

CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING AND CINEMATIC ARTS
Boyer College of Music and Dance

Endings Dance Showcase

Dance Department events are supported in part by the Temple University General Activities Fund.

April 30, 2021
Presented Virtually

Friday
7:00 pm

Program

Act I: BFA Repertory Films

I'm Running From and To

Choreographer: Dara J Meredith
Dancers: Abe Baldonado, Mychal Emmanuel, Carissa Julien, Dhameer Kennedy,
Connor McKean, Katelyn Powell
Music: Lauryn Hill, Patty Griffin, Nina Simone, Repertory I Class
Lighting Design: Laurie Benoit & Dara J Meredith
Videographer: Dara J Meredith
Editor: Dara J Meredith

Recursive Presence

Conceived by: Dr. Adam Vidiksis (BEEP) & Dr. yonTande Whitney V. Hunter (Temple
Dance Ensemble)
Dancers: Hannah Borczon, Cameron Bridgers, Emma Sue Ewing, Lindsey Garnhart,
Emma Gentile, Riley Marx, Lauren Mochnal, Asha Yates
Costume Design: Cameron Bridgers
Lighting Design: Hannah Borczon & Addison Marie Christiansen
Videographer: Moriah Ella Mason
Editor: Addison Marie Christiansen

Recursive Presence is inspired by African fractals and processes of recursion that exist organically in nature, mathematics, sound patterns, and particularly in the weaving traditions of West African textiles. Recursion, as embodied by dancers and musicians, offers clear thematic connections between the past, present and future, asking, where one ends and the other begins. These corporeal and sonic manifestations question how these time-states convey meaning and offer stability.

Joy

Director: Jillian Harris
Producer: Jillian Harris
Choreographers & Dancers: Janice Argo, Nathaniel Betts, Shauna Brittingham, Ann Chernigoff, Nicolette Chiaravalloti, Rachel Finz, Lia Haynes, Bailey Lychock, Rosy Nunez, Lauren Spaulding
Guest Artists: Phil Grosser & Rhonda Moore
Music: "That Jawn" by Christopher B. Farrell
Editor: Jillian Harris
PAFA Exhibition: "...doing what they always do... (when they grow up...)" by Ebony G. Patterson
Public Art: Start From Here by Isaac Tin Wei Lin
Folding the Prism by Jessie Unterhalter and Katey Truhn
Isaiah's Garage by Isaiah Zagar
Percy Street Project by David Guinn and Drew Billiau, lighting design

Special Thanks to Ebony G. Patterson, the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts (PAFA), Monica Zimmerman, Matthew Herzog, and Abby King.

Encore Presentation

Repertory Films from the Fall Semester

ReVive

Director: Jillian Harris
Editor: Jillian Harris
Cinematography: In collaboration with the Dancers
Choreography: In collaboration with the Dancers
Dancers: Christian Mychal Covin, Peyton T Eidle, Ashley Lauren Hartz, Shaelyn R Kaiser, Alexis Lewandosky, Destiny Nguyen, Casey L Pagats, Melanie S Smith, Mijka Smith
Music: Ólafur Arnalds, Nils Frahm

I believe that, in stimulating the imagination, art creates and holds space for hope. *ReVive* reflects our journey interrogating questions about loss and renewal during this time of the pandemic. Footage for this film was captured in the students' home spaces and natural spaces along the Delaware River.

Ionic Resonance

Choreographers: Laura Katz Rizzo in collaboration with Mackenzie Barnett-Mcnab, Nathanie Betts, Emily Brennan, Abigail Cronin, Malcom Ellis, Lesly Fernandez, Serena Maximilien, Rosy Nunez, Megan Paglione, Courtney Richardson, Grace Van Dewater, Macie Wentz

Dancers: Abigail Cronin, Malcom Ellis, Lesly Fernandez, Serena Maximilien, Rosy Nunez, Courtney Richardson, Megan Pagione, Macie Wentz
Music: Chris Baldys
Costume Design: Laura Katz Rizzo
Animations: ng v
Videographers: Laura Katz Rizzo, Chris Baldys, ng v
Editors: Laura Katz Rizzo, Chris Baldys, ng v

Ionic Resonance is a short dance film that captures the responsive currents of water's flow, as well as the tranquil beauty of Franklin D. Roosevelt Park, a green oasis within the city of Philadelphia, PA. A cast of 8 dancers in white costumes conjures spiritual imagery as they swirl, glide and ripple in the rose gold light of sunset. The choreography, animations and sound score work together to create an immersive experience that brings to life the reflective and conductive properties of water.

