

CONSTELLATION

An Assemblage of Energies
senior dance concert



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Senior Dance Concert 2011

“We all live in our own world. But if you look up at the starry sky - you’ll see that all the different worlds up there combine to form constellations, solar systems, galaxies.”

“We are travelers on a cosmic journey, stardust, swirling and dancing in the eddies and whirlpools of infinity. Life is eternal. We have stopped for a moment to encounter each other, to meet, to love, to share. This is a precious moment. It is a little parenthesis in eternity.”

~ Paulo Coelho

Rituals of Home

Witness: Aleks Weaver

Movers: Paige Haroldson, Betsy Gaasedelen, Moriah McFarland,
Abby Masters

Music: *Ambient 1: Music for Airports* by Brian Eno

Music Editor: Maddi Frick

Lighting Designer: Ben Golden

As you enter the theater, you are invited to come up to the stage, walk around us, observe, notice how you feel and what you experience. As the concert begins at 7:30, please find your seat and continue to experience our movement ritual.

Possible Self

Choreographed by Stephen Schroeder and Siri Smithback

Dancer: Siri Smithback

Music: Bob Dylan *It Ain't Me, Babe*, Vitamin String Quartet
Nothing Else Matters, Soundscore by Stephen Schroeder and Siri
Smithback

Costumes: Siri Smithback and The St. Olaf Dance Department

Thank you to Louisa Fish-Sadin for thoughtful feedback
throughout my journey.

Be kind to yourself, dear—to our innocent follies.

Forget any sounds or touch you knew that did not help you dance.

You will come to see that all evolves us.

—Rumi

Origins

Choreographer: Katie Pflaum

Music: *Ramachandra Bhavayami* Sunada, *In the Upper Room:*
Dance II Philip Glass

Dancers: Seipati Jonga, Mattie Koerner, Julia Moser-Hardy

This work is presented in two sections, both of which explore the theme of creation. The first is inspired by Hinduism and characteristics of classical Indian dance and the second by the Biblical story of Genesis and its imagery.

Travel Through Line, Shape, and Shadow

Choreographer: Marta Johnson

Music: Ryuichi Sakamoto: *Glacier, Hibari* (mixed by Marta Johnson)

Dancers: Alex Dreas, Claire Breining, Dayna Jondal, Emily Karboski

Party Crasher

Choreographer: Eddie Oroyan

Music: Mixed by Eddie Oroyan

Dancer: Zachary Teska

Costume Design: Zachary Teska

Set: Eddie Oroyan

INTERMISSION

Seaborne

Choreographer: Molly Hess

Dancers & Collaborating artists: Louisa Fish-Sadin, Steve Schroth, Tyler Stuckey, Lorna Dielentheis, Jenny Peterson & Lindsey Mornson

Speech Director: Kelsey Hall

Additional Event: Community Workshop,

Saturday Dec. 10, from 12-1pm, Dittmann Center Studio 1

As part of the creative process to make “Seaborne,” the cast and myself hosted open rehearsals that invited the community into our process as active participants, as dancers and witnesses. We invite you on Saturday, December 10 to join us for one last community workshop. This workshop allows you to experience dance from a different point of view, as the mover and creator. We welcome people of all abilities and ages to participate in any way that you are comfortable.

Allpa Tura: Stories of the Land

Choreographer: Heather Dansingburg

Music: Alice Gomez, Los Indios de Nazca, Kobi; Music mixed by Heather Dansingburg

Dancers: Gabby Coll, Meg Kirchhoff, Alyssa Lynne, Kiersten Ruda

Allpa Tura [land | soil | mud | in one of Ecuador's indigenous languages, Kichwa] explores the relationship between indigenous communities and their traditional lands. for these communities land is life. water. shelter. entertainment. physical and spiritual nourishment. the land provides all things.

Every part of this land is sacred for my people. Each brilliant pine needle, each sandy shore, every mist in the dark woods, every meadow and every humming insect is holy in the memory and experience of my people.

-Dwamish leader

outside forces act upon the land. the power of black gold. crude oil abounds underneath ecuadorian amazonia. water poisoned. land defiled. soil that once produced an abundance of vegetation is barren. people who depended on the earth to provide for them forced to work for companies polluting their land to survive.

remember. the earth is resilient. we must fight for our land. our land will give us strength.

