

CULTURAL
EVENT

SENIOR CHOREOGRAPHY SHOWCASE 2020

FEATURING DANCE FILMS BY

NYKIRA ALLEN	DONOVAN GRANVILLE
SERENA CONNELLY	DAPHNE OLIVER
JAMEEL CREECH	A'VIONNE RICHARDSON
SEMIRA DANIELS	KYLA SMITH
BRENNÉ FORST	MEGAN SMITH

STREAMING LIVE
FRIDAY, NOV. 20 AT 7:30 P.M.
(WITH Q&A AFTERWARDS)

PERFORMANCE IS
AVAILABLE TO VIEW
ON DEMAND

WINTHROP UNIVERSITY DEPARTMENT OF THEATRE & DANCE PRESENTS

SENIOR CHOREOGRAPHY SHOWCASE

Counterpoise

Choreographed, performed, directed, and edited by Daphne Oliver
Filmed by Semira Daniels
Music: "Lie" by quickly, quickly

Blissful Uncertainty

Choreographed, performed, directed, and edited by Semira Daniels
Filmed by Daphne Oliver
Music: "Wasabi Terraces" by Testiculo y Uno & Twit One

Quadrilateral

Choreographed, performed, directed and edited by Jameel Creech
Filmed by Donovan Granville
Music: Alicia Keys, Mark Isham, & Ray Charles

Coming to college I thought I had it all together. It was not until I hit rock bottom that I realized trying to juggle what your family wants you to do, your relationship with God, how the world sees you and the amount of time spent with your friends was just too much to handle. Live your life unapologetically, but most importantly live your life for you!

June 28, 2015

Choreographed, performed, directed, and edited by Brenn  Forst
Filmed by Dorothy Robinson and Jacelyn Forst
Music: "Farewell Life (Arn Andersson Remix)" by Nights Amore

This piece is about a journey of recovery and self-discovery after a traumatic event.

*Please note that this piece contains explicit content about sexual assault.

celestial spaces

Choreographed, performed, directed, and edited by Serena Connelly
Filmed by Semira Daniels and Daphne Oliver
Music: "Anamnesis" by King Gizzard & the Lizard Wizard

"...in an infinite universe, anything that could be imagined might somewhere exist." - Dean Koontz

WINTHROP UNIVERSITY DEPARTMENT OF THEATRE & DANCE PRESENTS

SENIOR CHOREOGRAPHY SHOWCASE

Present

Choreographed, performed, directed, edited by Nykira Allen
Filmed by A'Vionne Richardson
Music: "Claim it" by Klein

Metaphor

Choreographed, performed, directed, and edited by Megan Smith
Filmed by Megan Smith
Music "Dirft" by Jan Jelinek

Peace Be Still

Choreographed, performed, directed, edited by Donovan Granville
Filmed by Semira Daniels and Daphne Oliver
Music: "Say My Name" by Olafur Arnalds

I am a firm believer that God gives his toughest battles to his strongest warriors. Finding peace in your pain is hard, but it is not impossible.
"Be patient and tough; someday this pain will be useful to you" – Ovid

Every Girl's Dream

Choreographed, performed, directed, edited by A'Vionne Richardson
Filmed by Nykira Allen
Music: "Easy" by Son Lux ft. Lorde and PVAMU Marching Band

Unappreciated and underestimated. This how I have felt, and I know many dancers in this genre feel. While giving a sneak peek into my personality, I also intend to create awareness for an overlooked style. It's not a "trend" it's a genre that requires a lot of training and dedication to perfect. Respect it; it's time.

Rocks Afloat

Choreographed, performed, directed, and edited by Kyla Smith
Filmed by Sara Beth Cimowsky
Music: "Resolve" by Poppy Ackroyd

"We can sail through all difficulties when there is peace inside us."
Love and miss you everyday mom.

Choreographers



Nykira Allen is from Rock Hill, South Carolina, and is a senior dance major with a professional business minor. She transferred from Johnson C. Smith University after her freshman year. She is a first generation college student and cannot wait to make her family proud. She has been dancing since she was eight. After college she plans to continue her dance career in Atlanta as well as work in a dance studio. She is also a local up-and-coming makeup artist and is ready to better her skills.



