

COMPANY DANCE SPRING CONCERT



7:30 PM

MAY 2ND, 3RD & 4TH

KELSEY THEATRE

2024

**RESERVED
SEATING:**

**ST. OLAF FACULTY, STAFF, EMERITI, &
RETIREES MAY REQUEST 2 FREE TICKETS**

**ST. OLAF STUDENTS MAY REQUEST
1 FREE TICKET**

ADDITIONAL TICKETS ARE \$10

The St. Olaf College Dance Department

The St. Olaf College Dance Department offers a nurturing environment in which to pursue a BA in Dance with training, performing, and choreography opportunities in Modern/Contemporary, West African, Hip Hop, Ballet, International dance, Ballroom, Jazz, and Tap. The department consists of four core faculty plus four adjunct faculty, a full-time technical director, and a staff musician. The Dance Department graduates an average of 8-10 dance majors a year and serves over 500 students yearly.

The St. Olaf College Dance Department engages students in the study of dance as a vital form of human expression, understanding, communication, and interaction. Partnering with the College's liberal arts curriculum and making connections with other academic fields, the dance program encourages the exploration of complex ideas through investigation, knowledge, and expression of the body.

Our program combines embodied practice with critical thinking to root dance forms from around the world in their culturally, socially, and politically informed values. This is a fundamental means of self-discovery, understanding other dancing bodies, and advancing an anti-racist, equitable, and just community. Whether students in our program become dance artists, choreographers, scholars, teachers or integrate their skills and knowledge into other fields, they grow into movers, makers, and thinkers who responsibly respond to, serve, and shape the world around them.

For the Audience

- ~ Please do not bring food, drink, cameras, or recording devices into the theater.
- ~ Please turn cell phones off. Please do not text during the concert.
- ~ Please place your unwanted program in the recycling box located outside the theater as you exit.



Reception: Friday, May 3

Following the concert on Friday, May 3 please join us for a reception on the main floor of the Center for Art and Dance, by the Flaten Art Museum.

From the Companydance Artistic Director

The students, faculty, and staff of the St. Olaf College Dance Department welcome you to our 2024 Companydance Spring Dance Concert. During this evening's performance, you will see dance works created and danced from many points of view. The diversity of movement knowledge and expression is indicative of the



philosophical breadth and scope valued and practiced by the St. Olaf College Dance Department. Regardless of your background or familiarity with dance or movement, you have something unique and valuable to stir into the mix as audience members. We encourage you to be an active viewer letting your personal experiences color what you see, think, hear, and feel during tonight's performance. It is not important that you get “it,” only that you participate in the journey and aim to get and give “something.” We thank you for your support, and we sincerely hope you enjoy your experience at this evening’s performance.

-Heather Klopchin

Como Brilla

Choreographer: Cynthia Gutierrez-Garner

Rehearsal Director: Nina Hodder

Notes: “Burdened no more is the soul for whom life flows through dance and not breath.”

— Shah Asad Rizvi

Music: De Plata, Que No Salga La Luna, and Bulerías by Rosalía

Dancers: Bea Beaman, Morgan Burkum, Hailey Frank, Andrea Hanson, Angel Higareda, Paulina Morera Quesada, Lily Moreschi, Gibran Murrieta, Yolanda Pauly, Ella Vanderkolff, Talia Williams

Lighting Designer: Stephen Schroeder

Costume Designer: Rebecca Bernstein

Prop Construction: Stephen Schroeder



Portmanteau

Choreographers: Beck Dziedzic, Ellie Fischenich

Music: Goldwing - Billie Eilish

Dancers: Beck Dziedzic, Ellie Fischenich

Zipporah gave birth to a son, and Moses named him Gershom

Choreographer: Ariel Edwards

Music: Escapism - Rebecca Sugar

Dancer: Ariel Edwards

Lighting Designer: Stephen Schroeder

Costume Designer: Rebecca
Bernstein, Ariel Edwards



Perpetual Echoes

Director and Movement Creator: Brianna Rae Johnson

Music & Sounds: Wind Chimes Harmony by Almusic34, Slow Moving Waves by Rest You Sleeping Giant, Generation by Inspectr, Field Recordings of Bea Beaman, Marcy Johnson, Mary Rae Joseph, Ray Joseph, Cedar Krubsack, recorded and edited by Brianna Rae Johnson

