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## **Yerba Buena Center for the Arts Presents 2019 Spring Performances**

*Programs include a San Francisco premiere from Dorrance Dance, new work by Paul S. Flores, and the YBCA return of UnderCover Presents*



Photo courtesy of Matthew Murphy

**SAN FRANCISCO (March 12, 2019)**—[Yerba Buena Center for the Arts \(YBCA\)](#) is pleased to present three dynamic performances for the month of May, including the San Francisco premiere of ***ETM: Double Down*** with award-winning tap-dance company **Dorrance Dance**; new multidisciplinary theater work ***We Have Iré*** with award-winning poet, performance artist, and playwright **Paul S. Flores**; and a series of electrifying performances by local acts in ***A Tribute to A Tribe Called Quest's Midnight Marauders*** with popular grassroots collective **UnderCover Presents**.

"In curating this year's spring performances, the team has been thinking about transnational genres of tap dance, jazz, Afro-Cuban folklore, and hip-hop and their historical impact on American culture," remarks Director of Programming **Isabel Yrigoyen**. "These genres celebrate the percussive and rhythmic styles of the past while resonating and innovating in this moment, revealing stories that break down barriers, speak to our human condition, and capture our imagination. We're so proud to present this incredible lineup of local and national artists on the YBCA stage and are so excited to share these amazing projects with Bay Area audiences."

YBCA welcomes back YBCA100 Honoree **Michelle Dorrance** with the San Francisco premiere of the celebrated ***ETM: Double Down***, performed using original tap "instruments" designed by **Nicholas Van Young**, 2014 Bessie Award Winner and ETM co-choreographer. The score is not simply danced to, but danced *by* an incredible cast of eight tap dancers and three musicians playing live. With the right programming, the sound of a single footfall can range from a snare drum to a note of an arpeggio. Co-presented with San Francisco Performances, ***ETM: Double Down*** is an exciting visual and auditory polyphony that celebrates the extreme mobility of the percussive body, and combines rhythm with interactive electronic music technology.

**Dorrance Dance** aims to honor tap dance's uniquely beautiful history in a new, dynamic, and compelling context, not by stripping the form of its tradition but by pushing it—rhythmically, aesthetically, conceptually. It was founded in 2011 by Michelle Dorrance, 2015 MacArthur Fellow and 2018 Doris Duke Fellow, and its inaugural performance garnered a Bessie Award for "blasting open our notions of tap." The company has since performed at Jacob's Pillow, The Joyce Theater, Lincoln Center Out of Doors, New York City Center's Fall for Dance Festival, Danspace Project, FiraTàrrega, Spoleto Festival USA, The Yard, The Broad Stage, Symphony Space, Carolina Performing Arts, Arlene Schnitzer Concert Hall, Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, and tap dance festivals throughout the world, consistently to rave reviews.

***ETM: Double Down*** runs May 9–11, 2019, in the YBCA Theater.

[More Information](#) | [Tickets](#)

***We Have Iré*** highlights the triumph of Afro-Cuban and Cuban American artists as they find success in the United States through hard work and *iré*, the Lucumí condition of being blessed with a positive energy. The performance is directed by acclaimed stage director **Rosalba Roló** and features jazz music composition by GRAMMY-nominated artist **Yosvany Terry** and his quartet; Cuban hip-hop and timba beats by **DJ Leydis**, the first Afro-Cuban female DJ to play at the White House; choreography by award-winning dancer and choreographer **Ramón Ramos Alayo**; and bilingual spoken word by Youth Speaks cofounder **Paul S. Flores**. While recounting their journeys from Cuba to the United States and back, the cast gathers to party, dance, and play music as they reflect on their lives and traditions from the island, experiences with American culture, the challenges of being an immigrant artist, and the triumph of establishing one's voice in a new country.

