

Spring Student Dance Concert 2024

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

Friday, April 5, 2024 • 7:30 PM

Also livestreamed at youtube.com/boyercollege

Saturday, April 6, 2024 • 2:30 PM & 7:30 PM

Conwell Dance Theater

1801 N. Broad St.

Philadelphia, PA 19122

Program

M.E.

Choreographer: Jazlyn Tan in collaboration with dancers

Dancers: Alicia Mears, Ariana Santiago Ramos, Blake Hudson, Daniela Sala, Jeremy Bady, Lian Long Xuan, Lily Santana, Mia Allison, Michaela Delaney, Nadia Ureña, Sara Hicinbothem, Venrick James

Music: Merry Christmas Mr. Lawrence – Ryuichi Sakamoto, Jacques Morelenbaum, Everton Nelson & 4:33 (A Tribute to John Cage) - Nilhs Frahm

Costumes: Jazlyn Tan in collaboration with dancers

Lighting: Saige Hollis

A new lens, a new light.

laws of attraction

Choreographer: Vivian Torres in collaboration with Deshaun Evans

Dancers: Vivian Torres and Deshaun Evans

Music: space by diddy ft H.E.R

Lighting: Brianna Dupree

“should I give myself to them?”

Dispositional Shift

Choreographer: Mia Allison

Dancers: Jazlyn Tan

Music: Dreams- Clint Mansell, Elegia- New Order

Lighting: Blake Hudson

an ambivalent battle between the ego and the soul.

Momentary

Choreographer: Claire Schlutt in collaboration with dancers

Dancers: Jena Barton, Karly Meehan, Nadia Ureña

Music: Wyoming - Elijah Fox, ruminant - BAANDIT!, It's

Complicated - Michael Peter Olsen

Lighting: Dyn Garcia

"Entropy increases. Things fall apart." J.G.

Of Something Other Than Waiting

Choreographer: Benja Newnam

Dancers: Benja Newnam

Music: "I Haven't Moved" by Benja Newnam

Lighting: Lily Santana

The title of this work is borrowed from Tracy K. Smith's poem "I Don't Miss It", which also explores love, loss, and the imagined suspension between them.

Ballad Of Puppets

Choreographer: Lian Long Xuan in collaboration with dancers

Dancers: Jazlyn Tan Jia Yu, Venrick James, Michaela Delaney, Nadia Ureña, Lily Santana, Lian Long Xuan

Music: TYPE 2052 "HADALI", 傀儡謡 怨恨みて散る, 遠神恵賜 by Kenji Kawai

Lighting: Laurie Benoit

We are not our jobs. We are not how much money we make in the bank. We are not the brands we possess. But we are not the all-dancing and all-singing of the world either. We are individuals. We are what we make ourselves. What we allow ourselves to partake in. Who we aligned ourselves with. Who we protect. We decide what we are, and if we have the willpower, we do not have to bend for anyone, even ourselves.

Do 4 Love

Choreographer: Nylah Jackson

Dancers: Katie Riley, Kendall Tyler, Blake Hudson, Sanáa Snyder, Jaelyn Jennings, Trinity McFadden, Jair Anderson, Dorien Harris, Sariah Rivera

Music: What You Won't Do for Love by Bobby Cadwell, Do 4 Love by Snoh Aalegra, Do 4 Love (Black Coffee remix) by Snoh Aalegra & Black Coffee

Lighting: Trinity McFadden

we try everything but just can't stop connecting to others

interpretations

Choreographer: Nadia Ureña in collaboration with dancers

Dancers: Jena Barton, Akino Lessey, Karly Meehan, Benja Newnam, Lily Santana, Jazlyn Tan

Music: "Songs from 'Friday Afternoons', Op. 7: 'Cuckoo!'" by Benjamin Britten; "What Wind-Walks Up Above!" by Michał Jacaszek

Lighting: Kieran Cooke

"There are no facts, just interpretations." - Nietzsche

Messier

Choreographer: Kieran Cooke

Dancer: Kieran Cooke

Music: Messier By: Tate McRae

Lighting: Laurie Benoit

El Ciclo del Descanso

Choreographer: Daniela Sala

Dancers: Mia Allison, Michaela Delaney, Kay Dougherty, Bri Dupree, Dyn Garcia, Blake Hudson, Alicia Mears, Karishma Peaks, Lily Santana, Claire Schlutt, Jazlyn Tan

Music: *Pulsing Green Noise Heartbeat*-White Noise Workshop, *La Bruja*-Tlen Huicani, *Niña de las Dunas*- María José Llergo

Costumes: Daniela Sala in collaboration with dancers, skirts are borrowed from The Dance Academy at Saint Mary's Hall

Lighting: Laurie Benoit

"Yes, death. Death must be so beautiful. To lie in the soft brown earth, with the grasses waving above one's head, and listen to silence. To have no yesterday, and no tomorrow. To forget time, to forget life, to be at peace." -Oscar Wilde

K.O.

