

CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING AND CINEMATIC ARTS

Boyer College of Music and Dance

BFA Dance Concert

Dreams of Absolution

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

Friday, November 14, 2025 at 7:30 PM

Saturday, November 15, 2025 at 2:30 PM and 7:30 PM

Conwell Dance Theater

1801 North Broad Street

Philadelphia, PA 19122

Program

Swingin' In Syncopation!

Choreography by Dyn Garcia

Dancers: Kayla Bailey, Amara Baker, Kolby Bauman, Cordelia Coppola, Kay Dougherty, Saja Faye, Sara Hicinbothem, Molly Lanza, Dani McVean, Bailey Moul, Julia Koban Payne, Tanaysia Rivera, Dani Sala and Carla Saunders

Music: "Sing, Sing, Sing" by Benny Goodman

Costume Design: Dyn Garcia

Lighting Design: Laurie Benoit Mitchell

Home Suite Home

Choreography by Shacile Harrison

Dancers: Jaelyn Drummond, Lia Haynes, Haneef Jenkins, Zhaisia Lessey, Rosy Nunez, Adrianna Oliver, Vivian Torres-Acosta and Ttendo Williams

Music: Mix by Taj Thompson and Lia Haynes ("Mindstorm" by Jah9, "Whole Heap" by Mortimer, "Set me on Fire" by Sevana, "Pieces" by Masicka & Jahshii, "Coolie Dance Riddim" by Cordel "Skatta" Burrell and Everton "Eva" Burrel, "Dancehall Vibes" by Ding Dong ft DFT and "Dutty Money Riddim" by Rvssian)

Costume Design: Shacile Harrison, Chelsea McCalla and Dania Turner

Lighting Design: Lia Haynes

Choreographed to a suite of songs from Jamaica, *Home Suite Home* represents my journey and story as an international student chasing her dreams. It is a love song to Jamaica, everything that is me, everything and everyone that made me.

Trapped Stars

Choreography by Elora Probyn

Dancers: Kayla Bailey, Imani Houston, Mark Johnson, Dani McVean, Bailey Moul and Saja Singletary

Music: "Son of Nyx" by Hozier, "Fracture" by Origamibiro, "Trapped Stars" by Hans Zimmer, "Woods" by Ah! Kosmos, and "Growing Up" by Hans Zimmer

Video: Elora Probyn in collaboration with the dancers

Lighting: Laurie Benoit Mitchell

"Growing up is not the problem. Forgetting is."

The Little Prince (2015)

Homegoing

Choreography by Nylah Jackson

Dancers: Kayla Bailey, Adrianna Oliver, Endia Banks, Jaelyn Drummond,
Mark Johnson, Zaria Louis-Charles, Dani Sala, Damaris Williams,
Johneta Williams, Dorien Harris, Lily Santana and Zhaisia Lessey

Music: “Life” by K-Ci and Jojo, “Follow Me – Faith” by the Sunday Service
Choir, “Grassland Chant” by the Lion King Ensemble and “Moment
for Life” by Nicki Minaj

Costume Design: Nicole Kamala and Nylah Jackson

Lighting Design: Nylah Jackson

In loving memory of all of our ancestors, family and friends.

“To all who mourn in Israel, he will give you a crown of beauty for ashes, a
joyous blessing instead of mourning and festive praise instead of despair.”

Isaiah 61:3

Intermission

What's Left

Choreography by Saige Alexandra Hollis

Dancers: Endia Banks, Alyssa Morgan, Adrianna Oliver, Angeliese Ribbe,
D'Aungelé Thompson and Johneta Williams

Music: “famlee” by Montez, “Elegy For The Arctic (Remastered 2020)” by
Ludovico Einaudi, “In Limbo” by Pale Jay & The Ironsides

Costume Design: Saige Alexandra Hollis

Lighting Design: Laurie Benoit Mitchell

“Laughter can conceal a heavy heart, but when the laughter ends, the grief
remains.”

