

Dance Alumni Showcase

Choreography by Leslie Dworkin &
Kent De Spain, Weiwei Ma, Megan
Mazarick, and Makayla Peterson

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

Friday, February 23, 2024 • 7:30 PM

Saturday, February 24, 2024 • 7:30 PM

Saturday's performance also livestreamed at youtube.com/boyercollege

Conwell Dance Theater

1801 N. Broad St.

Philadelphia, PA 19122

Program

deprogram

Choreographer: Megan Mazarick

Performers: Megan Mazarick and Alonzo Magsino

Music: R2DJ, Wax Taylor, Brian Eno, Hania Rani, 8 Bit Universe, and Jan Jelinek

Music Edit and Sound design by: Megan Mazarick

Text: Danielle Currica, Alonzo Magsino, Megan Mazarick, and Tyler Rivera

Costumes: Megan Mazarick

Created in collaboration with performers, *deprogram* deconstructs gender, science fiction, and elements of video games. This version is an excerpt of an evening length work which premiered at Cannonball Festival 2021.

Dragon (2023)

Choreography: Weiwei Ma

Music: Keiichi Suzuki

Costume: Weiwei Ma

Lighting: Lingyuan (Maggie) Zhao

Performers: The Kun-Yang Lin/Dancers (KYL/D) Ensemble

Evalina Carbonell, Keila Perez-Vega, Robert Burden, Takashi Kanai, Angelica

Nieves-Merced, Abby Donnenfeld, Kendall Niblett

Inspired by Yuyu Yang's sculpture, "Dragon's Shriek in the Cosmic Void," Weiwei Ma taps into the sculpture's expression of symbols from Chinese philosophy in a simple, abstract form. As a stainless steel sculpture, the artwork reflects the viewer when close, and thus the viewer slowly becomes part of "the dragon." This work was supported by the National Endowment for the Arts for Kun-Yang Lin/Dancers' 2023 Home Season.

| Intermission |

The Visitors

Choreography: Kent De Spain and Leslie Dworkin

Performers: Kent De Spain and Leslie Dworkin

Music: Paul Leonard-Morgan, Philip Glass

We would like to thank the Midwest RADfest, the Austin Dance Festival, and the YES! Dance Festival for their support in the development of this work.

Riddim & Bass

Choreographer: Makayla Peterson

Dancers: Ashley Fields, Bellini John, Nerissa McCollin, Makayla Peterson, Maleyah Peterson, Camisha Prince

Music: Bahia Girl- David Rudder; Hall of Fame- Mical Teja; Kaiso- Viking Ding Dong; Backyard Jam- Farmer Nappy; The Riddim Within- Neptune's Riddim Section; Riddim Section- Jab Jab (Trinidad & Tobago); Wine Down Low Tassa; By Any Means- Voice; Long Live Soca (STMG Intro)- Voice

Costumes: Makayla Peterson

Lighting: Sara Samonte

Sound Design: Tyri Coerbell

Highlighting and showcasing Trinidad & Tobago's riddim section- a percussive musical landscape accompanying a steel pan, dis is WE TING! The pulse and rhythmic drive evoke feelings of festivity with clangs of iron and metal- an abrasive symphony of energy as our ancestral roots are awakened. This work was created for the 2023 Mare Nostrum Elements Emerging Choreographer Series #10.

Production Staff

Stage Manager: Karly Meehan

Backstage Crew: Brianna Dupree, Sara Hicinbothem, Akino Lessey, Yihang Li, Trinity McFadden, Dani Sala, Madeline Shuron, Madison Wells-McFee

Livestream by Les Rivera, Blatino Cineninja

About the Artists

KENT DE SPAIN is the recipient of several awards, including the Pew Fellowship in the Arts for Choreography and an Established Choreographer's Fellowship from the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts. He has taught master classes and workshops in the United States, Europe, Asia, and Latin America, and his work has been seen throughout the United States and beyond, including performances at Jacob's Pillow, Judson Church, Joyce Soho, and the Painted Bride. He is internationally recognized for his teaching, performance, filmmaking, and writing in the area of movement improvisation, including his feature-length documentary, *A Moving Presence*, and his book, *Landscape of the Now*.

