



2021

# Senior Choreography Showcase

JOHNSON THEATRE

Friday and Saturday, December 3 & 4  
at 7:30 p.m.

Sunday, December 5  
at 2 p.m.

Tickets:  
\$5 with Winthrop ID/  
\$10 general public



## ***Animal Manifesto***

Choreographer: Rockii Nelson

Music: "Wild Jungle Sounds" by Llewellyn; "Aqua y Puerta" by Lechuga Zafiro; "The Healer" by TSVI edited by Rockii Nelson

Lighting Designer: Diamond Fulwood

Dancers: Kayla Alexander, Nykira Allen, Hannah Hayman, RJ Lee, Ava Maldonado, Joshua Pringle

"The only alternative to coexistence is co-destruction. It is not the strongest or the most intelligent who will survive but those who can best manage change...only the fittest will survive." ~Charles Darwin, Jawahari Nehru, Leon C. Megginson

## ***Essence***

Choreographer: Caileigh Petty

Music: "Singin' In the Rain" by Gene Kelly; "Too Darn Hot" by Ella Fitzgerald and RAC; "I Dreamed a Dream" by Darren Criss; "Winter Blooms" from Original Cast Recording of Alice by Heart

Lighting Designer: Seaniece Harderman

Dancer: Olivia Seighman

The essence of the four seasons as told by musical theatre.

## ***The Closing Curtain***

Choreographer: Gracie Bennett

Music: "Rich Man's Frug" from Fosse; "Take off With Us" from *All That Jazz*; "Life is Just a Bowl of Cherries" (reprise) from Fosse; "I Gotcha" from Fosse

Lighting Designer: Carrington Wigfall

Dancers: Mackenzie Joy, Melodi Marston, Olivia Seighman, Nevaeh Woolens\*

What happens when the curtain closes on a part of your life, a part of you? This is a story of what happens on stage and behind the curtains and bright lights. Behind the glamour and art is a journey of joy, sometimes pain, and authenticity. Whatever that journey comes to, make sure you end it with a bang!

## ***In Repair***

Choreographer: Molly Nunn

Music: "Experience" by Ludovico Einaudi; "Vladimir's Blues" by Max Richter; "Atlantic" by Sleeping at Last

Lighting Designer: Haylee Green

Dancers: Caroline Bergvist, Hannah Hayman, Cassandra Jaramillo, RJ Lee, Kaitlin Metts, Jaiden Mosley

Just because something is familiar, doesn't mean it's safe. And just because somethings feels safe, doesn't mean it's good for you.

## **Box**

Choreographer: Alysha Lane

Music: "Every Praise" by Hezekiah Walker, edited by Alysha Lane;

"Lie" by Quickly, Quickly

Lighting Designer: Camille McCarty

Dancers: Alena Brown, RJ Lee

An illustration of my continuous nightmares after leaving a toxic and heavily religious environment.

## ***Searching for Salvation***

Choreographer: Madison Lapham

Music: "Elements" by Ludovico Einaudi and "Salvation" by Gabrielle Aplin with spoken words performed by Robert Kerson (poems: Your Wounds by Lauren Jarvis-Gibson and Mt. Take Heart by Sadwick) edited together by Madison Lapham

Lighting Designer: Diamond Fulwood

Dancers: Megan Fisher, Mackenzie Joy, Kaitlin Metts, Joshua Pringle

Someone once said the darkest of night produces the brightest of stars. This piece is dedicated to my mother, and those who struggle and face life's toughest trials by leaning on those closest to them when all seems lost.

## ***Melanin' Pot***

Choreographer: Ne'Miah Praise Gentry

Music: "Brown Skin Girl" by Beyoncé

Lighting Designer: Carrington Wigfall

Dancers: Kayla Alexander, Nykira Allen, Alyssa Boyd, Alena Brown, Tymia Lamb, Vanessa Shanks, Jala Smith

Melanin' female dancers are often put into the stereotype or restriction of not being capable. We all have our own individuality when it comes to dance but no matter what our background is, we are capable of the inevitable.

