



STUDIODANCE II
DANCE AT ILLINOIS

Thursday-Saturday, October 3-5, 2019, at 7:30pm
Studio Theatre

WELCOME

Welcome to Studio Dance II, fall 2019. This concert is dedicated to showcasing Dance at Illinois student works and provides an insight into what moves our young people today. What is it that inspires them in their creative endeavors? What are the questions they are grappling with in their research and lives? How do they communicate their questions through the ephemeral art form of dance?

As always, this program is a rich sharing of diverse voices, each one unique and calling to be listened to. It is my honor as concert director to be able to support these young and upcoming artists as they present their work.

I hope very much that you enjoy the show.

—Kirstie Simson, concert director

PROGRAM

STUDIODANCE II DANCE AT ILLINOIS

Kirstie Simson, concert director
Thursday-Saturday, October 3-5, 2019, at 7:30pm
Studio Theatre

the laughter of children

Haley Van Patten

vinyl historia

Nicholas Hittle

Somewhere between

Bevara Anderson and Danzel Thompson-Stout

For Your Consideration

Evvie Allison

Malamente

Alyssa Teijeiro-Ficht

I-will I-Will I-WILLLL

William Ervin

3:33

Taylor Adams

in·fin·i·ty

Jaylen De' Angelo Clay

period piece

Rachel Rizzuto

This production will be presented with no intermission.

This production includes haze effects and strobe lighting.

the laughter of children

CHOREOGRAPHY

Haley Van Patten

MUSIC

"Floe" by Philip Glass

"Our Deepest Fear" by Jacques Brel

"The Parting Glass"—Irish folk poem

COSTUME DESIGNERS

Heather Raue

Haley Van Patten

LIGHTING DESIGNER

Zack Saunders

SOUND DESIGNERS

Walter Julian Koonce

Kayla Lee

DANCER

Haley Van Patten

NOTES

Recently I came across a little shelter that read across the top, "Children's Garden . . . a place for children to connect with nature." My three-year-old self saw that and turned away laughing, knowing I did not need a designated place to connect with nature, but that I simply needed to be myself in the presence of it.

Pause

CHOREOGRAPHY

Nicholas Hittle

COSTUME COORDINATOR

Larissa Almanza

LIGHTING DESIGNER

Zack Saunders

SOUND DESIGNERS

Walter Julian Koonce

Kayla Lee

DANCER

Nicholas Hittle

NOTES

While making and rehearsing this piece, I continually asked myself and others what causes memories to surface in our minds. While I am still searching for answers, I have found that almost anything can invoke memories. From the feeling of gravel underneath your feet or from the scent of a particular food, any sensation can bring about memories. Just as vinyl is etched with its songs, so are we with our memories.

Pause

Somewhere between

CHOREOGRAPHY

Bevara Anderson and Danzel Thompson-Stout

MUSIC

"Agape" by Nicholas Britell

COSTUME COORDINATOR

Larissa Almanza

LIGHTING DESIGNER

Zack Saunders

NOTES

Work in Progress

SOUND DESIGNERS

Walter Julian Koonce

Kayla Lee

DANCERS

Bevara Anderson

Danzel Thompson-Stout

Pause

For Your Consideration

CHOREOGRAPHY

Evvie Allison

MUSIC

“Rubberband Girl” by Kate Bush

COSTUME COORDINATOR

Larissa Almanza

LIGHTING DESIGNER

Zack Saunders

SOUND DESIGNERS

Walter Julian Koonce

Kayla Lee

DANCERS

Evvie Allison

Elliot Emadian

Kaitlin Fox

Rachel Rizzuto

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

For Kaitlin, Ell, and Rachel: Thank you for your unwavering support and for filling my life with inspiration and laughs daily. Special thanks to Sara for your mentorship and encouragement. Dedicated to Kim Hardin and physical therapists everywhere.

Pause

Malamente

CHOREOGRAPHY

Alyssa Teijeiro-Ficht

MUSIC

"Malamente" by Rosalía

COSTUME COORDINATOR

Larissa Almanza

LIGHTING DESIGNER

Zack Saunders

SOUND DESIGNERS

Walter Julian Koonce

Kayla Lee

DANCER

Alyssa Teijeiro-Ficht

NOTES

I created this piece to showcase my love for Spanish and Latin dance styles. The fusion of the two, along with the pop-flamenco song choice, sets an untraditional and passionate tone.

