



The St. Olaf Dance Department Presents...

Companydance Spring Concert 2023

May 4th, 5th, & 6th
7:30PM in Kelsey Theater



The St. Olaf College Dance Department

The St. Olaf College Dance Department offers a nurturing environment in which to pursue a BA in Dance with training, performing, and choreography opportunities in Modern/Contemporary dance, West African dance, Hip Hop dance, Ballet, International dance, Ballroom, Jazz dance, and Tap. The department consists of four faculty plus five adjunct faculty, a full-time technical director, and a staff musician. The Dance Department graduates an average of 8-10 dance majors a year and serves over 500 students yearly.

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.

Our program combines embodied practice with critical thinking to root dance forms from around the world in their culturally, socially, and politically informed values. This is a fundamental means of self-discovery, understanding other dancing bodies, and advancing an anti-racist, equitable, and just community. Whether students in our program become dance artists, choreographers, scholars, teachers or integrate their skills and knowledge into other fields, they grow into movers, makers, and thinkers who responsibly respond to, serve, and shape the world around them.

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 5

Following the concert on Friday, May 5, please join us for a reception on the main floor of the Center for Art and Dance, by the Flaten Art Museum.

Welcome from the Companydance Director

The students, faculty, and staff of the St. Olaf College Dance Department welcome you to our 2023 Companydance Spring Dance Concert. During this evening's performance, you will see dance works created and danced from many points of view. The diversity of movement knowledge and expression is indicative of the philosophical breadth and scope valued and practiced by the St. Olaf College Dance Department. Regardless of your background or familiarity with dance or movement, you have something unique and valuable to stir into the mix as audience members. We encourage you to be an active viewer, letting 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 aim to get and give "something." We thank you for your support, and we sincerely hope you enjoy your experience at this evening's performance.



60/40

Choreographers: BRKFST Dance Company (repertory taught by Lisa ‘Monalisa’ Berman and Joseph ‘MN Joe’ Tran)

Music: Original Score by Renée Copeland

Dancers: Bea Beaman, Beck Dziedzic, Tyreis Hunte, Audrey Messinger, Gibran Murrieta, Ella Vanderkolff

Lighting Designer: Stephen Schroeder

Original Lighting Design: Karin Olson and Tony Stoeri

Costume Designer: Rebecca Bernstein

60/40 examines the concepts of loss, fragmentation, and contradiction. It addresses the push/pull of inner and outer dialogue we use to cope with unfamiliar circumstances. At times hindered by fear, doubt, and frustration, the innate remembrance of a distant wholeness pushes us to seek beyond these limitations.

Oaknut

Choreographer: Kae McMahan

Music: “Maybe I Should Get A Pet” by Seth Hanson, Performed by Seth Hanson and Helen Forsythe

Dancer: Kae McMahan

Lighting Designer: Stephen Schroeder

Irony is dead. And if not, it’s high time to cull it.
Yes to transformations and magic and make believe. Yes to moving and being moved. Yes to sincerity, to mirth, to revolutionary optimism. Dedicated to the blessed ones who planted the seeds, who tend the radicles. May we reap, one day, all that’s been sown.

The music in this piece contains strong language.

Dual States of Being

Choreographer: Heather Klopchin in collaboration with the dancers

Music: “Quartets: One: III. Sequence” by Peter Gregson, “Quartets: Three: I. Even” by Peter Gregson, “1.6 Gigue” by Peter Gregson

Dancers: Beck Dziedzic, Andrea Hanson, Nina Hodder, Kylie Kasprick, Helen Knaack, Kate Sebes, Emma Smith, Ella Vanderkolff, Jordan Wright, Julie Xiong

Lighting Designer: Stephen Schroeder

Costume Designer: Rebecca Bernstein

Thank you to the wonderful dancers for going on this artistic adventure with me.

