

Spring Dance Showcase

Friday, April 12 through
Saturday, April 13 at 7:30 p.m.
Sunday, April 14 at 2 p.m.

Tickets: \$5 with Winthrop ID/
\$10 general public
Johnson Theatre | 2024



There is no intermission for this concert. There will be a brief pause between each piece for you to read your programs. Please remain in your seats.

Colliding Through Time

Choreographer: Emily Wiley

Music: Kronos Quartet String quartet No. 5 movements 2 and 3

Dancers: Kyran Anderson, Brandon Barrientos, Madalin Beam, Morgan Belton, Elloise Bethea, Rachel Fuller, Mikey Kesler, Kristin Lowery, Autumn Pearson, Rachel Peterson, Hannah Pfenninger, Josh Pringle, Lilly Tillman, Kayelyn Wilburn

This piece represents the kaleidoscope of emotion and connection that occurs when others pass through your life.

that's amore

Choreographer: Ashlea Sovetts in collaboration with dancers

Music: "What is Love 7 Mix" by Haddaway and "L-O-V-E" by Nat King Cole

Dancers: LeNyah Bryan, Emily Camp, Lyric Clancy, Cassandra Jaramillo, Sara Montreuil, Claudia Sandoval, Grayson Skidmore, Dakarai Vann

This creative process initially began with the question, how do we love ourselves? Very quickly this question expanded and deepened into the inquiry of what love can actually be in our day-to-day lives based on the personal narratives of the cast. While groovin' to older love songs, the cast weaves through their ideas of what love is to them. As you watch, take a moment and reflect, what does love mean to you?

The Cruz In

Choreographer: Jenn Jones

Music: "Made to Fly" by Colton Dixon; "Give Peace a Change" by John Lennon and Yoko Ono; "Desperado" by the Eagles

Dancers: Brandon Barrientos, Raina Centner, Miracle Etheridge, Shaniah Gibson, Layne Harder, Hannah Hayman, Zoey Hughes, Jayla Jamison York, Kyia Jones, Valerie Kempton, Mikey Kesler, RJ Lee, Alecia Littlejohn, Kaitlin Metts, Lily Moore, Natalie Palmo, Autumn Pearson, Hannah Pfenninger, Mikayla Rainey, Maya Schlueter, Maya Thomas, Lilly Tillman, Dakarai Vann

A glimpse into the life of Nikolas Cruz, this work explores the choices made by a 19-year-old man who murdered 17 people at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida on February 14, 2018. The community of Parkland was forever changed following this horrific day. The trial continued until November 2022 when Cruz was officially sentenced to 34 consecutive life sentences without the possibility of parole, one each for the total number of victims murdered and wounded by Cruz. There have been a total of 394 school shootings since Columbine in 1999. 346 of these tragedies occurred in 2023.

The above piece explores gun violence and it's aftermath.

The Power of Love

Choreographer: Rachel Peterson

Music: "Perfect" by Brian Catuccio and "Gavi's Song" by Lindsey Stirling

Dancers: Madalin Beam & RJ Lee on Friday & Sunday performances

Mikey Kesler & Brooke Trigg Saturday performance

Love is ever changing and unfaltering. Through the dark tunnel to find the light on the other side, we will make it through together. In dedication to my fiancé and late brother -in-law.

The Identity of Success

Choreographer: Jamil Davis

Music: "Black Skinhead", "Clique", "Higher", "Praise God", "All of the Lights" all by Kanye West; "Watch Out" by 2 Chainz; "Gimme Da Light" by Lil Yachty;

"Bandit" by Don Toliver

Dancers: Brandon Barrientos, Rachel Fuller, Olivia Greene, Zoey Hughes,

Jayla Jamison York, Josh Pringle, Trinity Robinson, Dakarai Vann

Success has different meanings to different people. This dance explores the various aspects of success and how they can make someone feel, whether striving for success, achieving success, being content with the success of life, or having fun with the journey to a goal. Jamil's intent is for the audience to explore that idea with each section of the dance.

Choreographers



Emily Wiley was born and raised in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania where she received her early dance training at Pennsylvania Regional Ballet. After her family relocated to South Carolina, she continued pre-professional training at the School of North Carolina Dance Theatre. Later, Emily attended the Houston Ballet Academy on a full scholarship. After one year, Emily was invited to join Houston Ballet II, where she became the first representative of Houston Ballet to compete in the prestigious ballet competition, Prix De Lausanne in Lausanne, Switzerland. During her 10-year career as a soloist with Houston Ballet, she was featured in many works by world-renowned choreographers including: George Balanchine, Sir Kenneth McMillan, Anthony Tudor, William Forsythe, Stanton Welch, Wayne McGregor, Jiri Kylian and Nacho Duato. In midst of international company tours, she juggled principal roles and received a Princess Grace Award nomination. In 2013, she was one of the featured dancers in Jordan Matter's print work, "Dancers Among Us," photographed in New York City. After retiring from a full-time performance career, Emily began to cultivate her teaching skills and discovered her natural ability to choreograph and coach for all skill sets.



