



St. Olaf College Dance Department presents:

# *Spindrift*

a Senior Dance Concert 2012

December 6, 7, 8 at 7:30 p.m.  
Kelsey Theater

## 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.

## Audience Role

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.

## Reception

Please join us following our Friday performance in the lobby on the main floor of Dittmann Center for a reception with music and refreshments.

## Grey Matter

Choreographer: Betsy Gaasedelen

Dancers: Sarah Cassavant, Madison Goering, Anna Grimes, Julia Moser-Hardy, Eric Teachout, Elly Wagnild, Alex Woods

*The mind's internal rhythms; the brain's automatic habits; the activity and guiding mantras of the conscious and subconscious. If we don't actively harness our own thoughts, what do they do? What do we do?*

## Lo Que Callan Las Mujeres (What Women Keep Silent)

Choreographer: Richard Aviles

Dancers: Aylin Awbrey, Ashley Belisle, Gabby Coll, Seipati Jonga, Ashley Tanberg

Music: Bebe, *Cuidandote* and *Malo*

Creative Consultant: Nicholas Paganelli

Text by: Asata Shakur

*Lo Que Callan Las Mujeres is dedicated to my mother, Belen Vasquez, and to all women who seek their truth. Ella es fuerte porque en ella vive la gracia (She is strong because grace lives in her).*

## the stupid human trick

Choreographer: Laura Selle Virtucio in collaboration with Paige Haroldson

Dancer: Paige Haroldson

Sound Design: Daniel Bonespur

Music: Daniel Bonespur *Dumb Show* and *Walk Away*, Modest Mussorgsky *Ballet Of The Chickens In Their Shells*

Costume/Set: Laura Selle Virtucio and Paige Haroldson

*When I met Paige, I was drawn to her natural movement quality. She has a fluidity and a lightness that were different from my strengths as a mover. In our collaboration, Paige was interested in ideas that could challenge her as an artist and performer. She has a sensibility and curiosity that have been integral to our process. In this work, we wanted to move beyond our comfort zones. I thank her for being such a generous collaborator/performer and am so proud of what we created.*

### ***Here I am, in Response***

Choreographer: Kathleen Pender

Dancers: Karina Culloton, Mary Clare DuRocher, Krista  
Swedenburg, Tasha Viets-Vanlear, Grace Wehrspann

*...to my environment.*

*Settled in our skins--our experiences.*

*Dear Mrs. \_\_\_\_\_, you had no idea.*

### ***Segue***

Choreographer: Rosy Simas

Dancer: Hilary Parlanti

Music: Spagirus & Murcof

Costume: Rosy Simas

### ***Now, Nowhere, Here***

Choreographer: Abby Masters

Dancers: Hattie Andres, Gabby Coll, Katherine Fewer,  
Moriah McFarland

Music: Stephane Grappelli and Jeff Green *Minor Swing*,  
René Aubry *La Grande Cascade*

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## **PRODUCTION STAFF**

**Faculty Director, Senior Dance Sem. Instructor:** Anthony Roberts

**Technical Director/Lighting/Sound:** Kyle Carson

**Stage Manager:** Anastasia Nikitovic

**Light Board Operator:** Dana Dass

**Sound Board Operator:** Jacob Roberts

**Fly Rail:** Michael Stralka

**Assistant Stage Managers:** Tommy Crawford, Sydney Mason

**Stage Hands:** Maggie Gerty, Jenna McKellips, Jon Tiburzi,  
Stacy Argrou

**Ushers:** Betsey Bowman-Saunders, Nina Hagen, Siri Hammond,  
Ellen Sutter

**Department Videographer:** Karlie Hoffer

## **Mission**

The St. Olaf College Department of Dance is committed to teaching and presenting dance as a vital form of embodied awareness and understanding, communication and expression - all of which are central to education in the liberal and fine arts traditions.

