Luxembourg, The Netherlands, Guatemala, Chile, Canada and Italy. Ms. Fader is the founder, artistic director, and pianist for her Melody and Company Chamber Series ensemble, that recently won grants from both the Queens Council on the Arts and the Puffin Foundation. Her first commercial album, *Music of Frederic Chopin*, was released in February 2012 on Centaur Records and she is currently working on her second album. For two seasons Ms. Fader served as company pianist and soloist for Dance Theatre of Harlem, touring extensively with the company. She is the resident pianist with New Chamber Ballet for their annual performance cycle at New York's City Center, and has also performed with Columbia Ballet Collaborative, Buglisi Dance Theater and the New York Theater Ballet and Stars of American Ballet. Ms. Fader was a prize winner at both the Coleman Chamber Ensemble Competition and the Aspen Concerto Competition, leading to solo as well as chamber music performances throughout the U.S. She earned her Bachelor of Music from the Eastman School of Music, and Master of Music in Collaborative Piano at the Juilliard School, where she studied with Margo Garrett. For more information, please visit [www.melodyfader.com](http://www.melodyfader.com)

## BEHIND THE SCENES

Maher Bsaibes (Styling and Aesthetics), Calvin Anderson (Lighting Designer), Jillian Marzziotti (Administrative Coordinator / Company Manager), Ann Rakoff (Director of educational and community outreach), Justin L. Wilson (Marketing consultant / Copywriting), James Daher (Projection and animation).

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Kiendl Gordon, Ann Rakoff,

Amy R. Cousins, Robert Sutter, Maura Sordo, and Fadi J. Khoury

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