Nobody

Choreographer: Audrey Messinger

Music: “Nobody” from the musical *Bandstand*

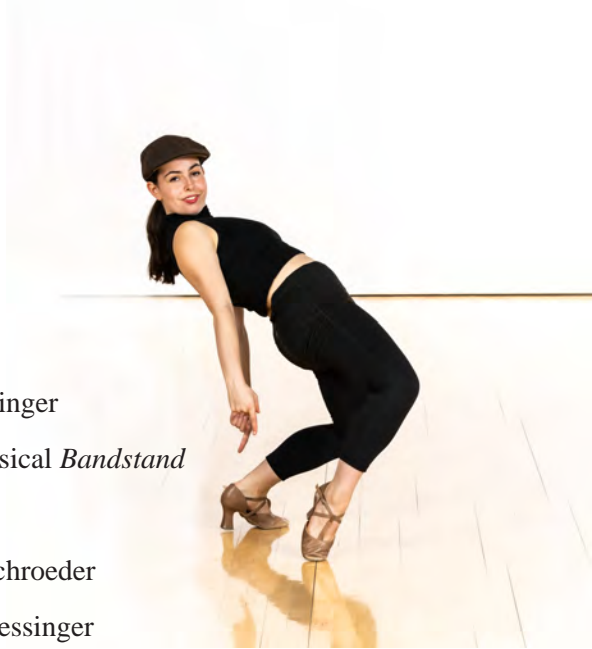
Dancer: Audrey Messinger

Lighting Designer: Stephen Schroeder

Costume Designer: Audrey Messinger

Prop Construction: Hatterdashery, Northwest Folklife

“You know who tells me ‘no?’/You know who tells me ‘I don’t think so?’/You know who tells me ‘no?’/Nobody”



“Ye Firi Tete”- We are from far

Choreographer: Cudjoe Emmanuel

Music: Ayub Ogada, Les go de kotiba Sou, Dobet, Loubou, Akoko,
Cudjoe and Elina & co.

Dancers: Bea Beaman, Morgan Burkum, Olivia Haidle, Angel Higareda,
Nina Hodder, Tyreis Hunte, Kylee Knettel, Kae McMahon, Lily Moreschi,
Gibran Murrieta, Yolanda Pauly, Emily Sanchez, Elina Sargsyan,
Kathryn Sprandel, Alani Villoria

Lighting Designer: Stephen Schroeder

Costume Designer: Rebecca Bernstein

This piece seeks to explore many dancing bodies as they travel through space and time. It examines the journeys we make in our lives consciously or unconsciously. The dancing bodies examine the social history, political, and material cultures of embodiment/disembodiment. *“Ye Firi Tete”-We are from far*, highlights the racialized, colonized, medicalized, able, and disabled dancing bodies as a site for envisioning, experimenting, and archiving corporeal memories for posterity. These bodies are employed in this piece as a methodological tool for creative expression that is conversant with political and social narratives in our world today.

~ ~ ~ *Intermission* ~ ~ ~



to TWINE

Choreographer: Karla Grotting in collaboration with dancers

Music: Wimme, Värttinä, Hedningarna

Dancers: Hailey Frank, Kylie Kasprick, Audrey Messinger, Joy Meyers, Yolanda Pauly, Kate Sebes, Talia Williams

Lighting Designer: Stephen Schroeder

Costume Designer: Rebecca Bernstein

Prop Construction: Stephen Schroeder (tap boards), Robin McIntyre (moon), special thanks to Joe Chvala for loaning the big parachute.

to TWINE blends percussive, modern, and jazz dance elements to touch on elemental themes from Norse mythology; from its harsh world view to the Norns nurturing the world tree, Yggdrasil, and weaving and cutting the thread of life.



Badagada

Choreographer: Mathew Janczewski in collaboration with the dancers

Rehearsal Director: Kate Sebes

Music: Pamela Z

Dancers: Isabella Baker, Olivia Haidle, Dorothy Hendrickson, Tyreis Hunte, Kae McMahon, Gibran Murrieta, Elina Sargsyan, Ella Vanderkolff, Jordan Wright

Lighting Designer: Stephen Schroeder

Costume Designer: Rebecca Bernstein

good company

Choreographers: Kylie Kasprick & Kate Sebes

Music: Traditional Scottish Folk Song, "Parting Glass." Arranged by Agnes A capella

Vocalists: Shelby Louk, Annika Muller, Ingrid Streitz, Hannah Swoyer

Dancers: Kylie Kasprick & Kate Sebes

Lighting Designer: Stephen Schroeder

Costume Designer: Kylie Kasprick & Kate Sebes

Of all the money I had
I spent it in good company—
Of all the harm I've ever done
alas it was to none but me.



