

KENNEDY THEATRE | PRIMETIME SERIES

EPIC

A DANCE THEATRE WORK
SEPTEMBER 30 - OCTOBER 4, 2026
EARLE ERNST LAB THEATRE

WED-FRI 7:30 P.M. | SAT & SUN 2:00 P.M. | POST-SHOW Q&A - OCT. 3



ABOUT EPIC

Created through an international partnership between artists in Hawai'i and Taiwan, EPIC explores the stories carried within the human body through movement rather than spoken or written narrative. Developed collaboratively with its performers, the production draws from diverse movement traditions and lived experiences to demonstrate that dance is a shared language capable of transcending borders, cultures, identities, and physical differences.

ARTISTIC TEAM

Choreographers: Pei-Ling Kao and Sunny Nai-Hsuan Yang, Director of Les Petites Choses Production (Taiwan)
Scenic Design: Gabriella Raitano
Lighting Design: Gabriella Raitano
Projection Design: Price Johnston
Costume Design: Juliana Damrow
Composer/Music Coordinator: Jun-Yi Chow and Pi-Hsin Chiu
Visual Design / Photographer / Videographer: Vincent Bercasio

CAST

In alphabetical order by last name

Jeremiah Arquero
Jaci Ashimine
Madison Audette
Epsilon Austin
Victoria Beckett
Lilia Crabbe
Karissa Deen-Bugaj
Seleena Kawahinealoha Drummondo
Maelynn Ferrell
Ellie Fisichenich

Anjanaé Marie Nafanua Hassell
Mira Johnson
Lahikiola Kailihiwa
Aaliya Coleman McNeal
Malia Rivera
Santiago Isaac Rivera Rodas
Zhenhao Wen
Alana Wesly
Qi Zhang
Kun Zhou

Projected run time: approx. 60 minutes with no intermission.
| Content Advisories: Fog/Haze Effects. Flashing Lights. Explicit Lyrics.

DIRECTOR'S NOTES

When Two Aquarius Choreographers Collaborate

I have been wanting to choreograph a “hot mess” piece for a while, but my editorial brain sometimes gets in the way. When I think of a hot mess, I picture something aesthetically messy in the best way possible, much like a traditional street market. It is a place where the smells of fresh meat, fish, vegetables, fruit, and sharp spices unapologetically coexist, surrounded by butchers yelling, vendors bargaining, and many languages being spoken at once. That beautiful, chaotic sensory overload is the world we live in.

In December 2023, I saw a work choreographed by Sunny, a brilliant artist I have known for 23 years, in Taiwan. Her work sparked my imagination. I envisioned a massive, intricate ensemble work fueled by the wild energy and rich cultural diversity of our UH students. Plus, I knew collaborating with Sunny would be an absolute trip because we are both Aquarians!

Sunny and I resist cliché structures and predictable movement patterns. We lean into absurdity, carefully crafting chaos that is anything but accidental. At the heart of our collaboration are community, humanity, and the possibilities that emerge when different people, bodies, perspectives, and ideas come together.

So, brace yourselves. Here is our beautifully calculated chaos. We hope you enjoy EPIC!

— Pei-Ling Kao

MUSIC

Data Matrix — Ryoji Ikeda

Keel — Susumu Yokota

X — Claro Intelecto

In Deep — Saol Nua

Anyone Who Knows What Love Is (Will Understand) —

Jeannie Seely, Randy Newman, Judith Arbuckle and Pat Sheeran

Soundscape Composer: Jun-Yi Chow

Sound Remix: Pi-Hsin Chiu

Music Featured in Remixed Tracks

Cochise • \$NOT • Bruno Mars • Green Day • DoeChii • Usher
• Baby Keem • Travis Scott • Tyla • ATEEZ • Bad Bunny •
Kendrick Lamar • Jungle • Backstreet Boys • Doja Cat • Huey
• Flo Rida • Chiikawa • Aitch • Michael Jackson • Blur • Missy
Elliott • Sean Paul • Bach

**Music used in this production is presented under applicable
University of Hawai'i music licensing agreements.*

PRODUCTION TEAM

Stage Manager: Cyrus Co

Light and Projection Board Operator: Rylee Ragasa

Sound and Projection Board Operator: Eli Solis

Electrics Crew: Kelli Finnegan, Tyler Kanamori

Stage Crew: Tessa Gori and Cosette Kaminske

Set Construction Crew: Klaus Bluhm, Lilli-Lyn Brewer,
Juliana Damrow, Angelique Fliss, Evan Ge, Laurs Kaohu,
Iris King, Lucien Maggert, Joey O'Sullivan, Rylee Ragasa

Costume Construction Crew: Elliana Abcede, Leah Cho,
Adam Harris, Natalie Kohlhoff, Alina Salmon

Dressers: Desmond Kerwin, Alexandria Peters

Faculty Advisors: Michelle A. Bisbee, Price Johnston, Maile
Speetjens

DEPARTMENT & KENNEDY THEATRE TEAM

Department Chair: Julie Iezzi

Associate Chair, Theatre: Kirstin Pauka

Associate Chair, Dance: Kara Jhalak Miller

Production Manager: Erin Breitenbach

Theatre Manager: Christian von Howard

Operations Coordinator: Christine Lamborn Fernandez

Technical Director: Justin Fragiao

Costume Shop Manager: Hannah Schauer Galli

Administrative Staff: Lori Chun, Lindsey Rice

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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FRONT OF HOUSE

Publicity and Marketing: Christine Lamborn Fernandez, Christian von Howard

Publicity Photographer: Vincent Bercasio

Box Office Supervisor: Leah E. Ott | **Box Office Assistants:** Ryan L. Bowman, Anna Lei N. Leuenberger, Kaylyn Mahilum, Danielle Notta, Evie Sweet

House Managers: Savannah Morton, Neha Sangraula

Land Acknowledgement: Seleena Kawahinealoha Drummond, Anjanaé Marie Nafanua Hassell, Lahikiola Kailihiwa

Accessibility requests: contact the House Manager or Kennedy Theatre Box Office at (808) 956-7655. **Campus Security Escort:** (808) 956-SAFE (7233).

****Eating, drinking, cell phones, audio/video recording, and photography are not allowed inside the theatre.**

**KENNEDY THEATRE | DEPARTMENT OF THEATRE & DANCE | UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII AT MĀNOA
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