BFA Dance Concert

“Sentient”

Featuring work by
Janice Argo, Nathaniel Betts, Shauna Brittingham, Ann Chernigoff, Rachel Finz, Lia Haynes, Shaelyn Kaiser, Bailey Lychock, Casey Pagats and Melanie Smith

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

Friday, April 21, 2023 • 7:30 PM
Also livestreaming at YouTube.com/boyercollege
Saturday, April 22, 2023 • 2:30 PM & 7:30 PM
Conwell Dance Theater, 5th Floor
1801 North Broad Street
Philadelphia, PA 19122
i forgot my own name last night
Choreographer: Bailey Lychock
Dancers: Mia Allison, Jaremy Bady, Christian Covin, Abby Cronin, Dyn Garcia, Gabrielle Gomez, Casey Pagats, Melanie Smith, Rylee Usher
Music: Tame Impala, Stennes, Pink Floyd, Sports
Lighting: Bailey Lychock

Ego Death: “A complete loss of subjective self-identity, as well as any meaningful anchor to reality while under the influence of psychedelics”
Broken up into 5 sections, the come-up, the peak, the descent, ego death, and the come-down.

Reminiscent (excerpt)
Choreographer: Nathaniel Betts
Dancers: Shalayah Kinder, Kieran Cooke, Courtney Richardson, Carissa Julien, Briana Dupree, Venrick James, Shacile Harrison, Kevin “Azari”
Costumes: Ombré
Lighting: Laurie Benoit

A battle through stages of self. Trauma, struggle, the moments that felt like they would never pass. The monsters that lurk buried deep within your subconscious.
Little World
Choreographer: Janice Argo
Dancers: Mia Allison, Christian Covin, Rachel Finz, Dyn Garcia, Michaela Delaney Guthrie, Blake Hudson, Courtney Richardson, Lily Santana, Claire Schlutt, Rylee Usher
Music: Travis Lake, Grandbrothers
Costumes: Janice Argo
Lighting: Laurie Benoit

Free your Mind

| Intermission |

Philippians 4:13
Choreographer: Shauna Brittingham
Dancers: Mia Allison, Christian Covin, Abby Cronin, Victoria Grimaldi, Melanie Smith, Rylee Usher, Shauna Brittingham
Music: “Jesus” (A Spoken Word) and “I Was Loved” by Davy Flowers
Costumes: Shauna Brittingham
Lighting: Laurie Benoit

“I can do all things through Christ which strengthens me.” - Philippians 4:13
**The Manipulators Kryptonite**
Choreographer: Rachel Finz  
Dancers: Jaremy Bady, Michaela Delaney, Victoria Grimaldi, Lexie Keller, Mackenzie Barnett-McNab  
Music: Future, DJ Khaled, Tems, Solange  
Costumes: Rachel Finz  
Lighting: Rachel Finz in collaboration with Laurie Benoit

This piece encapsulates learning to walk away from people and situations threatening your peace of mind, self-respect, values, morals or self-worth.

**Same Body, Different Mind**
Choreographer: Casey Pagats  
Dancers: Mia Allison, Dyn Garcia, Victoria Grimaldi, Gabriella Ramirez  
Music: Steve Lacy  
Costumes: Casey Pagats  
Lighting: Laurie Benoit

This piece embodies the struggle of navigating through life with PTSD. Do not get stuck trying to change yourself to who you were before the trauma because it does not exist anymore.
remaining [here]
Choreographer: Shaelyn Kaiser
Dancers: Mia Allison, Christian Covin, Michaela Delaney Guthrie, Emma Sue Ewing, Dyn Garcia, Melanie Smith
Music: Halsey and Mitski, edited by Kathryn Szykman
Costumes: Shaelyn Kaiser
Lighting: Laurie Benoit

Embodiment of how major loss leads to cycles of self-destruction, addiction, and suffering.

