

The St. Olaf College Dance Department Presents

# Bookends

Senior Dance Concert 2019

Kelsey Theater | December 10 & 11 | 7:30 PM



## **From the Senior Dance Majors**

The senior dance majors welcome you to the performance of our dance capstone projects.

During this evening's performance, you will see movement explorations created and danced from many points of view, and experience the conceptual heart of our creations through motion. We believe that dance intertwines physical, intellectual, and emotional intelligence, and the flesh and blood of our live performance presents this knowledge to you tonight.

Now that you are here, we invite you to join in our exploration. Regardless of your background or familiarity with dance, you have something unique and valuable to stir into the mix. We encourage you to be an active observer, and 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.

## **For the Audience**

- Please do not bring food, drink, cameras, or recording devices into the theatre.
- Please turn cell phones off and do not text during the concert.
- Please place any unwanted programs in the recycling box located outside the theatre.

The senior dance majors recognize that art can impact and provoke. If at any time during the concert audience members feel that the content is overwhelming, we empower them to leave the performance.

## **Reception: Tuesday, December 10**

On Tuesday evening following the performance, please join us for a reception on the main floor of the Center for Art and Dance.

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## Venue Alt

Choreography: Sally Rousse with Georgia Wagnild

Music: *Opening* by Philip Glass, performed by Bruce Brubaker (edited)

Costume Design: Sally Rousse

Lighting Design: Stephen Schroeder

Apron Dancers: Juli Eckert and Jacob Nehrbass

Dancer: Georgia Wagnild

*Dancing in unconventional venues brings the performer and audience into a relationship. During our process, a few things that rose to the surface were notions of rigor and assumption, particularly in regards to ballet and athleticism. While this is a solo for senior Georgia Wagnild, it is also a projection of aging by (also senior!) dancer Sally Rousse, so memories, experiences, and desires co-mingle. The pre-show lobby dance and the two side apron dancers are meant to both foreshadow the solo and conversely set up expectations that will never manifest. The audience is meant to take these three dances in not as a display of traditional dance virtuality but as common work, watching the body carry out tasks and survive repetition, boredom, pain, whimsy. Or just take it in.*

## we.thisdance

Choreography: Laura Selle Virtucio with Fiona Steen

Music: *Scrimshaw* by Anna Meredith

Costume Design: Laura Selle Virtucio with Fiona Steen

Lighting Design: Stephen Schroeder and Laura Selle Virtucio

Dancer: Fiona Steen

## As We Unbury Ourselves From This Unhallowed Grave

Choreography: Ella Schmeits

Music: *The Way* by Zack Hemsey, *You Always Knew* by Les Friction

Costume Design: Ella Schmeits

Lighting Design: Stephen Schroeder

Dancers: Sarah Rodman, Dorothy Hendrickson, Sophia Anderson, Zoe Plewa, Andrea Ciccolini

*On the verge of every day, Queer people wake up with the knowledge that we are a flaw in the system, a defect to be erased. We walk through a world that was not made for us, and struggle for every step we take — day after day, year after year, decade after century. From the moment we realize who we are, we have the choice to dig ourselves out of the grave fabricated by Others — to choose not to is to accept our demise. And so we unbury ourselves upwards, towards survival, with grand dreams of an existence in the plain light of day.*

“... ”

Choreography: Scott Mettill

Music: music originally composed for Sam Kim's *Angle of Incidence*, music originally composed by Scott Killian for Shapiro and Smith's *Notes From A Seance*

Costume Design: Scott Mettill and Jacob Nehrbass

Lighting Design: Stephen Schroeder and Scott Mettill

Dancer: Jacob Nehrbass

*An expression of grief. The processing of trauma. Catharsis, understanding, meaning, or not. A part of me, perhaps you, us, anyone.*

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## INTERMISSION

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### To: the flag

Choreography: Yael Estrada-Nava

Music: *Don't Speak Her Name* by Rei Kondo, recordings from dancers

Costume Design: Yael Estrada-Nava

Lighting Design: Stephen Schroeder

Dancers: Josie Abbott, Khanthida Mounivong (Ayee), Anna Pundt, Morgan Smith, Blake Wieseler

*Nationalism is not something we are born with; it is something created by society that deems some as complete human beings under the law. The establishment of the Nation-State is what divides us as human beings in a literal and figurative sense. What values does the US stand for? Whose bodies does the US flag stand on? When we celebrate being an American, what we are truly celebrating? Is it the fact that we are not part of another group? When you define yourself as American, you perceive everything that is un-American as beneath yourself.*

*Special thanks to my dancers for supporting my ideas and always coming to rehearsal ready to dive in with their entire body, mind, and spirit.*

