



John Michael Kohler Arts Center

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Jan. 12, 2024

Choreographer Reimagines Calvino Novel *Invisible Cities* for the Stage, Feb. 8 at John Michael Kohler Arts Center



Ashwini Ramaswamy's *Invisible Cities* is a collaboration of choreographers from diverse dance backgrounds, including traditional Indian Bharatanatyam, break dance, modern/ Afrodiasporic, and Gaga. Photo courtesy of the artist.

Sheboygan, WI — Minnesota-based dancer/choreographer Ashwini Ramaswamy's multifaceted re-envisioning of Italo Calvino's novel *Invisible Cities* comes to the [John Michael Kohler Arts Center](#) in Sheboygan, Thursday, February 8, at 7:30 p.m.

Ramaswamy's *Invisible Cities* brings together a dynamic group of artists from diverse movement styles. Three choreographers collaborated with Ramaswamy, who is trained in the classical Indian Bharatanatyam dance technique, to create the work—modern and Afrodiasporic dancer Alanna Morris, Gaga technique mover Berit Ahlgren, and breakdancer Joseph Tran. Ten dancers are featured in the Arts Center production.

Adding an immersive, unpredictable dimension to each performance of *Invisible Cities* is artist Kevork Mourad's original and dynamic moving illustrations and animations projected onto the stage.

In Calvino's book, the young Marco Polo tells the aged Emperor Kublai Khan tales of the cities he has seen in his travels. "The conversations have these ideas of: What are we doing to the environment? What are we doing to each other? It's why I feel all these different forms uniting onstage makes a statement about working together to make something beautiful," Ramaswamy told *Dance* magazine.

"In 2022, JMKAC hosted Ashwini in a creative residency that offered her time and space to focus on developing this work. It is so exciting to bring the finished production to our stage and share it with the community," said Deputy Director of Programming Ann Brusky.

The *Minneapolis Star Tribune* called *Invisible Cities* "a luscious multimedia adaptation [that] came alive when the different groupings were woven together, creating a quilt of varied textures. The styles ... melded and blurred together in delicious cohesion."

With *Invisible Cities*, Ramaswamy deepens a choreographic method she began in 2019 with *Let the Crows Come*, which was named a "Best of the Year" in *The Washington Post* and a critic's pick in *The New York Times*.

For more information and tickets, visit jmkac.org/events or call (920) 458-6144. The Arts Center is located at 608 New York Ave., Sheboygan, WI. Free parking is available in the Arts Center lot on New York Avenue. JMKAC's CAFÉ will be open prior to the show.

Invisible Cities is a National Performance Network (NPN) Creation & Development Fund Project co-commissioned by the John Michael Kohler Arts Center, Great Northern Winter Festival, Ronald O. Perelman Performing Arts Center, Bates Dance Festival, and NPN. More information: www.npnweb.org. This production is made possible in part by funding from the Metropolitan Regional Arts Council, the Marbrook Foundation, and the Minnesota State Arts Board. The creation of *Invisible Cities* was made possible by residencies at the John Michael Kohler Arts Center and the National Center for Choreography at the University of Akron, OH, which were supported by the McKnight Fellowship Program for Choreography.

-30-

Contact

Patricia DuChene, Marketing Communications Manager
pduchene@jmkac.org

About the John Michael Kohler Arts Center

Founded in 1967, the John Michael Kohler Arts Center (JMKAC) is dedicated to generating creative exchanges between an international community of artists and a diverse public. Central to its mission is promoting understanding and appreciation of the work of self-taught and contemporary artists through original exhibitions, commissioned works of art, performing arts, community arts initiatives, and publications.

The Arts Center's collection focuses primarily on works by artist-environment builders, self-taught and folk artists, and works created in the Arts/Industry residency program. JMKAC is the world's leading center for research into and presentation of artist-built environments.

In June 2021 the Arts Center opened the Art Preserve, a satellite campus highlighting its collection of 25,000 works of art by more than 30 art-environment builders. The Art Preserve features immersive displays of art environments and curated visible storage of environment components. It also serves as a resource for research on art environments and the artists who create them.

The John Michael Kohler Arts Center is located at 608 New York Avenue, Sheboygan, WI. The Art Preserve is located at 3636 Lower Falls Road, Sheboygan. Admission to both is free. For more information, call 920-458-6144, or visit jmkac.org, [Facebook](#), or [Instagram](#).

The John Michael Kohler Arts Center is supported by corporate and foundation donors, government grants, and its many members. The Arts Center is not an entity of Kohler Co. or its subsidiaries.

Hours

Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday: 10:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m.

Thursday: 10:00 a.m.–8:00 p.m.

Saturday, Sunday: 10:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m.

Locations

John Michael Kohler Arts Center: 608 New York Avenue, Sheboygan, WI

Art Preserve: 3636 Lower Falls Road, Sheboygan, WI