gridlock

Choreographer: Heather Klopchin

Music: "The Perfect Drug Remix" by Nine Inch Nails

Dancers: Jade Burbank, Morgan Burkum, Mattea Citarella, Abby Hartberg, Dorothy Hendrickson, Angel Higareda, Emma Hoelschler, Emily Sanchez, Lily Schroedl, Kathryn Sprandel, Mary Staplin, Jordan Wright

Understudy: Liya Wetzler

Lighting Designer: Stephen Schroeder;

Original Lighting Designer: Kyle Carson

Costume Designer: Aimee Jillson

This work was originally created in 2007 based on the ideas of disconnection and isolation. Who could envision that we all would be dancing locked into grids and boxes during the height of the pandemic. Thank you to this wonderful cast and to all the dancers who have been a part of *gridlock* over the many, many years of restaging this work.

PRODUCTION STAFF

Technical Designer/Lead Lighting Designer: Stephen Schroeder

Stage Manager: Sophia Bloch

Assistant Stage Managers: Grace Klinefelter, Sophie Smith

Sound Board Operator: Abby Newcomb

Light Board Operator: Ava Miller

Deck Hands: O'Neill Hathcoat, Lillian McKie

Fly Rail Operators: Alex Tulga, Tyreis Hunte

Camera Operator: Johanna Makela

House Manager: Ava Traisci

Ushers: Rayvin Gierwatowski, Hallie Hogenson, Elizabeth Leeser,
Celeste Osterheld

Wardrobe Leads: Jake Hopewell, Ariel Bodnar-Klein

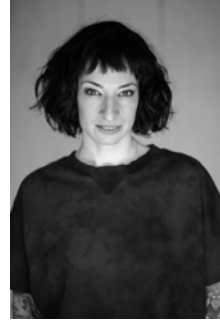
Costume Construction: Lucy Cavener, Jake Hopewell, Ariel
Bodnar-Klein, Janae Lorick, Esmé Brown, Anike Braun, Jacob
Thompson, Sydney Neihaus, Melanie Hernandez

Service Hours Workers: Ellie Fischenich, Leo Sanchez



FACULTY AND GUEST ARTIST BIOGRAPHIES

Lisa “Monalisa” Berman is the founder and Artistic Director of BRKFST Dance Company. She is the recipient of the 2019 Artist Initiative Grant, 2016 McKnight Dancer Fellowship, and 2008 Jerome Travel Grant. Berman, alongside BRKFST, has set repertoire and original works on dancers at Bates Dance Festival, Dance2Connect Hip Hop Festival in Dublin, Ireland, The University of Minnesota, Carleton College, St. Olaf College and Hamline University. She has performed in Minnesota, Connecticut, Florida, Washington DC, New York, Netherlands, and Ireland. Berman is currently working as a Breaking instructor for Saint Paul Conservatory for Performing Artists and resident Teaching Artist for The Cowles Center.



JOSEPH “MN JOE” TRAN is a founding member of BRKFST Dance Company and member of Knuckleheads Cali breaking crew. He is the recipient of the 2019 McKnight Dancer Fellowship and 2023 Jerome Hills Artist Fellowship. Tran is known for his signature moves which have earned him multiple victories in breaking competitions across the US, Europe, and South America. In his teaching role, he has set repertoire with BRKFST at the University of Minnesota, Carleton College, St. Olaf College and Bates Dance Festival. Tran currently works as a breaking instructor for Saint Paul Conservatory for Performing Artists and Young Dance.



Dr. Cudjoe Emmanuel is a Ghanaian born and raised in West Africa and an ACM-Andrew Mellon Faculty Fellow in the St. Olaf Dance Department who holds a Ph.D. degree in Dance Studies from the College of Music and Dance at Temple University-Philadelphia. He is a dance scholar, practitioner, drummer, musician, and singer, and is dedicated to the propagation and safeguarding of traditional and neo-traditional dances from Ghana/Africa.

Cudjoe has created and performed extensively with the resident theater company of the University of Ghana-Abibigromma, Ghana Dance Ensemble, Noyam Dance Institute, and Ntentan Dance Company over the years.

Dr. Cudjoe holds a BFA degree in theater Arts and dance studies with first class (1st) honors and possesses an MA in African Studies from the University of Ghana. He holds another MA in International Dance Knowledge, Practice and Heritage from the ERASMUS-MUNDUS Choreomundus degree program convened by four consortium universities in Europe namely, NTNU-Norway, Université Clermont Auvergne, Clermont-Ferrand, France, University of Szeged-Hungary, and Roehampton University-UK.