## **Overview of the St. Olaf Dance Department**

The movement-intensive and language-intensive studies and experiences provided by the St. Olaf College B.A. in Dance guide students toward lives and careers with strong physical, creative, and analytical skills at their foundation. As a result, dance majors come away from St. Olaf College with the ability to manage, direct, and perform with professional companies or as freelance artists; pursue graduate study in dance therapy, teaching, choreography, performance, or the somatic disciplines; 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, which engages students in the study of dance as a personal art, a cultural art, and a fine art, prepares dance majors for a wide range of life and career possibilities and options.

## **Accreditation**

The Dance Department at St. Olaf College is a charter member and accredited institutional member of the National Association of Schools of Dance (NASD), and is one of only two schools in the state of Minnesota to be an accredited institutional member.

## **Special Thanks**

Dan Dressen, Anthony Roberts, Heather Klopchin, Janice Roberts, Sherry Saterstrom, Anne von Bibra, Jennifer Bader, Kyle Carson, Gwen Daniels, Aimee Jillson, Alex Van Rysseberghe, Roz Mascott-Rameriz, Beth Christensen, Braden Larson, Mara Benjamin, Chris Chiappari, Peder Jochen, Diane LeBlanc, Eric McDonald, Matt Rohn, Georgia Greene, Keeley Susienka, Ryan Campbell, Karen Cherewatuk, Ole dance majors and students, St. Olaf Theater Department, Custodial Staff.

## GUEST BIOGRAPHIES

**Laura Selle Virtucio** has been performing in the Twin Cities since receiving a BFA in dance from the University of Minnesota in 1999. She is in her 12th year with *Shapiro & Smith Dance*, where, in addition to performing locally and nationally, she has participated in the creation of numerous new works and re-stages the company's repertory across the nation. Laura is also a current company member of *Zenon Dance Company* and has performed with *Stuart Pimsler Dance and Theater* and *Black Label Movement*. She is the recipient of a 2007 McKnight Fellowship for Dancers and a 2007 Sage Award for performance.

Native American Choreographer **Rosy Simas** (Seneca) has been choreographing and teaching dance for 18 years. Her choreography has been presented in Minnesota, Montréal, Wisconsin, New York and California. Simas has extensive dance training in contemporary and traditional forms of Native American dance, modern dance, contact improvisation, ballet, Butoh, BMC, and Mahler/Klein technique. Simas values involvement in community as essential to living and art making. Simas is not only a choreographer but has held administrative and management positions in the arts and non-profits. Since 1992 she has been committed to creating opportunities for other dance makers and artists to present their work. Simas has received grants and commissions from the MN Women's Fund, MRAC Next Step, the MN Dance Alliance, COMPAS, MSAB, Jerome/Intermedia Arts, the Loft Literary Center and Momentum (the Walker Art Center/Southern Theater). She currently teaches Somatics, Composition, Modern, Partnering and Body Re-Education/Alignment Technique (Mahler/Klein) in Minneapolis, MN.

## SENIOR BIOGRAPHIES

**Richard Aviles** is a community organizer and Los Angeles native whose journey into dance began at a young age through Latin Social Dance. Aviles constantly seeks ways to find movements that are authentic to all of his identities and skins. His goal as a movement artist is to create works that inspire and empower others to become activists in their lives. Such aspirations stem from his background in community organizing and passion for gender studies. His research, *Queering Up the Stage*, in collaboration with Professor Heather Klopchin, focuses on choreographing queer and feminist theories in American Modern Dance. Aviles has presented at St. Olaf College, Carleton College, University of Southern California, and at the American Colleges Dance Festival Association. Aviles has focused on choreographing pieces that convey queer narratives, as well as his Latin movement history in his time at St. Olaf. Aviles has choreographed and performed in The Rhythm Project, worked with *Stuart Pimsler Dance and Theater*, and has guest lectured for Carleton College's professor and choreographer Judith Howard. He would like to extend his gratitude and appreciation to his professors, the Dance Department, and Diane LeBlanc for being a mentor and inspiration.

