Margaret Jenkins Dance Company announces the recipients of

**CHIME 2020**

*(Choreographers in Mentorship Exchange)*

**Rachael Dichter**  
**Yayoi Kambara**  
**Liv Schaffer**

The Margaret Jenkins Dance Company (MJDC) is pleased to announce the recipients of CHIME 2020 - Rachael Dichter, Yayoi Kambara, and Liv Schaffer. Developed by Margaret Jenkins in 2004, Choreographers in Mentorship Exchange (CHIME) is a professional mentorship program for choreographers and movement-based artists, based on the core beliefs that open communication between dance-makers of different generations is vital to the health of the field. Since its inception, CHIME has provided significant, direct support to over 150 established and emerging choreographers working together in sustained mentorship relationships, including artist fees to all participants, free rehearsal space, workshops facilitated by guest artists, and participation in free public showings of the ideas generated or developed during their mentorship.

For the 2020 program, founder Margaret Jenkins will serve as the CHIME mentor, working with the three local choreographers over the course of three months (January - March 2020). In addition to working with Ms. Jenkins, mentees will have the opportunity to be in dialogue with, and receive feedback from, nationally recognized artists Vicky Shick and Merián Soto during their *Encounters Over 60* residences in February and March 2020 (see mjdc.org/encounters for more information). Mentees will also receive a small artist stipend and 30 hours of free studio space at the Margaret Jenkins Dance Lab to use for their creative explorations and development.

On April 5, 2020, the three mentees will present material generated and/or developed during the year at **CHIME Live!**, a publicized showing and conversation which is open and free to the public.

**Hi-Resolution Photos:** (credits in file name)  
[https://www.dropbox.com/sh/ubmijfp5zx4yesb/AACfKJ2b2I9Fi029m_B17AFQa?dl=0](https://www.dropbox.com/sh/ubmijfp5zx4yesb/AACfKJ2b2I9Fi029m_B17AFQa?dl=0)
ABOUT CHIME

The goal of CHIME is to improve the health and vitality of our dance field, by:

- creating an arena for the rigorous, critical analysis of choreography;
- stimulating the artistic growth and confidence of emerging choreographers;
- establishing long-term relationships between dance community members, particularly between those of differing generations;
- promoting continuing education of choreography outside the academic environment;
- fostering an ongoing exchange of career experience, observations and dance history between emerging and established choreographers; and
- diminishing the isolation so prevalent among working choreographers.

With initial support from The James Irvine Foundation, the MJDC launched CHIME in 2004. Since then, CHIME has evolved and transformed to best achieve the goals outlined above, including a three-year expansion in Southern California and CHIME Across Borders, in which mentorship relationships were established and encouraged between Bay Area choreographers and leaders of the national and international dance community, supported by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation. Since its inception, CHIME has supported over 150 choreographers working across a range of mediums and disciplines, including: Aerial Dance, African Dance, Ballet, Butoh, Cabaret, Drag, Hip Hop, Improvisation, Jazz, Kathak, Mexican Folklorico, Modern Dance, Multimedia Arts, Performance Art, Punjabi Folk Dance, Site-Specific, Suzuki, Tap, and West African Dance.

Since 2004, Jenkins has curated CHIME, witnessing and facilitating the artist gatherings, advising the mentors and mentees, and observing each year’s panel deliberations. Beginning in 2014, Jenkins has served as the CHIME program’s mentor, and will continue to bring her immeasurable experience, artistry, and mentorship skills directly to the three choreographers selected to work with her in 2020.


For more information visit mjdc.org/chime
THE 2020 MENTEES

Rachael Dichter is a San Francisco based dancer, performer, choreographer and curator. She makes work about closeness. About the shortest distance and shortening the distance between things - between people. She grew up on the ocean and in the mountains and forests of Northern California, performing as a ballerina attending Mills College. She studied performance and classical techniques in New York and Bangalore, India and danced with Fougere Dance in Brussels Belgium. Her own work has shown locally and in Berlin, Cork, St Erme France, Portland, and Seattle. She was a 2015 Danceweb Scholar, a 2017 Artist in Residence at Caldera, a 2019 Artist in Residence at Headlands Center for the Arts, and a Robert Rauschenberg Residency recipient. She has been lucky to collaborate with a number of fierce and talented folks and for four years she co-curated the San Francisco based live arts festival THIS IS WHAT I WANT.

Yayoi Kambara has been a Bay Area artist since 2000. Kambara was a company member with ODC/Dance 2003–2015 and danced with numerous Bay Area Dance Companies. KAMBARA+ DANCERS was founded in 2015 as a vehicle to produce her choreography, focusing on producing dance performance experiences that cultivate a sense of belonging. As a creative partner in the studio, performer, or in the audience, belonging is the bridge built to narrate and perform new works. Currently, Kambara curates a dance performance series at the Asian Art Museum responding to the varied diasporic histories within the Bay. She is completing her final months of Association of Performing Arts Professionals Leadership Fellows Program and also is a lead artist for Hope Mohr Dance's Bridge Project and leads Aesthetic Shift, a yearlong Community Engagement Residency. Aesthetic Shift is an exchange dedicated to interrogate and analyze the overlap between equity values, creative practices, and organizations.
Liv Schaffer received her Bachelor’s degree from Alonzo King LINES Ballet BFA Program at Dominican University of California in 2013, and has spent subsequent seasons performing with AXIS Dance Company, DanceWorks Chicago, The Dance Exchange, and Robert Moses’ Kin. Liv is a Community Engagement Artist with Jacob’s Pillow Curriculum in Motion®, and a Lead Artist with the Pillow's Medicine in Motion program, investigating ways in which dance is a tool for medical practitioners to enhance humane and holistic practices in their work. Liv teaches Contemporary Dance and directs University of San Francisco’s intergenerational dance company; the Dance Generators. Liv is a Shawl Anderson Dance Center 2019 Artist in Residence, and her choreography has been presented by DanceWorks Chicago, Jacob’s Pillow Inside/Out Performance Series, Jacob’s Pillow Lab In Process Series, the JUNTOS Collective, The Big Muddy Dance Company, LINES BFA & Summer Programs, Western Michigan University, and Yerba Buena Gardens Festival ChoreoFest.

ABOUT MARGARET JENKINS (MENTOR)

Margaret Jenkins, founder and artistic director of the MJDC, is a choreographer, teacher, mentor, and designer of unique community-based dance projects. A fifth-generation San Franciscan, she moved to New York to study at Juilliard and danced with Gus Solomons Jr, Jack Moore, Judy Dunn, Twyla Tharp, and Viola Farber. From 1964 until 1978 she taught at the Merce Cunningham Studio and was Cunningham’s assistant in teaching his work around the world. Since her return, the MJDC has been a part of the cultural fabric of San Francisco dedicated to the making and touring of new work. She opened one of the West Coast’s first studio-performing spaces and a school for the training of professional dancers, which quickly became the center for local and touring companies to show work and take risks. Her mentorship program CHIME, now in its 15th year, fosters creative exchange and long-term relationships between emerging and established choreographers. She was a founding member of the Bay Area Dance Coalition and of Dance/USA, serving on its first Board of Directors, and remains an active participant on panels across the United States. She has received numerous commissions and awards including a Guggenheim Fellowship, SFAC Award of Honor, and a Bellagio Fellowship.