

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

**SURGE**

**A virtual performance in celebration of World Water Day 2021**

*Dance performances are sponsored in part by the Temple University General Activities Fund.*

*World Water Day activities are made possible by the Center for Sustainable Communities, Temple Global Studies, the Office of Sustainability, the Department of Geography and Urban Studies and the Boyer College of Music and Dance.*

**March 19, 2021**  
**Presented Virtually**

**Friday**  
**7:00 pm**

**About World Water Day**

World Water Day, held on 22 March every year since 1993, focuses on the importance of freshwater. The Temple University Department of Dance has been producing World Water Day dance concerts and more since 2015. World Water Day celebrates water and raises awareness of the 2.2 billion people living without access to safe water. It is about taking action to tackle the global water crisis. A core focus of World Water Day is to support the achievement of Sustainable Development Goal 6: water and sanitation for all by 2030.

**Water is Essential**

Access to water and sanitation is a precondition to life and a declared human right. Water is vitally important to sustainable development- from health and nutrition, to gender equity and economics. Over the coming years, our water-related challenges will become more urgent. The increasing demands of a growing population and rapidly developing global economy, combined with the effects of climate change, will exacerbate lack of access to water and sanitation for domestic uses. In fact, many experts argue that an unpredictable supply of water could constrain socio-economic progress in the future.

**Valuing Water**

The theme of World Water Day 2021 is valuing water, what it means to people, and how we can better protect this vital resource. The value of water is about much more than its price- water has enormous and complex value for our households, culture, health, education, economics and the integrity of our natural environment. Today, water is under extreme threat from a growing population, increasing demands, misuse and contamination of water by agriculture, industry, and pollution and the worsening impacts of climate change. Across the globe, 2.2 billion people lack access to safely managed drinking water services and 4.2 billion people lack safely managed sanitation services. Unsafe hygiene practices are widespread, compounding the effects on people's health.

## Program

### 28 Outfalls

Adam Diller

*28 Outfalls* explores New York City's sewer systems' "combined sewer overflows" (also called outfalls) or CSOs. Common to many U.S. cities, CSOs route stormwater from street runoff drains into a combined sewer that also contains human waste, on its way to sewage treatment plants. When too much stormwater enters the system, it exceeds its capacity, and the contents of these combined sewers are released at CSO sites in waterways throughout the city. Optimally, these overflows should only be triggered by extreme weather events—or not at all—but due to over-taxed sewer systems, even very small rainfall amounts can trigger releases. According to the New York City Department of Environmental Protection, there are 700 CSO sites along the rivers, bays, and oceans in the city's five boroughs. These sites pass more than 75 billion liters of untreated sewage each year. *28 Outfalls* focuses on the visual and auditory spaces produced by the 28 largest CSO sites in New York City.

### *Welcome*

Dr. Fletcher Chmara-Huff, Assistant Professor of Instruction, Geography and  
Urban Studies/ Environmental Studies, Temple University

### **Water is my teacher**

Videographer: Merián Soto

*Water is my teacher* was created by Merián Soto as video/sound accompaniment for a solo dance performance on World Water Day in 2019. The video follows a maple leaf floating in running/dancing water, the ultimate dancer!

### **quarantine: bath routine**

Choreographer: Mijkalena Smith  
Dancer: Mijkalena Smith  
Music: In Love With a Ghost, Devonwho  
Videographer: Davis Witmer  
Editor: Mijkalena Smith

This dance film works to examine water rituals of daily life. How can routines become something spiritually cleansing and transformative?

### **Isolation in Ivory**

Choreographer: Emma Sue Ewing  
Dancer: Emma Sue Ewing  
Music: Mal Waldron  
Producer: Emma Sue Ewing  
Editor: Emma Sue Ewing

This piece intends to explore the emotions that accompany the state of loneliness in an intimate space. How do we cope? How do we allow it to flow past us?

### **beneath the current**

Choreographer: Elise Mele  
Dancer: Elise Mele  
Music: Sigur Ros  
Videographers: Uriah Huffman & Elise Mele  
Editor: Elise Mele

### **Touch and Fusion**

Choreographer: Zi Wang  
Dancer: Zi Wang  
Music: Waiting time (Hirock)  
Videographer: Zi Wang  
Editor: Zi Wang

### **Lifeforce**

Choreographer: Asha Yates  
Dancers: Destiny Nguyen, Lindsey Garnhart, Campbell Tosney, Nia Smith, Gabby Gomez, Bryelle Deemer, Peyton Eidle  
Music: Justin Timberlake  
Costume Design: Asha Yates  
Videographer: Jaran Huggins  
Editor: Asha Yates

This piece explores the concept of water as a life source, as we literally need it to survive. What happens to us if there's too much? What about if there's not enough?