Proverbs 14:13

Love Seed - 愛実-

**Choreography by Megumi Oshikiri
in collaboration with the performers**

Dancers: Jaelyn Drummond, Mark Johnson, Tanysia Rivera, Bailey Moul,
Kayla America Robertini, Dani Sala, Lily Santana, Emily Yuri Shin,
Ayano Tanikawa and Damaris Williams

Music: Original songs composed and revised by Isong Lee (BM Music
Composition, Temple '25), "Magic (Enoo Napa Remix)" by Lisa
Shaw, P6o, Enoo Napa, "I Leave Again" by Petit Biscuit, Shallou,
"Your Voice – Adam Port Remix" by Caiiro, AWEN, Adam Port

Projection: Raphaela Pinheiro (BFA Graphic and Interactive Design, Temple
'27)

Lighting Design: Dani Sala

Costume Design: Megumi Oshikiri

My deepest gratitude to all who contributed to this creation. Thank you for
growing this piece together with me. Please enjoy the journey of *Love Seed*.

Antiparâthesi

Choreography by Mary Thorpe

Dancers: Molly Lanza, Jaelyn Drummond, Kolby Bauman, Kenya Nelson and
Angeliese Ribbe

Music: "African Tribal Rhythms" by African Music Drums Collection,
"Soothing Drums" by African Music Drums Collection, "Thunder
Sounds" by Robbins Island Music Group, "All that Matters is the
Moments" by The Comet is Coming

Lighting: Laurie Benoit Mitchell

"Speak the truth in love."

Ephesians 4:15

The Desperate Ones

Choreography by Zhaisia Lessey

Dancers: Olivia Mohsen Alsamadi, Zaria Louis-Charles, Shacile Harrison,
Mark Johnson, Adrianna Oliver, Dani Sala, Lily Santana and
Damaris Williams

Music: "General" by Ini Kamoze and "Eko Lagos" by Femi Anikulapo Kuti

Costume Design: Zhaisia Lessey

Lighting Design: Zhaisia Lessey

Peace, love, safety, and freedom to all oppressed peoples.

Production Crew

Stage Manager: Benja Newnam

Backstage Crew: Diana Edris, Aleah Feggins, Zhaisia Lessey, Yihang Li,
Trinity McFadden, Dani Sala and Madison Wells-McFee

House Crew: Dasha Klim and Eduarda Melgar

Special Thanks

We want to thank Jillian Harris and Olivia Mohsen Alsamadi for facilitating this process. Thank you to Laurie Benoit Mitchell and the entire production crew. And lastly, thank you to all of our teachers, in the past and present.

The use of photographic, audio and video recording is not permitted.

Please turn off all electronic devices.

Eighty-sixth, eighty-ninth and ninety-first performances of the 2025-2026 season.

About the Artists

DYN GARCIA is a performing artist specializing in dance, who's currently in their fourth year of receiving their BFA in dance at Temple University. They began their artistic journey at two years old, dancing at their grandmother's dance studio, The Dance Carousel, getting classically trained in tap, ballet, jazz, and contemporary technique. After moving back to Pennsylvania, they continued pursuing the arts and attending both Arts Academy Middle School and Lehigh Valley Charter Arts High School. Around this time, they worked with Monroe Ballet Theater and performed principal roles in *Nutcracker* such as Clara and Snow Queen. In 2022, they starred as Audrey and worked as assistant choreographer in their high school production of *Little Shop of Horrors*. They have recently performed with MAAD Collective in Terraformer's Footprints showcase, and at Philly Noir : A RAW Affair. They have also previously worked with artists such as Xiang Xu in Temple Dance Ensemble and performed at ACDA and at Gibney Dance in New York. Though they have an extensive background in dance, they also performed and helped choreograph in Temple Shadow Caster's production of *Rocky Horror Picture Show* and *Scott Pilgrim V.S. The World*. Dyn is anticipating graduating in May of 2026.

