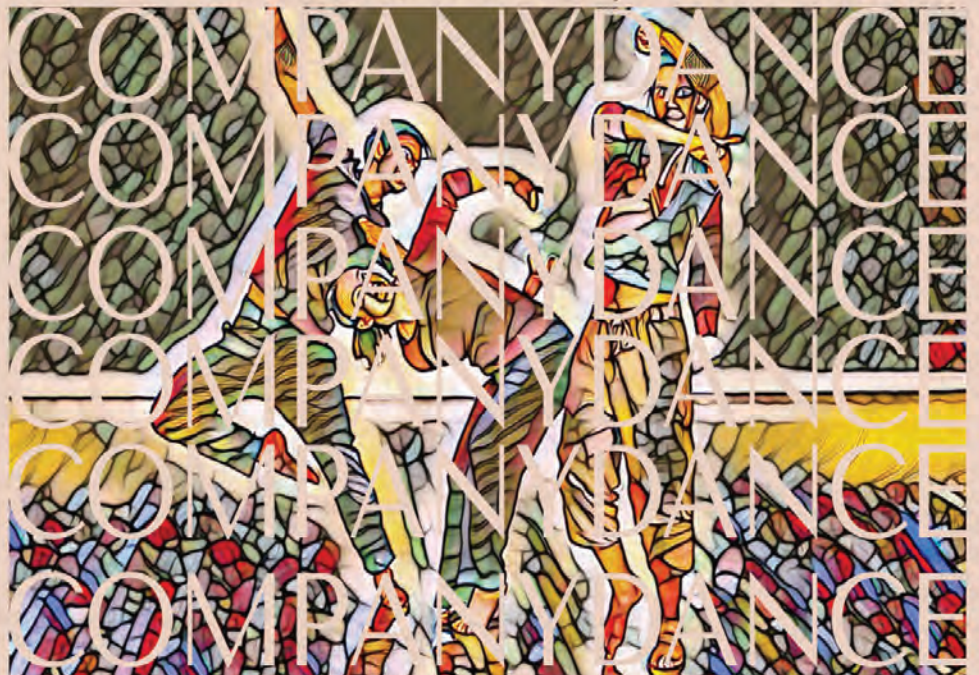




# COMPANY DANCE

SPRING CONCERT '25

March 6-8th; 7:30 PM 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, West African, Hip Hop, Ballet, International dance, Ballroom, Jazz, and Tap. The department consists of three core faculty plus eight 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 theater.
- ~ Please turn cell phones off. Please do not text during the concert.
- ~ Please place your unwanted program in the recycling box located outside the theater as you exit.



## **Reception: Friday, March 7**

Following the concert on Friday, March 7, please join us for a reception on the main floor of the Center for Art and Dance, by the Flaten Art Museum.

## From the Companydance Artistic Director

Welcome to the St. Olaf College Dance Department's 2025 Companydance Spring Dance Concert! Tonight, you'll witness a range of dance works that reflect the breadth of movement knowledge and expression valued here at St. Olaf.



Faced with present realities, we offer dance as a space for liberation, a testament to the strength of diverse voices and bodies, and a vital form of resistance and joy for all, regardless of gender identity, race, religion, ethnicity, ability or sexual orientation.

We invite you to engage actively with the performance, allowing your personal experiences to shape your interpretation. There's no single "right" way to understand the work; your participation in the journey is what matters.

Thank you for your support. We hope you enjoy the performance.

-Heather Klopchin and the St. Olaf College Dance Department

# H<sub>2</sub>Overture

**Choreographer:** Jeffrey Peterson

**Music:** “The Bay is Deep Blue” composed by Patrick Williams featuring Jeremy Cohen, Matthew Szemela, Chad Kaltinger, Kelley Maulbetsch

**Dancers:** Kaylin Averbeck, Alice Boerner, Savannah Carr, Tess Concannon, Audrey Degener, Maggie Doran, Katie Fugate, Anna Jacobsen, Z Johnson, Olivia Lovrich, Helen Lucas, Annie Rezac, Anna Siebler, Esther Staplin, Morgan Weitzell, Liya Wetzler

