



WINTHROP
UNIVERSITY

Department of
Theatre and Dance

SPRING DANCE 2021 SHOWCASE

Friday, April 23
7:30 p.m.

Saturday, April 24
2 p.m. & 7:30

Sunday, April 25
2 p.m.

Johnson Theatre

Live stream through www.showtix4u.com

Email boxoffice@winthrop.edu

SPRING DANCE SHOWCASE

NOT YET

Choreographer: Sandra Neels

Music: Kodo Drumming of Japan

Costume: Janet Gray and Jessica Clapper

Dancers: Donovan Granville & Molly Nunn

Mollitiam

Choreographer: Ben Kubie

Music: "Spiegel im Spiegel," for violin and piano

Costume: Janet Gray and Jessica Clapper

Dancers: Serena Connelly, Semira Daniels, Daphne Oliver,

Emily O'Regan, A'vionne Richardson, Justin Tillman

This piece was created in part through guided improvisational solos revolving around the theme of the eight basic positions of the body according to the Cecchetti method. It is also a story of resilience, fatigue, and ultimately perseverance.

Wall Street

Choreographer: Kelly Ozust

Music: "Money" by John Kander and Fred Eb,

"Rich Girl" by Gwen Stefani

Costume: Janet Gray and Jessica Clapper

Dancers: Ally Baumgartner, Gracie Bennett, Serena Connelly,

Madison Lapham, Brooke Nelson, Molly Nunn, Megan Smith,

Jenerette Stratton, Claudine Victorin

Detached Frames

Choreographer: Kyla Smith

Music: "Gerusalen" by Djupmyrberget

Costume: Kyla Smith

Dancers: Ashley Brown and Madison Syswerda

The pandemic has instilled emotional hardship and distance between loved ones. While support from afar is offered, it cannot satisfy all needs.

Thorne

Choreographer: Nykira Allen

Music: "Bathed in Her" by Tillman Robinson

and "Unien Holvit" by Mika Vainio

Costume: Nykira Allen

Dancers: Alyssa Boyd, Jameel Creech, Ne'Miah Gentry,

Anna Goldstein, Lily Queen

This work is about someone who I grew up with. His name is Jaterreon Thorne. He passed away due to gun violence at the age of 17. He was my brother, my best friend. I wanted to put my feelings and how I viewed life with him into this piece. It has now been five years on April 2 since he left us.

Fractured and Rebuilt (2012)

Choreographer: Maria Caruso

Rehearsal Director: Lauren Skrabalak

Music: Ludovico Einaudi

Dancers: Kayla Alexander, Semira Daniels,

Donovan Granville, Madison Lapham, Olivia Mayer,

Molly Nunn, A'Vionne Richardson, Hallyn White

This work seeks to identify the feeling of isolation that one senses when they are in the midst of crisis and the identification of support that is a reality that is not always recognized when one is overcoming adversity.

Intermission

Grounding

Choreographer: Arlynn Zachary

Music: Mike Wall (edited by Arlynn Zachary)

Costume: Janet Gray, Jessica Clapper, and Arlynn Zachary

Dancers: Ally Baumgartner (4/24 evening, 4/25 matinee),

Madison Lapham (4/23 evening, 4/24 matinee)

As students during the pandemic have had increased anxiety and other mental health issues, I wanted to provide a piece that navigates the concept of finding a state of calmness and centering one's self during times of emotional and/or physical hardship. When learning how to keep progressing forward during trying times that appear in life, it is important to find a sense of feeling grounded.

Finding Euphoria

Choreographer: Gabrielle Tull

Music: "Agape" by Nicholas Britell and "(Improvisational Cover Live by Rockin Robin) Your Teeth in My Neck" by Khali Uchis

Costume: Janet Gray and Jessica Clapper

Dancers: Nykira Allen, Josh Harris, Skyler Leary, Jala Smith

How do we find a sense of euphoria when we work and struggle each day to survive? How can we relinquish our pain to find life's joy?

Spring in Central Park

Choreographer: Megan Smith

Music: "It's Raining Men" by The Weather Girls, "Singing in the Rain/Umbrella" from Glee, and "Singing in the Rain" by Arthur Freed and Nacio Herb Brown

Costume: Janet Gray and Jessica Clapper

Dancers: Nykira Allen, Ne'Miah Gentry, Olivia Mayer,

Olivia Seighman, Madison Syswerda, Hallyn White

Insomnia

Choreographer: Semira Daniels

Music: "Into Mist" by Murlo

Costume: Janet Gray, Jessica Clapper, and Semira Daniels

Dancers: Kayla Alexander, Serena Connelly, Daphne Oliver, Sebastian Sowell, Claudine Victorin

This piece is my interpretation of what happens in the brain when you can't sleep. As someone who has experienced this sensation many times, I was oddly inspired by the way my brain would seem to randomly fire off thoughts just as I got ready for bed. I want this piece to depict what I imagine the workings of a "busy" brain to look like.