Pause

I-will I-Will I-WILLLL

CHOREOGRAPHY

William Ervin

MUSIC

"Here Comes the Sun" by George Harrison,
recorded by George Benson

"Akuchi" by House Victimz

COSTUME COORDINATOR

Larissa Almanza

LIGHTING DESIGNER

Zack Saunders

SOUND DESIGNERS

Walter Julian Koonce

Kayla Lee

DANCER

William Ervin

NOTES

A hollow shell echoes because it longs for substance: love, and never stop learning.

Pause

3:33

CHOREOGRAPHY

Taylor Adams

MUSIC

"Oh Doctor Jesus" by Machinefabriek

and Gareth Davis

"Pietola" by Vladislav Delay

COSTUME COORDINATOR

Larissa Almanza

LIGHTING DESIGNER

Zack Saunders

SOUND DESIGNERS

Walter Julian Koonce

Kayla Lee

DANCER

Taylor Adams

NOTES

A parasite feeds, wriggling itself through the spine. It travels between each vertebra. Slipping in and out of the seams, unraveling its host bit by bit. Spools of blood red thread gently unraveled. A knock on the ribs produces a hollow sound, a battle lost. Revel in this victory.

Pause

CHOREOGRAPHY

Jaylen De' Angelo Clay

MUSIC

"Drifting Over" by Shifted

LIGHTING DESIGNER

Zack Saunders

SOUND DESIGNERS

Walter Julian Koonce

Kayla Lee

DANCER

Jaylen De' Angelo Clay

NOTES

Something that has always interested me as an artist is my relationship with how technique can be seen as a form of enslavement. I am always learning something new. I am always developing something that I have been taught, but to serve in what way? In my mind there's this never-ending negotiating as to how the technique I have learned and am still learning can be used to redefine space, structure, time, and myself. My movement has established a new identity created from the numerous amounts of history held in mind, body, and spirit. I'm calling my transformation a notion of "in·fin·i·ty."

in·fin·i·ty is a solo infused with untold explorations of dance technique, creating space for more energy, more time, more space that intersects with hidden stories from the soul.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Special thanks to my dance mentors and Kirstie Simson.

Pause

period piece

CHOREOGRAPHY

Rachel Rizzuto

MUSIC

“The King's Hunt” by John Bull

“Careless Whisper” by George Michael
and Andrew Ridgeley

“All I Want for Christmas Is You” by Mariah Carey
and Walter Afanasieff

COSTUME COORDINATOR

Larissa Almanza

LIGHTING DESIGNER

Zack Saunders

SOUND DESIGNERS

Walter Julian Koonce

Kayla Lee

DANCERS

Michelle Burns

Sydney Hagerman

Nicholas Hittle

Rachel Maramba

Rachel Rizzuto

Danner Self

Jenny Smith

Brianna Undzis

Cassidy Zins

MUSICIAN

John Toenjes

NOTES

If it ain't Baroque, don't fix it.

PROFILES

Taylor Adams (Choreographer) hails from the ever-twinkling valley of Las Vegas, Nevada. There, she began her choreographic journey at the Las Vegas Academy of Performing Arts under the guidance and direction of Jeneane Huggins. In 2019, Adams spent six months training in Gaga and choreographic techniques at the Jerusalem Academy of Music and Dance. There, she performed works by Ohad Naharin, Noa Zuk, and Roni Chadash at the Suzanne Dellal Center in Tel Aviv. She currently resides in Urbana, Illinois, as a full-time dance student at the University of Illinois. Adams is researching the power dynamics experienced through anonymity and community and will present her findings before receiving her BFA in May 2020.

Evvie Allison (Choreographer) is a dance artist, writer, teacher, and advocate. In all arenas, her work questions how we make dance and takes the dancer and the performance as subjects. She is a 2016 New York Foundation for the Arts Fellow in Choreography and a 2019-20 Kate Neal Kinley Memorial Fellow. In New York City, Allison's choreography has been presented by Danspace Project, Gibney, Movement Research at the Judson Church, Center for Performance Research, and Center for Ballet and the Arts, among other venues. She has received local and national support for her work from residencies at Chez Bushwick, the Next Festival of Emerging Artists, Tofte Lake Center, Maggie Allesee National Center for Choreography, and PLAYA. She has also choreographed for the theatre, including acting as assistant choreographer to Annie-B Parson Off-Broadway, and her music video choreography has been featured on NOWNESS. Allison is in her third year of the MFA dance program.

