

2013 COMPANYDANCE® CONCERT

St. Olaf College

Kelsey Theater
May 2, 3, 4
7:30 PM

Choreography

Guest Artist

Stuart Pimsler

Faculty

Heather Klopchin
Anthony Roberts
Janice Roberts

Students

Betsy Gaasedelen, Paige Haroldson,
Abby Masters, Lindsey Mornson, Hilary Parlanti,
Kathleen Pender, Ashley Tanberg

The St. Olaf Dance Department

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 consists of three full-time faculty, three part-time faculty, and a full-time technical director. The Dance Department usually graduates 7-10 dance majors a year and serves much of the St. Olaf population, which numbers approximately 3,000 students total.

The Department of Dance aspires to present and teach dance as a vital form of human communication, expression, and interaction central to both liberal arts and fine arts educational traditions. The dance experience at St. Olaf engages students in the study of dance as a personal art, a cultural art, and a fine art, aspiring to weave the three into a satisfying whole. The B.A. in Dance prepares dance majors for a range of vocational and avocational options including performing, creating, teaching, and imagining dance into other fields. It also provides majors with a solid background for continuing dance and movement education. The dance program intends to inspire students toward a life of possibility with strong physical intelligence at its foundation. Students are guided to grow with attention to being a moving, thinking, feeling, and imagining dancer.

For the Audience

- A strobe light will be used at the beginning of the concert.
- Please do not bring food, drink, cameras, or recording devices into the theatre.
- Please turn cell phones off. Please do not text during the concert.
- Please place your unwanted program in the recycling box located outside the theatre as you exit.

From the Directors

The students, faculty and staff of the St. Olaf College Dance Department welcome you to our 2013 Spring Dance Concert.

During this evening's performance, you will see movement explorations created and danced from many points of view and experience the concepts through metaphor and poetry embodied in human motion. Intellectual, physical and emotional intelligences are holistically and elegantly interwoven via the flesh and blood of live dance. The diversity of movement knowledge and expression is indicative of the philosophical breadth and scope encouraged and practiced by the St. Olaf College Dance Department.

Now that you are here, we invite you to join in our exploration. Regardless of your background or familiarity with dance or movement, you have something unique and valuable to stir into the mix. We encourage you to be an active observer, to let your personal experiences color what you see, think, hear and feel during tonight's performance. It is not important that you get "it", only that you participate in the journey and endeavor to get and give "something".

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

Reception, Friday, May 3

Following the concert on Friday, May 3 please join us for a reception in Dittmann Center, just outside the Flaten Art Museum on the main floor.

The Road Not Chosen

Choreographer: Janice Roberts in collaboration with the dancers

Dancers: Kathryn Dale, Betsy Gaasedelen, Seipati Jonga, Michaela Liesenberg, Moriah McFarland

Music: *Be The One* by Moby, *Lilac Wine* by Jeff Beck, *Elegy for Dunkirk* by Jeff Beck, *Palestrina* by Balmorhea

Costume Designer: Aimee Jillson

Lighting Designer: Kyle Carson

Awake in the Dark

Choreographers and Dancers: Betsy Gaasedelen, Paige Haroldson, Abby Masters, Hilary Parlanti, Kathleen Pender

Music: *Frights* by Island Niles

Composers: Joshua Parlanti and Aaron Fletty

Label: Loonvault

Production Adviser: Seipati Jonga

This piece is a selective record of our individual and collective dreams; the mind's subconscious, broadcast in the dark.

cides Unseen

Choreographer: Ashley Rose Tanberg

Dancers: Gabby Coll, Betsy Gaasadelen, Paige Haroldson, Michaela Liesenberg, Moriah McFarland, Lindsey Mornson

Music: *Bowspirit* by Balmorhea

Student Rehearsal Director: Julia Moser-Hardy

a speck you see

Conceived and Directed by Stuart Pimsler

Choreography and Text: Stuart Pimsler in collaboration with the dancers

Dancers: Richard Aviles, Denzel Belin, Betsy Gaasedelen, Siri Hammond, Paige Haroldson, Abby Masters, Moriah McFarland, Julia Moser-Hardy, Hilary Parlanti, Kathleen Pender, Kiersten Ruda, Ben Swenson-Klatt, Ashley Rose Tanberg, Grace Wehrspann, Emma Youngquist