Dancers and Movement Creators: Bea Beaman, Morgan Burkum, Beck Dziedzic, Amajja Grussing-Neitzel, Olivia Haidle, Andrea Hanson, Nina Hodder, Yolanda Pauly, Sophie Smith, Ella Vanderkolff, and Liya Wetzler

Lighting Designer: Stephen Schroeder

Costume Designer: Rebecca Bernstein

Enya Suite

Choreographer: Scott Stafford

Notes: A dance landscape in bloom, set to an Enya soundscore.

“Enya Suite” was first developed on dancers at St. Paul Conservatory for Performing Artists in January, 2024, with an excerpted version to be performed at the Detroit Institute of Arts in September, 2024. We hope you enjoy x

Music: Music by Enya, arranged and remixed by Scott Stafford

Dancers: Ivy Anderson, Samantha Anderson, Alice Boerner, Delaney Dresser, Sonja Ebey, Owen Erickson, Bryn Fitzgerald-Wells, Sara Griffith, Amajja Grussing-Neitzel, Sofia Knudson, Emma Linder, Jessica Olson, Zoe Ritter, AnnaSophia Schwebel, Lydia Westerlund

Lighting Designer: Stephen Schroeder

Costume Designer: Rebecca Bernstein



~~ **INTERMISSION** ~~



Remembrance Riffs

Choreographers: Isabella Baker, Claire Bouma, Ariel Edwards, Hailey Frank, Heather Klopchin, Lily Moreschi, Gibran Murrieta, Leo Sanchez, Emma Smith, Ella Vanderkolff

Director: Heather Klopchin

Notes: I have really enjoyed collaborating with the artists in this piece and am inspired by their unique, individual artistic voices. I so appreciate their support as I rediscover my dancing self.

Music: “Maiden Voyage/Everything In Its Right Place” by Robert Glasper

Dancers: Isabella Baker, Claire Bouma, Ariel Edwards, Hailey Frank, Heather Klopchin, Lily Moreschi, Gibran Murrieta, Leo Sanchez, Emma Smith, Ella Vanderkolff

Lighting Designer: Stephen Schroeder

Costume Designer: Rebecca Bernstein

Are They Safe?

Choreographer: Paulina Morera Quesada

Notes: To be a female in Latin America means to be controlled by how men view you: in a constant ebb and flow between innocence and infatuation; the feeling of being infantilized and weaponized simultaneously consumes you. *Nos queremos vivas y libres. Para Allison, María Luisa, Luany, Yuliana, María Trinidad, Karolay y todas las mujeres a quienes les arrebataron la vida. Esto es para cada una de ustedes.*

Music: “Tocarte” by Jorge Drexler, C. Tangana, “Ni Una Menos” by Aquelarre, and “Temes” by iLe

Dancers: Morgan Burkum, Rel Edwards, Ellie Fischenich, Angel Higareda, Emma Hoelscher, Talia Williams

Lighting Designer: Stephen Schroeder

Costume Designers: Paulina Morera Quesada, Rebecca J Bernstein

Suadade

Choreographer: Gibran Murrieta

Music: Piel by Arca, Saunter by Arca

Dancers: Lee Christianson, Hailey Frank, Gibran Murrieta, Emma Smith

Lighting Designer: Stephen Schroeder

Costume Designer: Gibran Murrieta



reputation

Choreographers: Leo Sanchez, Emma Gannon, Liya Wetzler

Notes: *“There will be no explanation, there will only be reputation”*

-Taylor Swift

Music: ...Ready For It?, I Did Something Bad, Look What You Made Me Do (all by Taylor Swift)

Dancers: Leo Sanchez, Emma Gannon, Liya Wetzler

Lighting Designer: Stephen Schroeder

Costume Designer: Leo Sanchez, Liya Wetzler, Emma Gannon

Side By Side (2013)

Choreographer: Jeffrey Peterson

Notes: “Side By Side” was selected to close the Gala Concert at the 2024 American College Dance Association North Central Regional Conference. Special thanks to Andrea Hanson and Yolanda Pauly for joining this cast for our performances at the ACDA, and for Yolanda Pauly’s ongoing work as an understudy for this piece. “Side By Side” was originally created at Muhlenberg College. This is the fourth cast to dance this work. Especially post-pandemic, it has been a joy to recreate this work for this community.