Bevara Anderson (Choreographer) is a 22-year-old professional dancer from Washington, DC. Graduated from Duke Ellington School of the Arts (DESA) and Temple University, she is currently tackling her master's degree at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. During her time at DESA, she performed in the Kennedy Center's 50th Anniversary show with singer Ledisi, became a founding member of Visions Contemporary Dance Ensemble, and performed as a lead role in Mike Malone's *Black Nativity*. During this time, Anderson also studied at The Ailey School's summer intensive and traveled to participate in the International Association of Blacks in Dance where she was featured in *Black Dance Magazine*. While at Temple University, she became the president of the all-styles company D2D: Dare to Dance and traveled to Europe where she lived for a summer and presented work. Now at the U of I, Anderson is furthering her higher education in dance and continues to create work to find what "home" means.

Jaylen De' Angelo Clay (Choreographer), a native of Atlanta, Georgia, is a graduate of Alabama State University where he received a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree. He trains in ballet, modern, jazz, ballroom, hip hop, West African, heels, step, and tap dance. In college, he performed works by Robert Battle, Gary Jeter, Michael Medcalf, Dinita and Kyle Clark, Endalyn Taylor, DeShona Pepper Robertson, and Sidra Bell. Clay was also a part of Eleone Dance Theater and Delaware Mid-Atlantic Ballet. Recently, he was awarded a Live Más Scholarship, a PAGE: Imagining America Fellowship, and a Dreamer Foundation Fellowship. Clay attends the University of Illinois continuing his studies in dance, researching disability, diversity, trauma, and resilience in hopes of receiving his Master of Fine Arts degree.

William Ervin (Choreographer) is a native of Franklin, New Jersey, and earned his BFA in dance from Montclair State University in May 2017. He trained in popping, waving, vogue, house, ballet, and modern dance. At MSU, he performed works by Camille A. Brown, José Limón, Kevin Wynn, Sean Curran, and Earl Mosley. Ervin has also trained with Joffrey Ballet, Rennie Harris, and Alonzo King Lines Ballet. He has performed at Alexander Kasser Theatre, the Joyce Theatre, and the Brooklyn Academy of Music with the Hearts of Men ensemble. He has presented his own choreography at Dumbo Dance Festival, Brooklyn Ballet, Equilibrium Choreographer showcase, Bronx Academy of Arts and Dance, and was a semifinalist in Jacob's Pillow's Chance to Dance contest. Ervin is currently working towards an MFA in dance at the University of Illinois.

Nicholas Hittle (Choreographer/Dancer) is a senior at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign studying chemistry and dance. He has trained with Deanna Doty and guest instructors at Champaign Ballet Academy for 11 years and attended the San Francisco Ballet School's 2015 summer intensive. He most recently appeared in Champaign Urbana Theatre Company's production of *The Wizard of Oz* (Scarecrow/Hunk). As a soloist at Champaign Urbana Ballet, Hittle has appeared in and choreographed for several CU Ballet productions, including *Coppélia* (Franz), *Cinderella* (Prince Charming), *The Sleeping Beauty* (Prince Desire), *Swan Lake* (Prince Siegfried), and *The Nutcracker* (Nutcracker/Cavalier). He has also appeared in multiple faculty and guest artist dance pieces with Dance at Illinois; *Crazy for You* (Wyatt) with Lyric Theatre @ Illinois; *Spring Awakening*, *American Idiot*, *Pippin*, and *Heathers* with Illini Student Musicals; *Oklahoma!* (Dream Curly) and *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* (Asher) with Champaign Urbana Theatre Company; and *Newsies* (Tommy Boy) with Corn Stock Theatre.

Rachel Rizzuto (Choreographer/Dancer) is a choreographer and performer who believes in spectacle, gesture, text, song, and the inevitability of humor. She spent nine years dancing for the Brooklyn-based company Mari Meade Dance Collective/MMDC before entering the University of Illinois to pursue her MFA in dance. For the last four Valentine's Days, Rizzuto has self-produced *Love Sucks*, a perennially changing work for a large cast that utilizes pop music, movement, song, and text to illustrate the inescapable heartache that accompanies falling in and out of love. She is a contributing writer to *Dance Magazine* and *Dance Teacher* magazine and a graduate of the University of Southern Mississippi with degrees in both dance and English.

Danzel Thompson-Stout (Choreographer) is originally from Allentown, Pennsylvania, and is an emerging street dance artist, teacher, and choreographer. He is well versed in forms such as street dance, Umfundalai African dance, and modern dance techniques. As an active dancer, he works for artists/companies such as Rennie Harris Puremovement, The Berry & Nance Dance Project, Dr. Kariam Welsh, Kingsley Ibeneche, and many more. Currently, Thompson holds a BFA in dance from Temple University, is pursuing an MFA in dance from the University of Illinois, is signed with Clear Talent Group, and is a co-founder/artistic director of D2D: Dare To Dance.