New York, New York

Choreographer: Kelly Ozust

Music: "Welcome to New York" by Taylor Swift, "Why Should I Worry/King of New York" Disney Mashup, "New York, New (FWB Remix)" by Ray Quinn feat. Ultralove

Costume: Janet Gray and Jessica Clapper

Dancers: Nykira Allen, Ally Baumgartner, Gracie Bennett, Serena Connelly, Ne'Miah Gentry, Madison Lapham, Olivia Mayer, Brooke Nelson, Molly Nunn, Olivia Seighman, Megan Smith, Jenerette Stratton, Madison Syswerda, Claudine Victorin, Hallyn White

Crew

Director	Meg Schriffen
Stage Manager	Chloe Verhaalen
Lighting Designers	Daniel Gordon and Biff Edge
Running Crew	Sydney Largent, Tamara Wilkins, Rollins Mosley, Jonathan Ward, Isaac Nicolau
Costume Construction Crew	Jessica Cook, Camilla McCarty, Erica Meece, Elizabeth Ruziska, Makayla Toles, Carrington Wigfall
Scenic Construction & Lighting Crew	Jessica Clapper, Taylor Evans, Rodney Gibson, Samantha Melander, Amery Miller, Zander Orlin, Annika Phillips, Chloe Verhaalen, Chloe Wright

Choreographers



Sandra Neels toured the world as a performer with the Merce Cunningham Dance Company for ten years. She has taught at USF Tampa, York University in Toronto, Hampshire College (where she was the Chair of Dance), the California Institute of the Arts, the Royal Winnipeg Ballet, UNC Greensboro (guest artist), the South Carolina Governor's School for the Arts, and Ballet Spartanburg. She has choreographed more than 150 works in a variety of settings, including musicals, operas, children's theatre, universities and arts institutes, competitions at the YAGP, fashion shows, rhythmic gymnastics, and figure skating. She has become a reconstructor/restager for the Cunningham Trust since 2003, reconstructing eight of Mr. Cunningham's works. She recently received a grant from the Trust to document THE EVOLUTION OF THE CUNNINGHAM TECHNIQUE. Helping to create the dance degree at Winthrop, she has been teaching here since 1990.



Ben Kubie began dancing at a public performing arts school in St. Louis, Missouri, before accepting a full scholarship at the Joffrey School of Ballet in New York City and the David Howard Dance Center. His professional dancing career spanned more than fifteen years where he danced leading roles by George Balanchine, Paul Taylor, William Forsythe, Jean Pierre Bonnefoux, Kirk Peterson, Alonzo King, and many others. In 2004 he retired from the professional stage as a principal dancer with the Charlotte Ballet and was featured in Dance Magazine's September edition that year for professional dancers in career transition. Ben is a full-time dance teacher and private coach in both North and South Carolina, an adjunct professor at Winthrop University and a frequent guest teacher for the Charlotte Ballet. He has lived in Charlotte for the past 20 years.

Choreographers



Kelly Ozust earned her M.F.A. at the University of North Carolina, Greensboro where her thesis concert, which explored the narrative possibilities of the body, was nominated for best thesis work of 2011. Her work explores the intersection of dance and social justice by joining traditional elements of dance and theatre to create new embodied narratives. She has worked as a choreographer for musical theater, opera, and theater for youth productions in North Carolina and Georgia, and her contemporary dance works have earned multiple choreography awards from regional competitions. She is interested in pairing dance and technology, and her most recent dance for film was honored with the Kress Award from the Georgia Museum of Art. She teaches modern, jazz, hip hop, and musical theatre dance styles as assistant professor of dance at Winthrop University.



Kyla Smith is in her final year of study at Winthrop University where she is earning her Bachelor of Arts in dance with teacher certification K-12. 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 Karna 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.

Choreographers



Nykira Allen is a senior dance major and business minor from Rock Hill, South Carolina. Allen transferred to Winthrop after completing one year at Johnson C. Smith University in Charlotte, North Carolina. This is her first piece to be performed on stage.



