ONE DROP
World Water Day
2023

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

Wednesday, March 22, 2022 • 7:00 PM
Conwell Dance Theater, 5th Floor
1801 North Broad Street
Philadelphia, PA 19122
Also livestreaming at YouTube.com/boyercollege
Welcome to One Drop, the ninth yearly World Water Day dance concert celebrating water in all its aspects, presented by the Temple University Department of Dance.

World Water Day, on March 22 of every year, is a global call for action and education on the importance of water for sustaining life on the planet. This year’s World Water Day theme is Accelerating Change.

We need to accelerate change to solve the water and sanitation crisis. In 2015, the world committed to Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 6 as part of the 2030 Agenda – the promise that everyone would have safely managed water and sanitation by 2030. Right now, we are seriously off-track to meet Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 6. Billions of people and countless schools, businesses, healthcare centers, farms and factories don’t have the safe water and toilets they need.

To accelerate change, we need more action. This year World Water Day coincides with the UN 2023 Water Conference, – the first event of its kind for nearly 50 years. This global convening aims to develop a strong Water Agenda to address dysfunction throughout the water cycle, which is undermining progress on all major global issues, from health to hunger, gender equality to jobs, education to industry, disasters to peace.

Water affects everyone, so everyone needs to take action. Governments have to work on average four times faster to meet SDG 6 on time, but this is not a situation that governments can solve on their own. You, your family, and community can make a difference by changing the way you use, consume and manage water in your lives. Get informed. Make a list of personal commitments to solve the water crisis. Take Action. Do what you can.

Meríán Soto  
Professor of Dance  
Temple University, Boyer College of Music & Dance
Program

Seasons of Change
Choreographers: Jena Barton and Karly Meehan in collaboration with Ben Cohen and Benja Newnam
Musicians: Ben Cohen, Benja Newnam

Please join us on stage for an immersive community performance with live music!

Mamiwata
Choreographer: Sena A. Atsugah
Dancer: Sena A. Atsugah
Music: Buddha’s Lounge

Mamiwata (Mother Water or True water) is a complex volatile spirit that is associated with beauty, health, wealth, and fertility but can also be distractive. In some African societies, Mamiwata is an important depiction of the strength of traditional religion and the strength of a woman figure, hence referred to as Mamida. The embodiment of water and the serpent. This piece explores the characteristics of Mother Water through fluid and serpentine, yet solid and sharp movements and gestures. It also investigates the power and resilience that resides in this entity through the bodies of female dancers.

Rush-Relax
Choreographer & Dancer: Emma Sue Ewing
Costuming: Emma Sue Ewing
Editing: Emma Sue Ewing
Videography: Emma Sue Ewing and Quinn Maloles-Rutter
Special thanks to Eliza Beltz, and the Maloles-Itetta family for use of their spaces

Rush-Relax was a personal exercise in examining how movement is embodied throughout rushed verses relaxed spaces. Constant progression and neoliberalism have affected each of us greatly; we feel the strain of acceleration. What does movement give to us in the slow moments and what can we take from the fleeting ones?
Dust
Choreographer & Dancer: Yuying Chen
Music: Rene Aubry

The different forms of water are presented in an improvised dance that corresponds to the human experience of life.

Yowa Maafa
Dancer: yaTande Whitney V. Hunter
Musician(s)/Performers/”Stickmen”: Baba Joe Bryant, Baba Paul Lucas, Baba Ebo (dance department drummers)

A dance-ritual in remembrance of the enslaved Africans who perished in the Atlantic Ocean during the 16th - 19th-century middle passage journeys from Europe to Africa to the Americas. Yowa Maafa also acknowledges the survivors of the Maafa (“Great Disaster”) and honors the spirit of the great waters for delivering the survivors.