**Betsy Gaasedelen** grew up making crafts, cookies, messes, and music, and began dance lessons at the age of ten. Since entering college, she has enjoyed performing in St. Olaf's Companydance© and Rhythm Project concerts, as well as at Patrick's Cabaret, the Southern Theater, and the 2011 ACDFA conference. During the summer of 2011, she assisted in Sherry Saterstrom's undergraduate research project entitled *Somatic Foundations in Dance Education*. Betsy is intrigued by the power of the arts and familiarity with our physical selves to inspire personal strength and holistic well-being. She is grateful for her Edina public school education, St. Olaf College, every dance teacher who has shared wisdom with her, every dancer who bears with her through her creative process, and the friends and family who love, challenge, and encourage her.



**Paige Haroldson** has been a student of movement for as long as she can remember. Her experience at St. Olaf College has been centered around studying Dance and Art History. While at St. Olaf she has performed works by faculty members Heather Klopchin and Janice Roberts and worked with guest artists from *Shapiro & Smith*, *Urban Bush Women*, and *Stuart Pimsler Dance and Theater*. During the summer of 2011, she attended The American Dance Festival studying under Mark Haim, Leah Cox, Ming-Lung Yang, Ishmael Houston-Jones, Curt Haworth, and Yvonne Maier. She also had the opportunity to work with John Jasperse at ADF. She looks forward to performing this work again at the American College Dance Festival in March 2013. Thank you to family and friends for their unconditional love and support. Many thanks to Laura for her energy and guidance through this process. She is an incredible support and inspiration for continued artist and personal exploration, digging and strength.

**Abby Masters**, from Centennial, Colorado, will graduate with majors in dance and social studies education and an educational studies concentration. Her experience at St. Olaf has revolved around the dance department, where she discovered her passions as a mover, choreographer, and teacher. She has worked with faculty members Heather Klopchin and Janice Roberts, guest artists *Urban Bush Women* and *Stuart Pimsler Dance and Theater*, and had the opportunity to choreograph for and perform in The Rhythm Project under the direction of Sherry Saterstrom. Abby looks forward to working with Joe Chvala in January 2013 and presenting "Now, Nowhere, Here" at the American College Dance Festival in March 2013. She would like to thank her family, friends, professors, and dancers for their commitment, guidance, and support in this process and in her time at St. Olaf.

**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. Though she jumps between complete obsession with one thing and desire to have a taste of everything, 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*. 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, her senior project committee, and Rosy for opening the door to even more possibilities of movement experience.

**Kathleen Pender** has witnessed and experienced the vibrant art communities in her hometown of Northfield at varying stages of her life. Kathleen has now been able to connect her artistic upbringing with her studies of dance as a St. Olaf student. She has greatly appreciated becoming a part of this dance community allowing her to train and grow as a creator, choreographer, mover and thinker. As a member of *Companydance*®, she has performed and participated in works by faculty, students and guest artists *Urban Bush Women* and *Stuart Pimsler Dance and Theater*. With an interest in fostering rich learning environments, Kathleen has loved teaching Creative Ballet and Modern at the Northfield Arts Guild this year. Her passion for dance, in its many forms, led her to study this past summer at *Zenon Dance School* in Minneapolis and in the fall semester of her junior year at the University of Ghana. Kathleen will graduate in May with a dance major and looks forward to teaching, performing and continuing to expand her dance education. She would like to warmly thank her dance committee, fellow seniors, and the group of dancers who challenged and supported her in this capstone project.

## ***Upcoming Dance Department Events***

### **Alice Project Performance**

January 28 and 29 at 7:30 pm  
Dittmann Center

### **Incoming Freshman Scholarship Auditions**

March 1 and 2  
Dittmann Studio 1

### **Friday Night Lights**

March 15 at 7:00 pm  
Dittmann Studio 1

### **Veselica© Spring Concert**

April 12 and 13 at 7:30 pm and April 14 at 2:00 pm  
Dittmann Studio 1

### **Companydance© Spring Concert**

May 2, 3, and 4 at 7:30 pm  
Theater Building, Kelsey Theater

### **First Year Project/ Openstage Dance Concert**

May 10 at 4:00 pm  
Theater Building, Kelsey Theater



Photography by Braden Larson '13