



## **Companydance Spring Concert 2019**

May 2, 3, 4, 2019 @ 7:30 p.m.

Kelsey Theater / Theater Building

St. Olaf College



## **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 and 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 St. Olaf College Dance Department engages students in the study of dance as a vital form of human expression, understanding, communication, and interaction. Partnering with the College's liberal arts curriculum and making connections with other academic fields, the dance program encourages the exploration of complex ideas through investigation, knowledge, and expression of the body. Rooted in the Modern Dance tradition and enriched by global and social dance forms, the dance department cultivates an inclusive and diverse community. The B.A. in Dance prepares dance majors for a range of career and vocational options including performing, creating, teaching, and writing about dance, as well as integrating their dance studies' skills and experiences into myriad other fields.

### **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, May 3**

Following the concert on Friday, May 3 please join us for a reception on the main floor of the Center for Art and Dance, by the Flaten Art Museum.

### **From the Directors**

The students, faculty and staff of the St. Olaf College Dance Department welcome you to our 2019 Companydance<sup>®</sup> 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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## **One Room (six in a room)**

Choreographer: Mathew Janczewski

Rehearsal Assistant: Tori Casagrande

Rehearsal Director: Heather Klopchin

Dancers: Andrea Ciccolini, Juli Eckert, Dani Fitzgerald, Isabel Galic,  
Daniele Oblitas, Fiona Joy Steen

Music: Nils Frahm

Lighting Designer: Stephen Schroeder

Costume Designer: Aimee Jillson

## **Relax**

Choreographers: Ellie Kiihne, Eugene Sandel Jr.

Dancers: Ellie Kiihne, Eugene Sandel Jr.

Music: *Take Five* by David Brubeck

Lighting Designer: Stephen Schroeder

Costume Designer: Ellie Kiihne, Eugene Sandel Jr.

## **A Moment Before**

Choreographers: Joanie Smith & Danial Shapiro

Re-staged by: Scott Mettelle, Mirabai Miller and Laura Selle Virtucio

Rehearsal Director: Heather Klopchin

Dancers: Sophia Diehl, Juli Eckert, Yael Estrada-Nava, Michelle  
Honsey, Amanda Myroniuk, Jake Nehrbass

Understudies: Daniele Oblitas, Fiona Joy Steen, Georgia Wagnild

Music: Sergei Rachmaninoff

Lighting Designer: Stephen Schroeder

Costume Designer: Aimee Jillson

## **Do You Believe in the Devil-- Does He Look Like Me?**

Choreographer: Ella Schmeits

Dancer: Ella Schmeits

Music: *Infra 1* by Max Richter; *Journey 1* by Max Richter

Lighting Designer: Stephen Schroeder

Costume Designer: Ella Schmeits

## **Czech IN**

Choreographer: Karla Grotting

Rehearsal Director: Heather Klopchin

Performers: Josie Abbott, Abby Alwin, Tianna Beniak, Lily Galic, Ellie Kühne, Amanda Myroniuk, Jake Nehrbass, Natasia Preys, Abby Schilling, Ivy Tong

Music: Slavic Soul Party

Lighting Designer: Stephen Schroeder

Costume Designer: Aimee Jillson

## **INTERMISSION**

### **Luz y Sombra (Light and Shade)**

Choreographer: Cynthia Lehew-Nehrbass

Dancers: Aerin O Malley, Aidan Schoff, Anna Pundt, Austin Cruz, Cally Minner, Daniel Kindem, Danni Haakenson, Ivy Tong, Jake Nehrbass, Lauren Sherman, Madelyn Wood, Monique Theberath, Natasia Preys, Nathan Tichy, Richie Spahn, Yael Estrada-Nava, Dorienne Hoven - Understudy, Peter Cunnif - Understudy

Music: *Under Bayres* by Osi Tejerina

Lighting Designer: Stephen Schroeder

Costume Designer: Jillian Kristufek

## **It's Complicated**

Choreographer: Anthony Roberts in collaboration with the dancers

Dancers: Sophia Diehl, Lily Galic, Mehek Jahan, Maisy Martin, Abby Olson, Sarah Rodman, Kaitlin Scott, Ivy Tong

Music: *Elements* and *Time Lapse* composed by Ludovico Einaudi and performed by Ludovico Einaudi, I Virtuosi Italiani, Daniel Hope, and Amsterdam Sinfonietta