*Live Q&A*

Dr. Fletcher Chmara-Huff & Mijkalena Smith

## About the Artists

**DR. FLETCHER CHMARA-HUFF** teaches Environmental Studies at Temple University. In addition to being a scholar, he is an activist, artist, and parent. All of these roles inform how he became involved in Temple Water Dances seven years ago, as a scientific consultant, producer, cat wrangler, and cheerleader. This is his seventh show, in collaboration with Boyer, and he has already started planning for the eighth year in 2022, and has no plans to stop until we have successfully tackled the water crises humanity faces.

**ADAM DILLER** is a PhD candidate in Documentary Arts and Visual Research at Temple University. His current research focuses on entanglements of infrastructural media around a Google data center in The Dalles, Oregon. His films, sound, and media works have been exhibited throughout the U.S. and abroad.

**EMMA SUE EWING** is a Pittsburgh native and a third year BFA dance student with a Sociology major and pre-med track who is still finding her choreographic voice through learning a wide variety of dance forms. Ewing plans to dance and create professionally before attending medical school. Last year, she performed in *RECOGNIZANCE*, a piece by Boyer Graduate Cierra Woods, which was recognized at the 2020 American College Dance Association Festival.

**ELISE MELE** is a Philly-based dance artist and currently an MFA student at Temple University. Elise values the therapeutic experience of dance and actively researches different methods of connecting to the body, soul, and mind through dance practice. This in-depth research provides a platform for Elise to share with all bodies. Through her choreographic works, Elise aims to bring awareness to what our bodies hold onto and how dance can immerse the viewer into a sensory experience. In addition to her choreographic career, Elise has also performed with Olive Prince Dance, Contempra Dance, the "InterACTION Project," Nickerson Rossi Dance, and currently, Matter Movement Group. As she continues to grow in the field of dance, Elise hopes to push the boundaries of where dance can be viewed and how it can be performed.

**MIJKALENA SMITH** is a Philadelphia-based dance artist originating from Elverson, Pennsylvania. Primarily trained in Ballet, Modern, African Diasporic, and Improvisational techniques, Mijkalena is currently a senior at Temple University pursuing her BFA in Dance. While completing her studies, Mijkalena works as an Administrative Assistant and Space Coordinator for Fidget, teaches locally as a dance instructor, and has recently become a member of Academy of Phresh. You can find information on her latest work through her Instagram @mijkalenasmith or her website <https://18msmith6.wixsite.com/mijkalena>.

**MERIÁN SOTO**, dancer, choreographer, video artist and professor, is the creator of aesthetic-somatic practices Branch Dancing and Modal Practice. Since her first evening length solo performance in 1979, a work titled *El Agua Viva* (the living water), Soto has engaged with the properties and movement patterns of water in its liquid form as inspiration and guide for understanding the dancing body's capacity for flow. Since 2005 she has developed Branch Dancing, a practice that accesses flow and balance in the structures of trees.

**ZI WANG** is a second year MFA student at the Boyer College. Wang uses their senses and dance experience to relate the body with the world around them in their performances.

Originally from Washington DC, **ASHA YATES** is a Philadelphia-based artist in her third year as dance BFA with a Sociology minor. Primarily trained in urban and commercial styles, she currently studies more traditional concert and African Diasporic styles. She's also a member of Philadelphia's Creative Reaction Dance Company. After choreographing over 30 pieces, Asha is excited to finally make her debut as a choreographer on the Boyer stage tonight.

## **Please Get Involved!**

Provided below is a list of local, national and international organizations that are dedicated to solving water issues all over the globe. Please take this list and find organizations to volunteer with and support. To solve any crisis in our world, we have to work together.

### **Delaware River Keepers**

The Delaware River Keepers was established in 1988 as a non-profit 501(c)(3) membership organization. They promote work throughout the four states that comprise of the Delaware River Watershed, including Pennsylvania, New Jersey, New York and Delaware, on federal issues, actions, regulations, legislations, programs, policies and decisions that impact the health of the watershed. To learn more, visit [delawariverkeeper.org](http://delawariverkeeper.org).

### **Friends of the Wissahickon**

Founded in 1924, Friends of the Wissahickon is a 2,000-member non-profit organization that works in partnership with Philadelphia Parks and Recreation to restore historical park structures, eliminate invasive plant species, monitor watershed management issues and restore trails throughout Wissahickon Valley Park. To learn more, visit [fow.org](http://fow.org).