Rehearsal director: Heather Klopchin

Music: *Sweet Mambo*, *Refuges*, and *Tree Song* by René Aubry

Vocal Music: Brian J. Evans

Costume Coordinator: Aimee Jillson

Lighting Designer: Kyle Carson

~INTERMISSION~

Turn the Tide

Conceived and Directed by Anthony Roberts

Collaborative Choreography: Anthony Roberts and the dancers

Dancers and Creative Collaborators: Lisa Cole, Karina Culloton, Hilary Parlanti, Kathleen Pender, Kirsten Schowalter, Elayna Wagnild

Music: Original improvisations by Alex Van Rysselberghe, piano/electronic instruments, and Sarah Eliza Bell, viola

Text: Excerpts from *Little*, a work of creative nonfiction written by Kirsten Brauch and text inspired by research during the creative process

Lighting Designer and Isadora Programmer: Kyle Carson

Costume Designer: Aimee Jillson

Videographers: Richard Aviles, Denzel Belin

Director's Note: *This piece explores themes of violence against women and may not be suitable for all audience members.*

My initial idea for this piece was to explore streams of consciousness. However, at the same time, there didn't seem to be a day that went by without reading or hearing about violence against women. I have two daughters, and I could not help but project the abuses these women faced onto them. My creative intention turned toward wanting to explore this topic through a movement lens, with this fabulous cast of six female dancers. Our creative research began with reading and discussing articles detailing specific instances of violence against women. One of the dancers recommended a piece of creative nonfiction written by St. Olaf student Kirsten Brauch for one of her English courses, and we examined this text. We discussed our personal points of view, and we moved and created with all of these elements in mind.

This piece does not attempt to choreograph violence against women, but it is certainly tinged by it. We hope this piece contributes in some way to the effort to Turn the Tide away from violence against women.

Many thanks to all the creative collaborators who contributed to this experience. You have enriched the journey.

What if ...

Choreographer and Dancer: Lindsey Mornson

Music: *Arrival* by Zoë Keating

Petites Histoires

Choreographer: Heather Klopchin in collaboration with the dancers

Dancers: Katherine Griffis, Paige Haroldson, Lydia Kantor, Abby Masters, Lindsey Mornson, Ashley Rose Tanberg

Music: Emile-Claire Barlow and Edith Piaf

Costumes Designer: Aimee Jillson

Lighting Designer: Kyle Carson

Video: Heather Klopchin

Thank you so much to the dancers for all their invaluable contributions!

PRODUCTION STAFF

Technical Director, Lighting Designer: Kyle Carson

Costume Designer: Aimee Jillson

Stage Manager: Madi Goering

Sound Board: Jake Roberts

Projectionist: Jennifer Crawford

Light Board: Derek Waller

Fly Rail: Tommy Crawford

Stagehands: Alexandra Doeden, Cecilia Wall, Sydney Mason, Jon Tiburzi, Mary Clare DuRocher

Ushers: Ashley Belisle, Katherine Fewer, Vera Lochtefeld, Stephanie Kisch, Krista Swedenburg

Videographer: Vashti Daniel

Costume Shop Personnel: Alizabeth Allaback, Denzel Belin, Sage Cichock, Lorna Dielentheis, Sarah Evans, Gina Haugen, Casey Horn, and Libby Porter.

SPECIAL THANKS

Dan Dressen, Associate Dean of Fine Arts
Jeanne Hatle, her Box Office Crew
St. Olaf Theatre Department
Susie Kulsrud
Photographer Erik Saulitis
Broadcast Media
Dittmann Custodians Jane Quinnell, Greg Taubman, Linda Crowe
John Saurer, Meg Ojala and Gwen Daniels from the Department of Art and Art History
Dance Department Members Jennifer Bader, Kyle Carson, Aimee Jillson, Heather Klopchin, Roz Mascott, Anthony Roberts, Janice Roberts, Sherry Saterstrom, Alex van Rysselberghe, Anne von Bibra,

FACULTY BIOGRAPHIES

Heather Klopchin is an Associate Professor of Dance at St. Olaf College where she teaches Ballet technique, Modern Dance technique, and Dance History classes as well as choreographs for Companydance. She holds a B.S. degree in Management and a Dance minor from the State University of New York (SUNY) at Geneseo and a M.F.A. degree in Dance Choreography and Performance from the University of Illinois at Champaign-Urbana.

Heather is passionate about performing, choreographing, researching, and teaching dance and considers herself very lucky to be able to live her life so involved in dance and expression. She currently performs with *Stuart Pimsler Dance and Theater*. Heather has also performed with *ARENA Dances*, *Zenon Dance Company*, *Eclectic Edge Ensemble*, *Linda Lehovec & Dancers*, *Joe Chvala Flying Foot Forum*, and *Dancing People Company* in Ashland, Oregon.

