

ALVIN AILEY AMERICAN DANCE THEATER

BUSK **(2009 /Ailey Company Premiere – 2019)**

Choreography: Azure Barton

Rehearsal Associate: Jonathan Alsberry

Music: August Soderman, Camille Saint-Saëns, Daniel Belanger, Ljoyva, Moondog, Slava Grigoryan

Lighting Designer: Nicole Pearce

Costume Designer: Michelle Jank

Azure Barton's dazzling *BUSK* is an episodic look at the nature of performance and the vulnerabilities that artists face in revealing themselves onstage. Barton adapted the choreography for this new production, drawing on the individual strengths and personalities of each dancer. This is the second time Barton's choreography comes to the Ailey stage, following her 2013 world premiere for the Company, *LIFT*.

Azure Barton

Choreographer Azure Barton is the founder and director of Azure Barton & Artists, an interdisciplinary international dance project. She has also collaborated with celebrated dance artists and companies including Mikhail Baryshnikov, American Ballet Theatre, Teatro alla Scala, Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, English National Ballet, Nederlands Dans Theater, Martha Graham Dance Company, National Ballet of Canada, Bayerisches Staatsballett, Sydney Dance Company, Houston Ballet, and Hubbard Street Dance Chicago, among many others. She has been called "brilliant" by the San Francisco Chronicle, "audacious" by the New York Times, The Globe & Mail has called her choreography "genius" and the Boston Globe considers her "a rare accomplishment in the world of contemporary dance." Her works have been performed on countless international stages including the Palais Garnier, Mariinsky Theater, The Kennedy Center, Sadler's Wells, The Alicia Alonso Grand Theater, Teatro alla Scala, and Lincoln Center.



Azure Barton.
Photo by Graeme Mitchell.

Barton has received countless accolades and honors including the prestigious Arts & Letters Award, joining the ranks of Oscar Peterson, Eugene Levy, Karen Kain, Paul Shaffer, Alex Trebek, Christopher Plummer, and Margaret Atwood. She was the first Martha Duffy Resident Artist at The Baryshnikov Arts Center and has been proclaimed an official Ambassador of Contemporary Choreography in Canada. Other choreography credits include the Broadway production of *The Threepenny Opera* directed by Scott Elliott, translated by Wallace Shawn, and starring Cyndi Lauper, Alan Cumming, Jim Dale, Nellie Mackay, and Ana Gasteyer; film and installation projects, and international outreach activities such as Kenya's Earth Project: *Healing the Rift*, at the Laikipia Nature Conservancy. Her choreography has appeared in numerous television projects, including the Sundance Channel's Iconoclasts series with Alice Waters and Mikhail Baryshnikov.

As an educator, she has taught and collaborated with notable institutions including The Juilliard School, Harvard University, The Laban Institute, New York University, among many others. In fall 2018, Barton joined the faculty as an Artist in Residence at the University of Southern California's Gloria Kaufman School of Dance, after relocating to Los Angeles from New York City where she was based for almost two decades. Barton's journey into the world of dance started with tap dancing at the age of three in her hometown of Spruce Grove, Canada.

BUSK **Music Credit Information**

Artists: August Soderman, Camille Saint-Saëns, Daniel Belanger, Lev "Ljova" Zhurbin, Moondog, Slava Grigoryan