Dr. Cudjoe brings a lifelong indigenous, international experience, and high artistic acclaim to his roles as a faculty. As an advocate for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, he has published, created works, and presented academic papers for national (Ghana, Togo, Burkina Faso) an international dance workshops, conferences, symposiums, and festivals (U.S.A. UK, France, Canada, India, Hungary, Norway, Romania) Cudjoe has received fellowships, research funding, grants, and awards in his academic and artistic career such as the Andrew Mellon Fellowship, Edrie Ferdun Emerging Scholar Award, Edrie Ferdun Scholarly Achievement award and Erasmus Mundus Choreomundus Scholarship.



Originally from Illinois, dancer, choreographer, and creative **Mathew Janczewski** (he/him) has been residing in Minneapolis, MN since 1989. Upon graduating in 1995 with a BFA in Dance from the University of Minnesota-Twin Cities, he founded his own dance company, ARENA DANCES. During this time, he was a company member, most notably with JAZZDANCE! By Danny Buraczeski from 1992-97 and Shapiro & Smith Dance from 1997-2004. As a dancer,

Mathew has performed as a guest with the Bill T. Jones/Arnie Zane Dance Company, Bebe Miller, Black Label Movement and Jacek Luminski of Bytom, Poland. Over the years, he has performed the works of Beth Corning, Sean Curran, HIJACK, Marge Maddux, Shawn McConeloug, Jane Shockley, Robin Stiehm, Morgan Thorson, Doug Varone, and Cathy Young. With over 50 works created with ARENA DANCES, Mathew has been named as the Bates Dance Festival's choreographer, received the Sage Award for Outstanding Performance, and was awarded the 2005 distinguished McKnight Choreographers Fellowship. In 2008, he was named as Dance Magazine's "25 to Watch."

Currently, Mathew is working on *Erased Steps* that includes twelve dancers and an original musical score by MN composer, Zack Baltich. The work uses dance (steps, improvisation, shape, and gesture), actively allowing the vibration and energies that surface within the process to reverberate. *Erased Steps* will premiere in Rochester, MN at the Rochester Civic Hall on August 19 and will be performed at Union Depot in St. Paul on August 24 and 25, 2023.



Karla Grotting is a dancer, choreographer, educator and producer working with a unique blend of jazz, tap, modern, theater, and percussive dance techniques. She is a founding member, principal dancer, and artistic associate with Joe Chvala and the Flying Foot Forum since 1990. Karla has toured with *Jazzdance: by Danny Buraczkeski*, MN Jazz Dance Co, Keane Sense of Rhythm, and dance/theater companies; Off-Leash Area, and Combustible Company.



For two decades, Karla was on faculty with the University of Minnesota Department of Theater and Dance, and has been a visiting guest teaching/choreography artist at St. Olaf College since 2014. Karla has created works for Carleton College, Gustavus Adolphus College, UW-Whitewater, Macalester College, as well as several local and regional dance companies. Her teaching philosophy emphasizes the history of jazz music, jazz dance, social dance forms, tap dance, and improvisation; exploring the connections of these histories and their relationship to concert jazz dance.

In 2015, in collaboration with Karis Sloss Harris and her Eclectic Edge Ensemble, Karla co-produced the project *Lost Voices in Jazz: The Choreographers of the Minnesota Jazz Dance Company*, which reconstructed works by local jazz artists lost to AIDS. *Lost Voices* was recognized with a Sage Award for Outstanding Performance in 2015, and Karla was named as one of City Pages' Artists of the Year, the same year.



Heather Klopchin is a Professor of Dance and Chair of the Dance Department at St. Olaf College, where she teaches Modern Dance, Jazz Dance, Ballet, and Dance History. She also choreographs for the St. Olaf Dance Department's student company, Companydance©. 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, Jennifer Isle, Linda Lehovec, Paula Mann, Gabriel Masson, Mark Morris, Jeffrey Peterson, Stuart Pimsler, Anthony Roberts, Melissa Rolnick, Zoe Sealy, Karis Sloss, Daniel Stark, Robin Stiehm, Deborah Thayer, Doug Varone, and Renée Wadleigh. She has performed with Stuart Pimsler Dance and Theater, ARENA Dances, Zenon Dance Company, Eclectic Edge Ensemble, Linda Lehovec & Dancers, Joe Chvala Flying Foot Forum, Dancing People Company, Off Leash Area, and Alternative Motion Project.