A summer dare from **Anthony Roberts'** sister propelled him into the arts. He was twenty-something, enrolled in his hometown university, and becoming a bit desperate in his search for his desired career path. Anthony had not yet considered the concept of a career calling, a vocation, but that was indeed what he was in search of. Prior to that time, he cannot recall a meaningful exposure to the arts. He was a first generation college student, and his father's desired career choice for him was based solely upon financial stability. Anthony's intuition, however, told

him he was destined to follow another path, without any clue what that path might be. Thanks to his intuition, persistence and patience, Anthony discovered dance. Almost a decade after accepting his sister's dare (thanks, Reece!), and with a good deal of hard work, sacrifice, fortunate opportunities and thoughtful mentors assisting him along the way, Anthony was a full-time professional dancer in a company based almost 2,000 miles from where his journey began. While Anthony's path was challenging and complicated on many levels, it was also very enjoyable, engaging and rewarding. After he had been dancing as a full-time professional for about two years, he was forced to pause when the epiphany that he really was a dance artist finally hit him. Dance, as a career, was not a conscious choice for Anthony, but one that he was compelled to pursue.

Anthony unofficially came to St. Olaf College in 1994. While teaching at Gustavus Adolphus College in St. Peter, MN that same year, he also spent weekends guiding a ragtag, but enthusiastic, group of St. Olaf men through the fundamentals of beginning modern dance. For many of these men, this process simply involved learning how to walk on the beat of the music. This engaging process led to Anthony's first piece of choreography at St. Olaf, *Jock-ularity*, which was also performed by this same group of guys (and Anthony) at the Walker Art Center in Minneapolis in 1995. He was hired at St. Olaf the following year to teach the intermediate and advanced ballet classes. Anthony currently teaches modern dance technique, the senior capstone course, and a course he designed that integrates dance and film into a hybrid form called screendance. He also choreographs annually as co-artistic director of St. Olaf's modern dance company, *Companydance™*.

Anthony has performed nationally and internationally with Repertory Dance Theatre and Ririe-Woodbury Dance Company, both located in Salt Lake City, Utah; Sharir Dance Company in Austin, Texas; and the Jacob's Pillow's Men Dancers (a project touring internationally to commemorate the 100th anniversary of Ted Shawn's birth). His professional performance repertoire includes works by historic and contemporary dance artists including: Isadora Duncan, Ted Shawn, Helen Tamiris, Doris Humphrey, Charles Weidman, Jose Limón, Anna Sokolow, Merce Cunningham, Douglas Dunn, Bill Evans, David Parsons, Bill T. Jones and Arnie Zane, Yacov Sharir, Garth Fagan, Douglas Nielsen, Shapiro and Smith and others. He is extremely proud of playing one of the mice in Colorado Ballet's *Nutcracker*, where he darn near gnawed the nutcracker's cheesy foot in two.

Anthony earned a BFA in Ballet Performance from the University of Utah and an MFA in Dance with a Dance Technology Emphasis from Arizona State University, Tempe.

Janice Roberts is a Professor of Dance at St. Olaf College. She received her BFA from Arizona State University and her MFA from the University of Utah. For nine years she danced with Ririe-Woodbury Dance Company in Salt Lake City, Utah. During her tenure with Ririe-Woodbury, Janice also worked as a solo artist and guest choreographer with several universities and companies. In fact, prior to coming to St. Olaf, Janice was a Minnesota Dance Alliance Visiting Artist in 1989 and again in 1990, teaching master classes at Gustavus Adolphus College in St. Peter, Mankato State University and the Hennepin Center for the Arts in Minneapolis. In January of 1995, she and her husband were Sage Cowles Land Grant Artists in Dance at the University of Minnesota.

Throughout Janice's professional career, she has had the opportunity to perform the works of a multitude of prominent choreographers, including Kei Takei, Alwin Nikolais, Pilobolus, Murray Louis, Joanie Smith and Danny Shapiro, Bill Evans, Jamey Hampton, Tandy Beal, Douglas Nielsen, Jerry Pearson, Alyson Chase, Phyllis Lamhut, Claudia Melrose, Val Caniparoli, Shirley Ririe, Joan Woodbury and Donna White. During Janice's last sabbatical she was an ongoing guest performer with A. Ludwig Dance Theatre in Arizona. Janice recently co-wrote a successful grant to bring in a master teacher and reconstructor of Anna Sokolow's work to restage Sokolow's masterwork *Dreams* at St. Olaf College. Janice also serves as a visiting evaluator for the National Association of Schools of Dance.