**Lighting Designer:** Stephen Schroeder

**Costume Designer:** Rebecca Bernstein



# Fallen Heroes

**Choreographer:** Darrius Strong

**Rehearsal Director:** Yolanda Pauly

**Music:** Music from the Oppenheimer soundtrack composed by Ludwig Göransson, edited by Darrius Strong

**Dancers:** Jade Burbank, Morgan Burkum, Delaney Dresser, Sonja Ebey, Hailey Frank, Amaija Grussing-Neitzel, Gibran Murrieta, Anna-Sophia Schwebel, Mary Staplin, Ella Vanderkolff

**Lighting Designer:** Stephen Schroeder

**Costume Designer:** Rebecca Bernstein

**do not touch my hair//color me  
cream//you call me cool because i  
dont threaten you//if i looked lighter  
stood taller curved hotter//is this  
about Jesus or//if you couldn't read  
this title, i get it. its hard to read  
something this long coming from a  
person like me**

**Choreographer:** ariel edwards

**Rehearsal Director:** lee christianson

**Music:** pain on my mind//nobigdyl

**Dancer:** ariel edwards

**Lighting Designer:**

ariel edwards,

stephen schroeder

**Costume Designers:**

ariel edwards,

rebecca bernstein



# Divide

**Choreographers:** Morgan Burkum, Gibran Murrieta

**Music:** “Day One Dark,” “Do Not Go Gentle Into That Good Night” Hans Zimmer

**Dancers:** Morgan Burkum, Gibran Murrieta

**Notes:** We are excited to present our final duet together at St. Olaf! It has been such an honor sharing various stages together throughout our four years, and we look forward to sharing our final work with you tonight!

**Lighting Designer:** Stephen Schroeder

**Costume Designer:** Rebecca Bernstein



# I Wish I Knew

**Choreographer:** Tumelo Khupe

**Rehearsal Director:** Ella Vanderkolff

**Music:** “Endless Falls” by Loscil

**Musical Producer:** Bea Beaman

**Dancers:** Bea Beaman, Ariel Edwards, Katie Fugate, Andrea Hanson, Angelita Higareda, Nina Hodder, Helen Knaack, Olivia Lovrich, Yolanda Pauly, Esther Staplin, Sam Suro

**Lighting Designer:** Stephen Schroeder

**Costume Designer:** Rebecca Bernstein

~~ **INTERMISSION** ~~

# Pixel & Pulse

**Director:** Brianna Rae Johnson

**Notes:** In a world saturated with screens and algorithms, where our lives are constantly monitored and quantified, Pixel & Pulse asks: What happens to the body, to the self? This work confronts the dehumanizing effects of surveillance culture, where social media and AI reduce us to data. But it also seeks the spaces where technology's hold weakens, where we can begin to rediscover the sensual experience of being and feeling.

**Music:** “Ghost in the Machine” and “Binary Dreams” by Joel Arpin

**Dancers/Choreography Collaborators:** Ivy Anderson, Bryn Fitzgerald-Wells, Hailey Frank, Sara Griffith, Sofia Knudson, Joy Meyers, Jessica Olson, Sophie Smith, Emma Smith, Kathryn Sprandel, Mary Staplin, and Lydia Westerlund

**Composer:** Joel Arpin

**Lighting Designer/Video Projections:** Stephen Schroeder and Brianna Johnson

**Costume Designer:** Rebecca Bernstein







## **Re: Chickadee**

**Choreographers:** Lee Christianson

**Rehearsal Director:** Ariel Edwards

**Notes:** "With regards to change, hope, and regret... "

Using dynamic shifts, a feeling of cultivation, and expansive possibility, Re: Chickadee offers indulgence in a layered movement narrative inspired by contemporary dance and theatrical elements.

**Music:** 1 by AAESPO

**Dancers:** Lee Christianson

**Lighting Designer:** Stephen Schroeder

**Costume Designers:** Lee Christianson, Rebecca Bernstein

## **Voulez-Vous**

**Choreographer:** Emma Linder

**Rehearsal Director:** Katie Fugate

**Music:** Voulez-Vous by ABBA

**Dancers:** Maggie Doran, Katie Fugate, Nina Hodder, Joy Meyers, Anna Siebler, and Mary Staplin

**Lighting Designer:** Emma Linder

**Costume Designers:** Emma Linder and Dancers

# Sofia

**Choreographers:** Ariel Edwards, Andrea Hanson

**Music:** Beatitude 3 Meek by Timothy Frantzich (feat. Manose Newa & Tommy Barbarella)

**Dancers:** Ariel Edwards, Andrea Hanson

**Notes:** Our screendance explores the delicate relationship between nature and human creation, posing the questions: How do autumn leaves know when it's time to fall from the tree? Do they remember the past or start fresh each year? How do people know when it's the right moment for change? It delves into themes of memory and the passage of time, examining how both the natural world and human creations coexist. Sofia (Greek for "wisdom") encourages us to reflect on the cyclical nature of life and death throughout the seasons.