In Kongo cosmology, it is respected that the continuity of human life is symbolized by the rising and setting of the sun as a cycle of life and death. The sun sets at the Kalunga line (the watery demarcation between the living and the deceased), illuminating the afterlife only to rise again to continue life. The yowa is the Kongo cosmogram that marks this cyclical journey. May the circle be unbroken.

Technical Crew

Faculty Advisors: Fletcher Chmara-Huff & Merián Soto
Stage Manager: Laurie Benoit
Stage Crew: Brianna Dupree, Mychal Emmanuel, Michaela Delaney Guthrie, Lia Haynes, Shaelyn Kaiser, Akino Lessey
About the Artists

JENA BARTON (she/her), is a first year MFA candidate at Temple University. She holds a BFA in Dance Performance and Choreography from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro. Upon completing her undergraduate studies, she toured regionally and nationally with the West Virginia Dance Company in their arts educational outreach show, danced for Theatre West Virginia, and taught at local studios. She moved to Philadelphia in 2019 where she has been a freelance performer, choreographer, and teacher ever since. The bulk of her time in Philly has been spent designing, implementing and teaching a Montessori-based movement curriculum at Greene Towne Montessori School.

KARLY MEEHAN (she/her) is a Chicago native now based in Philadelphia as a first-year MFA candidate. She obtained her BFA in Dance Performance and Choreography from the University of Nevada, Las Vegas in 2021. After graduating, Meehan produced two shows for the UNLV Performing Arts Center as a guest artist, as well as created and managed dance curriculum for the Salcianu Elite Gymnastics Academy. Two of her works, “Butterflies” and “SONDER” have been recognized in the Inspired Dance Australia Film Festival and the Inaside Chicago Dance Choreography Competition. Now in Philadelphia, Meehan is a teaching artist with BalletX’s Dance eXchange program as well as a freelance performer and educator.

SENA ATSUGAH is a Fulbright second-year Ph.D. student in Dance at Temple University in Philadelphia. She obtained her Bachelor of Fine Arts and Master of Fine Arts degrees from the University of Ghana, Legon. Atsugah has created works, led workshops, presented papers, and performed in Ghana, Togo, Burkina-Faso, Mali, Senegal, Germany, the USA, France, and Prague. Before her studies at Temple, she worked with the Department of Dance Studies at the University of Ghana for four years and has served as a course advisor for Freshmen/women over these years.
EMMA SUE EWING is a Pittsburgh native and will graduate BFA student at Temple University studying dance, sociology, and pre-medicine. Emma has studied under Kun Yang Lin of Kun Yang Lin/Dancers, Umfundalai masters Josephine Hearns and Saleana Pettaway, and Maria Caruso of Maria Caruso’s Bodiography. Studying ballet, modern, West African dance styles, improvisation, Umfundalai, hip hop, and musical theater have all been important to Ewing's dance training. She enjoys exploring dance through human interaction and finds the most joy when performing. Recently, Ewing performed in a third studio research-based work by Ella-Gabriel Mason, This could be a portal. She has received the 2022 Rose Vernick Scholar Award from Temple Dance Department faculty. Ewing will be performing in the Emerging Artist Theatre’s New Work Series for Liz Siani’s sit under my skin in March 2023.