Heather also currently serves as the ACDA (American College Dance Association) North-Central Regional Director. She considers herself very lucky to be able to live life so immersed in dance and expression.



SPECIAL THANKS

Alison Feldt, Associate Dean of Fine Arts

Patty Cohn, Art & Dance Administrative Assistant

Rebecca Bernstein, Costume Designer & Costume Shop Supervisor

Theater Department Faculty & Staff

Office of Broadcast Media

Center for Art and Dance Custodians: Bryce Pickerign, Dawn

Kaderlik, Greg Taubman

Dance Department Members: Joel Arpin, Lisa Berman, Cudjoe Emmanuel,

Penelope Freeh, Karla Grotting, Brianna Rae Johnson, Heather Klopchin,

Erinn Liebhard, Jeffrey Peterson, Stephen Schroeder, and Anne von Bibra

Jordan Wright, Poster Design

Olivia Haidle, Program Design

Kent McInnis, Photos

STUDENT BIOGRAPHIES



Audrey Messinger (she/her) is a senior from Edmonds, Washington majoring in dance and history, with a concentration in Race & Ethnic Studies. After graduation, she will be entering the University of Iowa’s Ph.D. program in History, and is interested in studying race and youth history in the early 20th century US. You may have seen her recent choreography in the 2022 Senior Dance Concert, *Life in Motion*, or in EMPTY Theater Theatre Company’s current production, *Firebringer*.

Originally from Minnesota, **Kylie Kasprick** is a St. Olaf student majoring in Dance and Kinesiology with concentrations in Neuroscience and Media Studies. With plans to pursue a Doctorate in Physical Therapy after graduation, Kylie hopes to implement safe measures within studio dance education that will help dancers of all ages learn their craft without sustaining lifelong injuries. Recently, you may have seen Kylie’s choreography and dancing around campus in Noye’s Fludde, Grammy artist Caliph’s live performance of *Dummy*, *Synergy’s Concerto in D*. Major, Junior Concert *selftitled*, the 2022 Companydance Spring Concert, or Senior Concert *Life in Motion*. Additionally, you may have seen Kylie present with the St. Olaf Kinesiology Department at the 2022 Alliance for Healthy Aging Conference or the 2023 On Aging Conference of the American Society on Aging.



Kate Sebes (she/her) is a Dance major with concentrations in Management Studies and Gender/Sexuality Studies. During her career at St. Olaf, Kate has had the opportunity to work with numerous artists in residence including Stuart Pimsler Dance and Theater, Melissa Teodoro, and Pramila Vasudevan. She has also choreographed and performed in the 2021 Companydance Spring Concert, Junior Concert *selfitled*, and the Senior Concert *Life in Motion*. Following graduation, Kate will return to the Vail Dance Festival to work as a development coordinator with future plans to pursue a Masters in Fine Arts.

Kae McMahan is a senior majoring in Dance and Environmental Studies. Kae is passionate about creating alternative realities through movement scores, and their work *Bifurcation* was recently performed at an American College Dance Association Regional Conference. Post-graduation, Kae will continue teaching at Division Street Dance, working at Open Hands Farm, and apprenticing in Taja Will's and Mathew Janczewski's upcoming work, *Merge*.



TECHNICAL DESIGNER



Stephen Schroeder is a father, husband, dancer, dance educator, lighting designer, general handyperson, homebuilder and animal enthusiast. Stephen holds a BFA in Dance from the University of Colorado-Boulder circa 2001 and received the McKnight Fellowship for Dancers in 2014. Technically he has been working and lighting backstage since 2001. His designs have been seen from the far reaches of Minnesota to Havana and to the White Sea. He's privileged to be able to work with the students, and to light the wonderful dancers here at St. Olaf. Love fully and live inspired.

COSTUME DESIGNER



Rebecca Bernstein is a costume designer with deep roots in the performing arts. She holds an MFA from New York University's Tisch School of the Arts and is also a master draper.

LOOKING AHEAD

Movement, Camera, and the Creative Process Showing

May 17th from 7pm-8:30pm

Wagner Bundgaard Studio One, Center for Art and Dance