# Elation

**Choreographer:** Kyle Marshall

**Rehearsal Director:** Heather Klopchin

**Music:** Flutestargate by Carlos Niño & Friends (feat. Deantoni Parks and Nate Mercereau), Maha Rose North 102021, Breathwork by Carlos Niño & Friends (feat. Laraaji, Photay)

**Dancers:** Bea Beaman, Morgan Burkum, Lee Christianson, Delaney Dresser, Ariel Edwards, Owen Erickson, Bryn Fitzgerald-Wells, Amaija Grussing-Neitzel, Andrea Hanson, Angelita Higareda, Nina Hodder, Gibran Murrieta, Emma Smith, Kathryn Sprandel, Ella Vanderkolff

**Lighting Designer:** Stephen Schroeder

**Costume Designer:** Rebecca Bernstein



# Faculty Biographies

**Joel Arpin** (he/him) is a professional drummer/percussionist and composer based in Minneapolis who performs, records, and teaches many styles of music. Joel is an active composer and has been commissioned to write for dance productions in many parts of the world. Joel currently serves as the Lead Staff Musician for the Dance Department at St. Olaf College in Northfield, Minnesota. Joel holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Percussion Performance from the University of Wisconsin.

As a 15-year-old mediocre soccer player, **Brianna Rae Johnson** (she/her) walked into her high school's dance studio and never looked back. She went on to receive Dance and Biology degrees, with a concentration in American Racial and Multicultural Studies, from St. Olaf College and earned a Master of Fine Arts in Dance from The Ohio State University. With great gratitude, she has returned to St. Olaf College as a Visiting Assistant Professor.

As a mover, she has focused on postmodern release technique, floorwork, contact improvisation, Latinx social dance, and West African Dance. Brianna has performed and toured nationally and internationally with Robin Stethem's Dancing People Company and in work by Paula Mann. She has also performed in works by Erin Drummond, Matthew Janczewski, Merce Cunningham, Katherine Moore, Claire Melbourne, Kathryn Nusa Logan, Alito Alessi, and Karen Nelson. As a maker, she creates immersive, intermedia, and interactive works for the stage, gallery, and screen. She has choreographed pieces for Alternative Motion Project and students at St. Olaf College, Winona State University, Carthage College, and The Ohio State University. Her choreography has been presented at numerous festivals and venues throughout the Midwest, and her screendances have been selected for festivals around the world.

**Tumelo (Melo) Khupe** (she/her) is a performing artist, krumper, and emerging choreographer based in the Twin Cities originally from Botswana. Her artistry investigates and explores how the body manifests lived experiences through movement. Krump is foundational in her work as it offers endless possibilities for storytelling through its technique and language. She makes use of some elements of theater to reveal these moments through freestyle or improvisation.

She graduated with a BA in Music Theater with a minor in Dance. Some awards received are the David Wick Leadership Award, the David Wick Best Choreography Award, and The Mabel Meta Frey Outstanding Theater Artist Award. She is a Naked Stages Fellow, Generating Room Fellow, a Chawrchā, a next-generation choreographic lab Fellow and most recently McKnight dance Fellows (2024-25) She has performed with Emmy award-winning company, Hip Hop Nutcracker.

**Darrius Strong** (he/him) is a highly accomplished choreographer, dancer, and educator based in the Twin Cities. His creative work has garnered recognition and been featured in prestigious venues such as the Walker Art Centers, Choreographers Evening, and Rhythmically Speaking. As the founder and artistic director of STRONGmovement and the director of the Hip Hop program at Eleve Performing Arts Center, Strong continues to push boundaries and inspire others through his innovative approach to movement.