## **ALT**

Choreographer: Claudine Victorin

Music: "Never Enough" by Disclosure

Lighting Designer: Camille McCarty

Dancer: Mackenzie Joy

Showcasing the imperfections of being the "perfect" showgirl and showing the alternative world of what a perfect showgirl should look like. Think Moulin Rouge but groovy. This piece will showcase the undiscussed trauma that showgirls endured. They come on stage with a presence that looks like they have it all together, but we will never know the blood, sweat and tears they put into a piece that seems effortless to audience members.

### ***From Death Comes Life***

Choreographer: Danielle Owen

Music: "The Righteous Wrath of an Honorable Man"; "Lord I Just Can't Keep From Crying Sometimes"; "In Mirrors"; "And In Truth" all by Colin Stetson

Lighting Designer: Lauren Pilling\*

Dancers: Alena Brown, Cassandra Jaramillo, Kaitlin Metts, Jaiden Mosley

This piece is about going through the process of acknowledging and letting go of the things that hold us back.

### ***They Had It Coming***

Choreographer: Hallyn White

Music: "Cry of a Lady" by Terry Riley and Kronos Quartet;

"Panic, Shear Bloody Panic" by Hans Zimmer

Lighting Designer: Haylee Green

Dancers: Keshawn Britt, Ava Maldonado, Melodi Marston, Madison Syswerda

Unrecognized anguish can create quite the movement and masterpiece.

### ***Eclectic Harmony***

Choreographer: Samantha Warren

Music: "HipHop Dreams" by ViktorSE, edited by Samantha Warren

Lighting Designer: Lauren Pilling\*

Dancers: Keshawn Britt, Jada Brown, Kelliann Jones, Vanessa Shanks

In order to find harmony, we must first celebrate our distinctive qualities. Only then can we move together.

## **4**

Choreographer: Skyler Leary

Music: "Hearing and One" by Sleeping At Last

Lighting Designer: Seaniece Harderman

Dancers: Caroline Bergvist, Keyshaun Britt, Jaiden Mosley, Hallyn White

The attachment and love between siblings in a dysfunctional upbringing.

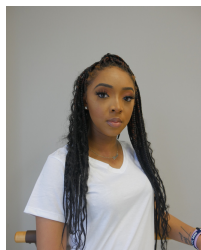
Dancers have tested negative for COVID 48 hours prior to performance, in order to perform unmasked.

\*member of Alpha Psi Omega

# Choreographers



**Gracie Bennett** is a dance instructor, choreographer and performer from North Carolina. She is pursuing a B.A. in dance with a minor in arts management. During her time as a student at Winthrop, she has been part of the annual Winthrop Dance Theatre, the Rock Hill RockHettes dance group and Senior Choreography Showcase as a performer. She has also been a featured choreographer in the Junior Choreography Showcase. Currently, she is the 2021 City of Rock Hill ChristmasVille Dance Scholarship recipient for the RockHettes. She will be a featured choreographer for the RockHettes ChristmasVille 2021 performances. She is also pursuing dance studio teaching as a technical instructor at Carolina Dance Academy, for students ranging from the ages of five to eighteen years old. She is very excited to be a featured choreographer for the Senior Choreography Showcase, and is so excited to bring her vision to life one last time on the Johnson Stage.



**Ne'Miah Praise Gentry** is from Spartanburg, South Carolina. She is currently pursuing a B.A. in dance with a minor in business administration. Gentry began her dance career at the age of three with Liturgical dance at her home church. Her love for dance began to grow, and she decided to expand her knowledge in a nearby dance studio. Before coming to Winthrop, she was a dance apprentice at her home studio and was encouraged to study dance in college. While being at Winthrop, Gentry has been involved in a plethora of dance programs and performances as both a choreographer and performer.



**Alysha Lane** is an African American woman with a love and fiery passion for dance. Originally born in Enterprise, Alabama, she grew up in the southern part of Hopkins, South Carolina learning and teaching liturgical dance under the guidance of her pastoral grandparents. She is currently pursuing a dance degree with a theatre minor; she also plans to become an entertainer and wants to be an inspiration to others across the globe. One of her most memorable quotes is "the English language is such a difficult language. But when I dance, I'm talking in my own language."