Remembering Sankofa

Choreographers: yonTande Whitney V. Hunter and the Temple Dance Ensemble
Dancers: Hannah Borczon, Cameron Bridgers, Jana A. Calhoun, Emma Sue Ewing, Emma R. Gentile, Lindsey Garnhart, Riley E. Marx, Lauren Mochnal, Asha R. Yates
Music: Philip Glass & Cassandra Wilson
Costume Design: From the dancers
Videographer: yonTande Whitney V. Hunter

Remembering Sankofa is a meditation on the Ghanaian Akan proverb "sankofa" ("go back and get it") which compels us to remember and recall as a means of forward progression. It is addressed here for its resonance regarding survival, resistance, and resilience. The work is based on a solo originally choreographed by and for yonTande and then expanded in 2006 for Washington DC-based Washington Reflections Dance Company. This re-imagining for the screen is accomplished with gratitude for the performers of the Temple Dance Ensemble (TDE) for their own commitment to being present and their perseverance.

Book of Isolation

Choreographers: The Temple Dance Ensemble
Dancers: Hannah Borczon, Cameron Bridgers, Jana A. Calhoun, Emma Sue Ewing, Emma R. Gentile, Lindsey Garnhart, Riley E. Marx, Lauren Mochnal, Asha R. Yates
Music: Zoe Keating, David Wenngren, Olafur Arnalds and Nils Frahm
Costume Design: Temple Dance Ensemble Members
Videographers: Lindsey Garnhart & Hannah Borczon
Editors: Lindsey Garnhart & Hannah Borczon

Book of Isolation explores the phenomenon of being together but feeling alone.

Act II: MFA Studio Research films

Welcome & Film Introductions
Uriah Huffman & Elise Mele

Dear Mind: Sincerely, The Body

Choreographer: Elise Mele
Dancers: Elise Mele & Uriah Huffman
Music/Sound: Emmit Fenn
Text: Elise Mele
Videographer: Elise Mele & Uriah Huffman
Editor: Elise Mele

So You Think You've Had the Time of Your Life

Choreographer: Moriah Ella Mason
Dancer: Moriah Ella Mason
Music: "What A Feeling" by Irene Cara, "(I've Had) The Time of My Life" by Bill Hedley and Jennifer Warnes
Text: Martha Graham
Videographer: Moriah Ella Mason
Editor: Moriah Ella Mason

Twining

Choreographer: Qiwen Yuan
Dancer: Qiwen Yuan
Music: "2046 Main Theme" by Shigeru Umebayashi
Costume Design: Qiwen Yuan
Videographer: Qiwen Yuan
Editor: Qiwen Yuan

This piece is a part of my thesis research. I am still working on the plastic bags because I would like to try using plastic bags to convey my idea about waste pollution. The long plastic sleeves are like the garbage from humans wrapped around marine life.

A day

Choreographer: Zi Wang
Dancer: Zi Wang
Music: Positive piano background, pensive piano pop
Videographer: Zi Wang
Editor: Zi Wang

Film Introductions
Uriah Huffman & Elise Mele

Nowness II

Choreographer: Yuying Chen
Dancers: Yuying Chen & Chenghuang Zhang
Music: Alt-J, Dili
Videographer: Yuying Chen
Editor: Yuying Chen

This piece comes from the development of two groups of gestures- peeping and hand rubbing. Through the exploration of these two basic movements, the final presentation of this duet.

MAKOLO

Choreographer: Uriah Huffman
Dancer: Uriah Huffman
Music: Baba Joseph Bryant & Baba Ebo
Videographer: Uriah Huffman & Elise Mele
Editor: Uriah Huffman

Circle

Choreographer: Di Yue
Dancers: Di Yue, yuanyuandodo, Wiqky Wen, Tian Xue
Music: Wen Jinluying, David Maxim Micic
Videographer: Liang Deng
Editors: Cheng Chi & Di Yue

Many thanks to Gong Xiaoxue and Wen Jinluying for the collection of sound recordings. Π (Pi), the infinite non-recurring number, was used as the inspiration for this piece.

She's What?