| Intermission |

Faculty Among Sentience
Choreographer: Ann Chernigoff
Dancers: Mia Allison, Jaremy Bady, Christian Covin, Shaelyn Kaiser, Mackenzie Barnett-McNab, Melanie Smith
Music: Bon Iver and Frank Ocean, sound mixing by Janice Argo and Solf Crespo
Costumes: Ann Chernigoff
Lighting: Josiah Perez and Julia Garibaldi

‘Pity those who don’t feel anything at all, for tears have been a sign of life since birth.’
so, anyways

Choreographed and structured by: Melanie Smith
Dancers: Mia Allison, Bella Baldonado, Michaela Delaney Guthrie, Malcolm Ellis, Lesly Fernandez-Gomez, Caroline Healy, Blake Hudson, Shaelyn Kaiser, Hannah Kieserman, Claire Schlutt
Music: Sia, Nuttin’ but Strings, Gil Flat
Lighting Designer: Bella Baldonado

wow that’s sad... wanna see this funny Tik Tok?
This piece encapsulates the experiences of the generations growing up in a new age of technology. You can’t escape the bad news or the heavy details of it, but you can try to fill it with happier things.

The Amerikkkan Dream
Choreographer: Lia Haynes
Dancers: Jaremy Bady, Robyn Bellah, Deshaun Evans, Lia Haynes, and Nadia Ureña
Music: Kendrick Lamar, edited by Lia Haynes and mixed by Taj Thomas
Costumes: Lia Haynes
Lighting: Lia Haynes
**About the Artists**

**JANICE ARGO** is a dancer, choreographer, and teacher based out of Philadelphia, PA. She expects to graduate from Temple University with her BFA in dance this May. Argo has training in contemporary, jazz, and hip-hop techniques such as house, popping, locking, and breaking. She also has extensive experience with classical ballet and modern practices, improvisation, and international dance techniques such as Sino-contemporary Chinese Classical dance, Umfundalai, and other disciplines within the African Diaspora. She has had the opportunity to train with esteemed professionals in the field such as Megan Bridge, Marie Brown, Dr. yaTande Whitney V. Hunter, Xiang Xu, Dr. Laura Katz Rizzo, Jillian Harris, Kyle Clark, and Ronen Koresh.

She completed most of her pre-university training at the Paul Klocke Studio of Dance in Aston, PA. She also completed pre-professional ballet intensives at The Rock School in Philadelphia, and The Academy of International Ballet in Chester Heights. Currently, she supplements her dance education at the Koresh School of Dance in Philadelphia, and Powerhouse Dance in Cherry Hill, NJ.

Since beginning her studies at Temple, Argo has performed with professional companies such as StaibDance and Project Moshen. She has also performed in both BFA and MFA thesis works at Temple, as well as in student dance works by her peers. In her spare time, Argo works as a guest teacher at her home studio, Paul Klocke Studio of Dance. Janice is passionate about choreography and has created multiple pieces in the past few years. These include works for the Temple Student Dance Concert, and for Temple University’s InMotion Dance Team where she was an admin and member for three years. Previously, she was able to create multiple large production numbers for the Garnet Valley Performing Arts Association and choreographed a dance for the Garnet Valley Dance Team, which was presented in Orlando, FL.
NATHANIEL BETTS is a USMC Veteran dance artist and choreographer based in the Philadelphia area. Betts began his artistic career in circus arts and performance when he was six and began his dance career in January of 2019. He has trained and worked with The Philadelphia Dance Company (Philadanco), where they offered Betts a scholarship to train him. Within his first year, he had an opportunity to work with the Philadelphia Opera Company as a guest artist and super. Soon after, Betts worked professionally with the Philadelphia Wushu Team, Bill T. Jones and Arnie Zane company, Balleto di Roma, Contemporary West Dance Theatre, and KYL/D, as well as collaborations with local artists around the Philadelphia and New York area.

Betts is expected to graduate from Temple University with his BFA in dance and entrepreneur and innovation management degree this May. Betts has attended three different intensives with Philadanco, Contemporary West Dance Theatre, and KYL/D.

