

Wiley Hausam, Director
Daniel Gurskis, Dean, College of the Arts



PRESENTS

COME JOIN THE
CHAMPIONS
FOR THE
ARTS
WITH **DONNA**
WALKER-KUHNE

MODERATED BY
MONTCLAIR FILM ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

TOM HALL

Thursday,
March 26, 2026
6:00 PM

Presentation Hall



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Running Time: One hour, no intermission.

Event co-sponsored by:

Friends of the Howe House, Montclair African-American Heritage Foundation, Montclair Early Music, Montclair Film, Montclair Public Library, Montclair State University College of the Arts, Out Montclair, Sharon Miller's Academy for the Performing Arts, Studio Montclair, Vanguard Theater

About the Artists

Donna Walker-Kuhne is an award-winning thought leader, writer, and strategist for community engagement, audience development, and social justice. She is president of Walker International Communications Group, Inc., a 40-year-old boutique marketing and audience development consulting agency. She was formerly director of marketing for both the Public Theater and Dance Theatre of Harlem. She was also vice president of marketing and vice president of community engagement at New Jersey

Performing Arts Center. She provides consulting services to numerous arts organizations throughout the world and has generated over \$22m in earned income.

Former clients include WNYC Radio, the Louis Armstrong House, the Apollo Theater, Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, and New York City Opera. She was an associate producer for *George C. Wolfe's Harlem Song*. She is co-founder of Impact Broadway, a socially and technology-driven audience development initiative serving 300 African American and Latino students throughout the five boroughs of New York City. These students participated in attending Broadway productions, social networking, seminars, and lectures.

Walker-Kuhne is a veteran of 22 Broadway productions providing multicultural marketing and group sales, including *Bring in 'da Noise, Bring in 'da Funk; Stick Fly; Raisin in the Sun; August Wilson's Radio Golf; and Once on this Island*.

She is currently Senior Advisor, Social Impact at New Jersey Performing Arts Center. Currently her portfolio includes social justice initiatives and Equity Diversity Inclusion workshops. Her current clients include the Whitney Museum of Art, Harlem Week, Harlem Stage, and the Black Orchestral Network.

Walker-Kuhne has traveled to five continents, 11 countries, and 49 states sharing her expertise, skills, and experiences. She has presented keynote speeches for numerous national and international organizations, including Dance USA, Theatre Communications Group, LORT Theatre Conference, Broadway League, Opera America, League of American Orchestras, Grantmakers in the Arts, and the Wallace Foundation Convening Arts and Business Council. She has presented her strategies at Harvard University, Yale University, Brown University, Columbia University, American University, University of South Carolina, Temple University, Northwestern University, and the Canada Council for the Arts. She has completed lectures and workshops in Moscow, Russia; Australia; Bloemfontein, South Africa; and Edinburgh, Scotland. Walker-Kuhne conducts staff development

diversity workshops for theater, dance, and arts administration programs.

She is the recipient of numerous awards, including the 2025 Ignites Artistic Freedom Award, 2024 A Planter of Seeds Award, 2022 Margot Adams Signature Award, 2021 SGI-USA Distinguished Pioneer Award, and the 2019 League of Professional Theatre Women Rachel Crothers Leadership Award.

She is an adjunct professor at New York University, Bank Street College, and Columbia University. She serves on several boards, including Mid-Atlantic Arts, Signature Theatre, Newark Arts Council, and the Harlem Arts Alliance. She is vice-chair of the Greater Harlem Chamber of Commerce, Arts, Culture and Entertainment Committee. She is a member of The Society, Inc. Renaissance Chapter. Her first book, *Invitation to the Party: Building Bridges to Arts, Culture and Community*, was published in 2005 by Theatre Communications Group. Her second book, *Champions for the Arts; Successful Strategies for Engaging Dynamic Communities*, was published, October 21, 2025.