GUEST ARTIST BIOGRAPHIES

Stuart Pimsler, selected by CityPages as Twin Cities "Artist of the Year" in 2004, is celebrating thirty-four years as Artistic Co-Director of Stuart Pimsler Dance and Theater. His work has been honored with Choreography Fellowships from the McKnight Foundation and the National Endowment for the Arts as well as a Major Fellowship and six Individual Fellowships from the Ohio Arts Council. Mr. Pimsler has been commissioned by the Guthrie Theater, the Lila Wallace Arts Partners Fund, National Performance Network Creation Fund, the Jerome Foundation, the Wexner Center, University of Minnesota, the Walker Art Center, among others. Mr. Pimsler's first children's play, *My Grandmother's Tsotchkes; Tales of a Gambling Grandmother* had its national premiere in March 2010 at SteppingStone Theatre, St. Paul. In August, 2012, he was a guest artist at the Beijing Modern Dance Festival in China.

Mr. Pimsler holds an A.B. in English from Franklin & Marshall College and has a J.D. from Catholic University School of Law. He was admitted to the New York State Bar in 1975 and the following year was accepted as an M.F.A. Fellow in Dance at Connecticut College. His mentors have

included Martha Myers, past Dean of the American Dance Festival and past Chair of the Dance program, Connecticut College, and Daniel Nagrin, whose solos *Spanish Dance* (1948) and *Word Game* (1968) he continues to perform.

As cultural activist, Mr. Pimsler has served on the Board of Directors of Dance/USA (1990-97) and the Steering Committee of the National Performance Network (1992-95.) In October, 2005, Stuart Pimsler founded the SAGE Awards for Dance which are an annual celebration of outstanding dance achievements in the Twin Cities community. He co-coordinates the yearly event with Dana Kassel. (www.sageawards.org)

Brian J. Evans of Gaylord, MN is currently in his sixth season with SPDT and also serves as Music Coordinator for the company. He is a graduate of Gustavus Adolphus College where he earned a B.A. in Liberal Arts with an emphasis in dance. Since graduation, Brian has worked with over 30 directors/choreographers on more than 100 pieces and performed as a singer/dancer at Valley Fair, as well as appearing in feature film. In 2009 he was recognized by the Star Tribune as an A | E Highlight Top Five Dance Event and the following year received a Minnesota SAGE Award for 'Outstanding Performer.'

STUDENT CHOREOGRAPHER BIOGRAPHIES

Betsy Gaasedelen grew up dancing to The Beatles records and Backstreet Boys music videos with her sister and friends. As an Ole studying Dance and Exercise Sciences, she has spent four years feeding interests in dance and the human body. She has enjoyed working with student and faculty choreographers as well as guest artists Urban Bush Women, Stuart Pimsler Dance and Theater, and Joe Chvala and the Flying Foot Forum. She also spent a summer as a research assistant in a project entitled *Somatic Foundations* in Dance Education guided by Professor Sherry Saterstrom. Betsy thanks the family, friends, and teachers who continually challenge and encourage her, and the dance department for the opportunity to create and perform with the lovely Hilly, Paige, Kat, and Abx.

Paige Haroldson has been a student of movement and a lover of art for as long as she can remember. While at St. Olaf she has performed works by faculty members Heather Klopchin and Janice Roberts and worked with guest artists Shapiro & Smith, Urban Bush Women, Stuart Pimsler Dance and Theater and a solo created by Laura Selle Virtucio for her

senior project. During the summer of 2011, she attended the American Dance Festival and had the opportunity to work with John Jasperse. She will graduate with a B.A. in art history and dance. So much love and gratitude to the St. Olaf dance community for a beautiful journey and thank you to family and friends for their unconditional love and support.

Abby Masters, from Centennial, Colorado, found her unexpected home in the dance department at St. Olaf where her passions for movement and a life in the arts were ignited. She has performed works by faculty members Heather Klopchin and Janice Roberts, and guest artists Urban Bush Women, Stuart Pimsler Dance and Theater, and Joe Chvala and the Flying Foot Forum. She has choreographed works for The Rhythm Project under the direction of Sherry Saterstrom, the music department's production of Kurt Weill's Street Scene, and presented her senior capstone work at the American College Dance Festival this spring. In May, Abby will graduate with a B.A. in dance and social studies education and an educational studies concentration. She extends many thanks to her family, friends, and professors for their love, constant guidance, and support.