Betts is a Philadelphia native and originally a street performing freestyler turned concert dancer. Today, he continues his training to push his creativity to a new level. He is in love with storytelling and hopes that through his shared experience and knowledge to bring these stories to life visually.

SHAUNA BRITTINGHAM is a dancer, choreographer, and instructor. Brittingham is currently a student at Temple University pursuing her BFA in dance. She started her dance career at the age of three years old at a studio named Coastal Dance Academy located in Lewes Delaware where she was born and raised. Once Shauna was the age of six, she was asked to join her studio competitive competition team which then led her to travel around the east coast competing in multiple genres of dance. Those genres include jazz, tap, ballet, hip-hop, lyrical, and contemporary. Some of the conventions that Shauna trained under are Tremaine Dance Convention, West Coast Dance Explosion, Show Stoppers National Dance Competition, and Coast 2 Coast: Dance Across America. At the age of 16 years old Brittingham was asked to teach at Coastal Dance Academy where she first found her love for teaching. After graduating high school Brittingham started teaching at a studio located in Narberth PA called Start a Movement where she is currently teaching ages 3-19 acrobatics and occasionally will substitute other classes as well. Brittingham’s true passion is to teach the power of alleviating movement and inspire others to want to further their careers in movement/ dance/ fitness.
ANN CHERNIGOFF began dancing at the Adagio Ballet School of Dance at the age of three in her hometown, Arlington, Virginia. Several years later she joined Perfect Pointe Dance Studio and began competing with Perfect Pointe Performance Company at eleven in ballet, tap, jazz, contemporary and modern. She attended the Paul Taylor Summer intensive twice in Baltimore, Maryland, and once in New York City. She will graduate from Temple University this spring with her bachelor of fine arts and a minor in education with honors. She has been selected to perform in works choreographed by bachelor’s and master’s dance students at Temple. Chernigoff currently teaches at Rain Dance Studio, Philly Movements Dance Company, and Main Line Dance Company. She hopes to share her love of movement, choreography, and dance culture as she continues to teach and perform in the Philadelphia area.

RACHEL FINZ is a dancer, choreographer, and instructor from New York. She is pursuing her BFA in Dance at Temple University. Finz started dancing at the age of two and has participated in many regional and national dance competitions with Kellie’s Dance Studio. She studied Ballet, Tap, Jazz, Hip-Hop, Contemporary, Lyrical, and Musical Theatre. During her time in college, she has expanded her studies to include Breaking, House, Umfundalai, West African, Modern, Improvisation, Sino-contemporary Chinese Classical dance, Street Jazz, and Choreography.

Finz has had the opportunity to train at Broadway Dance Center, Brickhouse NYC, Modega, Peridance Center, Ripley Grier Studios, and Steps on Broadway in NYC. She continues to train with Pauline Casino, Sam Javi, Bo Park, and Aaron Quini. From commercial to traditional dance styles, Finz also has a rigorous Musical Theater background. She was Assistant Choreographer for musicals and has been awarded “Best Choreography” for her involvement in numerous productions. She has trained at Broadway Artists Alliance where she has gained expertise in theater performance. Finz has studied under Broadway artists Justin Boccitto, Adam Cates, Bob Cline, Jennifer Johns, Tyrick Wiltez Jones, Jeff Shade, and Clay Thompson.

Drawing upon her experience, she has shared her work throughout the east coast at Off Broadway – Symphony Space in New York, Conwell Dance Theater, and the Wells Fargo Center in Philadelphia. Finz has been selected to perform in works choreographed by bachelor’s and master’s dance students at Temple. She would like to thank Temple’s dance faculty for their guidance and support over the past four years.
LIA HAYNES is performer, choreographer, and scholar from Plainfield, New Jersey. She holds her BFA degree in dance and Africology and African American Studies from Temple University. She began her dance training at three years old at American Dance Studios in Plainfield, NJ, beginning with Ballet and Tap. Over the years she began training in other styles such as Jazz, Pointe, Horton, Graham, Contemporary, Lyrical, Umfundalai, and West African dance techniques under the direction of Marie Brown, Laura Katz Rizzo, Emmanuel Cudjoe, Josephine Heard Deans, Joe Gonzalez, and Kofi Anthonio. Most recently, she has begun studying various Hip Hop styles such as House, Breaking, Waacking, and Afrobeats under Mark “Smart Mark” Boston, Skoobie, Mark “Metal”, and many others.