YUYING CHEN is originally from China and lives in Philadelphia. She is a choreographer and professional dancer. She specializes in contemporary dance choreography, performance, and dance education. She is an MFA candidate at Temple University’s Boyer School of Music and Dance. Her undergraduate studies focused on traditional Chinese dance and choreography, so she is also very experienced in Chinese classical and folk dance. Through her personal experience, she hopes that she can combine her Chinese dance training background with contemporary dance to create a more personal dance language while valuing individuality and humanity. Her goal is to free herself from established traditional dance techniques and to make the intelligence of her body and her knowledge of art more powerful than what is visible on stage.
YATANDE WHITNEY V. HUNTER (he/him) is a Chicago-born artist committed to #cultureascatalyst, based in Philadelphia. His work centers around cultivating individual and communal spirit through dance-performance, education, and curation. Hunter’s choreographic and performance work has been presented through Performance Garage, Trinity Repertory Company, Kumble Theater, La Mama, Grace Exhibition Space, Panoply Performance Laboratory, Brooklyn International Performance Art Festival and in the streets of NYC, Chicago, and Detroit. Commissions and grants include Performance Garage, Providence Arts, Culture and Tourism; New York State Council for the Arts; Puffin Foundation; Harlem Stages; Thelma Hill Performing Arts Center; Brooklyn International Performance Art Festival; Lumen Festival, and others. Hunter has worked with the companies of Martha Graham, Rod Rodgers, Reggie Wilson, Martha Clarke, Kankouran West African Dance Company, and others. Hunter has taught nationally and internationally and is currently Assistant Professor of Dance and Coordinator of the African Diaspora Dance Series at Temple University. His academic degrees include B.F.A in Theatre Arts/Dance (Howard University), M.F.A in New Media Arts and Performance (Long Island University), and Ph.D. in Philosophy, Art Theory and Aesthetics (Institute for Doctoral Studies in the Visual Arts, 2013 David Driskell Fellow). whitneyhunter.com
Please Get Involved!

Provided below is a list of local, national and international organizations that are dedicated to solving water issues all over the globe. Please take this list and find organizations to volunteer with and support. To solve any crisis in our world, we have to work together.

LOCAL

Delaware River Keepers

The Delaware River Keepers was established in 1988 as a non-profit 501(c)(3) membership organization. They promote work throughout the four states that comprise the Delaware River Watershed, including Pennsylvania, New Jersey, New York and Delaware in regards to federal issues, actions, regulations, legislations, programs, policies and decisions that impact the health of the watershed. To learn more, please visit delawareriverkeeper.org.

Friends of the Wissahickon

Founded in 1924, Friends of the Wissahickon is a 2,000-member non-profit organization that works in partnership with Philadelphia Parks and Recreation to restore historical park structures, eliminate invasive plant species, monitor watershed management issues and restore trails throughout Wissahickon Valley Park. To learn more, please visit fow.org.
UNITED BY BLUE

Started in 2010 out of a desire to preserve the places where we play, United by Blue opted to make a real, tangible impact on our oceans. Instead of writing checks and collecting donations, the organization removes one pound of trash from the Earth’s oceans and waterways for every product that they sell through company-organized clean ups. To learn more, please visit unitedbyblue.com.

NO DAPL SOLIDARITY

#NoDAPL Solidarity

#NoDAPL Solidarity is an indigenous-led movement to stop the Dakota Access Pipeline, a $3.8 billion, 1,100 mile-long fracked-oil pipeline currently under construction from the Bakken shale fields of North Dakota to Peoria, Illinois. The pipeline is slated to cross Lakota Treaty territory at the Standing Rock Sioux Reservation where it would be laid underneath the Missouri River, North America’s longest river. Construction of the pipeline would engender a renewed fracking frenzy in the Bakken shale region and endanger a source of fresh water from the Standing Rock Sioux that would affect 8 million people living downstream. The Dakota Access Pipeline would also impact many sites that are sacred to Standing Rock Sioux and their indigenous nations. This project is a massive one solely organized by a group of the world’s largest fossil fuel companies and banks with offices in cities all around the world. Placing direct and non-violent pressure on the corporations behind the project is critical for supporting frontline resistance to the Dakota Access Pipeline. To learn more, please visit nodaplsolidarity.org.
**Foundation for Flint**

On May 13, 2016, this foundation, a supporting organization of the Community Foundation for Greater Flint, was established to assist in Flint, Michigan’s water crisis. Foundation for Flint raises and distributes resources to serve the long-term health and developmental needs of children, their families and the economic vitality of the city itself through two charitable funds, the Flint Child Health and Development Fund and the Moving Flint Forward Fund. To learn more, please visit flintkids.org.