Music: “The First Circle” by Pat Metheny and Lyle Mays, performed by The Pat Metheny Group

Dancers: Bea Beaman, Jade Burbank, Morgan Burkum, Beck Dziedzic, Ellie Fischenich, Hailey Frank, Olivia Haidle, Angel Higareda, Nina Hodder, Kylee Knettel, Joy Meyers, Lily Moreschi, Gibran Murrieta, Kathryn Sprandel, Ava Traisci, Ella Vanderkolff

Lighting Designer: Stephen Schroeder, based on an original design by Susan Hamburger

Costume Designer: Rebecca J Bernstein

Faculty Biographies

Currently, **Heather Klopchin** is a Professor of Dance and Chair of the Dance Department, and the Oscar and Gertrude Boe Overby Distinguished Professor at St. Olaf College where she teaches Modern Dance, Senior Seminar, and First Year Seminar. She also choreographs for Companydance®. Heather holds a BS degree in Management from the State University of New York (SUNY) at Geneseo and an MFA degree in Dance choreography and performance from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

Heather is passionate about performing, choreographing, researching, and teaching dance. Highlights of her career to date include performing in works by Danny Buraczeski, Joe Chvala, Robert Cohan, Suzanne Costello, David Dorfman, Bill Evans, Karla Grotting, Judith Howard, Doris Humphrey, Mathew Janczewski, Walter Kennedy, Jennifer Isle, Linda Lehovec, Paula Mann, Gabriel Masson, Mark Morris, Jeffrey Peterson, Stuart Pimsler, Anthony Roberts, Melissa Rolnick, Zoe Sealy, Karis Sloss, Daniel Stark, Robin Stiehm, Deborah Thayer, Doug Varone, and Renée Wadleigh. She has performed with *Stuart Pimsler Dance and Theater*, *ARENA Dances*, *Zenon Dance Company*, *Eclectic Edge Ensemble*, *Linda Lehovec & Dancers*, *Joe Chvala Flying Foot Forum*, *Dancing People Company*, *Off Leash Area*, and *Alternative Motion Project*. Heather also currently serves as the ACDA (American College Dance Association) North-Central Regional Director.

Scott Stafford is a Minneapolis based choreographer, dancer, and teaching artist. He believes expression is vital, and accessible to every individual. His artistic efforts have been recognized by The Foundation for Contemporary Arts, The Minnesota State Arts Board, Minnesota Regional Arts Council, and Springboard For the Arts. He is the recipient of a 2023 Jerome Hill Artist Fellowship.

“Stafford’s choreography pursued expression with luminous flow and pristine technique - acting as a clarion call to new ways of being.” – Minneapolis Star Tribune, 2022

He has toured as a performer and teacher around the United States, with residencies spanning university dance departments, k-12, contemporary art museums, arts organizations, and partnerships with regional state parks. In addition to creating performance work, Scott competes in the ballroom scene in the categories of hand performance, runway, and New Way Vogue as Edward.007. Stafford was born in Windsor, Ontario and grew up in Metro Detroit. He is a devoted student of qigong, and can be found either deep in the forest or step-touching on a dim dance floor.

As a 15-year-old mediocre soccer player, **Brianna Rae Johnson** walked into her high school’s modern dance department and never looked back. She went on to receive Dance and Biology degrees and an American Racial and Multicultural Studies concentration from St. Olaf College and a Master of Fine Arts in Dance from The Ohio State University. As a mover, she has focused on postmodern release technique and floorwork, contact improvisation, Latinx social dance, and West African Dance.

As a maker, Brianna creates immersive, intermedial, and interactive works for the stage, gallery, and screen. Her choreography has been performed throughout the Midwest and her films have been selected for festivals around the world. Brianna has performed and toured with Robin Stiehm's *Dancing People Company* and Minnesota-based choreographers such as Erin Drummond, Paula Mann, and Mathew Janczewski. With great gratitude, Brianna is back at St. Olaf College as a Visiting Assistant Professor.