Serena Connelly is from Spartanburg, South Carolina. She is a senior dance major at Winthrop University. During her time at Winthrop, she has performed in Winthrop Dance Theatre, Junior and Senior Choreography Showcase, and at ChristmasVille with the Winthrop RockHettes. She has also performed at the American College Dance Association. Serena is a current member of The Wanda Project, with which she has done several performances including Loose Leaves in Charlotte, North Carolina. She is so excited to be a part of this showing, and can't wait to share her first dance film.



Jameel Crech is a senior dance major with a minor in theatre performance from Columbia, South Carolina. Jameel began dancing at age seven and has loved performing ever since. During his freshman year he performed in Winthrop's production of *The Wiz*. He also performed in the Winthrop University Repertory Theatre, which toured the Rock Hill area performing for schools and assisted living facilities.

Finishing up his freshman year he joined Kinetic Fever, Winthrop's Recreational Hip Hop coalition, as a choreographer. His sophomore year he performed in a student film titled "In this House." He also performed in the Junior Choreography Showcase and choreographed two award-winning step shows for his fraternal organization. His junior year he had the pleasure of performing in Winthrop Dance Theatre as well as choreographing for the 2020 Junior Choreography Showcase. He has also choreographed for New Attitude Dance Studio in Rock Hill, South Carolina.

He now holds a position as a professional hip hop dancer on the Charlotte Hornets Hive Hip Hop Dance Crew. He is a firm believer that in order to fulfill your dreams, you must chase after them at all costs.

Choreographers



Semira Daniels is a senior dance major at Winthrop University with plans to pursue an M.A.T. in dance education after graduating. She is from Columbia, South Carolina, and has been dancing since the age of four. Semira has experience in many styles of dance including ballet, modern, contemporary, jazz, and pointe. She has performed in seven dance showcases so far at Winthrop University and is excited about gaining more experience in choreographing during her time in college.



Brenn  Forst was born and raised in Charlotte, North Carolina. She was inspired to dance at the age of five by her first dance teacher and hasn't stopped since.

She graduated from East Carolina University in 2018 with a degree in applied sociology with a minor in history. She has received training from professionals such as Russian prima ballerina Galina Panova and Broadway star Dirk Lumbard.

Brenn  will be graduating this semester with a Bachelor of Arts in dance with a minor in community-based learning. She has performed in productions such as Winthrop Dance Theatre, Junior and Senior Choreography Showcases, *The Vagina Monologues*, *Just by Chance*, and ArtsWinthrop's Scholarship Gala. She has also performed with the Winthrop Dance Repertory Theatre, which tours to local schools and assisted living facilities. In 2019 Brenn  performed in the inaugural parade at Winterfest at Carowinds and will be performing again in "Taste of the Season" in November of this year. In 2019 Brenn  was selected as a choreographer for the Dance Co-lab at the Charlotte New Music Festival, and her work has also been showcased at the S.O.U.R.C.E. Conference here at Winthrop.

Brenne is a volunteer dance instructor and counselor for the YMCA where she teaches children the importance of dance and how it can benefit daily health. She also teaches master classes for dancers and non-dancers alike.



Donovan Granville is a dance major from Newberry, South Carolina.

Choreographers



Daphne Oliver is a senior dance major and educational studies minor. She has performed in many productions, including Winthrop Dance Theatre, Student Choreography Showcase, and Senior Choreography Showcase. Daphne is excited for her choreographic debut at Winthrop.