**Americans Against Fracking**

Fracking and fracking related drilling pose a direct and immediate threat to the drinking water, air, climate, food sources, the overall health and the economy of communities all across the United States. Americans Against Fracking is an organization composed of entities dedicated to banning drilling and fracking for oil and natural gas in order to protect our shared resources for future generations.

**OTHER RELATED ORGANIZATIONS**

**Plastic Pollution Coalition**

Plastic is a durable material made to last forever and yet 33 percent of all plastic is used only once and then discarded. Plastic cannot biodegrade but rather, can only break down into smaller and smaller pieces. The Plastic Pollution Coalition is a growing global alliance of organizations, businesses and leaders working towards a world free of plastic pollution and its toxic impact on humans, animals and the environment as a whole. To learn more, please visit plasticpollutioncoalition.org.
**Surfrider Foundation**

The Surfrider Foundation is dedicated to the protection and enjoyment of the world’s oceans, waves, and beaches through a powerful activist network of 80 chapters and 110 active campaigns. To learn more, please visit [surfrider.org](http://surfrider.org).

**The 5 Gyres Institute**

The mission of The 5 Gyres Institute is to empower action against the global health crisis of plastic pollution through science, art, education, and adventure. The organization’s ultimate goal is to achieve a planet free of plastic pollution. To learn more, please visit [5gyres.org](http://5gyres.org).

**Sea Save Foundation**

The Sea Save Foundation strives to protect our oceans by raising awareness about the beauty of marine ecosystems and their fundamental importance to human survival. They seek solutions while advancing public policy and drive advocacy. To learn more, please visit [seasave.org](http://seasave.org).

**Oceana**

Oceana works to protect aquatic life affected by industrial fishing through targeted policy campaigns focused on science combined with media, law and public pressure. These clearly defined campaigns aiming at responsible fishing practices and prevention of ocean pollution are designed to produce identifiable policy changes within three to five years’ time. To learn more please visit: [oceana.org](http://oceana.org).

**World Wildlife Fund**

The World Wildlife Fund’s work involving ocean life focuses on preserving and promoting healthy and resilient marine ecosystems that support abundant biodiversity, sustainability and thriving economies. To learn more, please visit [worldwildlife.org](http://worldwildlife.org).
**Water for People**

Water for People exists to promote the development of high-quality drinking water and sanitation services accessible to everyone and sustained by strong communities, businesses and government entities. To learn more, please visit [waterforpeople.org](http://waterforpeople.org).

**Clean Water Action**

The mission of Clean Water Action is to protect the environment, overall health, economic well-being and quality of life in communities worldwide. The organization puts together strong grassroots groups, coalitions and campaigns to elect candidates with pro-environmental platforms and solve both environmental and community problems. To learn more, please visit [cleanwateraction.org](http://cleanwateraction.org).

*This is certainly not a complete list. Please go donate, volunteer and educate yourself on valuable organizations such as these. Find your local water protectors and get involved. Water is life!*
Temple University Department of Dance
The dance department has just celebrated its fortieth year and is proud of its four programs, renowned faculty and outstanding students. The department’s four programs are the BFA, MFA, MA and Ph.D. Overall, the department serves 150 committed students and some 250 non-majors. The Temple dance department is unique in that it addresses issues of diversity both in course content and faculty members. As scholars, artists, teachers and choreographers, the faculty challenges students to become artistic, creative and intellectual participants in the university, local, national and international communities.

Dr. Robert T. Stroker, Dean
Dr. Karen Bond, Chair, Dance Department
Laurie Benoit, Associate Director of Dance Production

The Temple University Dance Department is a member of the National Dance Education Organization and the American College Dance Festival Association. It is a fully accredited member of the National Association of Schools of Dance.

