

The St. Olaf College Dance Department Presents

# Companydance<sup>®</sup>

## Spring Concert 2018

Thursday, Friday, Saturday, March 8, 9, 10, 7:30 p.m.

Center for Art and Dance

Wagner Bundgaard Studio One

St. Olaf College

Featuring works by faculty members Heather Klopchin, Anthony  
Roberts, Janice Roberts, and by students  
Bri Blakely, Harper Foote, Michelle Honsey, and  
Amanda Myrontuk



## **The St. Olaf College Dance Department**

The St. Olaf College 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 four full-time faculty, one part-time faculty, a full-time technical director and a staff musician. 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 Dance Department 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.

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; 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.

### **For the Audience**

- 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.

**Reception: Friday, March 9**

Following the concert on Friday, March 9 please join us for a reception in Center for Art and Dance, by the Flaten Art Museum on the main floor.

**From the Directors**

The students, faculty and staff of the St. Olaf College Dance Department welcome you to our 2018 Companydance® 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. Physical, intellectual, 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.

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## **After the Fall (2017)**

Choreographer: Anthony Roberts in collaboration with the 2017 & 2018 casts of dancers

Dancers: Katie Anderson, Nellie Brovold, Christy Dobbratz, Dani Fitzgerald, Stuart Gordon, Michelle Honsey, Maisy Martin

Music: *Paradise* and *Retrograde* by Anesthesia

Lighting Designer: Ashley E. Stock

Costume Designer: Aimee Jillson

Video Designer: Mark Coniglio, Media Artist

Many of us have experienced trauma during our lives, either personally or through our network of family and friends. *After the Fall* is an abstract movement expression of the struggle involved in recovering from trauma. Abundant thanks to the artistically courageous, vulnerable, and talented St. Olaf student dancers for embarking upon and completing this creative journey with me. You help sustain me!

## **Nevermind**

Choreographer: Briana Blakey

Dancer: Briana Blakey

Music: *Dogs* by Beware of Safety

Lighting Designer: Ashley E. Stock

Costume Designer: Briana Blakey

## **There it was, now it's gone.**

Choreography: Amanda Myroniuk

Performers: Christy Dobbratz and Amanda Myroniuk

Music: *Gravity* by Dirk Maassen

Text: *On the Road*, written by Amanda Myroniuk in collaboration with Christy Dobbratz

Lighting Designer: Samuel Brunclik

Costume Designer: Amanda Myroniuk

Sometimes people feel stuck--in life, inspiration, and faith.

## **Swallowed in the Sea**

Choreographers: Harper Foote and dancers

Dancers: Tianna Beniak, Maddie Klein, Jessie Rames

Music: *Swallowed in the Sea* by Coldplay

Lighting Designer: Ashley E. Stock

Costume Designer: Harper Foote

----- PAUSE -----

## **On the Other Side**

Choreographer: Heather Klopchin in collaboration with the dancers

Dancers: Briana Blakey, Sabrina Easley, Juli Eckert, Rebecca Ferrer, Dani Fitzgerald, Amanda Myroniuk, Jacob Nehrbass, Daniele Oblitas, Fiona Steen

Music: *Islands* and *In the Upper Room: Dance I* by Philip Glass

Lighting Designer: Ashley E. Stock

Costume Designer: Heather Klopchin

What a pleasure it has been to work with such extraordinarily talented and generous artists!

## **Labyrinth**

Choreographer: Michelle Honsey

Dancer: Michelle Honsey

Music: *Highway to the Stars* by Kai Engel

Lighting Designer: Ashley E. Stock

Costume Designer: Michelle Honsey

Labyrinth is a choreographic experiment that deeply examines the twists and curves the body creates.

## **Celebrating Jennifer (2013)**

Choreographer: Janice Roberts

Dancers: Tianna Beniak, Briana Blakey, Nellie Brovold, Christy Dobbratz, Sabrina Easley, Juli Eckert, Emily Emerson, Rebecca Ferrer, Grace Hoyland, Sonja Lund, Emma Mogard, Jacob Nehrbass, Jessie Rames, Ella Schmeits, Georgia Wagnild

Music: *Conceri Di Parigi Xii* by Antonio Vivaldi

Lighting Designer: Ashley E. Stock

Costume Designer: Aimee Jillson

Special thanks to Nellie Brovold

This work was created to celebrate the many wonderful gifts Jennifer Koenig brought to and fostered at St. Olaf College.

The Rev. Jennifer Anderson Koenig, who served as associate college pastor at St. Olaf College for more than 15 years, died September 20, 2013, at the age of 47. In life and in death she was surrounded by the love of her family and many, many friends.