During her time at Temple, Haynes was able to perform, choreograph, and stage manage several productions both on and off campus. She performed Ephrat Asherie’s So Fly, MFA theses by Uriah Huffman and Tatiana Greer, and three BFA theses. In 2022, she performed in the Fringe Arts Festival for Ella-Gabriel Mason’s work Ever After. Aside from performing for other choreographers, Haynes has choreographed four of her own pieces, Women’s Creed, Fractured, Bois Caïman, and Humanity.Love.Equality. Her work debuted in Conwell Dance Theater and NAACP events.

With her broad interest in various dance styles and her passion for social justice and education, it has led her to choreographing and teaching dance locally in both New Jersey and Philadelphia areas. In 2021, Haynes was invited by the University of Ghana to teach a Umfundalai master class to their first-year students whilst conducting research. In the future, Haynes will be working towards earning her master’s degree whilst planning to continue performing and teaching dance through an Afrocentric perspective to create socially challenging narratives both on and off stage.
SHAELYN KAISER is a Philadelphia-based artist, dancer, choreographer, and cellist. They attended the City Ballet School in Hagerstown MD from 2015-2019 where they performed many ballets and were a part of the Western Maryland City Ballet Company. During high school in the summer, they also trained with Paul Taylor American Modern Dance, the Bates Dance Festival, and the Joffrey Ballet. They are currently pursuing their degree in Dance as well as Criminal Justice at Temple University. They have trained in many dance styles such as ballet, modern, jazz, house, street jazz, neo-traditional West African, Umfundalai, and tap. They have performed in several dance works at the university as well as being an actress for a short film. They attended the United States Marine Corps Officer Candidates School in the summer of 2022 and will graduate as a second lieutenant in the Marine Corps Reserves. After graduation they plan on continuing their career in dance through choreographing.

BAILEY LYCHOCK is a dancer, choreographer, and instructor from Perkasie, Pennsylvania. She began her dance training at Shannon Carney Dance Academy in 2004. She danced competitively at her studio and participated in various dance conventions such as Artists Simply Human (ASH) and JUMP. In 2018 she completed DeSales Summer Dance Intensive. She has training in various dance styles such as Ballet, Modern, Contemporary, West African, Umfundalai, Hip Hop, House, Jazz and Improvisational dance. She is set to graduate from Temple University with a BFA in dance in May 2023. During her time at Temple University, she performed and choreographed multiple works both on and off campus. She has performed for multiple Bachelor and Masters’ students and was selected to work and perform under Dr. Laura Katz Rizzo. She has been grateful to have trained with professionals such as Megan Bridge, Marie Brown, Dr. yaTande Whitney V. Hunter, Kyle Clark, Virgil Gadson, Jillian Harris, and Xiang Xu.

In 2021, Lychock became a kickboxing instructor and found a new passion for mixing her knowledge of martial arts with her dance style. At her kickboxing studio, she was the first employee to implement a stretching class to teach her students safe stretching techniques. Since then, she has found a passion for teaching others anatomy and healthy dance practices. After graduation she will continue teaching dance, kickboxing and stretching techniques; She has plans to open her own studio where everyone regardless of age, gender, race, and sexual orientation are able to move freely in an open and supportive environment.
CASEY PAGATS is a dancer and choreographer who grew up in the Lehigh Valley. She is currently a 4th year BFA student at Temple University studying dance. She grew up dancing from 4 at Nardis dance studio, Miss Karen’s, and graduated from the Lehigh Valley Charter High School for the Arts. She specializes in contemporary and improvisation dance, but has studied many other dance forms such as ballet, pointe, hiphop, West African dance, Umfundalai, jazz, musical theater and modern. Pagats was a member of various performance groups including Nardis Performance Company, Mariposa, and Rioult Dance Ensemble. She’s performed at the Lincoln Center, Musikfest, Ailey Theater, Temple University, Gibney Dance Center, and many more. She has experience in student teaching students from ages 3-15 in beginner and intermediate levels at both Miss Karen’s Dance studio and Nardis dance studio. Pagats has also choreographed her own works seen in the Young Choreographer’s Concert and the Creative Process informal show. Casey also works as a caregiver for the elderly and shares her love for music and dance with her clients.