Alyssa Teijeiro-Ficht (Choreographer) began her dance career at the age of five. Her passion for dance formed when she first started taking community workshop classes with the Ensemble Español Spanish Dance Theater. In 2012, she traveled to Madrid, Spain, with the Ensemble's Youth Company to take master classes and immerse herself in the Spanish culture throughout the span of 10 days. She continued her dance training at ChiArts, studying modern, ballet, pointe, African, contemporary, and jazz dance.

Teijeiro-Ficht was one of three dancers who performed ChiArts' first flamenco student choreography piece. Starting in 2016, she was invited to take master classes with Ensemble's professional company. She was invited each time to participate in the master classes by guest artists from Spain. In the summer of 2017, Teijeiro-Ficht joined Christine Belpedio's Latin Performance Team, Ritmo y Sabor, and performed in the Chicago International Salsa Congress the following February. She attended Ballet Chicago's summer intensive program during the summer of 2017 and Ballet Hispanico's summer intensive program the summer of 2018.

Haley Van Patten (Choreographer) is the dancer and choreographer of the solo entitled "the laughter of children." She is currently a sophomore at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign pursuing a BFA in dance. Van Patten is from Petoskey, Michigan, and grew up training at the Crooked Tree Arts Center School of Ballet. It is there that in recent years she has taught modern dance classes and choreographed several different works, including "Is Humanity Humane?," which was performed at the Midwest Regional Alternative Dance Festival in 2018. Van Patten is also creating a screen dance entitled "Children: The Creatures of the Earth" in association with the research done in her solo.

Michelle Burns (Dancer) is a senior BFA candidate in the department of dance and a psychology minor at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. She began dancing under the direction of Rachel Brady at the Creative Dance Studio in Alton, Illinois. She recently received her Yoga Teacher Certification with Linda Lehovc and has performed in works by Rebecca Nettle-Fiol, Linda Lehovc, and Renée Wadleigh. Burns is president of the Krannert Center Student Association and loves spending her time working on dance films.

Elliot Emadian (Dancer) began dancing at the ripe age of two, and their love of rolling on the floor and tie-dyed costumes continues to this day. They are currently a graduate teaching assistant pursuing a Master of Fine Arts in Dance at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. As a graduate student, they have performed in new works choreographed by Sara Hook, Mauriah Kraker, Rachel Rizzuto, and Charlie Maybee-Ferrell. Emadian's duet *Here we go again* (2019), created with significant contribution from Rachel Rizzuto, was selected to represent Illinois at ACDA Central's Regional Gala concert. They will next appear in Jennifer Monson's new work for November Dance 2019.

Kaitlin Fox (Dancer) is a third-year MFA candidate in dance. She has performed in Chicago, New York City, and Denver. She is currently a performing artist with BANDPortier. dancekfoxdance.com

Sydney Hagerman (Dancer) is currently a junior at the University of Illinois. She is pursuing her BFA in dance. Her previous performances through Dance at Illinois include Studiodance II in the spring of 2019 and the spring 2019 senior thesis concert.

Rachel Maramba (Dancer) is a junior pursuing her BA in dance at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. While at the U of I, she has performed in *Love Sucks Vol. IV* (choreographed by Rachel Rizzuto) and was last seen at Krannert Center in Lyric Theatre @ Illinois' *Crazy for You*. Maramba is also an intern for the Department of Dance. Previously, she trained under Libby McGuire-Giovanni. This spring, she can be seen in *Cabaret* at Krannert Center.

Danner Self (Dancer) is currently studying dance at the University of Illinois, expecting to graduate with a BFA in May 2020. Her passion and love for dance started at three years old when she attended her first dance class. Self started dancing competitively at age five and teaching and choreographing at age 14. After graduation, she plans to continue her journey to Los Angeles, California, where she will be pursuing a career in commercial dance.

Jenny Smith (Dancer) is a senior at the University of Illinois pursuing a BFA in dance. Last year, she performed in November Dance and in Studiodance II. She transferred to the U of I last year from University of Wisconsin-Madison where she performed in and choreographed pieces. Smith is excited to perform in this season's Studiodance II and other works before she graduates.

Brianna Undzis (Dancer) is currently a senior pursuing her BFA in dance and BS in physics at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. She has performed in various Dance at Illinois faculty works, including "Tuning the Turn" by Jennifer Monson and "In Conversation" by Linda Lehovec. She recently completed an internship at the National Solar Observatory in Boulder, Colorado. After graduation, Undzis plans to attend graduate school to further her studies in physics while continuing to dance wherever this takes her.