### **United by Blue**

Started in 2010 out of a desire to preserve the places where we play, United by Blue opted to make a real, tangible impact on our oceans. Instead of writing checks and collecting donations, the organization removes one pound of trash from the Earth's oceans and waterways for every product that they sell through company-organized clean ups. To learn more, visit [unitedbyblue.com](http://unitedbyblue.com).

### **#NoDAPL Solidarity**

#NoDAPL Solidarity is an indigenous-led movement to stop the Dakota Access Pipeline, a \$3.8 billion, 1,100 mile-long fracked-oil pipeline currently under construction from the Bakken shale fields of North Dakota to Peoria, Illinois. The pipeline is slated to cross Lakota Treaty territory at the Standing Rock Sioux Reservation where it would be laid underneath the Missouri River, North America's longest river. Construction of the pipeline would engender a renewed fracking frenzy in the Bakken shale region and endanger a source of fresh water from the Standing Rock Sioux that would affect 8 million people living downstream. The Dakota Access Pipeline would also impact many sites that are sacred to Standing Rock Sioux and their indigenous nations. This project is a massive one solely organized by a group of the world's largest fossil-fuel companies and banks with offices in cities all around the world. Placing direct and non-violent pressure on the corporations behind the project is critical for supporting frontline resistance to the Dakota Access Pipeline. To learn more, visit [nodaplsolidarity.org](http://nodaplsolidarity.org).

### **Foundation for Flint**

On May 13, 2016, this foundation, a supporting organization of the Community Foundation for Greater Flint, was established to assist in Flint, Michigan's water crisis. A 501(c)(3) public charity, the Foundation for Flint raises and distributes resources to serve the long-term health and developmental needs of children, their families and the economic vitality of the city itself through two charitable funds, the Flint Child Health and Development Fund and the Moving Flint Forward Fund. To learn more, visit [flintkids.org](http://flintkids.org).

### **Americans Against Fracking**

Fracking and fracking related drilling pose a direct and immediate threat to the drinking water, air, climate, food sources, the overall health and the economy of communities all across the United States. Americans Against Fracking is an organization composed of entities dedicated to banning drilling and fracking for oil and natural gas in order to protect our shared resources for future generations. To learn more, visit [americansagaistfracking.org](http://americansagaistfracking.org).

### **Plastic Pollution Coalition**

Plastic is a durable material made to last forever and yet 33 percent of all plastic is used only once and then discarded. Plastic cannot biodegrade but rather, can only break down into smaller and smaller pieces. The Plastic Pollution Coalition is a growing global alliance of organizations, businesses and leaders working towards a world free of plastic pollution and its toxic impact on humans, animals and the environment as a whole. To learn more, visit [plasticpollutioncoalition.org](http://plasticpollutioncoalition.org).

### **Surfrider Foundation**

The Surfrider Foundation is dedicated to the protection and enjoyment of the world's oceans, waves and beaches through a powerful activist network of 80 chapters and 110 active campaigns. To learn more, visit [surfrider.org](http://surfrider.org).

### **The 5 Gyres Institute**

The mission of The 5 Gyres Institute is to empower action against the global health crisis of plastic pollution through science, art, education and adventure. The organization's ultimate goal is to achieve a planet free of plastic pollution. To learn more, visit [5gyres.org](http://5gyres.org).

### **Sea Save Foundation**

The Sea Save Foundation strives to protect our oceans by raising awareness about the beauty of marine ecosystems and their fundamental importance to human survival. They seek solutions while advancing public policy and drive advocacy. To learn more, visit [seasave.org](http://seasave.org).

### **Oceana**

Oceana works to protect aquatic life affected by industrial fishing through targeted policy campaigns focused on science combined with media, law and public pressure. These clearly defined campaigns aiming at responsible fishing practices and prevention of ocean pollution are designed to produce identifiable policy changes within the next three to five years. To learn more, visit [oceana.org](http://oceana.org).

**World Wildlife Fund**

The World Wildlife Fund's work involving ocean life focuses on preserving and promoting healthy and resilient marine ecosystems that support abundant biodiversity, sustainability and thriving economies. To learn more, visit [worldwildlife.org](http://worldwildlife.org).

**Water for People**

Water for People exists to promote the development of high-quality drinking water and sanitation services accessible to everyone and sustained by strong communities, businesses and government entities. To learn more, visit [waterforpeople.org](http://waterforpeople.org).

**Clean Water Action**

The mission of Clean Water Action is to protect the environment, overall health, economic well-being and quality of life in communities worldwide. The organization puts together strong grassroots groups, coalitions and campaigns to elect candidates with pro-environmental platforms and solve both environmental and community problems. To learn more, visit [cleanwateraction.org](http://cleanwateraction.org).

This is certainly not a complete list. Please go donate, volunteer and educate yourself on valuable organizations such as these. Water is life!