Jennifer was born in St. Charles, Illinois, and, at the age of two, moved to Geneva, Illinois with her family. She attended Geneva High School, where she served as class president for three years, was a member of the National Honor Society, competed at the Illinois State Track and Field Championships and was active in many school programs.

Jennifer had a love for dance and choreography, which led her to become a dance major at St. Olaf College in Northfield, Minnesota. She graduated from St. Olaf in 1987. After college, she pursued a career in the arts. For three years, she performed with a professional modern dance company, Ballet Harren. She was called to the ministry, however, and in 1994 she earned her master of divinity degree from Luther Seminary, where she served for three years on the dance and fine arts committee.

Jennifer served in parish ministry in West Des Moines, Iowa at St. Mark's Lutheran Church before coming to St. Olaf in 1997. She described the St. Olaf position as her "dream call," and devoted herself to leading campus worship, preaching, and counseling students. "One of her greatest strengths was her sincere willingness to sit down and have a meaningful conversation at any time with anyone," says longtime colleague and retired College Pastor Bruce Benson. "She took a genuine interest in people's lives, and that endeared her to so many."

Koenig worked with a variety of departments across campus, from the arts to the sciences. However, the many personal relationships that she developed with students and faculty over the years are her enduring legacy. One of the spaces in Regents Hall of Natural and Mathematical Sciences is named in her honor as a gift from parents of a former student. In addition, several musical pieces, either commissioned by parents of former students, friends of the college, or friends of Jennifer, have been composed and performed in her honor.

Jennifer loved poetry and the arts. She was an avid writer of letters and notes - always seeking to honor her friends' birthdays, to comfort them in grief, or to celebrate even the most mundane things. She saw beauty, profundity, and the opportunity to ask more questions in everything she encountered. Her smile was luminous and her laugh was full-bodied, endearing, and infectious. She loved to celebrate God's creation in and with others.

Active in the community as well as on campus, Koenig mentored high school students, helped lead the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America's Malaria Campaign and actively organized neighborhood gatherings where new neighbors could meet new friends.

Her CaringBridge site details her battle with glioblastoma.

Survivors include her husband David; her children Anders and Sylvia; her father, John Anderson of Geneva, Illinois; her sister Karla (Chuck) Boucek and their children Lian and Ana of Grayslake, Illinois; her father-in-law, Robert (Jan) Koenig of Grand Beach, Michigan; her sisters-in-law, Lindsey (Peter) Allen of Weston, Massachusetts, Jamie (Dan) Rau of Valparaiso, Indiana; her aunt Jean Murray of Lafayette, California; her aunt Mary Ann Bergeson of Hannibal, Missouri; nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends. She was preceded in death by her mother and mother-in-law.

Her husband summarized the care that Jennifer received during her illness with this message on the Caring Bridge site, "Thank you, again, for giving Jennifer the peace and love that she had during her illness. She left us with the warmth of that love wrapping her soul. She was never afraid and she has all of you to thank for that."

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## **PRODUCTION STAFF**

**Technical Designer/Lead Lighting Designer:** Ashley E. Stock

**Stage Manager:** Matthew Holzer

**Assistant Stage Manager:** Allison Peterson

**Run Crew Lead:** Olivia Swenson

**Sound/Projections Technician and Operator:** Helen Thieme

**Light Board Operator:** Amanda Stagg

**Run Crew:** Francesca Bester, Melanie Nevins, Ivy Tong

**Assistant Sound/Projections Technician and Videographer:**

Alexander Myers

**Dance Technicians:** Samuel Brunclik, Matthew Holzer, Brenden Ireland, Read Karsell, Alexander Myers, Holly Ness, Nicole Nothongkham, Mita Pelecis, Allison Peterson, Amanda Stagg, Olivia Swenson, Helen Thieme, Sarah Zaepfel

**Ushers:** Sally Olmstead, Elizabeth Stoufis

## **SPECIAL THANKS**

Kent McWilliams, Associate Dean of Fine Arts

Shawn Paulson, Dance Administrative Assistant

Patty Cohn, Art Administrative Assistant

Aimee Jillson, Costume Designer and Costume Shop Supervisor

Office of Broadcast Media

Center for Art and Dance Custodians; Connie Haugen, Jane Quinnell, Greg Taubman

Dance Department Members: Shane Allen, Heather Klopchin, Anthony Roberts, Janice Roberts, Ashley E. Stock, Anne von Bibra, Arneshia Williams