### Half Full

Choreography: Paula Mann

Music: various works from *The Not-Doings of an Insomniac* by Philip Glass

Costume Design: Juli Eckert and Paula Mann

Lighting Design: Stephen Schroeder and Paula Mann

Dancer: Juli Eckert

## Never Enough

Choreography: Michelle Honsey

Music: *Time* by Michael Agnew

Costume Design: Michelle Honsey

Lighting Design: Stephen Schroeder

Dancers: Liv Swenson, Linnea Cheek, Kate Sebes, Kathleen McMahon, Maisy Martin, Dorothy Hendrickson, Siena Olson, Paige Grayson, Sabella Maas, Isabella Schroeder, Miya Weber, Alix Bettin, Azalea Story, Kelsie Simon

*Time: the indefinite, continued progress of existence and events in the past, present, and future regarded as a whole.*

*Special thanks to Jill Hoggard Academy of Dance for helping coordinate seven guest dancers. Special thanks to Tami Swenson and Tracy Honsey for making my vision possible through the beautiful costumes.*

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## Senior Dance Majors 2019



**Juli Eckert** is a Dance and Women's & Gender Studies major from Flagstaff, Arizona. Her movement journey began with her participation as a competitive gymnast from ages 10 to 16, until she found a new love for dance at Flagstaff Arts and Leadership Academy. There, she was trained in modern, ballet, jazz, and African drum and dance. Ever since, dance has continued to fuel her in many aspects of her life. Throughout her college experience she has found an interest in the integration of movement and activism, which she hopes to explore further after college. Dance has become much more than a hobby for her, and she is extremely grateful to the St. Olaf Dance Department for providing her with the opportunity to grow into her identity as a dancer and a creator.



**Yael Estrada-Nava** is a Dance and Sociology/Anthropology major with a concentration in Women's & Gender Studies from Omaha, Nebraska. He started dancing late into high school through theater and choir. He thought his passion was most likely music, but he realized he had a lot more fun when it came to moving, so he decided to become a dance major! He is extremely grateful for the amount of dance he is able to do thanks to the St. Olaf Dance Department.



**Michelle Honsey** is a Dance and Economics major. She grew up in Medford, Minnesota and began dancing at Jill Hoggard Academy of Dance at the age of 4. There she studied tap, jazz, ballet, lyrical, street jazz, and pointe. She worked as a dance assistant throughout high school and now is a dance teacher there. In 2019 Michelle was awarded a choreography award at the Power of Dance Talent Competition. At St. Olaf, Michelle has been able to learn modern dance techniques, international dance styles, and hip hop. In the future, Michelle plans to own her own dance studio and work in insurance.



**Jacob Nehrbass** is a Dance and Exercise Science major from Plymouth, Minnesota. Jacob first started dancing when he was 3 years old in his parents' dance studio. He had the opportunity to learn tap, jazz, ballet, and lyrical. However, as he grew older, he fell out of love with dance. It was not until he came to St. Olaf that he rediscovered his love for dance, especially modern and tap. Since then, his love for dance has fueled his creativity, given him happiness, and fueled his second passion in Exercise Science. He currently teaches tap at the Arts Guild in Northfield. He hopes to continue dancing, either professionally, through teaching, or in any capacity that he can post-graduation. Jacob is very thankful to the

St. Olaf Dance Department for pushing him to become a better dancer as well as their ability to allow him to rediscover his love for dance.



**Ella Schmeits** is a Dance and English major with concentrations in Women's & Gender Studies and German Studies from Omaha, Nebraska. She started dancing at age 7 by studying primarily modern and ballet, and dance has inspired and excited her ever since. During her time at St. Olaf, Ella's love for creativity has evolved through her studies of dance and literature. She has bounced between dance and English classes for the past three and a half years, and still isn't tired of doing her English homework right outside (or inside) the dance studios. Ella is grateful for the opportunity to create, present, and perform her own work over the past few years. In the future, she hopes to work in publishing and dance in whatever way possible.



**Fiona Steen** is a Dance and Psychology major with a concentration in Neuroscience from St. Paul, Minnesota. She deepened her movement experience at St. Paul Conservatory for Performing Artists, discovering dance as an outlet for creativity and body-awareness. Throughout her college experience at St. Olaf she has appreciated the connections in the arts and sciences that have encouraged her to grow as a dancer and strengthen her interests in psychology and neuroscience. Fiona is a certified yoga teacher and is excited to continue teaching after college while applying to graduate school.



**Georgia Wagnild** is a Dance and Psychology major from Fergus Falls, Minnesota. She started dancing at the Fergus Falls School of Dance when she was 3 years old and fell in love with it. Dance has helped Georgia focus, be strong, and persevere. She is the current president of Companydance and has greatly appreciated St. Olaf's dance program. Georgia will always dance no matter where life takes her after graduation.

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## Guest Choreographers

**Paula Mann's** journey took her from her Appalachian roots to Detroit teenage runaway, through Kent State in the 1970s, to NYU and the downtown dance scene of the 1980s. She has been a driving force in contemporary dance and performance based out of Minneapolis for the past 30 years, challenging, educating, and engaging artists, audiences, and communities with passion, inventiveness, and rigor. She was a full-time faculty at the U of M Department of Theater and Dance from 1993-2013 and is a 2019 McKnight Fellow in Choreography.