Notable highlights of Strong's career include being featured in the 2015 New Griots Festival and an American Standard Billboard advertisement in NYC's Times Square in 2016. In 2017, he received the Momentum New Works recipient award, acknowledging his outstanding contributions to the field. Strong has also served as the Movement Director for esteemed theater organizations such as Guthrie Theater and Ten Thousand Things Theater, lending his expertise and artistic vision to enhance stage performances.

His choreographic talents have been sought after by renowned dance companies including Threads Dance Project, Flying Foot Forum, Alternative Motion Projects, TU Dance, and James Sewell Ballet, where he has created captivating works. Additionally, Strong has dedicated the past seven years to bringing Hip Hop knowledge and technique to Anoka Middle School for the Arts, making a significant impact on the next generation of dancers.

Beyond the realm of dance, Strong has made his mark as a movement director for musicians as well. He has collaborated with notable bands such as Noneabove and has provided movement direction for various cover bands performing at prestigious galas.

Recognized for his artistic excellence, Strong is a recipient of the 2019 Jerome Hill Fellowship and the 2022 Choreographer McKnight Fellowship, solidifying his position as a trailblazer in the dance community.

**Kyle Marshall** (he/him) is a choreographer, performer, teacher and artistic director of Kyle Marshall Choreography (KMC), a dance company that sees the dancing body as a container of history, an igniter of social reform and a site of celebration. Since inception in 2014, KMC has performed at venues including: Chelsea Factory, BAM Next Wave Festival, Jacob's Pillow Inside/Out, Actors Fund Arts Center, NJPAC, Little Island, and Roulette. Kyle has received choreographic and dance film commissions from the Baryshnikov Arts Center, "Dance on the Lawn", Montclair's Dance Festival, Harlem Stage and THE SHED.

Kyle has received a 2018 NY Dance and Performance Juried Bessie Award, a 2020 Dance Magazine Harkness Promise Award and a 2020 Bessie Honoree for his revival of *Colored* (2017). He has also received choreographic fellowships from Princeton University, Center for Ballet and the Arts, and residencies from Monira Foundation, 92nd st Y, CPR, and Bethany Arts Community. As an educator, Kyle has conducted masterclasses, creative workshops, set choreography at schools including; ADF,

Rutgers University, Ailey/Fordham University, Sarah Lawrence College, County Prep High School, and Eugene Lang/New School. He is currently an adjunct professor at NYU's Open Arts Program and Drew University. Kyle is a former member of the Trisha Brown Dance Company, doug elkins choreography etc., and Tiffany Mills Company. He is a graduate of Rutgers University with a BFA in Dance and a NJ Arts Fellow.

**Jeffrey Peterson** (he/him) is the Program Director and Assistant Professor of Dance at Winona State University in Winona, MN. He holds a Certification in Laban/Bartenieff Movement Analysis (L/BMA) from Integrated Movement Studies, an MFA in dance from New York University's Tisch School of the Arts, and a BFA in dance from the University of Minnesota - Twin Cities. Peterson's choreography has been called "Poetic Precision" by the Minnesota Star Tribune and "moving and heart racingly joyous" by the St. Paul Pioneer Press.

Driven by the personal and political, his work is founded upon the spatial complexity and precision of drum corps, the interior world of somatics, the bending of jazz and modern dance, and an eclectic approach to composition. He aims to create integrative, mind-body-spirit experiences for performers and audiences alike. He's been commissioned by Dance New Amsterdam, Movement Research at Judson Church, Dixon Place, Rhythmically Speaking, and numerous dance programs in Higher Education.



# Student Biographies

**Morgan Burkum** (she/her) is a Dance and Kinesiology major from Maple Grove, MN. She has been dancing since she was two years old, training primarily in contemporary, ballet, tap, and musical theater. She began primarily studying modern dance at St. Olaf, but has also spent time engaging with jazz, West African, hip hop, and ballet during her time in the dance department. She is so excited to take the stage for her final show at St. Olaf! Following graduation, Morgan will begin the Doctorate of Occupational Therapy program at the University of Wisconsin Madison.

