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

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 何宇轩, 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.”


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