**Scott Mettill** holds a BA in Dance from the University of Minnesota and has been with Shapiro and Smith Dance since 2008. He also re-stages company repertory locally and across the country. Scott danced with Zenon Dance Company from 2011 to 2019, for whom he also acted as assistant technical coordinator. As a teaching professional, Scott regularly teaches intensive and master classes regionally, nationally, and internationally. He has performed professionally with Black Label Movement, Nic Lincoln, MN Opera, Stark Dance, and other local Minnesota companies.

**Sally Rousse** co-founded James Sewell Ballet in New York City in 1990, serving as its managing director and artistic associate throughout its move to Minneapolis in 1993. She has received two McKnight Fellowships for Dancers, a Sage Award for Outstanding Performer and was named Artist of the Year by CityPages. Her choreography has been seen in venues such as the Guthrie, Southern, and State Theaters, the Walker Art Center, MASS MoCA, the Cartoon Channel, and Harvard's American Repertory Theatre. Since leaving James Sewell Ballet in 2014, Rousse's site-specific work has taken dance off the traditional stage and featured artists who identify as LGBTQ, gender fluid, mature, disabled, female, native, and/or PoC. As the Cowles Center's first Artist in Residence, she engaged the community through free workshops, art installations, tours, discussions, and the acclaimed promenade performance *ICON SAM: Temple Dances*. Rousse performed as a leading dancer with the Royal Ballet of Flanders and Ballet Chicago, dancing works by Maurice Béjart, Jiri Kylian, and over 75 new works created on her by contemporary and post-modern choreographers.

**Laura Selle Virtucio** is a performer and dance teacher based in Minneapolis. She is a 2007 McKnight Dancer Fellow and holds a BFA in Dance from the University of Minnesota. Laura has danced with Shapiro and Smith Dance for 20 years and serves as the Artistic



Associate and Rehearsal Director. She also dances for Chris Schlichting and is on the faculty at the University of Minnesota and the St. Paul Conservatory for the Performing Arts. In past years, she had long tenures with Zenon Dance Company, Stuart Pimsler Dance and Theatre, and Carl Flink's Black Label Movement.

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## **Production Staff**

Dance Technical Director: Stephen Schroeder

Stage Manager: Ivy Tong

Light Board Operator: Matthew Erickson

Sound Board Operator: Helen Thieme

Assistant Stage Managers: Natasia Preys, Grace Klinefelter

Fly Rail Operators: Sarah Shin, Saji Nammari

Deck Hand: Hadim Kon

Additional Backstage Support: Ellie Kiihne, Joshua Wyatt

Dance Technicians: Matthew Erickson, Adele Hensley, Sasha Kazharskaya, Grace Klinefelter, Hadim Kon, Ava Miller, Nakunda Mshana, Saji Nammari, Abby Newcomb, Tsering Nima, Natasia Preys, Jane Ryu, Sarah Shin, Liv Swenson, Helen Thieme, Ivy Tong

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## **Acknowledgements**

The senior dance majors would like to acknowledge the faculty who served on our capstone project committees and helped hone and refine our artistic voices throughout this process.

We extend our thanks to:

Sean Ward, Bruce Benson, John Sauer, Ibtesam Al Atiyat, Shelly Dickinson, Patricia Beckman, Maggie Odell, Peder Jothen

Dance faculty Heather Klopchin, Arneshia Williams, Anne von Bibra, and Anthony Roberts.

Additional thanks to the St. Olaf Theater Department, Theater Building custodian Ryan Cleasby, Dance Department AAA Patty Cohn, and Aimee Jillson for supporting our creative endeavors this semester.

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## Looking Forward...

**Choreography Showing:** a showing of final collaborative projects between the Beginning Choreography and Music Composition classes.

Thursday, December 12, 7:00 PM

Wagner Bongaard Studio One, Center for Art and Dance

**Veselica Spring Concert:** St. Olaf's international dance ensemble performs.

Thursday and Friday, April 2 & 3, 7:30 PM

Saturday, April 4, 2:00 & 7:30 PM

Wagner Bongaard Studio One, Center for Art and Dance

**First Year Dance Project and More:** First Year Dance Project dancers perform pieces created by and with faculty during the year. Genres include jazz, contemporary, modern, improvisation, ballet, and international.

Friday, April 24, 4:00 PM

Wagner Bongaard Studio One, Center for Art and Dance

**Companydance Spring Concert:** A spring celebration of dance created by faculty, students, and guest artists.

Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, May 7, 8, 9, 7:30 PM

Kelsey Theater, Theater Building

**Advanced Choreography Showing:** Final showing of choreographic works by the Advanced Choreography class.

Thursday, May 14, 7:00 PM

Wagner Bongaard Studio One, Center for Art and Dance