**Lee Christianson** (he/him) is an active explorer of many movement styles ranging from boot slapping to ballet. His craving for dance education spans over years of taking miscellaneous classes in styles he knows nothing about; however, his favorites so far are modern dance, classical Javanese, and jazz fusions! Lee spent time training at Kate Humble's School of Dance and Gaspers School of Dance throughout his childhood, where he later taught modern dance intensives to younger dancers. Lee's passion for movement really flourished when he choreographed for and danced in shows while attending the Perpich Center for Arts Education during his junior and senior years of high school. During his time there, he took classes and worked with Twin Cities-based artists such as Mary Harding, Penelope Freeh, Darrius Strong, Carl Flink, and Gabrielle Abram. Currently, Lee attends St. Olaf College, majoring in Dance and Kinesiology with a concentration in Neuroscience. He is concentrating on choreography, learning various dance techniques, and striving to cultivate his identity as both an artist and a scientist, with aspirations to advance his career as a choreographer and earn a Master of Science in Occupational Therapy.

**Ariel (Rel) Edwards** (she/her) MD-MPH NREMT OB-GYN, is a Junior Dance Major on the Pre-Health Track from the verdant orchards of Apple Valley, California (jk MN). Her mom's pink camcorder, a Nintendo DS-XL, and herself were an inseparable powerhouse of recording potential. In the latter part of high school, she joined the EVHS Garden Club led by Brigid (hi). She began dabb(l)ing in creating videos in high school (i.e., Cooking Under Quarantine @arielkalisitis), eventually producing her first screendance last Spring for UPRISING VII @arirel. Since then, she has taken a video production class with her uncle (hi) and is enrolled in a course focused on exporting from Premiere Pro. This project with Andrea has deepened her interest and passion for dance and the screen and collaborating with friends! Rice to Riches provided kilograms of rice pudding and camaraderie to the film-makin' duo. Dreams for the future include delivering Andrea's firstborn. Fun fact: She is EMT-certified and can administer aspirin if needed.

# Student Biographies

**Andrea Hanson** (she/her) is a Senior Double Major in Dance and Chemistry from around here (i.e., Taiwan, Hong Kong, and South Korea). She started making wobbly home videos at the ripe age of four and has maintained an interest in film ever since. Her proudest accomplishment is her ACDA 2022 Milwaukee Vlog (available on her YouTube Channel @Andrea-hb7wz), closely followed by the screendance she created this summer at Tufts University, which was selected for the American Dance Festival's Movies by Movers in November 2024. In sixth grade, she joined the HKIS Middle School Garden Club and grew carrots. Andrea has loved dancing, filming, and editing this screendance with Ariel, her future obstetrician-gynecologist. They first met in Intro to Choreo and Improv two years ago but didn't speak to each other until last week. Next year, she plans to pursue an M.F.A. in Dance, deepening her work in homolateral movement and transitioning from iMovie to Premiere Pro. Fun fact: She became CPR-certified as of last Tuesday and will proudly show you her BLS certification if asked.

**Emma Linder** (she/her) is a sophomore dance, psychology, and SOAN major who has been tap dancing since age five. Emma choreographed this fun and upbeat piece for the Ole Tap Collective, and it was originally performed at Fresh Space in the fall semester. Thank you to Katie Fugate, who has stepped up as rehearsal director while Emma has been abroad.

**Gibran Murrieta** (he/him) is a Mexican-American Dance major with concentrations in Management Studies and Race and Ethnic Studies, originally from San Luis, AZ. He began dancing in high school, focusing on Hip Hop and K-pop dances, but has since delved into modern, post-modern, West African, Jazz, Krump and Waving. At St. Olaf, Gibran has been actively involved in dance organizations like Companydance, D-VINE Entertainment and KRUSH. Beyond campus, he has apprenticed with Arena Dances, participated in the Gibney Summer Study, and worked with Meridian Movement Company in St. Paul. After graduation, Gibran plans to continue dancing in the Twin Cities and on the East Coast. Passionate about both performing and choreographing, he is dedicated to exploring the intersections of movement, cultural heritage, and personal journeys, aiming to push the boundaries of traditional dance.



# Technical Designer

**Stephen Schroeder** (he/him), Lighting Designer and Technical Director, joined the St. Olaf community in 2019 as the Technical Director of the Dance Department and has enjoyed lighting dance and playing backstage since 1996 when he came upon the technical aspects of the theater while pursuing his BFA in Dance from the University of Colorado-Boulder. During his professional dance career he was also the touring Technical Director for Zenon Dance Company and ARENA Dances. When not on or backstage he can be found playing with his partner, three children, three dogs, two cats and two horses or tinkering in some aspect of home improvement.