A Practice

Choreographer: Shannon Denzel

Music: *Om Mani Padme Hum 2* by Jane Winther

Dancers: Lydia Kantor, Alex Dreas, Kelsey Daly, Hilary Parlanti, Hattie Andres, Lauren Friesinger, Ashley Tanberg

Understudies: Aylin Awbrey, Siri Smithback

Alone with the Space and Sound

Dancer: Britta Anderson

Choreographer: Matthew Keefe

Music: Charles Mingus, *Fables of Faubus*

Musicians: Shane Allen, piano; Noah Anderson, tenor saxophone; Grant Gordon, string bass; Johnny Graves, drums; Mark Lee, alto saxophone; John Maddox, trombone

Transcription: Britta Anderson and the musicians

Technical Crew

Technical Director: Kyle Carson

Stage Managers: Kateri Salk, Anastasia Nikitovic

Light Board Operator: Derek Waller

Sound Board Operator: Jacob Roberts

Stagehands: Casey Bouldin, Hannah Carvalho, Dana Dass

Flyrail: Michael Stralka

House Manager: Marissa Recht

Ushers: Katherine Fewer, Krista Swedenburg

Videographer: Sarah Langer

Special Thanks

Anthony Roberts; Aimee Jillson and Roz Moscott for all their help with costumes; The Dance Department, especially for providing cake and beverages for the reception; Econo Foods; Chris Cornelius, our wonderful photographer; Stephanie Gerhardson; Cindy Teska, for all her costume help for *Party Crasher*; The families and friends of the Seniors for their support throughout our Olaf experience; The faculty members of the senior committees, particularly our external committee members: Guido Alvarez, Wendell Arneson, Douglas Beussman, Amy Borden, Bob Hauck, Jennifer Koenig, Meg Ojala, Kris Thalhammer, Tom Williamson

About The St. Olaf Dance Department

The St. Olaf College Dance Department engages students in the study of dance as a personal art, a cultural art, and a fine art. The department provides education and training in a variety of movement disciplines including modern dance, ballet, dances from world cultures, somatics, and ballroom. Performance and creative opportunities within the dance department are numerous and wide ranging.

Students who earn the B.A. in Dance at St. Olaf College are equipped with an entrepreneurial set of skills required of today's graduates that are honed through thoughtful and disciplined experiences in creating, collaborating, analyzing, communicating, problem solving, and moving. Recent dance alumnae manage, direct, and perform with professional companies or work as free-lance artists. Others pursue graduate study in choreography, performance, teaching, dance therapy, or somatics. Dance students leave St. Olaf College with the ability to enter other fields, such as the healing professions, arts management, psychology, environmental studies, media, etc. In short, a B.A. in Dance from St. Olaf College prepares students for a wide range of life and career possibilities and options, certainly including, but not limited to dance.

The St. Olaf Dance Department is a charter member of the National Association of Schools of Dance, and is one of only two schools in the state of Minnesota to be an accredited institutional member. The faculty is composed of three full-time and three part-time faculty, a full-time technical director, and a staff musician. The Dance Department typically graduates 7-10 dance majors each year and serves many of the 3,000 students of St. Olaf College.

About the Senior Dance Major Capstone Experience

This evening's performance is the culmination of the senior dance majors' transformational experiences of designing and implementing their individual senior dance projects. Within this process, each dance major has reflected upon their entire liberal

arts journey and selected an Area of Specialty, which is the synthesis of a content area (the ‘what’ of the research process) and a mode of presentation (the dissemination method). Each student assembles a committee of two dance faculty and one faculty member from outside the dance department to serve as mentors who support, challenge, and guide the students during the lives of their projects (Thanks to the many external faculty members who have served over the years!). In addition to being the creative architects of their senior dance projects, the senior dance majors are also responsible for the planning, finances and promotion of this evening’s senior dance concert.

Now that you are here, the senior dance majors invite you to join in their explorations. Regardless of your background or familiarity with dance or movement, you have something unique and valuable to stir into the mix: your life experiences, your point of view, your frame of mind as you view the concert. We encourage you to be an active observer, to let your own experiences color what you see, think, hear, and feel during tonight’s performance. It is not as important that you “get it”, as it is that you participate in the journey and endeavor to try to get and give “something”.

We thank you for your support, and we sincerely hope you enjoy your experience at this evening’s performance.

Announcements

Please Join us following our Friday performance in the lobby of Dittmann Center for a reception with food and beverage.

The gallery in the hallway to the left of Kelsey Theater holds displays by several of the Senior Dance Majors with images, notes, and reflections from their creative processes. Please feel free to browse and learn more about the projects.