MELANIE SMITH is a senior at Temple University pursuing her BFA in dance with a political science minor. She started her training at a Royal Academy of Dance school in Tecumseh, Michigan. After moving to the Philadelphia area, she danced competitively for six years with Beth Jacobsen School of Dance. She is trained in Ballet, Modern, jazz, hip hop, contemporary, Umfundalai, Neo-Traditional West African, and improvisation. After graduating, Smith will be spending the summer with 3-6 year olds directing Cedar Grove Summer Camp and hopes to eventually travel internationally and continue to make comedic dance pieces.

Smith has been chosen as the 2023 Boyer Commencement Speaker, the Student Commencement Speaker for the university wide commencement, and a recipient of the One Last Dance Award. She is also an Owl Ambassador with Temple’s Office of Undergraduate Admissions and a Boyer Ambassador with the Boyer College of Music and Dance. Melanie also has a love for cats, Marvel, and SpongeBob.

Conwell Dance Theater Crew

Brianna Dupree, Lia Haynes, Venrick James, Akino Lessey and Elora Probyn
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 2022-2023 Season
Upcoming Events

Saturday, April 22 at 2:40 PM
CGYM Master Class Series: Elena Urioste, violin
Temple Music Prep
TUCC 222

Saturday, April 22 at 5:30 PM
Senior Recital: Malinda Lisette, flute
Rock Hall Auditorium

Saturday, April 22 at 7:30 PM
Senior Recital: Negar Ghasemi, piano
Rock Hall Auditorium

Saturday, April 22 at 2:30 PM & 7:30 PM
Spring BFA Concert

Sunday, April 23 at 3:00 PM
Temple University Concert Choir
Paul Rardin, conductor
Trinity Center for Urban Life

Sunday, April 23 at 4:00 PM
Student Recital: Patience Wagner, violin
Rock Hall Auditorium

Sunday, April 23 at 5:30 PM
Senior Recital: Marissa Harley, oboe
Rock Hall Auditorium

Sunday, April 23 at 7:30 PM
New School Brass Quintet
Rock Hall Auditorium
Monday, April 24 at 7:30 PM and 9:30 PM
Temple University Jazz Band
Dizzy’s Coca-Cola Club, Jazz at Lincoln Center

Monday, April 24 at 7:30 PM
Senior Recital: Jack “Huck” Browne, jazz guitar
Klein Recital Hall

Tuesday, April 25 at 2:30 PM
Chamber Music Recital
Rock Hall Auditorium

Tuesday, April 25 at 4:00 PM
Studio Recital: Voice Students of Lawrence Indik
Rock Hall Auditorium

Tuesday, April 25 at 5:30 PM
Master’s Recital: Ziliang Zhang, saxophone
Rock Hall Auditorium

Wednesday, April 26 at 4:00 PM
Student Recital: Marcela Reina, chamber music
Rock Hall Auditorium

Wednesday, April 26 at 5:30 PM
Master’s Recital: Jason Blythe, jazz saxophone
Klein Recital Hall

Wednesday, April 26 at 7:30 PM
Doctoral Lecture Recital: Madalina-Claudia Danila, piano
Rock Hall Auditorium

Wednesday, April 26 at 7:30 PM
Temple University Choirs
Temple Performing Arts Center

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.