Lighting Designer: Stephen Schroeder

Costume Designer: Aimee Jillson

## **Weary like the sea**

Choreographer: Daniele Oblitas

Dancer: Daniele Oblitas

Music: *Apondalifa* by Tim Hecker

Lighting Designer: Stephen Schroeder

Costume Designer: Daniele Oblitas

## **Gridlock**

Choreographer: Heather Klopchin

Rehearsal Director: Daniele Oblitas

Dancers: Sophia Anderson, Juli Eckert, Yael Estrada-Nava, Dani Fitzgerald, Sarah Golemon-Mercer, Julian Gruber, Amanda Myroniuk, Zoe Marie Plewa, Jessie Rames, Ella Schmeits, Kaitlin Scott, Fiona Joy Steen

Music: Nine Inch Nails

Lighting Designer: Stephen Schroeder based off an original lighting design by Kyle Carson

Costume Designer: Aimee Jillson

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## **PRODUCTION STAFF**

**Technical Designer/Lead Lighting Designer:** Stephen Schroeder

**Stage Manager:** Liv Swenson

**Assistant Stage Manager:** Sasha Kazharskaya, Molly Yetzer

**Sound/Projections Technician and Operator:** Matthew Erickson

**Light Board Operator:** Liv Swenson

**Run Crew:** Linnea Cheek

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

**Lead Dance Technician:** Holly Ness

**Dance Technicians:** George Arbanas, Samuel Brunclik, Thomas Bryant, Matthew Erickson, Benjamin Fjetland-Souza, Sasha Kazharskaya, Natasia Preys, Liv Swenson, Helen Thieme, Gaonue Vang, Molly Yetzer

**Videographer:** Jack Coleman

**Ushers:** Seda Bagiryan, Atia Cole, Tetyana Samiliv, Georgia Wagnild

**Costume Shop Personnel:** Addie Berg, Grace Bloomquist, Lauren Brazeau, Beatrice Gulner, Laura Jones, Elie Nederloe, Richie Span, Emily Schrader, Jame See Yang

## **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

Theater Department Faculty & Staff

Office of Broadcast Media

Center for Art and Dance Custodians: Connie Haugen, Dawn

Kaderlik, Greg Taubman



Dance Department Members: Joel Arpin, Heather Klopchin,  
Anthony Roberts, Janice Roberts, Stephen Schroeder, Anne von  
Bibra, Arneshia Williams

Dance Department Guest Faculty: Jennifer Bader, Karla Grotting,  
Mathew Janczewski, Paula Mann  
Anthony Roberts, Poster Design

## **GUEST ARTIST BIOGRAPHIES**

**Karla Grotting** is a dancer, choreographer, educator, and producer working with a unique blend of modern, jazz, tap, social and percussive dance experiences. She is a founding member, principal dancer, and artistic associate in her 28th year with Joe Chvala's The Flying Foot Forum. Over the past 40 years, she has performed with dance and theater companies, Jazzdance: by Danny Buraczeski, MN Jazz Dance Co, Keane Sense of Rhythm, Off-Leash Area, and Combustible Company. Karla has been on faculty with the University of Minnesota Department of Theater and Dance since 1998, and a guest artist and instructor at St Olaf College from 2014-present. Her awards include the U of M Student's Choice Award for Outstanding Teacher in the College of Liberal Arts, a 2007 McKnight Artist Fellowship for Dancers and a 2010 Sage Nomination for Outstanding Educator. Her project, Lost Voices in Jazz: The Choreographers of the Minnesota Jazz Dance Company was recognized with the Sage Award for Outstanding Performance and Karla was named a City Pages' Artist of the Year in 2015. Karla has created original works on the Flying Foot Forum, The Eclectic Edge Ensemble, Macalester College, St Olaf College, MN State University MN, Gustavus Adolphus College, St Paul Conservatory for the Performing Arts, UW-Whitewater, Southwest High School Dance

Program, Keane Sense of Rhythm Social Club and LiRa Dance Theater.

## **Mathew Janczewski**

Mathew Janczewski's inquisitive, immersive and heartfelt approach to contemporary dance reaches beyond the surface and holds the viewer in its embrace. With over 30 works in his repertoire and more than two decades of experience as a choreographer, Mathew has cultivated a highly diverse and mesmerizing style of movement. Core to his work are the questions: what drives us as humans to break away and how can we reconnect? Increasingly, his performances explore pressing social issues, providing a platform for dialogue and action.