Guest Biographies

Matthew Keefe has performed with several ballet, modern and opera companies including Lyric Opera of Chicago, Fort Wayne Ballet, Boston Ballet 2, Charleston Ballet Theater, Louisville Ballet, Ohio Ballet, Ballet Met Columbus, Minnesota Opera and the James Sewell Ballet. A choreographer of over 40 ballets, his work has won awards from Regional Dance America and was selected for the Ballet Builders Showcase in New York. Matthew received an MFA in Dance from the University of Iowa. Equally at home in the artistic, production and administrative realms of dance; Matthew has served as the Interim Artistic Director of Ballet Quad Cities, founder and producer of “The Studio 2A Project”, Development Associate/Special Events Manager at George Street Playhouse, and adjunct faculty member for the Mason Gross School of the Arts, Rutgers University. Matthew also serves as Vice Chair on the Dance/USA Board of Trustees and consultant to arts organizations via his company Meadowroad Arts Services. He is married to dancer Brittany Fridenstine-Keefe.

Eddie Oroyan dances with companies Black Label Movement and Shapiro & Smith. His experience spans Zenon Dance Company, Arena Dance, Creach/Company, Keith Johnson, Maggie Bergeron, Joe Chvala and the Flying Foot Forum, Minnesota Opera, Nautilus Music Theatre, and Metropolitan Ballet. He was featured as “Dance Artist of the Year 2006” in City Pages, given honorable mention in the Star Tribune’s 2006 Artist of the Year, and received Metro Magazine’s 2009 “Keeper Award.” Eddie’s choreography has been recognized and performed in ACDFA Gala concerts and at the Bryant Lake Bowl, Phipps, Varsity, Southern, and the McGuire theatres in the Twin Cities area. His work has also been commissioned in several Twin Cities Arts schools, UW-River Falls, Hamline University, and St. Olaf, while his piece, “Melisma,” was presented at the 2006 Choreographer’s Evening. His latest exploration, “Brown Rocket,” was performed in the 2008 Momentum Series, for which he received a 2008 Sage Award for ‘Outstanding Performer’ and nominated for ‘Outstanding Performance.’ Eddie is a 2010 McKnight Fellow in dance.

Stephen Schroeder currently dances with Zenon Dance Company and has since November of 2001. He received his college education from the University of Colorado-Boulder and continues to learn from his colleagues, the plethora of choreographers brought to Zenon and from his personal study of life including the in depth investigation of three felines. In addition to dancing with Zenon, he has been seen locally with TU Dance, the Minnesota Opera, ARENA Dances, and continues to guest for Minnesota Dance Theater and, nationally, with Interweave Dance Theater, Cathy Young Dances and Sean Curran Company. He has choreographed for two past St. Olaf students and has set work for Interweave Dance Theater (Boulder), Instruments of Movement (Chicago) and for the Zenon Block E Program now Zenon Dance Zone. "The best part of my life is my wife. She's an Ole grad, fellow dancer, and inspires me the most."

Senior Biographies

Britta Anderson is a senior at St. Olaf College studying dance and Criminalistics. She has been a member of the St. Olaf dance company, Companydance, all four years and currently serves as President. She helped form and currently directs St. Olaf's liturgical dance company, Leap of Faith. Britta has performed in a variety of pieces during her time at St. Olaf including works by St. Olaf faculty, students and guest artist Uri Sands. In addition, Britta participated in an internship in New York her junior year where she worked with choreographer Matthew Keefe to develop her senior capstone work as well as learning the in's and out's of being a freelance artist. Britta looks forward to graduation and continuing on her dancing journey.

Heather Dansingburg will graduate in May from Saint Olaf College with majors in Dance and Political Science. She grew up in beautiful Winona, Minnesota and has had a joyful time on the Hill the past four years in the dance community and the cross country team. During her time at St. Olaf she has been a member of Companydance, working under faculty and student choreographers. Her study abroad experience as a witness to injustice in Ecuador has directed her focus after graduation towards social justice and activism with the hope of living in a community where she can continue to strengthen her Spanish language skills.

Shannon Denzel will graduate from Saint Olaf College in May with a major in Dance and a concentration in Film Studies. She has enjoyed dancing at Bates Dance Festival, The American Dance Festival, and with other artists across the country. Her piece for the Senior Concert is influenced and inspired by her recent dance experiences. These include a recent trip to China, choreographing Arabian Nights for the St. Olaf Theater Department, the practices of Bikram and Vinyasa Yoga, and the St. Olaf Dance Department. She is excited to graduate and start breaking into the film industry and choreograph for music videos, or move to India for a few years and live in seclusion.