Choreographer: Kat J. Sullivan
Dancer: Kat J. Sullivan
Music/Sound: Green Hill Instrumental, Christie Ellis and Olumide Martins, Shania Twain
Costume Design: Kat J. Sullivan
Videographer: Kat J. Sullivan
Editor: Kat J. Sullivan

Many thanks to Christie Ellis and Olumide Martins for the gracious use of the audio from their podcast Big Empty Purse!

Distance

Choreographer: Shiyu Wang
Dancers: Shiyu Wang & Xinyi Wen
Music: Yearning
Videographer: Shiyu Wang
Editor: Shiyu Wang

The development of technology, the development of social media, the distance between people seems to be close, but in fact it is far away. Sitting together without chatting and communicating is commonplace. We rely more and more on mobile phones and forget the people around us. Sometimes we need to remind ourselves to turn off our phone, forget the anxiety caused by technology, stay calm and communicate with others to feel like ourselves.

About the Artists

The Boyer College Electroacoustic Ensemble Project (**BEEP**) is a group for electroacoustic music creation in a collaborative environment. Founded in 2013 by Dr. Adam Vidiksis at Temple University, BEEP embraces a variety of aesthetics and styles, from EDM to the avant-garde. The ensemble functions in varied modalities: from a laptop orchestra, to fusion of computers and traditional instruments, to an electronic music band. BEEP uses the laptop orchestra model, an ensemble of computer-based meta-instruments, as but one of many possible modes of music making using computers and other electronics.

YUYING CHEN is a new graduate student from China who has trained in Chinese classical dance, and studies modern dance and choreography at Temple. Using contemporary and modern dance techniques, she constantly strengthens and develops her dance abilities, which is evident in her range as a choreographer. Yuying has worked at the Dance Arts Center and participated in online rehearsals and teaching during the pandemic.

An Associate Professor of Dance at Temple University, **JILLIAN HARRIS** explores the intersections between dance, film, and new technologies. She has served as a teaching artist in residence at Pontificia Universidad Javeriana (Bogotá, Colombia) and the program developer and coordinator of the dance intensive at Temple University-Rome. Jillian is the co-producer, featured dancer, and assistant choreographer for *Red Earth Calling*, a short dance film in collaboration with Flying Limbs Inc. that won the Best Narrative Short award at the 2015 Maui Film Festival (Maui, Hawaii), Best Experimental Short award at the 2015 Toronto Independent Film Festival, and Best Narrative Short award at the Moondance International Film Festival (Boulder, CO). She is the co-producer, director, choreographer, and editor for *Mud: Bodies of History* (www.mudbodies.com), a free, interactive dance film website produced in Colombia. Commissions for the stage include *King David*, a collaboration with the Mendelssohn Club of Philadelphia, and a collaboration with composer Ola Gjeilo, conductor Mitos Andaya-Hart, and the Temple University Singers. Having had a distinguished performance career, she continues to choreograph for sites both on and off the stage.

URIAH HUFFMAN is a dancer, choreographer, musician, poet, educator and current MFA candidate at Temple University. Uriah is the founder and artistic creator of SeasUHned Arts; a multidisciplinary company that emphasizes and highlights Kingdom art and creation based on biblical principles of the Christian faith. Uriah has performed work in Charlotte BOOM, Asheville Fringe Festival, Staibdance in Italy, Columbia TAPPs Art Center, Charleston's Piccolo Spoleto, New York Movement: PANGEA festival and the ACDA Southeast Gala Concert. Choreographically, Uriah appreciates diversity; thriving on inclusive nature and atmosphere while utilizing varied artistic perspectives to enrich her own. Uriah values purpose- how it fortifies gratitude, passion, holism and the pursuit of life. Uriah seeks to make impact by creating purposeful work, providing inspiration, encouraging pursuit, and eliciting others to question their reason for being. Uriah aids in the fortification of passion through mentorship and education; exposing and representing underrated techniques and styles to both the privileged and underprivileged communities with the mission of building artistic compassion and understanding.

