

# Coalesce

## MFA Dance Thesis Concert

Featuring work by Connor Cook, Olivia Danni and  
Erica Densmore

*Dance performances are sponsored in part by  
Temple University's General Activities Fund and the Rose Vernick Fund*

Friday, March 15, 2024 • 7:30 PM

*Also livestreamed at [youtube.com/boyercollege](https://www.youtube.com/boyercollege)*

Saturday, March 16, 2024 • 7:30 PM

Conwell Dance Theater

1801 N. Broad St.

Philadelphia, PA 19122



## **Program**

### **Scavengers**

Choreographer: Connor Cook

Assistant to the Choreographer: Abby Cronin

Cast: Olivia Alsamadi, Jamie Chen, Ashley Hartz, Elora Probyn, Lily Santana, Lyric Way-Gregory

Music: Power Animal, Emptyset, Holly Herndon

### **Embodied Past**

Editor and Choreographer: Olivia Danni

Original Music by: Garrett Cook and Hilary James

Dancers: Annie Squire, Brianna Dachisen, Jennifer Mealani Harrison, Casey Olejar, Courtney Stewart, Imani K. Jackson, Jackie Doell, Vanessa Jimenez, Kelsie Vokes, Libby Rush-La Rue, Loganne Eckoff, Mara Jelicich, Natalie Subbloie, Jamin Pereira, Brandon Pereira, Nice Heffelfinger

| Intermission |

### **I Spent So Much Time Thinking About It, It Wasn't Really Real**

Choreographer: Erica Densmore

Dancers: Brianna Dupree, Lia Haynes, Nadia Ureña

Special help from Megan Paglione

Lighting Designer: Lia Haynes

Costumes: Erica Densmore with collaboration from dancers

Song Credits: "Father Time" by Kendrick Lamar, "Polyghost" by Bonobo, "Too Fast" by Sonder, "Purple Hearts" by Kendrick Lamar, "Wiseman" by Frank Ocean

## Production Crew

Backstage Crew: Brianna Dupree, Akino Lessey, Yihang Li, Dani Sala and Nyah Wise

House Manager: Madeline Shuron

Livestream by Les Rivera, Blatino Cineninja

## About the Artists

**CONNOR COOK** is a choreographer, performer, and educator from Pittsburgh, PA. He choreographs mainly for stage works such as musicals and operas, and concert dance settings. In this thesis work “Scavengers,” Cook is exploring the relationship between the microscopic world, outer space, and our relentless search for answers to life’s big questions.

**OLIVIA DANNI** is a somatics-based teacher and performer in Philadelphia. She is grounded in ballet, modern, and improvisation technique forms. Danni strongly believes that teaching embodiment and having a somatic practice can immensely improve children’s futures and adult lives. Her teaching practice is geared towards helping children navigate complicated emotions and empowering students of all gender expressions and backgrounds to feel confident and connected to their bodies.

**ERICA DENSMORE** is a Philadelphia based dancer and choreographer. Born and raised in Pittsburgh, Densmore received her BA in dance studies and integrative art from Penn State, University Park where she studied under Elisha Clark Haplin, Austin Eysers, Kikora Franklin, and many more. Densmore danced with The Chocolate Ballerina company during their 2022-2023 season in *The Nutcracker Dipped in Chocolate* and *Black Swan: A Swan Lake Premier*. She has taught at several studios within the PA/NJ area for over 6 years within the genres of contemporary, modern, jazz, hiphop, ballet, and tap. Currently, Densmore dances with contemporary company BF and Artists under the direction of Britt Whitmoyer Fishel. Their most recent work “Aura” premiered in Philly Fringe Arts Festival Fall 2023. Beyond dancing, Erica works as an interdisciplinary artist: acting, modeling, and in 2D design.