Mathew's work has garnered praise in the Twin Cities and beyond. He has created commissioned works for companies such as Minnesota Dance Theater, Cleveland Repertory Co., aTrek Dance and Zenon Dance Company. He was the Bates Festival choreographer (2001), received the Sage Award for Outstanding Performance (2005) and won the McKnight Choreographers Fellowship (2005). In 2008, Dance Magazine named him as one of their "25 to Watch."

Shortly after receiving his degree in dance at the University of Minnesota, and performing internationally, Mathew founded his own non-profit dance company, ARENA DANCES, in 1995. ARENA serves as the vehicle for his body of work and provides young, aging and underserved segments of the Twin Cities community with opportunities to experience the transformative power of dance.

Deeply grateful for the support of his loved ones and community, Mathew looks forward to continually taking his work into new and

challenging territory, while deepening his positive impact in the world.

### **Cynthia Lehew-Nehrbass**

Cynthia Lehew-Nehrbass has been an award-winning professional dancer, coach, and choreographer for over 33 years with a passion for teaching, an affinity for making dance accessible for everyone, and a belief in the kinesthetic power of dance to inspire, connect, and heal. Her earliest education was in jazz and ballet, from the Minnesota Dance Theater and local dance studios. In 1989, she received her Bachelor of Science Degree in Dance Performance and Choreography on partial scholarship from the University of Wisconsin, Madison with extensive training from other master-teachers and schools throughout the country in modern, ballroom, contemporary, lyrical, musical theater, and sacred dance. Over the years, she's performed and choreographed with community theaters and professional dance companies in the Midwest including: The Madison Opera, M.M. Colbert Contemporary Ballet Company, and Minneapolis's own Beyond Ballroom Dance Company. Her extensive repertoire of choreography has been set in various venues: professional theaters, TV commercials, high schools, competitions, recitals, churches, sacred dance festivals, and benefit concerts (including Dance For Life: The Next Generation, in Chicago).

Cynthia's love of ballroom dance first began when she met her husband in a college swing class. Together, they went on to found the first U.W. Ballroom Competition Team, teach the U.W. Ballroom Extension Program, and coordinate the Northwest Health Club's ballroom program in the Twin Cities. They trained with world-class coaches to become regional and national award-winning Professional Rising Star and Open Level American Smooth and International

Standard ballroom competitors. In 1994, they started On Your Toes School of Dance, and along with the Retro Ballroom, owned their studios for 22 years while teaching dance to a multitude of students ages 2 and up.

Today, Cynthia continues to choreograph and teach, judge collegiate competitions, and perform in churches with the liturgical dance company she's directed for over three decades. The past couple years, she's had the great pleasure of working with the talented members of St. Olaf's Ballroom Performance Team, and enjoys educating and empowering the next generation of dancers.

### **Shapiro & Smith Dance**

Danny Shapiro and Joanie Smith created their first choreography during a Fulbright Lectureship in Helsinki, Finland. Since then Shapiro and Smith's blend of contemporary dance and dramatic theater has elicited enthusiastic receptions across the U.S., Europe, Asia and Canada. The Company has been presented by major festivals and venues including the Joyce Theater, Lincoln Center Out-of-Doors, Festival di Milano, Teatro de Danza in Mexico City, Recklinghausen RuhrFestSpiele, and the Korean International Festival. Their works have been performed by noted companies including The Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater and Hubbard Street Dance, Chicago.

Daniel Shapiro died of complications from prostate cancer in 2006 and Joanie Smith continues as sole Artistic Director.

Joanie's choreography is performed nationally and internationally by Repertory Dance Theater of Utah, Alvin Ailey II, Ballet Memphis, PACT Dance Company of South Africa as well as universities and

conservatories across the US. In summer 2018, Joanie's work, "To Have And To Hold," was recognized with high honors at a national university dance festival and was performed at The Kennedy Center, Washington DC.