Cynthia Gutierrez-Garner is a Latinx choreographer and dance educator committed to inclusion, representation and social consciousness in both pedagogy and creative practice. She is a teaching specialist and creative researcher in both contemporary post-modern dance and American concert jazz technique. Gutierrez-Garner received her B.F.A. Summa Cum Laude at the University of Minnesota, and her M.F.A. as an Advanced Opportunity Fellow at the University of Wisconsin Milwaukee. She has served as the Choreographer in Residence for the Minnesota Dance Theater, and is a four-time winner of the Arizona Choreography Competition's Professional Division. Works by Gutierrez-Garner have been commissioned by numerous institutions across the U.S. including Kent State University, University of Minnesota, Arizona State University, Gustavus Adolphus College, University of Oregon, University of Wisconsin, Middle Tennessee State University, University of Texas Rio Grande and the American University.

Professional company commissions include the Dulce Dance Company, Eclectic Edge Ensemble, Zenon Dance Company, Concerto Dance Company and L.A. based JazzAntiqua. Cynthia's work has been produced across the U.S in Minneapolis, MN (including the Southern Theater, the Fitzgerald Theater, the Walker Art Center, the O'Shaugnessey Theater, the Guthrie Lab), in Arizona (including the Herberger Theater, Tempe Center for the Arts and the Scottsdale Center for the Arts), New York City's Miller Theater, and the Kennedy Center in Washington D.C., Gutierrez-Garner's work has seen support from organizations such as the Jerome Foundation, the McKnight Foundation, the Walker Art Center, the Arizona Commission on the Arts, and the Lane Arts Council. She has taught on the dance faculties of the University of Minnesota, Twin Cities and Gustavus Adolphus College, the prestigious Bates Dance Festival in Lewiston, Maine and as a guest faculty at Xuchang University in China. She currently serves on the faculty of Western Oregon University and is the artistic director of Company Movimiento.



Jeffrey Peterson has been making choreography for over 25 years, including work in and across dance, the marching arts, and musical theater. Hailed as “...moving and heart-racingly joyous...” by the St. Paul Pioneer Press and “...poetic precision...” by the Minneapolis Star Tribune, his dances have been commissioned by Dance New Amsterdam, Judson Memorial Church, and Rhythmically Speaking, and have appeared in The DanceNOW/NYC Festival at Joyce Soho and Joe’s Pub, The Minnesota Fringe Festival, as well as at Dixon Place and Intermedia Arts, among others. He has made choreography at Gustavus Adolphus, Muhlenberg, and Hobart & William Smith Colleges; Bucknell, Old Dominion, and Hamline Universities; and for the Perpich Center for Arts Education. Jeffrey’s creations embrace aesthetic, intellectual, and emotional content in order to comment on the human condition. His approaches seek to encourage performers and audience to embrace dancing that enlivens and intermingles the mind, body, and spirit.

Jeffrey's performing career includes The Madison Scouts Drum and Bugle Corps, Every-Body Winterguard, JAZZDANCE by Danny Buraczeski, ARENA Dances by Mathew Janczewski, The Grand Step Project by Stephan Koplowitz, Clare Byrne Dance, DELiRiOUS Dance Co. / Edisa Weeks, and The Minnesota Opera.

He holds an MFA in Dance Performance and Choreography from NYU's Tisch School of the Arts, a Certification in Laban/Bartenieff Movement Analysis from Integrated Movement Studies, and a BFA in Dance from the University of Minnesota - Twin Cities. Jeffrey serves as an Adjunct Associate Professor here at St. Olaf.

Student Biographies

Paulina Morera Quesada is a senior majoring in Inclusivity in the Performing Arts, a self-designed major that focuses on the intersections between Dance and Theater to create spaces for immigrants, POC, and LGBTQ+ folks in the performing arts, with concentrations in Race and Ethnic Studies and Gender and Sexuality Studies. Originating from Quesada in Costa Rica, they are interested in creating thought-provoking, socially conscious and liberating works that challenge the restrictive norms established by systems of oppression. Throughout their time at St. Olaf, she has collaborated with artists from different cultural backgrounds in groups such as KaLeDance Studio, POC Ole Theater, the Wandering Ensemble, and the GreenRoom Fellowship. As a mover, she is interested in the fusion of jazz, modern, bachata, salsa, and Costa Rican traditional dance.