MORIAH ELLA MASON wants to understand who we are, how we got here, and how we're all thinking and feeling about that. They combine rigorous academic research with lived experience, words with dance, brain with body, living in the tension between ways of knowing and methods of being. Over the past decade Mason has created seven evening-length performance works and a number of installations, video pieces, and short movement works. They have been granted residencies at Future Tenant Gallery and Pearlarts Studios in Pittsburgh, PA and their works have been presented at the New Hazlett Theater, Kelly-Strayhorn Theater, vox populi, wild project, WOW Café Theater, and BAAD! In addition to their work as a creator and performer, Mason is a licensed massage therapist specializing in trauma-sensitive bodywork. They bring their deep background in embodied practices to their work in a variety of community organizing roles. Mason is currently a dance MFA candidate at Temple University and aspiring to bake the perfect babka.

ELISA MELE is a Philly-based dance artist and currently an MFA candidate at Temple University. Elise values the therapeutic experience of dance and researches different methods of connecting to the body, soul, and mind through dance practice. This in-depth research provides a platform for Elise to share with all bodies. Through her choreographic works, Elise aims to bring awareness to what our bodies hold onto and how dance can immerse the viewer into a sensory experience. In addition to her choreographic career, Elise has also performed with Olive Prince Dance, Contempra Dance, the "InterACTION Project," Nickerson Rossi Dance, and currently, Matter Movement Group. As she continues to grow in the field of dance, Elise hopes to push the boundaries of where dance can be viewed and how it can be performed.

DARA J MEREDITH is an Atlanta native, receiving her BFA in Dance Education and Performance from the University of the Arts, where she was the recipient of the highest honored Stella Moore Award. She received her MFA from Temple University and was awarded the Rose Vernick Choreographic Achievement Award. She is currently an Adjunct Professor at Temple University, Dance Faculty in the School District of Philadelphia, and serves as the Assistant Artistic Director and Rehearsal Director for Eleone Dance Theatre. Dara has performed in Senegal, West Africa with Total Dance Theater, Brian Sanders's *Junk*, Sonia Sanchez's *Living Legends Tour*, and several musical theater productions. She is the 2020 commissioned artist for the Delaware Art Museum and received the People's Choice Award for her work in the Internationales Solo-Tanz-Theater Festival in Stuttgart, Germany. Dara is the Co-Founder of DCNS Summer Dance Intensive and is committed to holistic dance education of her students. She has self-produced two productions, one of which was focused on mental illness and the healing process. Dara strives to tell untold stories in her choreographic work that focuses on social justice, edification, and healing.

KAT J. SULLIVAN makes dances, performs in dances, writes about dances, and photographs dances, almost always in Philadelphia. People have produced her work, given her money to do her work, and sometimes given her space to make it. Wonderful people have influenced her, both formally and informally, and she's had the great pleasure of performing in beautiful places and virtual spaces. Her doings and ongoings can be found on her website: katjsullivan.com.

The **TEMPLE DANCE ENSEMBLE (TDE)** is the Dance Department's resident performance company, led by department faculty on a rotating basis. TDE offers fully produced performances featuring original choreography by faculty, guest artists, and ensemble members. The dancers display their artistry through an annual schedule of diverse performances that reflects the rich curriculum offered through the Dance Department. The overall mission of TDE is to connect with the university and local communities through the art of dance.

SHIYU WANG is a new graduate student from China who has a background of Chinese classical dance, Chinese folk dance, and is interested in studying Chinese folk dance further while at Temple. In addition, she has studied, competed, taught, and performed modern dance styles.

ZI WANG sees everyday life as training, dancing whenever and wherever possible, and records their feelings with dance and body language. Zi's approach to studying dance is rooted in goals to obtain knowledge, energy, and answers from the body.

QIWEN YUAN is a second year MFA student from China. She had artistic gymnastics training in primary school and began training in Chinese classical dance and folk dance in junior high school. Afterward, she changed her basic dance training to learn modern dance and choreography in her undergraduate studies. Qiwen is keen on learning different types of dance, experimenting with different creative choreography, and enjoys interdisciplinary research on dance.

DI YUE is a dance artist from China and is currently an MFA candidate at Temple University. She specializes in choreography, improvisation and performance. She has been trained in Chinese classical dance, folk dance, ballet, modern dance, and loves hip-hop, waacking, and other street dance movements. In terms of choreography, Di likes to explore different forms of dance movement and fuse different dance genres together to create works with different themes and styles. In improvisation, she values the connection between the body and the mind, the floor, the surrounding space, and the flow of energy within the body, finding her own unique trajectory and way of movement. Di Yue is committed to teaching more of her own ideas and exploring the possibilities of the body in dance education, so that more people can enjoy the joy of dance.