



STUDIODANCE I DANCE AT ILLINOIS

Thursday, March 9, 2017, at 7pm (Program A) and 9pm (Program B)
Friday, March 10, 2017, at 7pm (Program B) and 9pm (Program A)
Saturday, March 11, 2017, at 7pm (Program A) and 9pm (Program B)
Studio Theatre

PROGRAM

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PROGRAM A

PLACEBO, by Elise Frost

PROGRAM B

Point 0, by Momar Ndiaye

WELCOME

This year has been a particularly profound experience for me as the director of the thesis projects. Working with these two MFA students has allowed for a depth and intimacy with the artistic process that has been revelatory in many ways. Elise's and Momar's research interests indirectly respond to the contemporary political moment. Each of these works grapples with a range of ideas—power, ideology, authority, cultural appropriation, globalism, hybridity, and migration—from two distinctive and powerful choreographic approaches. These choreographers have probed deeply into long held assumptions about difference, trust, and power structures—both aesthetic and political. The dancing invites us into a space of shared experience that is alive in the physicality and immediacy of the performers' vulnerability to us and to each other. They do so from embodied frameworks that excavate the power of the body to unleash our imagination, allowing us to be true to one another in unfamiliar ways. Perhaps truth is a loaded word in this current political moment and bodies can always lie. But here in these works we witness the effort of these performers to be present and honest with us and each other. This is important and necessary, and helps us connect to the world and to each other in the dark with the sweat, the sound, and the dancing experience. This effort towards honesty is a balm I am grateful for and I invite you to dwell in.

—Jennifer Monson, concert director

PLACEBO

CHOREOGRAPHY

Elise Frost

COSTUME COORDINATOR

Nicole Zausmer

LIGHTING DESIGNER

Michael Cummings

SOUND DESIGNER

Richard Scholwin

PERFORMERS

Phoebe Ballard

Abi Elliot

Mauriah Kraker

Chloe Nagle

Jeff Putney

Lucas Marshall Smith

Natalie Stehly

Dakota Wayne

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I would like to thank the performers for their tremendous work during this process. Their generosity, zeal, accountability, and courageousness made the journey of this work abundantly joyous and invigorating. A special thanks to Lucas and Dakota for stepping into our world and allowing us to play and share their musical passion. A thank you to Joe, the graphic designer and dancer who kept us mischievous, delighted, and inspired. To Mauriah, Chloe, Abby, Natalie, and Phoebe, whose love for dance imbues the work with an overflowing curiosity and possibility. And to the Supermoon, for allowing us to dance and howl in delight under your presence so we could make space for the work to transform us.

Point 0

CHOREOGRAPHY

Momar Ndiaye

CONDUCTOR/COMPOSER

Cassie Wieland

MUSICIANS

Nikita Annenkov, cello

Charles Maybee, drums

TJ Sapp, electric guitar

Justin Slater, double bass

COSTUME COORDINATOR

Nicole Zausmer

LIGHTING DESIGNER

Michael Cummings

SOUND DESIGNER

Richard Scholwin

DANCERS

Alyssa Gordon

Alex Gossen

Jennifer Lu

Shatara Mathis

Sarah Stearn

Thomas Welsh-Huggins

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This work would not have been possible without the creativity, engagement, support, trust, and generosity of my cast. Special thanks to Cassie Wieland and the musicians for bringing another dimension to this work.

I am grateful for the enormous support of Abby Zbikowski and Jennifer Monson for their guidance and energy. Thank you to all the MFA committee, and the whole Department of Dance!

I cannot *not* be grateful to my parents, my brothers, and friends. Their energy is also in this work.

PROFILES

Elise Frost (Choreographer) is a choreographer and performing artist from Orlando, Florida. Initially trained as a vocalist and actor, her work integrates interdisciplinary arts and focuses on the creative process as collaboration. Producing and performing her first work at the age of 16 further sparked her interest in working to initiate spaces of creative convergence. Her work has been commissioned for the Johnny Holloway Theatre, Soul Play Modern Dance, CineDance Jazz Dance, DRIP Productions, Krannert Art Museum, and Brooks and Company Dance. She holds a BFA from the University of Florida, Gainesville and in 2012 founded Red Right Return Dance Company. She is a third-year MFA candidate in Dance at the University of Illinois.

Momar Ndiaye (Choreographer) is an MFA candidate at the University of Illinois. He started with street dance in Senegal as an adolescent, was trained in Ateliers Experiences et Corps program (initiated by the Association Premier Temp), and has worked with many well-known choreographers from Africa, Europe, Asia, and the US such as Vincent Mantsoe, Andreyia Ouamba, Reggie Wilson, Mark Thomkins, Olivier Dubois, Salia Sanou, Seydou Boro, Lassina Coulibaly, Opiyo Okach, and many others. He also participated in two training courses in Digital Arts with the Paris-based artistic collective RYBN and Yann Leguay. In 2012, Momar was selected to participate in Dance Web in Vienna, Austria, and thus got to know artists such as Faustin Linyekula, David Zambrano, Keith Hennessy, and Benoît Lachambre (among others). In parallel, Momar has been developing his work with his company since 2004 and has created several staged contemporary dance works and choreographies for music videos. In 2015, Momar's newest evening-length work *Toxu* was presented as part

of the Belluard Festival in Switzerland and he was a finalist laureate at Danse L'Afrique Danse (Africa and Caribbean creation) Festival in St. Louis, Senegal. In 2016, Momar was selected to participate in two intercultural projects: *Shifting Realities* supported by Tanz Haus in Germany; and *1space*, a collaboration between KVS in Brussels, Exodus in Slovenia, and Alkantara in Portugal.