SHACILE HARRISON is an international student from Kingston, Jamaica currently completing her BFA degree in Dance and Biology at Temple University. Shacile is an aspiring professional dance artist, and physical therapist with interests in bridging holistic wellness and dance.

In her home country, Shacile began her dance training in RAD Ballet at age 3, and has since honed various modern, jazz, and Afro-Caribbean/Folk forms and techniques over the years through training and performing with the Champion College Dance Society (CCDS), the Vickers Dance Studio, and the National Dance Theatre Company of Jamaica (NDTC).

Since moving to Philadelphia in 2020, Shacile has trained in various techniques including Hip-Hop, Umfundulai, and Bharatanatyam. She has also trained and performed with the Philadelphia Dance Company, Philadanco! as a member of their apprentice company, D/2, and is currently shadowing the main company as an apprentice. Shacile is slated to graduate in December 2025.

SAIGE ALEXANDRA HOLLIS, originally from Hartford, Connecticut has been dancing since the age of three and is currently a senior at Temple University pursuing a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Dance. She began her training at Connecticut Concert Ballet, where she performed principal roles in their annual *Nutcracker* performance and was apart of their pre-professional program. She graduated from Greater Hartford Academy of the Arts, where she completed their dance program and earned dual diplomas recognizing both academic and artistic achievement. In 2022, she had the opportunity to perform at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival in Scotland. She was a member of Creative Reaction Dance Company, with whom she competed with in the World of Dance competition circuit. Currently, Saige serves as President of By Any Means Necessary Dance Company, Temple's first hip hop dance organization. Dedicated to expanding her versatility, Saige strives to build community through the arts and pursue opportunities that allow her to collaborate, educate, and continue growing as an artist.

NYLAH JACKSON is a choreographer, aspiring creative director with her BFA in dance from Temple University. Jackson started her training at Ballet Arts Academy in Maryland. She then transitioned to production, singing, dancing and acting at Take A Bow Performing Arts. While enrolled in honors dance classes at Bishop McNamara High School, Jackson trained under Capitol Movement's pre professional company in Washington, DC. After a two-week training program in Los Angeles, CA that resulted in a performance at the Avalon on Hollywood Blvd she developed her love for choreography and the industry. At Temple University she became president of Dare 2 Dance, a choreographic dance team where she developed strengths through community outreach, show and video production. She produced many works during her college years, one shown in the Philadelphia Fringe Festival; An evening length work titled "Can You Feel It?" that explored the human connection between emotions and movement. She also became drawn to lighting design and recently lit two evening length works in the show titled "Natsukashii" MFA Concert. Jackson was recently featured in Tierra Whack's music video "27 CLUB" as a dancer. Jackson now teaches kids at Living Arts Dance and Evolve Dance in Philadelphia and goes back home to spread the love of movement at Capitol Movement. Nylah's work can be found on her YouTube channel:

<https://www.youtube.com/@njchoreo777/>

ZHAISIA LESSEY is a performer and lifelong student originally from Grenada and raised in Brooklyn, New York. She began dancing at the age of two and started her pre-professional training at age fifteen with the Youth Arts Academy. During her training, Zhaisia has had the privilege of working with and learning from Marcea Daiter, Ronald K. Brown, Arcell Cabuag, Karen Thornton, and Freddie Moore. She has trained in Ballet, Graham, Horton, Contemporary, Hip-Hop, and various West African dance styles and techniques. In 2019, Zhaisia was a part of Dance Africa at BAM under the direction of Abdel Salaam and Karen Thornton. She is an alum of Philadanco's apprentice company and has apprenticed and performed with Evidence, A Dance Company. Currently, she is working towards her B.F.A at Temple University, where she has also gained experience working as a stagehand in Conwell Dance Theater. Zhaisia is looking forward to expanding upon her artistry through life experience and continuous learning.