Ariel (Rel) is in her sophomore year, a declared dance major on the pre-health track. Artistry has been embedded in her since she was born (thank you mom and dad), and the steadfast desire to become a doctor came shortly after (6 years later in kindergarten). She's sort of always known what she's meant to do, but not who she is made to be. At thirteen years old, she gave her life to Jesus, marking the beginning of lifelong discovery and exploration. Now at St. Olaf, she is delighted to share her passion for art and people with this community.

Technical Designer

Stephen Schroeder, Lighting Designer and Technical Director, joined the St. Olaf community in 2019 as the Technical Director of the Dance Department and has enjoyed lighting dance and playing backstage since 1996 when he came upon the technical aspects of the theater while pursuing his BFA in Dance from the University of Colorado-Boulder. During his professional dance career he was also the touring Technical Director for Zenon Dance Company and ARENA Dances. When not on or backstage he can be found playing with his partner, three children, three dogs, two cats and two horses or tinkering in some aspect of home improvement.





Costume Designer

Rebecca J. Bernstein, Costume Supervisor, is in her third year as the Costume Designer and Supervisor for St Olaf College. External costume design credits include: *12th Night*, *Always Patsy Cline*, *The Tempest*, *Cymbeline*, *Servant of Two Masters*, *Midsummer*, *Shakespeare in Love*, *Richard III*, *Shipwrecked!*, *Julius Caesar*, *Much Ado* (Great River Shakespeare Festival); *Little Women* (The Jungle); *The Rocky Horror Show*, *The Pirates of Penzance*, *The Liar*, *The Snow Queen* (Park Square Theatre); *Memory Boy* (MN Opera/Project Opera); *Salome* (MN Orchestra); *You're a Good Man Charlie Brown*, *Same Time Next Year* (Theatre Aspen); *Jailbait**, *Hoodoo Love**, *Dutchman**, *Bhutan**, *Huck and Holden**, (The Cherry Lane Theatre); *Agamemnon* (LaMama ETC/ 11 th Hour Prod.); *Seussical* (Theater West Virginia); *When in Disgrace...* (Examined Man/ The Theatre at St. Clement's); *Anna Christie* (Metropolitan Playhouse); *Ward 9* (NYMF); *The Rise of Dorothy Hale** (The Theatre at St. Luke's); Rebecca also taught Costume Construction at Brooklyn College and Costume Design at Kingsborough College in NYC. (*Denotes Off-Broadway)

Production Staff

Technical Director and Lighting Designer: Stephen Schroeder

Stage Manager: Sophia Bloch

Light Board Operator: O'Neill Hathcoat

Sound Board Operator: Colleen Peery

Assistant Stage Managers: Sophie Higgs, Sydney King

Fly Rail: Masha Doering

Costume Designer & Costume Shop Supervisor: Rebecca Bernstein

Wardrobe Lead: Kathryn Sprandel

Wardrobe: Lili Schroedl, Janet Munoz Enriquez

Costume Construction: Anike Braun, Alexa Hwang, Elena Pierson, Jacob Thompson, Sydney Niehaus, Lindsey Niehaus,





Special Thanks

- Alison Feldt, Associate Dean of Fine Arts
- Patty Cohn, Art & Dance Administrative Assistant
- Rebecca Bernstein, Costume Designer & Costume Shop Supervisor
- Theater Department Faculty & Staff
- Office of Broadcast Media
- Center for Art and Dance Custodians: Bryce Pickerign, Dawn Kaderlik, Greg Taubman
- Dance Department Members: Joel Arpin, Cudjoe Emmanuel, Brianna Rae Johnson
- Dance Department Adjunct Faculty Members: Penelope Freeh, Karla Grotting, Jeffrey Peterson, and Karen Yang
- Ella Vanderkolff, Poster Design
- Olivia Haidle, Program Design
- Kent McInnis, Photographer

~~ Looking Ahead ~~

Advanced Choreography Showing

May 15 at 7pm in Wagner Bundgaard Studio 1

Students in Advanced Choreography class present their work.