Thea Lund, Poster Designer

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# FACULTY BIOGRAPHIES

## **Heather Klopchin**

Currently, Heather Klopchin is an Associate Professor of Dance and Chair of the Dance Department at St. Olaf College where she teaches Ballet Technique, Modern Dance Technique, and Dance History. She also choreographs for the St. Olaf Dance Department's student company, Companydance<sup>®</sup>. Heather holds a BS degree in Management from the State University of New York (SUNY) at Geneseo and an MFA degree in Dance choreography and performance from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

Heather is passionate about performing, choreographing, researching, and teaching dance. Highlights of her career to date include performing in works by Danny Buraczeski, Joe Chvala, Robert Cohan, Suzanne Costello, David Dorfman, Bill Evans, Karla Grotting, Judith Howard, Doris Humphrey, Mathew Janczewski, Walter Kennedy, Linda Lehovec, Paula Mann, Gabriel Masson, Mark Morris, Peggy Paver, Jeffrey Peterson, Stuart Pimsler, Anthony Roberts, Melissa Rolnick, Zoe Sealy, Karis Sloss, Robin Stiehm, Deborah Thayer, Doug Varone, and Renée Wadleigh. She has also performed with ARENA Dances, Zenon Dance Company, Eclectic Edge Ensemble, Linda Lehovec & Dancers, Joe Chvala Flying Foot Forum, Dancing People Company, and Alternative Motion Project. She currently is a principal artist with Stuart Pimsler Dance and Theater, a Minneapolis based dance and theater company which has toured nationally and internationally. Heather has had her choreographic work set on Carleton College, Gustavus Adolphus College, the University of Wisconsin - Whitewater, SUNY Geneseo, Alternative Motion Project, and Saint Paul Conservatory for Performing Artists. She also currently serves on the ACDA (American College Dance Association) Board of Directors. Heather considers herself lucky to be able to live a life so immersed in dance and expression. She is grateful for all the wonderful students, faculty and professional colleagues, her loving and understanding husband, and the coolest cat ever, DJ.

## **Janice Roberts**

Janice Haws Roberts is Professor of Dance at St. Olaf College, where she served as chair of the dance program for 17 years. She has also served on several College committees, including Tenure and Promotion; International, Domestic and Off-campus Study Committee; Faculty Review Committee; and the Main Street Steering Committee.

Janice acts as Treasurer of and holds a place on the Board of Directors for National Association of Schools of Dance. Janice has been a NASD Visiting Evaluator since 1997. She has served on the nominating committee for NASD and on the team that presented workshops for new dance executives for the years 2010-2012. Janice has also presented many other NASD sessions, ranging from Dancing with your Dean, Building New Facilities in the 21st Century to a workshop for seasoned Chairs. Janice is the recipient of numerous grants, including Dance/USA and National Endowment for the Arts American Masterpieces: Dance-College Component Grant; Minnesota State Arts Board Career Opportunity Grant for Artistic Activity; SEMAC Original Works Grant; two Minnesota Dance Alliance Visiting Artist Grants; St. Olaf College Release Time Grant for Artistic Activity.

Janice's professional performing career includes eight years (1986-94) with Ririe-Woodbury Dance Company in Salt Lake City, Utah, where she 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 this time, she also worked as a solo artist and guest choreographer with several universities and professional companies. In January of 1995, she and her husband were Sage Cowles Land Grant Artists in Dance at the University of Minnesota. In 2001-02, Janice danced and toured with A. Ludwig Dance Theatre in Arizona. During 2005-06, Janice toured nationally performing, *Swing a Club: facing cancer*, an evening length group work choreographed and performed by her husband, Anthony Roberts. In the fall of 2016, Janice presented a solo concert, *Approaching Winter* as part of her 2016 sabbatical project.

Janice holds a BFA from Arizona State University and an MFA from the University of Utah.

## **Anthony Roberts**

Anthony Roberts is Artist in Residence in Dance at St. Olaf College in Northfield, MN, where he has been teaching since 1995. His coursework includes modern dance technique, dance anatomy/kinesiology, conditioning

(Pilates mat), and video dance. Anthony is co-artistic director and choreographer for Companydance, St. Olaf's modern dance company. In 2015, Anthony completed the BASI Pilates™ Comprehensive Teacher Training Course with Dance Specialization under the mentorship of Karen Clippinger in at California State University in Long Beach. In 2017, Anthony teamed with two student researchers in a Collaborative Undergraduate Research and Inquiry (CURI) project, Scanning the Active Brain & Body: Revealing Connections Between the Art & Science of Movement, to record, process, and begin interpreting brain activity during the learning and execution/performance of movement tasks/sequences.

Anthony 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: The Ted Shawn Legacy (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, Ann Ludwig and others.