Choreographers: Lily Santana and Akino Lessey

Dancers: Lily Santana and Akino Lessey

Music: BURN- 2WEI & Edda Hayes

Lighting: Jazlyn Tan

"Last Year I Abstained, This year I Devour"

Production Crew

Stage Manager: Madeline Shuron

Backstage Crew: Brianna Dupree, Akino Lessey, Yihang Li, Dani Sala, Scarlett Schutzberg, Lyric Way-Gregory

Livestream by Les Rivera

About the Artists

While originally from England, **MIA ALLISON** moved to Virginia at the age of 3 where she began training in gymnastics until the age of 12. From there she began training in ballet, pointe, contemporary, improvisation, jazz, acrobatics, Horton, Graham, Hip Hop, musical theatre, partnering, and tap. She competed around the U.S. throughout her teen years winning various awards and scholarships in a multitude of styles. She danced for the Moscow Ballet's nutcracker for seven years and attended the A.B.T. intensive program during her time in High School. She has danced professionally for amusements parks within Virginia. She currently lives in Philadelphia working towards her B.F.A. in dance at Temple University. She has presented her own choreographic work in both studio and professional showcases and teaches preK-12 students around the Philadelphia region. She currently dances as a member of Jim Bunting's Dance Company and works with varying choreographers around Philadelphia and N.Y.C. to perform in their professional works among artist showcases.

KIERAN COOKE is a 19-year-old sophomore in Boyer Dance working towards his BFA in dance. He is from Doylestown, PA and began training in dance at age 16 at Bucks County School of The Performing Arts. His dance training background consists of ballet, jazz, lyrical, contemporary, acrobatics, and more recently African and modern. He was an active member of their competition team and danced competitively for 2 years. He also was a featured dancer in both his junior and senior year high school theatre productions. After starting dance at Temple, Kieran joined In Motion Dance Team and is also an active member of Jim Bunting's Dance Company based out of Koresh Dance Studio. He aims to showcase his newfound artistry at Temple while preserving classic studio and competition dance elements.

NYLAH JACKSON is an aspiring creative director/choreographer getting her BFA in dance here at Temple University. Jackson started her training at the age of 2 at Ballet Arts Academy in Waldorf, Maryland. She then transitioned to production, singing, dancing and acting at Take A Bow Performing Arts. Jackson then competed for a couple years at Dance Depot training more in tap, jazz and contemporary. While enrolled in honors dance classes at Bishop McNamara High School, Jackson trained under Capitol Movement's pre-professional company in Washington, DC, and a two-week training program in Los Angeles, CA resulted in a performance at the Avalon on Hollywood Blvd. In her senior year on Bishop McNamara's Dance team, Jackson started to create choreography for the dance team, company auditions, and her senior project. Since then, Jackson has been teaching hip-hop dance classes in Maryland and Philadelphia. Currently, Jackson is the president of Dare 2 Dance. Jackson was also recently featured in Tierra Whack's music video "27 CLUB" as a dancer. Jackson's work can be found on her YouTube channel: <https://www.youtube.com/@njchoreo777/>

AKINO LESSEY is a performer and student originally from Brooklyn, New York. Dancing since the age of two, Lessey decided to pursue a career in dance at fifteen, when she began training at Wadleigh Secondary School and the Youth Arts Academy. During her training at these institutions, she has had the privilege of working with and learning from Marcea Daiter, Ronald K. Brown, Arcell Cabuag, Freddie Moore, and Karen Thornton. At sixteen she was part of Dance Africa at BAM directed by Abdel Salaam. She has trained in Horton, Hip-Hop, Contemporary, Ballet, Jazz, and various West African dance styles and is most accomplished in the Graham Technique. She is currently working towards her BFA in Temple University's Dance Program, where she works as a stagehand in Conwell Dance Theater. Lessey is currently a member of the Temple Dance Ensemble and Philadanco's Apprentice Company. She looks forward to expanding her training and her artistry.

LIAN LONG XUAN is originally from Singapore and is a current first-year BFA dance student in Temple University. His dance journey began at the age of 14 being introduced to breaking (breakdancing) in his school's dance club. Upon graduating, he started being more active in the street dance community participating in competitions and attending community events. In 2018, Xuan was introduced to contemporary dance while pursuing his diploma in a polytechnic and had a paradigm shift in his craft's approach developing a style with dynamics, intricacies and textures. Despite not coming from a formal institute of dance, Xuan developed tenacity, grit and resourcefulness to stay afloat with his peers in the industry. Xuan believes that dance is an ever changing art form with new approaches implemented in different eras, as practitioners, we should be adaptable, collaborative and open-minded in the name of progress.

BENJA NEWNAM is a first year MFA candidate attending the Boyer College of Music and Dance at Temple University. He began studying choreography and music at the University of North Carolina Asheville, and ultimately graduated with a BFA in Dance from the School of Dance in the College of Visual and Performing Arts at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro in 2019. He later moved to Philadelphia, PA to pursue his passion for social partner dancing and received certification from Arthur Murray Dance Centers syllabus in Ballroom and Social dances. Newnam's research currently focuses on intersections of linguistics and art history for meaning making in the choreographic process. Previous performances have included musical "Hatfields & McCoys" for Theatre West Virginia, Janet Lilly's restating of Bill T. Jones / Arnie Zane's "Freedom of Information", and Natalie Gotter's "Last Call."