## **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 Lehovc, Paula Mann, Gabriel Masson, Mark Morris, Peggy Paver, Jeffrey Peterson, Stuart Pimsler, Anthony Roberts, Melissa Rolnick, Zoe Sealy, Karis Sloss, Daniel Stark, Robin Stiehm, Deborah Thayer, Doug Varone, Renée Wadleigh, and Taja Will. She has also performed with ARENA Dances, Zenon Dance Company, Eclectic Edge Ensemble, Linda Lehovc & Dancers, Joe Chvala Flying Foot Forum, Dancing People Company, Alternative Motion Project, and STARK Dance. 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 Michigan State University, 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.

### **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 dance technology. 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. For the past two years, Anthony has guided the Dance Department in a collaborative research project with Exercise Science faculty, Jennifer

Holbein, and students, to study the efficacy of functional movement and dance genre specific warm-ups. The research has been presented at the Mayo Clinic School of Continuous Professional Development: 3rd Annual Sports Medicine for the Primary Care Clinician 2019 and is scheduled to be presented at the 37th Annual Performing Arts Medicine Association (PAMA) International Symposium and the 9th Annual - 2019 Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, Math & Education Conference during summer 2019.

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.

## **STUDENT BIOGRAPHIES**

**Daniele Oblitas** is a Senior Environmental Studies and Dance major from Houston, Texas. During her studies at St. Olaf, she has

cultivated her love for social justice and the arts and hopes to use art forms such as dance as a connection point between the two. Her love for ‘movement’ started young with rhythmic gymnastics, which expanded into dance in high school. Throughout her time at St. Olaf, she has been an active member in Companydance. After St. Olaf, Daniele hopes to find work in a health related field while still integrating dance related experiences into her life.

**Ellie Kiihne** is a sophomore Psychology and Dance major from Lake Jackson, Texas. She began dance at an early age but first joined color guard later in high school. Since then, she has spun in high school, with an independent group in St. Paul, and plans to spin with Phantom Regiment in the upcoming summer. Ellie has continued to be involved in dance at St. Olaf as a member of Companydance. After graduation, Ellie hopes to pursue a degree in physical therapy.

**Eugene Sandel Jr** is a first-year Music Education major from Browns Mills, New Jersey. He has spun in color guard for two years and plans to continue this throughout college. When Eugene isn’t spinning or singing, he is normally either baking or figure skating, which is a new hobby of his. Upon graduation from St. Olaf, Eugene hopes to pursue his master’s degree in composition and teach choral music at the high school level, while ideally continuing his color guard career.

**Ella Schmeits** is a junior Dance and English major, with concentrations in gender studies and German, from Omaha, Nebraska. Her love for dance began in elementary school with ballet, and continued to develop through high school and college. Throughout her time at St. Olaf, Ella has been an active member of Companydance, and has grown her passion for literature, social



advocacy, and making protest signs in her spare time. After graduating, Ella hopes to work in publishing.

## **TECHNICAL DESIGNER**

**Stephen Schroeder** is a father, husband, dancer, dance educator, technical designer, and horse enthusiast. When not caring for his daughter and twin sons he can be found teaching at Saint Paul Conservatory for the Performing Arts, guesting with local dance companies, lighting dancers, or tackling small home improvement projects. As a professional dancer he's been seen with Shapiro & Smith Dance, Minnesota Dance Theater, ARENA Dances, Penelope Freeh, Nic Lincoln and 15 years with Zenon Dance Company. He holds a BFA in Dance from the University of Colorado-Boulder circa 2001 and received the McKnight Fellowship for Dancers in 2014. Technically he's been working and lighting backstage since 2001. His designs have been seen from the far reaches of Minnesota to the White Sea. He's happy to be able to light the wonderful dancers here at St. Olaf. Love fully and live inspired.

## **LOOKING AHEAD**

### ***First Year Dance Project and More!***

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 10, 4:00 p.m.

Wagner Bundgaard Studio One, Center for Art and Dance

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

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

Monday, May 13, 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 16, 7:00 p.m.

Wagner Bundgaard Studio One, Center for Art and Dance

## **2nd Annual St. Olaf Summer Dance Workshop**

June 16-20, 2019 / Center for Art & Dance

This 5-day residential workshop is designed for middle and high school students to experience the breadth and depth of the St. Olaf Dance Department. Studio time and educational classes are balanced with recreational activities.

There is Still Time to Register - For More Info:

<https://wp.stolaf.edu/conferences/summer-programs-at-a-glance/dance-workshop/>