LESLIE DWORKIN is an independent dance artist whose performance residencies include the Edinburgh Fringe Festival, Joyce SoHo, Movement Research in NYC, Links Hall, and Jacob's Pillow, to name a few. She is a two-time recipient of the Ohio Arts Council Individual Excellence Award in Choreography, was an Associate Artist at the Atlantic Center for the Arts, and has received grants from the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts, Pew Charitable Trusts, and a 3-year residency with the Susan Hess Choreographers Project. Her work has been produced by numerous festivals nationally, including the Midwest RAD Festival, Austin Dance Festival, Area Choreographers Festival, the Harvest Contemporary Dance Festival, and the YES! Dance Festival. She has danced internationally as a member of the Melanie Stewart Dance Company and the Leah Stein Dance Company, and in the works of countless independent dance artists. Leslie is an integrative bodywork therapist, a certified yoga and qigong instructor, and has been a guest artist in many dance departments throughout the U.S.

WEIWEI MA is a Chinese dancer, teacher, and choreographer who started professional Chinese dance training at age eleven. She studied choreography at The Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA) Academy of Arts where she graduated with a BFA degree. Before coming to Philadelphia, Weiwei taught Chinese classical dance and choreography at Beijing Contemporary Music Academy. Weiwei graduated with her MFA degree from Temple University in 2016. Weiwei's work has been presented at the 2016 ACDFA conference in Brockport, NY and at KYL/D's Fall Season. Recently, Weiwei was selected as the 2022-2023 DanceVisions Residence Artist by the Performance Garage. Weiwei joined KYL/D as a dance artist in 2013. She is the lead Chinese dancer for KYL/D's cultural programs, and has been a commissioned choreographer for KYL/D since 2018.

MEGAN MAZARICK (she/her) is a Philadelphia based choreographer, performer, and teacher. She often works with imaginative physical scores to collage movement, theater, and text. Her work has been presented internationally (Singapore, Bulgaria, Egypt, Poland, Australia, Hungary, and Mexico) and throughout the USA (NY, NJ, VA, NC, PA, CA, TX, MN, and ME). Her choreography has been supported by the US Embassy in Singapore, the US Embassy in Bulgaria, the US Embassy in Egypt, through an Independence Fellowship, Live Arts Brewery Fellowship, and Philadelphia Dance Projects. She was recently named the Performance Garage's DanceVisions Resident Artist for 2024-2025. As a performer, she has worked with David Gordon, Susan Rethorst, Keith Thompson, Marianela Boan, Merian Soto, Anonymous Bodies, Black Box Dance Theater, and members of Lower Left. Megan has taught technique, improvisation, and composition classes at studios, festivals, and universities around the globe. She is an Assistant Professor and Dance Department Chair at Georgian Court University

MAKAYLA PETERSON is a dancer, choreographer, scholar, teaching artist, and Founder & Artistic Director of Monét Movement Productions: The Collective (MMPTC) founded in May 2020. She is a 2020 Temple University graduate with a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Dance and a minor in Digital Media Technologies. At Temple University, she trained under notable artists, presented four original works, and gained production experience working at Conwell Dance Theater. Makayla is a 2019 recipient of the Temple University Diamond Research Scholars Grant where she explored the negative perceptions of Caribbean culture and dance forms present within American society and popular culture. This work is very important to her as she is of Trinidadian heritage, an aspect of her identity that constantly informs and shapes the way she moves throughout the world. Her research has been presented verbally and through movement at national and international conferences including The Global Caribbean Dance Conference, Caribbean Studies Association Conference, and the Collegium for African Diasporic Dance. Because of her scholastic achievements, she was awarded the Temple University Boyer College of Music and Dance Rose Vernick Scholar Award. As a choreographer, she was selected as a semi-finalist in the JCHEN Core Choreography Competition (C₃) and was featured in their Artist Talks Series. She received her first commission at her high school Frank Sinatra School of the Arts for their 2022 spring dance concert. Her company works have been featured in a plethora of festivals and showcases including the Mare Nostrum Elements Emerging Choreographer Series, COCO Dance Festival, Collective Thread Dance Festival, Kun-Yang Lin/Dancers' Inhale Performance Series, Making Moves Dance Festival and so much more! Makayla currently dances with Enya-Kalia Creations, and OKRA Dance Company, and is a dance teaching artist for Notes In Motion and DMF Youth. She is a former member of CarNYval Dancers under the direction of Kiara Paige and former Program Coordinator for **MOVE|NYC|**.

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.

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