DANIELA SALA is a first-year student, pursuing a bachelor of fine arts in dance at Temple University. She embarked on her dance journey at The Dance Academy at Saint Mary's Hall and San Antonio Dance Academy in San Antonio, TX, where she trained in various disciplines such as Ballet, Contemporary, Modern, Jazz, Hip-Hop, and Mexican Folklorico. She has worked on mixed-disciplined showcases and has performed in ballets like Swan Lake and Giselle. Sala has traveled across the country and overseas in her training in schools such as La Escuela de Música y Artes Escénicas MONK in Salamanca, Spain, Le Conservatoire de Rennes, in Rennes, France, and the Pre-Professional Summer Intensive at Alonzo King LINES Ballet in San Francisco. Sala has always shown great interest in working production for theater and dance productions since the age of twelve. She worked production crew for productions at the Tobin Fine Arts School at Saint Mary's Hall and currently works at the Conwell Dance Theater at Temple University. Sala has always been passionate about exploring different movements, whether they are diverse textures or dances from different cultures.

LILY SANTANA began her dance training at a studio in her hometown of NJ at the age of 2, and danced on their competitive team from ages 9-18. She was also a member of the pre-professional dance program at Steps on Broadway, NYC, where she received additional training. While at Steps, she performed repertory works from many of their choreographers at venues around NYC including The Joyce Theater. Lily has attended and performed in several intensive programs in New York City including Broadway Dance Center, Steps on Broadway, Martha Graham, and NYU Tisch's Summer Dance Festival where she had the honor to train with the Gibney Company, Sidra Bell Dance and Ronald K. Brown Evidence Dance Company. Lily is currently working toward her BFA in dance at Temple University as part of their honors program. Lily is currently a member of the Temple Dance Ensemble and is working with the Jim Bunting Dance Company in Philadelphia. She looks forward to expanding her professional career in dance performance and choreography.

CLAIRE SCHLUTT is originally from Maple Valley, Washington and is a third-year dance BFA student while also earning a BS in bioengineering. She began dancing from a very young age in a strong ballet, pointe, and contemporary background. At Temple, she continues to study a variety of techniques while concentrating on contemporary/modern dance. Schlutt has had the opportunity to train with Joffrey Ballet, Dancers of NYCB, and FLOCK. She has also had the pleasure of performing for a variety of MFA and PhD student works within and outside the university, including the Philadelphia Fringe Festival and KYLD's Inhale Series. As a mover and choreographer, Schlutt's constant goal is working towards empathy through dance and finding ways to connect people through pure movement.

JAZLYN TAN is originally from Singapore and is a current transfer student in her third year of BFA in dance, studying at Temple University, Boyer College of Music and Dance. She is a dancer with her dance training rooted in ballet and street styles. Tan's dance palette evolved even further with the addition of Contemporary and Jazz when she entered LASALLE College of The Arts, Singapore, to complete her studies for a Diploma in Dance. Tan also had the opportunity to perform *Nocturne* choreographed by Xiang Xu from Temple University at the American College Dance Association (ACDA) 2024 as well as *Nocturne in Between* choreographed by Xiang Xu from Temple University at the American Dance Guild Festival 2024. Tan is an aspiring performer and educator hoping to enhance her dance skills and equip herself with the knowledge that would enable her to educate the next generation.

VIVIAN TORRES, a performer, dancer, and choreographer, was born in Newark, NJ. She became a student at the Temple Dance Department in 2021. Torres started dancing hip-hop at an after-school club in middle school in 2014. She expanded her studies to include ballet, jazz, and modern dance while training under M.A. Taylor at her local high school. Since relocating to Philadelphia in 2021, she has become a member of the IAMPHRESH performance dance company, where she has had the opportunity to train under “SmartMark,” “QP,” and many other well-known choreographers.

NADIA UREÑA (she/her/hers) is an active performer, choreographer, and dance researcher who aims to intersect dance studies with black feminism, media theory, video games, existential philosophy, and memes. As a performer, Ureña has had the opportunity to work with professional artists such as Former Paul Taylor Company member Orion Duckstein, Charles Anderson, Cynthia Gutierrez-Garner, Xiang Xu, The Megan Flynn Dance Company, and Teresa VanDenend Sorge. She has most recently performed in a variety of venues and cities including the Cincinnati Fringe Festival, the Philadelphia Fringe Festival, 30/30/30 at Dixon Place in NYC, KYLD’s Inhale Series, the American Dance Guild Festival 2024, and in the upcoming Wax Works in NYC. As a scholar, Ureña is interested in questioning how modern dance, choreography, and curriculum have evolved within both creative and educational contexts to predict the form’s future direction. She served as a panelist at the 2023 NDEO Conference about teaching students about labor rights. She has recently received the Katherine Dunham Award for Creative Dance Research. Nadia is currently an MFA candidate and Graduate Fellow in Dance at Temple University. She received a B.A. in Dance (with a concentration in Choreography) and media & communications from Muhlenberg College and spent a semester abroad at the Accademia dell’Arte in Arezzo, Italy.