As a San Francisco artist of Mexican and Cuban American heritage, **Paul S. Flores** has built a national reputation for interview-based theater integrating Latino and indigenous healing practices to tell stories of real people impacted by immigration and systemic inequalities. Flores's plays have been produced at Brava Theater, GALA Hispanic Theatre, New Jersey Performing Arts Center, Pregones Theatre, Abrons Art Center, Taller Puertorriqueño, Guadalupe Cultural Arts Center, InterAct Theater, DiverseWorks, Su Teatro, South Coast Rep, MACLA, and many more. Flores is a Doris Duke Artist, a MAP Fund awardee, a Gerbode Hewlett Theater commission recipient, a NALAC Fund for Arts recipient, and 2011 *SF Weekly* Best Politically Active Hip-hop Performer. He is a cofounder the Latino Men and Boys Program at the Unity Council in Oakland, an original member of the Alliance for Boys and Men of Color through PolicyLink and the California Endowment, a cofounder of Youth Speaks, and currently an adjunct professor of theater at the University of San Francisco.

*We Have Iré* runs May 10–12, 2019, in the YBCA Forum.

[More Information](#) | [Tickets](#)

**UnderCover Presents** returns to YBCA with ***A Tribute to A Tribe Called Quest's Midnight Marauders***, one of the most influential hip-hop albums of all time. Featuring GRAMMY-nominated music producer **Starita**, the show incorporates elements from all four pillars of hip-hop: DJing, MCing, writing (graffiti), and B-Boying (breakdancing), along with the minimalism and free-form nature of jazz instrumentation. Through this tribute, YBCA and UnderCover invite the audience to think about how hip-hop can break down barriers to foster equality and unity.

Featuring more than 100 Bay Area musicians from 13+ acts:

Awesome Orchestra Collective, RyanNicole, LA GENTE SF, Gina Madrid, MJ's Brass Boppers, Wolf & Crow, Royal Jelly Jive, Wil Blades, Ghost & The City, Skip The Needle, Terrence Brewer, Gift of Gab, Jennifer Johns, Starita, Terra Lopez, Aima the Dreamer, Rav-E Sandhu, Lateef The Truthspeaker, and Lagos Roots.

*A Tribute to A Tribe Called Quest's Midnight Marauders* runs May 16–18, 2019, in the YBCA Forum.

[More Information](#) | [Tickets](#)

## ABOUT THE CURATOR

**Isabel T. Yrigoyen** is Director of Programming at Yerba Buena Center for the Arts. She produces the annual performing arts season at YBCA, which in its recent history has showcased ten to fifteen theater, dance, music, and interdisciplinary performances by local, national, and international artists. In her previous role as Associate Director of Performing Arts, she co-designed and implemented Transform, YBCA's signature performance festival that features a two-week celebration of the power of ideas through transformative performance. Yrigoyen has acted as a contributing music curator for YBCA's Performing Arts department, curating creative music and innovative groundbreaking artists in all genres. Her curatorial practice is driven by an interest in bridging musical traditions with contemporary performance practice, with an emphasis on women composers, experimentalists, and artists in social practice. In addition, Yrigoyen oversees and directs the Community Performance Rental program as a YBCA representative, booking and overseeing more than 160 contracted performances for a wide array of Bay Area nonprofit arts organizations who present dance, theater, and music on YBCA's stages. She currently serves on the board of directors of

California Presenters, a statewide organization committed to advancing professional touring and presenting the performing arts for all the people of California.

## CREDITS

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## ABOUT YERBA BUENA CENTER FOR THE ARTS

Yerba Buena Center for the Arts (YBCA) is one of the nation's most innovative contemporary arts centers. Founded in 1993, YBCA's mission is to generate culture that moves people. Through powerful art experiences, thoughtful and provocative content, and deep opportunities for participation, YBCA is committed to creating an inclusive culture that awakens personal and societal transformation. YBCA presents a wide variety of programming year-round, including performing arts, visual arts, and civic engagement. For tickets and information, call 415.978.ARTS (2787). For more information, visit [ybca.org](http://ybca.org).

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