A'Vionne Richardson is a senior at Winthrop University majoring in dance with a minor in community-based learning. She is a native of Winnsboro, South Carolina, where she began dancing at the age of eleven in her school's dance company at Fairfield Magnet School for Math and Science. A'Vionne has performed many styles of dance such as contemporary, jazz, hip-hop, ballet, and her favorite, majorette. A'Vionne has trained in majorette for 10 years and plans on pursuing that style collaboratively with others in the future. Currently on campus she is the

President/Founder/Creative Director for the campus's majorette danceline, Royal Elite Dance Team. She also dances in the hip-hop dance group Kinetic Fever. She is a part of BLAC (Black Artist Coalition) where she advocates for dancers while also being the event coordinator. In addition, she volunteers with the dance team at South Pointe High School and assists with choreography for Northwestern High School's dance team as well. Throughout her tenure at Winthrop University, she has taught at a local dance studio and also had a private trainee of hers make a collegiate marching band danceline from her training. She is very active at her home high school where she volunteers as a choreographer and coach for two of the three dance teams in her hometown, and the dance class at Fairfield Central High School. She has also taught many HBCU Danceline master classes at Westwood High School in Blythewood, South Carolina. Lastly, she represents Winthrop University as a collegiate ambassador for Veneshia Stribling, Westwood High School's dance teacher, brand Embody by V which emphasizes dance, travel, and fitness.

A'Vionne is greatly appreciative for the opportunity to choreograph a piece for this show tonight.

Choreographers



Kyla Smith is in her final year of study at Winthrop University where she is earning her Bachelor of Arts in dance with K-12 certification. After graduation, she plans on teaching dance in a South Carolina public middle or high school. She began her dance training at Hilton Head Dance School under the artistic direction of Karena Brock-Carlyle, former principal dancer for American Ballet Theatre. During her time at Winthrop, she has performed in various productions including Student Choreography Showcase (2019), Winthrop Dance Theatre (2019, 2018), and Winthrop Dance Repertory Theatre (2018). During the summer of 2019, she attended Bates Dance Festival and served as a dance education intern for their Youth Arts Program. She is also a company member for The Wanda Project, a contemporary ballet and Graham-based modern dance company directed by Dr. Wanda Ebright. This is Kyla's first time creating dance for film, and she is excited to share it with Winthrop's community.



Megan Smith is from Charles Town, West Virginia and is a senior dance major with a minor in health. Throughout high school she participated in many festivals all over the east coast. During her senior year of high school, she was awarded the Dean's Meritorious scholarship from Winthrop University. Throughout her years at Winthrop she had the opportunity to perform in Winthrop Dance Theatre and has worked with almost every faculty member. She has also participated in Senior Choreography Showcase and Junior Choreography Showcase. During her sophomore, junior, and senior years, she was a part of the Winthrop RockHettes, performing for the Rock Hill community and was also part of the Winthrop Spirit Squad. During her sophomore year she had the opportunity to perform at the American College Dance Association. She also had the opportunity to choreograph for junior showcase. Megan was awarded the RockHettes scholarship for her senior year. She is currently teaching at two studios in the Fort Mill area working with all different ages. She believes in going for every opportunity and not looking back but looking ahead for what else is yet to come.

CREW

Shannon Bradley *Stage Manager*

WINTHROP UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OF VISUAL AND PERFORMING ARTS

Jeff Bellantoni, M.F.A. *Dean*

Wanda Ebright, Ph.D. *Associate Dean*

DEPARTMENT OF THEATRE AND DANCE

Zinorl Bronola, M.M. *Instructor of Theatre and Dance*

Biff Edge, M.F.A. *Assistant Professor of Theatre*

Matt Ferrell, M.F.A. *Assistant Professor of Theatre*

Daniel Gordon, M.F.A. *Department Chair and Professor*

Janet Gray, M.F.A. *Professor of Theatre*

Stephen Gundersheim, M.F.A. *Professor of Theatre*

Ramona Kundl *Administrative Assistant*

Marvin McAllister, Ph.D. *Associate Professor of Theatre*

Sandra Neels *Associate Professor of Dance*

Kelly Ozust, M.F.A. *Assistant Professor of Dance*

Meg Schriffen, M.F.A. *Associate Professor of Dance
and Dance Program Director*

Gabrielle Tull, M.F.A., M.Ed. *Assistant Professor of Dance*

Winthrop University is accredited by The National Association of Schools of Theatre and The National Association of Schools of Dance.

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