Department of Dance Office Staff
Gloria Scott, Administrative Coordinator
Norma Porter, Admissions and Recruitment Coordinator

Audience photography and video recording is prohibited during the show for the safety of the performers and as a courtesy to audience members and in compliance with copyright law.

Restrooms - located on the 3rd floor, Conwell Hall
Public Telephones - located on the ground floor, Conwell Hall

Emergency Instructions:
In the event that an evacuation is required, the ushers will lead the audience safely out of the building to the official meeting place on the front steps.
Exit will be down the main stairs or the fire tower.
Access to the fire tower can be found off the lobby, through the office in room 501.
Boyer College of Music and Dance

The Boyer College of Music and Dance offers over 500 events open to the public each year. Students have the unique opportunity to interact with leading performers, composers, conductors, educators, choreographers and guest artists while experiencing a challenging and diverse academic curriculum. The Boyer faculty are recognized globally as leaders in their respective fields. Boyer alumni are ambassadors of artistic leadership and perform with major orchestras, opera and dance companies, teach at schools and colleges and work as professional music therapists, choreographers and composers. Boyer’s recording label, BCM&D records, has produced more than thirty recordings, five of which have received Grammy nominations.

boyer.temple.edu

The Center for the Performing and Cinematic Arts

The Center for the Performing and Cinematic Arts consists of the Boyer College of Music and Dance, School of Theater, Film and Media Arts, the George and Joy Abbott Center for Musical Theater and the Temple Performing Arts Center. The School of Theater, Film and Media Arts engages gifted students with nationally and internationally recognized faculty scholars and professionals. A hallmark of the School of Theater, Film and Media Arts is the Los Angeles Study Away program, housed at historic Raleigh Studios. The George and Joy Abbott Center for Musical Theater engages visiting performers, guest artists, set designers, playwrights and other Broadway professionals. The Temple Performing Arts Center (TPAC), a historic landmark on campus, is home to a state-of-the-art 1,200 seat auditorium and 200 seat chapel. More than 500 concerts, classes, lectures and performances take place at TPAC each year.

arts.temple.edu

Temple University

Temple University’s history begins in 1884, when a young working man asked Russell Conwell if he could tutor him at night. It wasn’t long before he was teaching several dozen students—working people who could only attend class at night but had a strong desire to make something of themselves. Conwell recruited volunteer faculty to participate in the burgeoning night school, and in 1888 he received a charter of incorporation for “The Temple College.” His founding vision for the school was to provide superior educational opportunities for academically talented and highly motivated students, regardless of their backgrounds or means. The fledgling college continued to grow, adding programs and students throughout the following decades. Today, Temple’s more than 35,000 students continue to follow the university’s official motto—Perseverantia Vincit, or “Perseverance Conquers”—with their supreme dedication to excellence in academics, research, athletics, the arts and more.

temple.edu
Temple University 2021-2022 Season
Upcoming Events

Thursday, March 23 at 3:00 PM
Dance Studies Colloquium: Mario La Mothe, The University of Illinois at Chicago, Institute for Dance Scholarship Temple University Visiting Scholar in Residence
“Yanvalou For Haiti: An Affective Ethnography of Ayikodans’ Anmwey Ayiti Manman”
Gladfelter Hall 10th Floor Lounge

Thursday, March 23 at 4:30 PM
Rite of Swing Jazz Café: James Holton Group
Temple Performing Arts Center Lobby

Thursday, March 23 at 5:30 PM
Trombone Choir
Rock Hall Auditorium

Thursday, March 23 at 7:30 PM
Senior Recital: Max Culp, cello
Rock Hall Auditorium

Friday, March 24 at 4:00 PM
Chamber Music Recital
Rock Hall Auditorium

Friday, March 24 at 5:30 PM
Master’s Recital: Riley Matties, trombone
Rock Hall Auditorium

All events are free unless otherwise noted. Programs are subject to change without notice.
For further information or to confirm events, please call 215.204.7609 or visit www.boyer.temple.edu.