Molly Hess originally from Connecticut, ventured into the wilds of Minnesota armed with a warm coat so she could be part of the St. Olaf dance department. Over the past four years the coat came in handy, enabling her to travel to and from rehearsals for faculty, guest and student choreographed works. Molly had the wonderful opportunity to spend a semester, coat free, studying West African dance at the University of Ghana. She dedicated her summers to teaching and studying art at Camp Sloane and Bearnstow. Next summer, Molly will return to Bearnstow to lead their Day Camp for a second time. Many thanks to her dancers, whose vivid imaginations and playful spirits made every rehearsals a joy and to those who attended our rehearsals, each time bringing new inspiration to “Seaborne.”

Marta Johnson is a senior dance and Asian studies major, hailing from Starbuck, Minnesota. She has been apart of Companydance, and The Rhythm Project during her four years at St. Olaf. She has enjoyed working with faculty and students on various projects and pieces. During her stay at St. Olaf, Marta was able explore the world of dance more and to also explore the world by traveling abroad. This has helped deepen her approach to dance and also how she makes dance a daily part of her life. She thanks her family and friends for all their love and support on her journey of dance and life. After graduation, Marta hopes to live, dance, and work in a foreign country.

Katie Pflaum is a senior majoring in dance with a concentration in environmental studies. Originally from Rapid City, South Dakota, she began taking ballet classes at the age of fifteen and reveled in every dancing moment. Since arriving at St. Olaf, her passion for dance has flourished with classes, involvement in Christmasfest, Rhythm Project, Companydance Spring Concerts, and the whole experience of taking part in the dance department community. With everything Katie has learned through dance so far, she realizes the infinite potential it has to be taken to unexpected places and all aspects of her life. She would like to thank her dancers, teachers, family, friends, and senior classmates for their support and all of the wonderful opportunities she has had at St. Olaf.

Siri Smithback is a senior majoring in dance and concentrating in biomedical studies. She has been an active member of Companydance, working under the direction of faculty Anthony Roberts, Janice Roberts and Heather Klopchin, guest artist Shapiro and Smith and student choreographers. She has also had the opportunity to choreograph and perform a piece in the 2010 Companydance Spring concert. This past summer, Siri attended the American Dance Festival in Durham, North Carolina, studying under Leah Cox, Mark Haim, Gwen Welliver, Abigail Yager, Ming-Lung Yang. Inspired by her passion for Norwegian culture, Siri co-directs a Norwegian folk dance group on campus. She hails from Madison, Wisconsin.

Zachary Teska finally found his true heart's desire in movement and dance. Since his discovery of dance, he has been a part of St. Olaf's Companydance, Veselica, and Rhythm Project, working with Anthony Roberts, Janice Roberts, Heather Klopchin, Sherry Saterstrom, and Anne Von Bibra, as well as guest artists Shapiro & Smith Dance. The summer of 2011, he attended ADF, studying with Leah Cox, Curt Haworth, Ishmael Houston-Jones, Yvonne Maier, Ming-Lung Yang, and Jesse Zarritt. Zack has also had the great pleasure of working with Eddie Oroyan on this Senior Capstone Project. It has been one of the best experiences ever. Zack looks forward to graduation and the pursuit of his professional life in dance.

Aleks Weaver is a senior dance major with a concentration in Women's Studies. Originally from Oklahoma, she has never known a life without dance and is blessed to be a part of the St. Olaf dance community and the opportunities it provides. Throughout her four years at the college she has performed in faculty, student, and guest residency pieces as well as spent her summers studying at the Zenon Dance Company and School in Minneapolis and participating in faculty research. She sends warmth and love to her many "homes" -- to Mom and Dad who have never missed a performance, the friends who have held her heart while on the Hill, and the four women who have made this experience truly beautiful.

Upcoming Events

Friday Night Lights

January 20 and March 9 7:30pm

Dittmann Center

Urban Bush Women Informance

March 2, 5:00pm

Dittmann Studio One

Rhythm Project

March 30 and 31 at 7:30pm and April 1 at 2:00pm

Dittmann Studio One

Faculty Artist Series Concert: Music & Dance Collaboration

Thurs, April 12, 2012, 11:30am – 12:30pm

Christiansen Hall of Music Orchestra Room (#140)

Veselica Spring Concert

April 13 and 14 at 7:30pm and April 15 at 2:00pm

Dittmann Studio One

Companydance Spring Concert

May 3, 4, and 5 at 7:30pm

Speech-Theater Building, Kelsey Theater

First Year Project/Openstage Dance Concert

May 11 4:00pm and 7:00pm

Speech-Theater Building, Kelsey Theater

Distinction Dance Concert

May 11, 7:00pm

Speech-Theater Building, Kelsey Theater