Michael Cummings (Lighting Designer) is a first-year graduate student at the University of Illinois. He is pursuing an MFA in Lighting Design and holds a BA in Psychology. Previous work at the U of I includes *Mr. Burns, a post-electric play* (Assistant Lighting Designer) as well as an ongoing graduate assistantship at Krannert Center for the Performing Arts. He has enjoyed the collaborative process that went into putting Studiodance I together!

Marissa Gainey (Stage Manager) is a first-year MFA Stage Management student at the University of Illinois. She received her BA in Theatre from North Carolina Central University. She served as an assistant stage manager on the production of *Dontrell, Who Kissed the Sea*; and as Stage Manager on the recent production of *Failure: A Love Story*. Marissa will spend this summer at the National Black Theatre Festival in Winston-Salem, North Carolina, and she will continue her position as the Executive Assistant to the Technical Director upon her return in the fall 2017 semester.

Jennifer Monson (Concert Director/Artistic Director of iLAND-interdisciplinary Laboratory for Art, Nature and Dance) uses choreographic practice as a means to discover connections between environmental, philosophical, and aesthetic approaches to knowledge and understandings of our surroundings. She creates large-scale dance projects informed and inspired

by phenomena in natural and built environments. Her projects include *BIRD BRAIN* (2000-2006), *iMAP/Ridgewood Reservoir* (2007), *Mahomet Aquifer Project* (2009), *SIP (sustained immersive process)/watershed* (2010), and *Live Dancing Archive Vol. I & II* (2012 and 2014). Her current project *in tow* investigates experimentation across geographies and generations. Monson is on the faculty at the University of Illinois with the Department of Dance and was a Marsh Professor At Large at the University of Vermont (2010-2016).

Bobby Reynolds (Technical Director) hails from Ohio, where he received his BA from Wittenberg University in Springfield. He is currently enrolled in the Scenic Technology program at the University of Illinois and is expected to receive his MFA in 2019. He has worked as a carpenter/technical director for Playhouse on the Square in Memphis, Tennessee, for two years prior to moving to Champaign-Urbana. Production credits include *Sister Act* (2016), *Peter and the Starcatcher* (2016), and *The Other Place* (2016).

Julie Rundell (Properties Master) has been the assistant properties director at Krannert Center since 1990. Her work has been seen at theatres in Montana, North Carolina, Michigan, Massachusetts, and Wisconsin, and—occasionally—her work can be seen in Chicago. She has a BFA from the North Carolina School of the Arts.

Richard Michael Scholwin (Sound Designer) is a Wisconsin native. He attended DePaul University's School of Music in Chicago, Illinois, as a voice major, completing his Bachelor of Science in Sound Recording Technology in 1994. He served as the Assistant Audio Director for the University of Illinois School of Music in Urbana from 1994-2001. Richard worked for Northern Illinois University as a recording engineer during the 2001-02 school year and then as Lead Audio Technician for the Robert and Margrit Mondavi

Center for the Performing Arts at the University of California, Davis, from 2002-07. While working at the Mondavi Center, he earned his MFA in Dramatic Arts-Sound Design from UC Davis, graduating in June 2007. He was Resident Sound Designer for the Denver Theatre Company for the 2007-08 season. Richard then served as Fine Arts and Humanities Audio Director for the University of Nebraska at Kearney from 2008 through December 2014. In January 2015, Richard joined Krannert Center as Director for Audio Services and is delighted to be back on campus.

Nicole Zausmer (Costume Coordinator) is a second-year MFA Costume Design student at the University of Illinois. She received her BA from Indiana University in 2012 and is thrilled to be working with Dance at Illinois again. Recent assistant design work includes *Long Lost* (Illinois Theatre), *John Steinbeck's: The Grapes of Wrath* (Illinois Theatre), and *Beatrice and Benedict* (Lyric Theatre @ Illinois). Recent design work includes *Man of La Mancha* (Bigfork Summer Playhouse, or BSP), *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum* (Metropolitan State University of Denver), *Tarzan* (BSP), *Boeing-Boeing* (Town Hall Arts Center), *Chicago* (BSP), and *Mary Shelley's Frankenstein* (Oklahoma City Theatre Company). Thanks for coming and enjoy our hard work!

PRODUCTION STAFF

CONCERT DIRECTOR

Jennifer Monson

STAGE MANAGER

Marissa Gainey

TECHNICAL DIRECTOR

Bobby Reynolds

ASSISTANT STAGE MANAGER

Adele Snagel

ASSISTANT LIGHTING DESIGNER

Omri Schwartz

PROPERTIES MASTER

Julie Rundell

MASTER ELECTRICIAN

Omri Schwartz

ASSISTANT MASTER ELECTRICIAN

Kyle Condon

DANCE ASSISTANT STAGE MANAGERS

Emmmaline Rapier

Katrina Zale

GEL/DECK RUN CREW

Colleen Brown

Oksana Kuzma

Jennifer Oelerich

Symone Sanz

Elizabeth Winegardner

COSTUME RUNNING CREW

Donna Carnow

Max Gorgol

Jennifer Lu

LIGHT BOARD OPERATOR

Alexandra Hutton

SOUND BOARD OPERATOR

Diana Shepherd

GRADUATE MEDIA COORDINATOR

Momar Ndiaye

VIDEO CREW

Lauren Mendelson

Elisandra Rosario

Mary Vo