

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

Spring Endings 2024

Featuring work by Olivia Mohsen Al Samadi, Megan Bridge, Jamie Chen, Yihang Li, Esmeralda Luciano, Benja Newnam, and Merián Soto

April 26, 2023  
Conwell Dance Theater

Friday  
7:00 PM

Also livestreaming at [YouTube.com/boyercollege](https://www.youtube.com/boyercollege)

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

**Program**

**Danza A**

Choreographer: Merian Soto

Dancers: Star Allen, Sara Hicinbothem, Longxuan Lian, Eve Rose Rutstein, Dani Sala, Damaris Williams

Music: *Perla del Caribe* by Jesús María Escobar; produced by Carl Royce

Video 1: *Baile y bomba*, public domain

Video 2 Videography: Irene Sosa, directed by Pepón Osorio & Merián Soto

Video 2 Singer: Thelma Sterling Ithier

Costumes: Merián Soto after Pepón Osorio

Lighting Designer: Laurie Benoit

Danza A is an excerpt from *Historias*, a full evening work created in 1992 by Merián Soto and Pepón Osorio, that looks at Puerto Rican history from the perspective of the amnesia of colonized people.

*Perla del Caribe* translation:

“Warm sunrise, soft tropical breeze, hear my song.  
I sing so as not to cry, I suffer for your pain,  
bride of the sea and the sun, Borinquen land of my heart.  
Pearl of the Caribbean, isle of enchantment, beloved land,  
with great pride I gaze upon you.”

Three hundred eighty-fifth performance of the 2022-2023 season.

### **(Me? Not me?)**

Choreographer: Yihang Li

Dancers: Yihang Li, Jamie Chen, Esmeralda Luciano

Music: Soaring by the 何宇軒, The Way (Instrumental) by the Zack Hemsey, Clocks of Destiny by Michael Maas)

Costume Designer: Yihang Li

Lighting Designer: Laurie Benoit

### **Life changes in one second when you realize/ I'm tired of fighting so I gave up (?)**

Choreographer: Jamie Chen in collaboration with Lian Long Xuan and Venrick James

Dancers: Lian Long Xuan, Venrick James, Jamie Chen, Nadia Ureña, Olivia Mohsen Al Samadi, Lia Haynes, Esmeralda Luciano, and Yihang Li

Music: humble pie tattoo by the chairs 椅子樂團 and a recording of music from garbage truck in Taiwan

Costume and Set Design: Jamie Chen

Lighting Design: Jamie Chen

This piece says no no no no with all seriousness and respect.

### **Rückenfigur**

Choreographer: Benja Newnam

Dancers: Kieran Cooke, Chelsea Logan, Lelia Saffold, Lily Santana

Music: "45 Years/Body Language" by Benja Newnam

Projection: Benja Newnam

Rückenfigur describes a technique in visual art that draws attention to the background by depicting the subject in the foreground facing away from the viewer.

| Intermission |

### **Habibti Funk**

Choreographer: Olivia Mohsen Al Samadi in collaboration with Dancers

Dancers: Jamie Chen, Lia Haynes, Esmeralda Luciano, Lian Long Xuan, Venrick James, Nadia Ureña

Music: We Mesheet by Maha

Video: Taylor Bonadies

Costume Designer: Olivia Mohsen Al Samadi

Lighting Designer: Olivia Mohsen Al Samadi

*“...white feminist scholars have been largely complicit in a script that essentialises the experiences of women originating from the Global South. Where gender is taken into account, women from the Global South are typically understood and represented through a neo-imperial frame as disempowered, helpless ‘victims’, or as ‘Exotic Others’ who need to be rescued from their ‘backward’ cultures. The framing of ‘Refugee Women’ as a homogenous and undifferentiated category ignores the complex intersections of race and gender shaping both women’s experiences and the racialised politics of protection.”*

- Heaven Crawley (2022). "Saving Brown Women from Brown Men? 'Refugee Women', Gender and the Racialised Politics of Protection." *Refugee Survey Quarterly* 41(3), 355

**Call it willful ignorance** (*work in progress*)

Choreographer: Esmeralda Luciano

Dancer(s): Esmeralda Luciano

Music: Memories of the wind and Tears of unicorn by Masayoshi Fujita

Costume design: Esmeralda Luciano

Light design: Esmeralda Luciano

This piece explores the idea of being able to step away from something when it becomes too much to bear and how this is a privilege many people don't have.

**Twisted Antics**

Choreographer: Megan Bridge in collaboration with Dancers

Dancers: Aleah Feggins, Victoria Grimaldi, Hannah Kieserman, Angelina Moors, Elora Probyn

Music: "The Arizona Yodeler" by the DeZurik Sisters; "Fist City" by Loretta Lynn

Lighting Designer: Laurie Benoit

This piece is primarily improvised, with short snippets of choreographed material. I am interested in the ways that meaning arises through form and structure, through playing games, and through varying treatments of narrative.

**Production Crew**

Kayla Bailey, Brianna Dupree, Paige Horvath, Akino Lessey, Yihang Li, Trinity McFadden, Dani Sala, Madeline Shuron

Livestream by Les Rivera