MEGUMI OSHIKIRI is an artist, an explorer and a lifelong learner from Japan. She began training in ballet at the age of 5 at T.K. Ballet Academy, and has developed her movement style mostly through commercial and contemporary dance at Rei Dance Collection in Japan. She came to the United States to attend the University of the Arts for two years, where she received dance training under the guidance of Paul Matterson, Shayla-Vie Jenkins, Sidra Bell, and Amy Aldridge. Megumi is also a costume designer and maker specializing in fashion for dance, led by the mentorship of Martha Chamberlain at UArts. She made her debut for "TRINE" by Omenthrice Dance Company as an independent costume designer. Megumi is currently pursuing her Bachelor of Fine Arts in Dance at Temple University, where she continues to refine her artistry through center-weighted, contemporary fusion dance styles. Her experiences living in the United States as an international student, along with her work beyond performance, have inspired her to broaden her perspective and challenge her own potential. She creates art as a way to share love in all its forms through her everyday life, striving to make her work deeply "relatable" to the audience.

ELORA PROBYN is an experimental movement artist currently based in Philadelphia. Originally from Colorado, Elora began their performing arts journey with theatrical stage performances at 7 years old, later beginning vocal music training at the age of 12. After excelling in these fields for several years, they began their dance training at the age of 16, attending Synergy Dance Academy and competing on their renowned dance team. With over a decade of experience as a performer under their belt, Elora decided to take a gap year to refine their creative voice before beginning their collegiate journey. During this time, they worked at various dance studios across Colorado, eventually helping their mentor, Kurtis Aragon, kick-start the opening of his dance studio, the nationally-acclaimed Altitude Performing Arts. They are now pursuing their Bachelor of Fine Arts in Dance at Temple University, maintaining their training in both theatrical and vocal performance through private lessons and various on campus clubs. After graduating, Elora plans to pursue a Master's of Education in Dance with hopes to support the next generation through the art of movement.

MARY THORPE is a dynamic Philadelphia-based performance artist with a passion for dance, acting, and singing. She began her professional training at just 13 years old, studying voice, acting, and dance at the prestigious Freedom Theatre, where she honed her skills with a strong emphasis on voice. This early training sparked her love for all three disciplines, establishing her as a true triple threat in the performing arts. She is currently a dedicated dance educator and an active member of Eleone Dance Connections, one of Philadelphia's premier dance companies. As a seasoned performer, Mary seamlessly blends her talents in dance, acting, and singing, making her a sought-after artist for professional opportunities. She has worked both as a principal and background actor alongside industry icons such as Misty Copeland, Jessica Biel, and Elizabeth Banks. With a deep love for God and storytelling through movement and performance, Mary Thorpe continues to inspire and uplift through her artistry, teaching, and entrepreneurial endeavors.

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.

temple.edu

Boyer College of Music and Dance

Upcoming Events

Temple Opera Theater: Poul Ruders' *The Handmaid's Tale*

José Luis Domínguez, music director

Claire Choquette, stage director

Sunday, November 16 at 3:00 PM

Tomlinson Theater

Student Recital: Josh Berendt, tuba

Saturday, November 15 at 5:30 PM

Rock Hall Auditorium

Studio Recital: Trombone Choir

Saturday, November 15 at 7:30 PM

Rock Hall Auditorium

Diamond Marching Band Indoor Concert

Matthew Brunner, director

Sunday, November 16 at 3:00 PM

Temple Performing Arts Center

Studio Recital I: Chamber Music Students of Lambert Orkis

Sunday, November 16 at 7:30 PM

Rock Hall Auditorium

Small Jazz Ensembles

Monday, November 17

11:00 AM Jeb Patton Ensemble

11:45 AM Chris Farr Ensemble

12:30 PM Todd Bashore Ensemble

1:15 PM Chris Farr Ensemble

2:00 PM Lucas Brown Ensemble

The Art of Bread Café

All events are free unless otherwise noted. Programs are subject to change without notice.

For further information or to confirm events, please call 215.204.7609

or visit www.boyer.temple.edu.