Tom Hall is the artistic director and co-head of Montclair Film in Montclair, NJ. Previously, Hall held the positions of executive director, Montclair Film (2015–2022); director, artistic director, and director of programming at the Sarasota Film Festival (2005–2014); and programming director at newportFILM in Newport, RI (2009–2011). In addition, Hall was programmer for the Nantucket Film Festival in Nantucket, MA (2002–2005) as well as a former director of new media for Bravo/The Independent Film Channel (1997–2000). He has also worked in the Industry and Guest Services Offices at the Hamptons International Film Festival (2002–2003). In January of 2010, Hall was named one of Spring Board Media's 20 under 40 in Film. Hall has directed short films for Bob Mould's Carnival of Light and Sound Tour and was an inaugural member of the indieWIRE blogging community with his blog *The Back Row Manifesto*, which is now a standalone website. A graduate of the University of Michigan ('94), Hall resides in Brooklyn, NY, with his wife and two sons.



Staff Credits:

Wiley Hausam | Director

Taliyah Bethea | Marketing Assistant

Susan Case | Program Book Coordinator

Chrissy D'Aleo Fels | Community Outreach

Cheryl Duncan | Public Relations

Patrick Flood | Graphic Designer, Art Director

Martin Halo | Website Development

Michael Landes | Student Outreach Coordinator

Peg Schuler-Armstrong | General Manager

Jacob Stepansky | Company Manager

Hannah Walker | Interim Marketing Manager

College of the Arts

Daniel Gurskis | Dean

Ronald L. Sharps | Associate Dean

Christine Lemesianou | Associate Dean

Amanda Gonzalez Carcione | Assistant Dean

Zacrah S. Battle | College Administrator

Nicole Archer | Chairperson, Department of Art and Design

Shea Scruggs | Director, John J. Cali School of Music

Kathleen Kelley | Chairperson, Department of Theatre and Dance

Wiley Hausam | Director, Arts + Cultural Programming

Hillery Makatura | Director, Performance Operations

Patricia Piroh | Director, Broadcast and Media Operations

Megan C. Austin | Director, University Galleries

Programs in this season were made possible, in part, by the Alexander Kasser Theater Endowment Fund and PEAK Patrons.

PEAK Performances develops, presents, and produces a broad range of world-class dance, film, master classes, music, opera and music theater, talks, and theater in the Alexander Kasser Theater on the campus of Montclair State University for students, faculty, staff, and the general public. We are building community through live performance. PEAK Performances is a program of the university's Arts + Cultural Programming Department.

College of the Arts

Performance Operations

Hillery Makatura | Director

Cubby Terry | Facilities and Events Manager

Marlene Hamm | Interim Production Manager

Colin Van Horn | Technical Director

Kevin Johnson | Senior Production Engineer

Jason Flamos | Lighting Supervisor

Laurel Brolly | Business Manager

Jeff Lambert Wingfield | Box Office Manager

Jade Thomas | Patron Services Manager

Rayne Collins | Front of House Coordinator

Aboubacar Cisse, Abigail Drueding, Jacqueline Mancia Hernandez,

Shantel Maysonett, Ashley Wallis | Lead Ushers, Season 2025–26

Andrea Armando, Riona Askins, Aboubacar Cisse,

Jacqueline Mancia Hernandez, Audrey Lassanske, Shantel Maysonett,

Ben Renfrow | Box Office Lead Associates, Season 2025–26

MONTCLAIR STATE UNIVERSITY

We respectfully acknowledge that Montclair State University occupies land in Lenapehoking, the traditional and expropriated territory of the Lenape. As a state institution, we recognize and support the sovereignty of New Jersey's three state-recognized tribes: the Ramapough Lenape, Nanticoke Lenni-Lenape, and Powhatan Renape nations. We recognize the sovereign nations of the Lenape diaspora elsewhere in North America, as well as other Indigenous individuals and communities now residing in New Jersey. By offering this land acknowledgement, we commit to addressing the historical legacies of Indigenous dispossession and dismantling practices of erasure that persist today. We recognize the resilience and persistence of contemporary Indigenous communities and their role in educating all of us about justice, equity, and the stewardship of the land throughout the generations.



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**SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR EVENT
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