

| THE DanceComplex |

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PRESS RELEASE FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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FUNNY UNCLE CABARET & NUT/CRACKED THE HOLIDAYS HAVE NEVER SEEMED LESS DYSFUNCTIONAL AND MORE FUN...



Photo © Yi-Chun Wu

CAMBRIDGE, MA - December 13 and 14, 2019 - The Dance Complex, in association with Peter DiMuro/ Public Displays of Motion and The Bang Group, presents a double dance bill of **Funny Uncle Cabaret & Nut/Cracked** at The Dance Complex, December 13 and 14. The doors and bar open at 7pm, 1 hour prior to curtain at 8pm.

With **Funny Uncle Cabaret & Nut/Cracked**, the holidays have never seemed less dysfunctional and more fun...

House Opens at 7pm: informal gathering while the bar is open and *Bret Silverman*, pianist, composer and entertainer hosts a pop-up cocktail party! Surprise cookies and performers, too. You are welcome to arrive any time after 7pm but we advise ticket holders to claim space no later than 7:45pm.

First Act: Several guest artists join Peter DiMuro in song, dance and a little drag, highlighting our world's not so functional family relations. Curated from PDM's original national touring **Gumdrops & The Funny Uncle**, **Funny Uncle Cabaret** brings stories and dances about adoptive, LGBTQ+ and all families that don't fit into a Currier and Ives snow scene to the stage.

This year **Funny Uncle Cabaret** hones in on a true night club setting with guest works from the comedy, drag and dance worlds interrupting traditions to make new ones. Expect live music and vocals by music director *Bret Silverman*, video installation by *Lindsay Caddle LaPointe*, comedy by *Kendra Dawsey* and performances by PDM members (*Ann Brown Allen*, *Ann Fonte*, *J Michael Winward*, *Lonnie Stanton*, duos *Kara Fili & Stephen Serwacki* and *Kristin Wagner & Tony Guglietti*, mother and daughter *Lindsay Caddle LaPointe & Quinn*, and other guest performers). Peter performs excerpts of his original monologues set to the Tchaikovsky score, recounting his own **Funny Uncle** role as Drosselmeier at Boston Ballet (circa 1988) and with his adopted niece, Sienna.

Second Act: **Nut/Cracked** is *David Parker* and *The Bang Group's* witty, subversive take on "The Nutcracker." Both neo-vaudeville and neo-burlesque, **Nut/Cracked** takes its inspiration from the entire canon of dance: tap riffs mingle freely with ballet steps, disco, contemporary dance and toe-tapping. Wrenching the context from silly to sublime, **Nut/Cracked** features stomping on bubble-wrap, consuming a Chinese take-out noodle en pointe and an ardent grand pas de deux combining thumbsucking and soaring ballet lifts. Parker often pushes the classical until it bleeds into the vulgar and ridiculous, but the work retains a sense of beauty. **Nut/Cracked** is anchored by Parker's affection for Tchaikovsky's score which ranges from versions recorded by Duke Ellington and Glenn Miller to the traditional orchestral suite. Joining the *Bang Group* on stage will be young pre-professional dancers from Free Form Dance Academy.

Show runs 2 hours 10 minutes, preceded by a cocktail hour beginning at 7pm.

Tickets \$10- \$100 when purchased in advance. Tickets and more information available at dancecomplex.org. **Funny Uncle Cabaret** handles LGBTQ themes maturely and is suitable for all ages. Please contact press contact with questions and updates about guest performers.

MORE ABOUT THE ARTISTS

Peter DiMuro/Public Displays of Motion

Peter DiMuro/Public Displays of Motion has performed locally at the Institute of Contemporary Art, Berklee College of Music, The Dance Complex; at the Hatch Shell with Boston Landmarks Orchestra, and as a resident artist company at The Boston Center for the Arts and the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum. PDM made its Gibney/NYC and Jacob's Pillow debuts this past year. As a choreographer, Peter's work has appeared internationally, often in the context of residencies engaging communities of all kinds. In his 7th year returning to Boston to be the Executive Artistic Director of The Dance Complex, he continues to make dance with PDM and as a guest with Odyssey Opera, Commonwealth Shakespeare Company, and has been commissioned by public art presenters Now+ There and Boston Landmarks Orchestra, among others.

He is grateful for support from The Next Steps/Alia Fund of The Boston Foundation, Cambridge Community Foundation, New England Foundation's Creative City grant supported by the Barr Foundation, a Boston Dance Alliance Fellowship.

DiMuro ...isn't showing any signs of slowing down, and that's reassuring. In an increasingly fragmenting culture, we need artists who shed light on what makes us all human, different, and yet very much alike – Jessica Lockhart, Artsfuse

The Bang Group

The Bang Group enters its sixteenth year of *Nut/Cracked* this season. The company performs throughout the US and often in Europe. David, a Bessie (NY dance award) recipient and named a 2013 Guggenheim Fellow, has created over 50 works for Bang Group and companies worldwide. THE BANG GROUP was founded in 1995 by Jeffrey Kazin and David Parker. It is dedicated to Parker's love of rhythmic form and is known for its commitment to craftsmanship, creative liberty and aesthetic diversity. The company has toured and performed in 24 of the United States and appears internationally at festivals and venues in Austria, Belgium, Croatia, Czech Republic, France, Germany, Italy, Monaco, The Netherlands, Scotland, Slovakia, Switzerland and Canada. It has enjoyed four seasons presented by New York Live Arts and six by its predecessor, Dance Theater Workshop, three by Danspace Project as well as several by DanceNow/NYC, Symphony Space, Harkness Dance Festival, Lincoln Center Out of Doors and others. TBG has a second home in Boston developed during 15 seasons in residence at Summer Stages Dance and through long-term partnerships with The Institute for Contemporary Art, The Dance Complex and The Theater Offensive. Recently Parker and Kazin have launched DanceNow Boston/NYC a choreographic exchange serving artists in both cities. TBG is also company-in-residence at The Yard on Martha's Vineyard having appeared there for the last 7 seasons and will return in 2018. The company's comic/subversive production of *The Nutcracker* entitled **Nut/Cracked** which will enjoy its 15th consecutive season in 2017 with a New England tour and performances at The Flea in New York City.

"'Nut/Cracked' " is a masterful mash-up of nostalgia, artistry, and fun. [It] unpacks the traditional holiday Nutcracker through a post modern dance lens that will make you feel as if you have just eaten a big plate of your very favorite holiday sweets and, joyfully, not gained one pound." — The Huffington Post