Ashlea Sovetts is a multifaceted dance artist who can flow between a variety of different roles. Primarily, her work focuses on dance in higher education, choreographic residences, arts program development, and arts administration. As an educator, she emphasizes a somatic approach by focusing on breath, fluidity and awareness of one's presence in relationship to others. As a choreographer, she investigates real-life experiences as inspiration to create narratives. Her work has been supported by the South Carolina Arts Commission, Alternate Roots, the Andrew W. Mellon foundation, and the New England Foundation for the Arts. As an art program manager, her skill set includes idea and content development, community outreach, recruitment and retention of students, grant writing/editing and leading facilitation amongst artists through project execution. As an administrator, Ashlea was the recruitment coordinator for the Department of Dance at Texas Woman's University and actively serves on the board for the Grand Strand Charter Arts High School, an arts-focused school set to open in her home community next year. Internationally, Ashlea has worked closely to develop programming for the Staibdance Company's summer intensive and worked as the university partner relations coordinator for the Sant'Anna Institute in Sorrento, Italy. Ashlea still continues to develop international dance programming in Sorrento and the greater region of Naples, Italy. Currently, Ashlea is visiting assistant professor in dance at her alma mater, Winthrop University. Ashlea, originally from Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, graduated Cum Laude and holds a Bachelor of Arts in dance from Winthrop University in Rock Hill, South Carolina, and has a Master of Fine Arts degree in dance from Texas Woman's University in Denton, Texas.



Jenn Jones began her classical ballet training at age two in Marietta, Georgia, taught by Melanie Forsburg (NYCB), later moving to Daytona Beach, Florida, where she was taught by Barbara Higgins (Watson), who founded Southern Ballet Theatre, now Orlando Ballet, and the Ormond School of Ballet under the direction of Jane Bradshaw. Jones attended the dance program at Columbia College Chicago before returning to Florida and earning a B.S. in interdisciplinary social science with a concentration in dance performance from the University of South Florida. Jenn is currently finishing her M.A. in dance education and a post-baccalaureate master's certificate in nonprofit management from the University of North Carolina Greensboro. Twenty years of professional performing experience (2001-2021) has included: the TOC Project, a contemporary ballet company in Miami directed by former Twyla Tharp company member, Lara Tinari; Miami Contemporary; Bella Danza, an eclectic modern dance company in Tampa directed by Maria Capitano-Pardo; Karen Pederson and Dancers, utilizing both abled and disabled bodies; Busch Gardens Tampa; and Sara Council Dance Project, among others. Jones' works as a freelance choreographer setting original works on dancers of all ages and abilities. Over the years, she has taught in schools including Tampa Prep, a prestigious private school for grades 6-12, and the Academy of Holy Names, an all-girls Catholic high school in Tampa, Florida. Dance studios have included Charlotte Ballet Academy and the Patel Conservatory at the Straz Performing Arts Center in Tampa, home of Next Generation Ballet, in addition to competition settings. Jenn currently serves as ballet director for Havilah Dance Company in Matthews, North Carolina and teaches as an adjunct professor and choreographer at Winthrop University in Rock Hill, South Carolina.



Rachel Peterson '24 is thrilled to have been chosen as the student choreographer for this show. She is a professional choreographer and performer in the East Central area where she has trained for more than fifteen years. As a senior dance major at Winthrop University, she has performed in faculty work and presented her senior thesis last semester in the Fall Dance Showcase. Her choreographic works include *South Pacific*, *Hunchback of Notre Dame*, *Wizard of Oz*, and companies/studios across the state. She is very excited for her upcoming work with The Dilworth Players as their musical choreographer and master classes in Charlotte. She wants to thank her esteemed professors, friends, and family for always supporting her dreams and helping her to achieve her goals.



Jamil Davis '17 is a thriving artist in Charlotte, North Carolina with exceptional talent as a dancer, choreographer, and music artist. Born in Bronx, New York, he moved to North Carolina at a young age and now calls the Queen City his home. He graduated from Winthrop University where he majored in dance, studying ballet, modern, and jazz. He now teaches dance in the Charlotte school system, as well as various studios throughout the city. He also coaches the Charlotte Hornets all male hip-hop dance team, the Hive Crew, creating their dances and overseeing the team. He has had the opportunity to teach collegiately as a professor of hip-hop dance at Johnson C. Smith University and setting dance pieces at Winthrop University. With the likes of teaching master classes at Charlotte Ballet, to working with Charlotte's local celebrities, he continues to encourage and inspire dancers through his teaching everywhere he goes.



CREW

Director	Kelly Ozust
Stage Manager	Ash Hernick
Lighting Designer	John P. Woodey
Costume Designer	Leslie Cook
Technical Director	John P. Woodey
Scene Shop Supervisor	Erica Meece
Costume Shop Supervisor	Cheralyn Lambeth
Box Office Manager	Brandon Dawson
Scene Shop TAs	Cooper Beck*, Emily Dennison, Kiernan Hedlund, Ami Hughey*, Sebastian Liafsha
Costume Shop TAs	Mary Horn Garber*, Chloe Morgan*, Mirrel Sharpe
Box Office TAs	Danielle Banks, Cooper Beck*, Jada Brown, Megan Cipolla*, Mackenzie Joy, Noah Nappier
Costume Construction Crew	Jessica Caltagirone*, Kiernan Hedlund, Liv Bouknight, Brandi Zandi
Scenic Construction/Lighting Crew	Jessica Caltagirone*, Kate Evans, Donovan Green, Madison Gwin, Camille McCarty*, Vanessa Shanks, Kayelyn Wilburn
Running Crew	Morgan Daly, Ethan Ganzell, Zoe Gumangan, Leigh Horton
Poster Designer	Prema Van Deren

*Denotes members of Alpha Psi Omega National Theatre Honor Society

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