**Madison Lapham** is a senior dance and exercise science major from Myrtle Beach, South Carolina. She has been dancing since she was two years old and started performing at the age of six. She began assisting with teaching at the age of 10 and eventually started teaching at the age of 15. Lapham has performed in numerous productions and variations of choreographic works. She performed and cheered with the Winthrop Spirit Squad working with former and current Honey Bees. She has worked with guest teachers and choreographers: Miriam Mesa Pelly, Herman Justo, Antia Pacylowski, and Maria Caruso. She is currently teaching in Rock Hill at Revolution Dance Company as the ballet and condition instructor for ages 5-19 as well as teaching the adult fitness classes.



**Skyler Leary** is from York, South Carolina, and is pursuing a B.A. dance degree. She has been dancing for 19 years and has been choreographing at Julie's Fancy Feet Dance Academy for four years. She has also choreographed for the YCHS dance team for three years. She also owns a dance fitness business called Dance2Fit with Sky, which has two locations and three instructors. As a competitive dancer she received Grand National Champion awards for her solos. In 2017, she held the title of Miss Fusion Charlotte and Miss Dance USA 2018. Before transferring to Winthrop, Leary was a member of the Limestone University Dance Team on a dance scholarship. She has been a guest choreographer for the ACDC Bright Dance Convention and Adagio School of Dance Convention. She has received awards for her pieces at dance competitions such as choreography, entertainment, and crowd pleaser awards.



**Rockii Nelson** was raised in Spartanburg, South Carolina, and is a Rock Hill-based dance artist. She is pursuing a B.A. in dance. As an undergraduate, Nelson has been involved on campus serving as a member of the Spirit Squad. Also, she is the president of the Winthrop National Dance Education Organization. Nelson has performed and stage managed for Winthrop Dance Theatre, in addition to choreographing for Junior and Senior Showcases. Her skills range from being the performer and collaborating with the choreographer, plus handling behind-the-scenes tasks that are necessary for putting on a production. Nelson uses the tools that have been bestowed on her to influence her peers and community. Nelson is acquiring the necessary tools in the Department of Theatre and Dance to enhance her capabilities further. After graduation, she hopes to continue her performance career while gaining her masters'.



**Molly Marie Nunn** is a senior studying to receive her Bachelor of Arts degree in dance education. She is from small-town Watkinsville, Georgia, and has been dancing for nineteen years. Nunn is skillful in numerous dance forms, including jazz, ballet, modern, contemporary, aerial, pomp and hip-hop. While studying abroad in Florence, Italy, Nunn had the privilege of studying modern dance and hip-hop at the Florence University of the Arts. While in Florence she danced in both a hip-hop performance and a modern performance. In her years at Winthrop, she has performed in numerous choreographic works created by Winthrop's faculty and students. Last year she was awarded Best Junior Choreographed Piece for her dance titled *Atrophy*. This year, she is excited to choreograph for Winthrop's Senior Choreography Showcase. Nunn is extremely eager to embark on her new performance and choreographic endeavors.



**Danielle Owen** is a senior dance major with a minor in film and content production. In their time here at Winthrop, they have performed in Winthrop Dance Theatre, Senior Choreography Showcase, and the Spring One Act Festival. Owen has been looking forward to this opportunity since their freshman year, and they are so thankful for all the encouragement from friends and family.

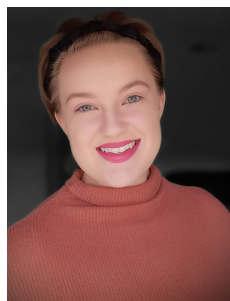




**Caileigh Petty** is a 22-year old B.A. dance major with an arts management minor. She currently teaches dance classes for Kindergarten-5th grade students at Showtime Academy in Rock Hill, and is choreographing for Showtime Theatre Company's production of *Willy Wonka Jr.* She has been dancing since the age of 3 and performing in musical theatre productions since the age of 9. Ms. Petty choreographed for Winthrop's Junior Choreography Showcase this past spring 2021 semester. She is excited to now be choreographing for the Senior Choreography Showcase and hopes you enjoy the show!