Maria Angelica Caruso is an American-born dancer, choreographer, academic, social activist, fitness and wellness practitioner, and entrepreneur whose enterprise encompasses brand models focused in the arts, education, entertainment, and wellbeing sectors. Caruso's multifaceted conglomerate is comprised of five performance companies, a dance conservatory, a fitness program, and a dance movement therapy system, all under the auspices of the Bodiography brand. The alliance of organizations under her leadership include a production syndicate titled M-Train Productions, a fully functional multipurpose dance studio and performance space in her Movement Factory, the dance conservatory Bodiography Center for Movement, an affiliation with an academic institution of higher learning at La Roche University where she chairs the Performing Arts Department, and a publication known as the Arts Inclusive. All the encompassing entities led by Caruso's vision are known for their commitment to health and wellness in the arts and their championing of positive change in communities regionally and globally.

Choreographers



Lauren Suflita Skrabalak earned her B.F.A. in ballet performance and pedagogy from the University of Utah in 2002. While on scholarship, her undergraduate performing career included a guest artist role with Ballet West and dancing with the Utah Ballet. This allowed for an opportunity to travel abroad to Taipei, Taiwan, performing a soloist role in Balanchine's famed ballet Concerto Barocco. She also danced on the Medals Plaza stage during the 2002 Salt Lake Winter Olympics.

After graduation, Skrabalak performed, choreographed, and taught for Bodiography Contemporary Ballet in Pittsburgh. During her tenure with the company she held the role of rehearsal director, as well as the assistant director of the conservatory. Her choreographic works have appeared at the Byham Theater, Kelly-Strayhorn Theater, Patricia McBride & Jean-Pierre Bonnefoux Center for Dance, Charles LaBorde Theatre, as well as Johnson Theatre.

Skrabalak earned her M.F.A. in performing arts from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. She is a certified Pilates mat instructor and currently working towards her apparatus certification while teaching locally at Iron Butterfly Pilates. Skrabalak remains an active rehearsal director and artist with Bodiography Contemporary Ballet - Charlotte and is honored to be a faculty member for the Charlotte Ballet Academy.

Choreographers



Arlynn Zachary has an M.F.A. in choreography from UNCG, a B.A. in choreography from Goucher College, and an A.A. degree from CPCC. She has performed in works by Charles Weidman, Doris Humphrey, Martha Graham, Sean Curran, and Jennifer Archibald, among others. She has worked for Echo Contemporary Dance Company, Moving Poets Charlotte, The Wake Project, Baran Dance, and Taproot Ensemble, in the capacities of dancer, rehearsal director, stage manager, and lighting designer. She has served on the KinetiCollective and Charlotte Dance Festival (CDF) boards, and was the Director of Dance for the Charlotte New Music Festival's Dance Co-Lab. Her choreography has been presented at the American College Dance Association, Goucher College, Columbia College, Furman University, Belmont Abbey College, the University of North Carolina at Greensboro, North Carolina Dance Festival, Charlotte Dance Festival, Greensboro Fringe Festival, Loose Leaves Showcase, and Emergence Showcase, to name a few. She has received a Regional Artist Project Grant from the Arts and Science Council in 2015, the Charlotte Emerging Choreographer's Award from CDF in 2016, and the Kristina Larson Thesis Grant in 2019. She has taught dance at CPCC, JCSU, and UNCG. She is currently an adjunct professor at Winthrop University, the director of dance for an ASC Grant with Your Neighborhood Orchestra, sponsorship coordinator for CDF, and is the artistic director of THE MARK dance company.

Choreographers



Gabrielle A. Tull is an assistant professor of dance and coordinator for dance education at Winthrop University. She is a 2020 M.F.A. dance graduate from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro. As a previous high school dance director and curriculum curator, she received a Master of Education in divergent learning at Columbia College, South Carolina. Artistically, she has performed and collaborated with professional companies and artists including BJ Sullivan, Janet Lilly, Brian Sanders, City Modern Ensemble, The Power Company, Argentine Tango Troupe, and Terrance Henderson Dance Inc. Her recent scholarship in Afro Diasporic and Afro Cuban foundations in Jazz technique and performance was awarded through the Artist Express Grant, funded by the Virginia Commission for the Arts and the National Endowment for the Arts. Additionally, she was a lead presenter for the 2021 National Association of African American Studies international virtual conference.



Megan Smith is a senior dance major with a minor in health. This will be her fourth year performing in the faculty showcase. She has been in both the Senior and Junior Choreography Showcases and a member of Winthrop Spirit Squad. She had the opportunity to choreograph a routine for the RockHettes and was awarded the RockHette Scholarship for the 2020-21 academic year. She would like to thank her family, friends, and professors that have encouraged her to get her where she is today.



Semira Daniels is a senior dance major and educational studies minor with plans to pursue an M.A.T. in dance 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 nine dance showcases at Winthrop University and is incredibly excited to have her own work shown in the Spring Dance Showcase alongside the Winthrop dance faculty.

**WINTHROP UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE OF VISUAL AND PERFORMING ARTS**

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

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The National Association of Schools of Dance.

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