## **Costume Designer**

**Rebecca Bernstein**, Costume Supervisor, is in her fourth year as the Costume Designer and Supervisor for St Olaf College. External costume design credits include: *12th Night*, *Always Patsy Cline*, *The Tempest*, *Cymbeline*, *Servant of Two Masters*, *Midsummer*, *Shakespeare in Love*, *Richard III*, *Shipwrecked!*, *Julius Caesar*, *Much Ado* (Great River Shakespeare Festival); *Little Women* (The Jungle); *The Rocky Horror Show*, *The Pirates of Penzance*, *The Liar*, *The Snow Queen* (Park Square Theatre); *Memory Boy* (MN Opera/Project Opera); *Salome* (MN Orchestra); *You're a Good Man Charlie Brown*, *Same Time Next Year* (Theatre Aspen); *Jailbait\**, *Hoodoo Love\**, *Dutchman\**, *Bhutan\**, *Huck and Holden\**, (The Cherry Lane Theatre); *Agamemnon* (LaMama ETC/ 11 th Hour Prod.); *Seussical* (Theater West Virginia); *When in Disgrace...* (Examined Man/ The Theatre at St, Clement's); *Anna Christie* (Metropolitan Playhouse); *Ward 9* (NYMF); *The Rise of Dorothy Hale\** (The Theatre at St. Luke's); Rebecca also taught Costume Construction at Brooklyn College and Costume Design at Kingsborough College in NYC. (\*Denotes Off-Broadway)

## **Production Staff**

**Technical Director and Lighting Designer:** Stephen Schroeder

**Stage Manager:** O'Neill Hathcoat

**Light Board Operator:** Jane Dagher

**Assistant Stage Managers:** Sophie Higgs, Sydney King, Alice Boerner, Lillian McKie, Leo Sanchez

**Fly Rails:** Nora Smentek, Sam Suro

**Costume Designer & Costume Shop Supervisor:** Rebecca Bernstein

**Wardrobe Lead:** Kathryn Sprandel

**Wardrobe Assistant:** Esther Staplin

**Costume Construction:** Sydney Niehaus, Soren Chirhart, Annalee Gray, Ella Douma, Auggie Lehn, Kathryn Sprandel, Gwennie Hayes, Ally Nolan, Lucy Korman, Rylie Hansen, Jenn Lin, Sasha Plaisted, Elliot Mevissen, Kiara Fonseca

**Front of House Services:** Provided by St. Olaf Theater Department

**Ushers:** Isabella Baker, Kaija Halvorson, Kylee Knettel

**Live Stream:** Provided by St. Olaf Broadcast/Media Services





## Special Thanks

- Alison Feldt, Associate Dean of Fine Arts
- Alison Flannery, Art & Dance Administrative Assistant
- Rebecca Bernstein, Costume Designer & Costume Shop Supervisor
- Theater Department Faculty & Staff
- Office of Broadcast Media
- Theater Building and Center for Art and Dance Custodians
- Dance Department Faculty Members: Anne von Bibra, Brianna Rae Johnson and Heather Klopchin
- Dance Department Staff Members: Joel Arpin, Alison Flannery and Stephen Schroeder
- Dance Department Adjunct Faculty Members: Fode Bangoura, Andrea Conger, Erin Drummond, Stephanie Fellner, Karla Grotting, Erinn Liebhard, Whitney McClusky, and Karen Yang
- Lee Christianson and Alison Flannery, Poster and Program Design
- Kent McInnis, Photographer

## Looking Ahead

### **Veselica International Dance Ensemble Performance**

April 25 at 7:30pm and April 26 at 2pm and 7:30pm in Wagner Bundgaard Studio 1

### **Dance 374: Advanced Choreography Showing**

May 14 at 7pm in Wagner Bundgaard Studio 1

Students in Advanced Choreography class present their work.

### **Dance 150: Movement, the Camera and the Creative Process Showing**

May 16 at 1pm in Center for Art and Dance Wagner Bundgaard Studio 1