**Claudine Victorin** is a graduating senior dance major with a minor in French from Fort Mill, South Carolina. She has previously been a part of Winthrop Dance Theatre '19, Junior Choreography Showcase '20, Spring Dance Showcase '20, and her last Winthrop Dance Theatre this semester. She wants to thank her peers who collectively brought this student showcase to life and hopes everyone enjoys the show! She wants to thank her professors, mentors and peers for always inspiring her. She is blessed to have received her education here at Winthrop and wishes the best of luck to her fellow graduating peers in their future endeavors.



**Samantha Warren** is native to southern Indiana, and is a senior dance education major. After graduation Warren plans on traveling the United States with her husband, while also working as a virtual dance teacher. She will be graduating with honors and has recently completed her honors thesis, which is an accumulation of resources and research for dance/movement instructors, specifically aimed towards students with autism spectrum disorders. She has an interest in working with children with disabilities, and in the future would like to open a business that uses play to teach dance, motor control and life skills.



**Hallyn White** is an aspiring performer from Goose Creek, South Carolina. She has been studying multiple genres of dance since the age of two. She attended All That Jazz Dance Company and Just Dance Charleston Dance Centre. White started dancing competitively at the age of five and continued until 18 attending various dance conventions, including NYCDA and Break The Floor. After she graduated high school, White chose to attend Winthrop. She currently studies dance and minors in theatre. Winthrop awarded her the Deans Meritorious Scholarship which is awarded to students who exhibit "artistic ability and academic achievement." In 2019 she attended and performed with her university at the American Collegiate Dance Association and in 2021 she worked with Maria Caruso. Ms. White currently performs with Carowinds at the Great Pumpkin Fest day show.

## CREW

|                                |   |
|--------------------------------|---|
| <b>Director</b>                | Gabrielle Tull  |
| <b>Stage Managers</b>          | KJ Adams, Ariel Fisher, Fierra McKnight                                       |
| <b>Costume Designer</b>        | Janet Gray  |
| <b>Technical Director</b>      | Biff Edge   |
| <b>Costume Shop Supervisor</b> | Cher Lambeth  |
| <b>Scene Shop Supervisor</b>   | Marty Wolff   |
| <b>Running Crew</b>            | Aliya Busbee, Annabelle Garcia, Taylor Goodwin, Kaleigh Miller, Faith Mooring |

## WINTHROP UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OF VISUAL AND PERFORMING ARTS

|                         |                       |
|-------------------------|-----------------------|
| Jeff Bellantoni, M.F.A. | <i>Dean</i>           |
| Wanda Ebright, Ph.D.    | <i>Associate Dean</i> |

## DEPARTMENT OF THEATRE AND DANCE

|                               |  |
|-------------------------------|--|
| Zinori Broñola, M.M.          | <i>Instructor of Theatre and Dance</i>                             |
| Biff Edge, M.F.A.             | <i>Assistant Professor of Theatre</i>                              |
| Matt Ferrell, M.F.A.          | <i>Associate Professor of Theatre</i>                              |
| Daniel Gordon, M.F.A.         | <i>Department Chair and Professor</i>                              |
| Janet Gray, M.F.A.            | <i>Professor of Theatre</i>  |
| Stephen Gundersheim, M.F.A.   | <i>Professor of Theatre</i>  |
| Ramona Kundl                  | <i>Administrative Assistant</i>                                    |
| Marvin McAllister, Ph.D.      | <i>Associate Professor of Theatre</i>                              |
| Sandra Neels                  | <i>Associate Professor of Dance</i>                                |
| Kelly Ozust, M.F.A.           | <i>Assistant Professor of Dance</i>                                |
| Meg Schriffen, M.F.A.         | <i>Associate Professor of Dance<br/>and Dance Program Director</i> |
| Gabrielle Tull, M.F.A., M.Ed. | <i>Assistant Professor of Dance</i>                                |

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

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