Lindsey Mornson, a sophomore majoring in Dance and Sociology/Anthropology, has been a dancer and performer since her first ballet class at age four. She grew up studying dance at Dance Endeavors in Bloomington, MN under the direction of Juli Mickelson and attended Blue Lake Fine Arts Camp in Michigan where she was fortunate enough to work with artists from James Sewell Ballet. She is excited and grateful to share her growth in her first Companydance Spring Concert.

Hilary Parlanti's first memory of dancing was to her favorite childhood musical "Annie" in her living room as a wide-eyed 3 year-old. Years later, dance has remained an integral part of her happiness, creative expression, and identity. While at St. Olaf, Hilary has had the opportunity to perform works by faculty members Anthony Roberts, Janice Roberts and Heather Klopchin as well as guest residents Urban Bush Women and Stuart Pimsler Dance and Theater. This past winter she performed a solo choreographed by Rosy Simas for her senior project. She has also organized and danced in community events under the instruction of dance faculty member Sherry Saterstrom. Hilary will graduate from St. Olaf with B.A. degrees in Dance and ESL Education. She would like to thank her family, friends, teachers and muses for their constant inspiration and support.

Kathleen Pender, a Northfield native, has greatly appreciated becoming a part of the St. Olaf dance community, which has challenged her to grow as a creator, mover and thinker. At St. Olaf, she has performed works by faculty members Anthony Roberts and Heather Klopchin and guest artists Urban Bush Women, Stuart Pimsler Dance and Theater, and Joe Chvala and the Flying Foot Forum. In the fall of 2011, her passion for dance, in its many forms, led her to study at the University of Ghana. With an interest in fostering rich learning environments, Kathleen has loved teaching dance at the Northfield Arts Guild this year. In May, Kathleen will graduate with a B.A. in Dance and looks forward to teaching, performing and continuing to expand her dance education. She expresses gratitude and warmth to her family, friends and professors for expansive support.

Ashley Tanberg stumbled upon dance as a gawky teenager and has been blessed with countless opportunities to perform and choreograph since then. She has studied and performed under former Alwin Nikolais lighting designer, Ruth Grauert, as well as choreographers like Carrie Homuth, Jennifer Mack, Sara Shelton Mann, Bebe Miller, and Joanie Mix. Inspiration for movement comes from choreographing while grocery shopping, waiting in line for the bathroom, and dangerously grooving in the mini van.

COSTUME DESIGNER

Aimee Jillson has worked as a freelance theater artist on both coasts and several places in-between before settling in the Twin Cities, where she has been the Costume Designer for Companydance and the St. Olaf Theater Department since 1996.

TECHNICAL DIRECTOR

Kyle Carson has worked as a freelance lighting designer in the Twin Cities. He has designed for the Illusion Theater, North Star Opera, The Playwright Center, Zenon Dance, Park Square, Theater in the Round, Hauser Dance and other theater/dance companies throughout the country. He is currently the Technical Director of the St. Olaf Dance Department.

JOIN COMPANYDANCE®

Students, if you like or are intrigued by what you see here tonight, we invite you to become a member of Companydance. The company offers students a range of dance creating, performing and producing opportunities and is open by audition to ALL students. The company's primary aesthetic is grounded in the modern dance tradition, but is by no means restricted to it. Auditions for Companydance are held during the first week of the fall term. Concurrent enrollment in a movement intensive dance class is required for participation in Companydance.

LOOKING AHEAD

First Year Project / Open Stage Dance Concert

First Year Project dancers perform pieces that have been created by and with faculty during the year. Genres include modern, improvisation, ballet, and international.

Open stage presents student dance works-in-progress and newly completed dance pieces.

May 10, 4:00 p.m.

Wagner/Bundgaard Studio One in Dittmann Center

Movement, the Camera and the Creative Process (MCCP) Showing

Showing of screendances and live performance of creative explorations by students from Movement, the Camera, and the Creative Process (dance-150).

May 15, 7:00 p.m.

Wagner/Bundgaard Studio One in Dittmann Center

Advanced Choreography Showing

Final showing of choreographic works by the Advanced Choreography class.

May 16, 7:00 p.m.

Wagner/Bundgaard Studio One in Dittmann Center



The Road Not Chosen
choreography by Janice Roberts



What if...
choreography by Lindsey Mornson



Awake in the Dark
choreography by Senior Dance Students



a speck you see
choreography by Stuart Pimsler