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

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## **STUDENT BIOGRAPHIES**

### **Briana Blakey**

Briana Blakey is a senior dance and biology major from St. Paul, Minnesota. She is interested in holistic health and its relationship to movement. Over

the years she has enjoyed exploring these interests further and looks forward to furthering this exploration post graduation.

### **Harper Foote**

Harper Foote is a senior dance major at St. Olaf College. Over the past four years she has greatly enjoyed being a part of many different creative processes and expanding her understanding and perspective of dance as a whole. She is also a management concentrator with interests in environmental studies and wellness.

### **Michelle Honsey**

Michelle Honsey is currently a sophomore at St. Olaf College, majoring in Dance and Economics. She began dancing when she was three and now teaches at Jill Hoggard Academy of Dance in Owatonna, Minnesota.

### **Amanda Myroniuk**

Amanda Myroniuk is a junior dance and English double major at St. Olaf College. She is very interested in how all forms of art and her faith can inform one another to create meaningful, interdisciplinary work. She's also a member of the St. Olaf Handbell Choir and uses her love of music to deepen her understanding of dance and her other creative endeavors.

## **TECHNICAL DESIGNER**

### **Ashley E. Stock**

Ashley E. Stock is the Technical Designer for the Dance Department at St. Olaf College. She creates environments for performance with lighting, sound, and projections, works in Flaten Art Museum to light collections, and supervises all student Dance Technicians employed by the department. Besides working at St. Olaf, Ashley is also a freelance lighting designer, electrician, stage manager, and stagehand throughout the Twin Cities and nationally. She currently works with Children's Theatre Company, Phipps Center for the Arts, Guthrie Theater, and IATSE Local 13, and previously

for The Santa Fe Opera, The Yard on Martha's Vineyard, History Theatre, and Shakespeare & Co. in the Berkshires, to name a few.

When it comes to dance and dance production, Ashley is no novice. She has worked with and danced alongside of movement makers and choreographers Adam Barruch, Camille A. Brown, Luke Murphy, Yin Mei, Jason Samuels Smith, Cori Marquis, The Wondertwins, Skinner | Kirk, and Ragamala Dance, among others. She had the pleasure of designing lights for UWSP choreographers/professors Joan Karlen, Jeannie Hill, and Michael Estanich, as well as re-creating lights for Keigwin & Co.'s piece *Air*. As a dancer and musician herself, assisting to produce and bringing to life works of dance has always been the logical endeavor.

Ashley holds a BFA degree in Theatre Design/Technology, emphasis in Lighting Design & Technology, and BA degree in German, Language and Literature, from the University of Wisconsin – Stevens Point.

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**LOOKING AHEAD**

***Veselica International Dance Ensemble Spring Concert***

St. Olaf's International dance ensemble performs.

**Thursday, April 12, 7:30 p.m.**

**Friday, April 13, 7:30 p.m.**

**Saturday, April 14, 2:00 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.**

**Wagner Bundgaard Studio One, Center for Art and Dance**

***The Northfield Experience***

Veteran Director/Choreographer/Media Artist Stephan Koplowitz will create a site-specific, immersive performance event using the town of Northfield, Minnesota, as its canvas and subject matter. Comprised of a series of interlaced performances of theater, dance, visual installations, and digital media, this performance event will be inspired by the history, architecture, and unique community of Northfield. Koplowitz is excited to work and collaborate with St. Olaf and Carleton Colleges and the greater

Northfield community. For ticket and event information visit *The Northfield Experience* on Facebook or *thenorthfieldexperience.com*.

**Friday, May 4, 6:00 p.m.**

**Saturday, May 5, 1:00 and 5:00 p.m.**

**Sunday, May 6, 1:00 and 5:00pm**

**Multiple locations in Northfield, MN starting at the Grand Event Center**

**First Year Dance Project**

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

**Friday, May 11, 4:00 p.m.**

**Wagner Bundgaard Studio One, Center for Art and Dance**

**UNBOUND/Friday Night Lights #3**

New Works entirely choreographed and produced by students.

**Friday, May 11, 7:30 p.m.**

**Wagner Bundgaard Studio One, Center for Art and Dance**

**Movement, the Camera and the Creative Process Showing**

Final showing of screendances (dance + video) created by the students of DANCE 150: Movement, the Camera, & The Creative Process.

**Monday, May 14, 7:00 p.m.**

**Wagner Bundgaard Studio One, Center for Art and Dance**

**Advanced Choreography Showing**

Final showing of choreographic works by the DANCE 374: Advanced Choreography class.

**Thursday, May 17, 7:00 p.m.**

**Wagner Bundgaard Studio One, Center for Art and Dance**