Cassidy Zins (Dancer) is performing in Rachel Rizzuto's "period piece." She is from Roseville, Minnesota, and is currently in her third year of undergraduate study in dance at the University of Illinois. Since she started at U of I, she has had the opportunity to perform in We Move Real ("Intertwine My Realities"), Overlap ("Margarita") and Studiodance II ("sorry-preen"), all at the Krannert Center. Zins began dancing at two years old and competitively dancing at five years old. At 15, she had the opportunity to begin teaching, and she loves when she is able to share her passion for dance with children. After graduation, Zins plans to pursue professional dance performance and teaching.

Kirstie Simson (Concert Director) (United Kingdom) has been a continuous explosion in the contemporary dance scene, bringing audiences into contact with the vitality of pure creation in moment after moment of virtuoso improvisation. Called "a force of nature" by *The New York Times*, she is an award-winning dancer and teacher who has "immeasurably enriched and expanded the boundaries of New Dance" according to *Time Out* magazine, London. Simson is renowned today as an excellent teacher, a captivating performer, and a leading light in the field of dance improvisation. She is a professor of dance at the University of Illinois and continues to teach and perform all over the world.

Kaetlyn Allen (Stage Manager) is a junior BFA stage management student and is stage managing her first Krannert Center production. Most recently, she served as an assistant stage manager for the Lyric Theatre @ Illinois production of *Crazy for You*. Her University of Illinois credits include assistant stage manager for Illinois Theatre's *Marat/Sade* and assistant stage manager for February Dance 2018 with Dance at Illinois. For the past two summers, she has been the stage manager for a children's production of *Godspell* and *Beauty and the Beast* at a Christian youth camp in Lebanon, Missouri.

Larissa Almanza (Costume Coordinator) is a multi-medium artist from Brownsville, Texas. She currently resides in Champaign, Illinois, and is in her final year in the costume design MFA program at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. She received her BFA in studio art and design at the University of Texas Pan-American. She most recently designed costumes for *Because I am Your Queen* (2019) for Illinois Theatre. Other recent works include *La Bohème* (2018) for Lyric Theatre at Krannert Center for the Performing Arts and *armageddon or sunrise or something* (2019) for the Studiodance I Extended concert choreographed by Leah Wilkes and Mauriah Kraker. This summer, Almanza worked at the Spurlock Museum as the exhibit designer's assistant for the *In Her Closet: How to Make a Drag Queen* exhibit that will be on display until spring 2020.

Walter Julian Koonce (Co-Sound Designer) is an undergraduate student studying sound design. They are from Calumet City, Illinois, and have studied at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign for a full two years, moving into their third year. They have served as media operator for the production of *Because I Am Your Queen* in the Studio Theatre and the A2 position for *Crazy for You* in the Tryon Festival Theatre at the Krannert Center for the Performing Arts.

Kayla Lee (Co-Sound Designer), originally from East Saint Louis, Illinois, is now pursuing a BFA in sound design and technology management at the University of Illinois. *An American Daughter* was her first experience in theatre sound as sound board operator. Other production credits include *Lucretia* (live mixer) and now, Studiodance II. Outside of Krannert Center, Lee enjoys producing independent music projects of her own as well as those of her peers.

Zack Saunders (Lighting Designer) is currently a sophomore pursuing a BFA in lighting design and technology and a minor in computer science at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. His Illinois Theatre credits include board operator and programmer for *La Bohème* and *Hit the Wall* as well as *Red* at the Armory Free Theatre. This is his first time designing for a resident production at Krannert Center.

PRODUCTION STAFF

CONCERT DIRECTOR

Kirstie Simson

LIGHTING DESIGNER

Zack Saunders

SOUND DESIGNERS

Walter Julian Koonce

Kayla Lee

COSTUME COORDINATOR

Larissa Almanza

TECHNICAL DIRECTOR

Mark Quiles

STAGE MANAGER

Kaetlyn Allen

PROPERTIES MASTER

Megan Dietrich

MEDIA COORDINATOR

Laura Chiaramonte

ASSISTANT STAGE MANAGER

Duncan McMillan

ASSISTANT LIGHTING DESIGNER

Brian Runge

MASTER ELECTRICIAN

Cameron Koniarski

AUDIO ENGINEERS

Walter Julian Koonce

Kayla Lee

HAIR AND MAKEUP COORDINATOR

Melissa Hall

DANCE ASSISTANT STAGE MANAGERS

Elizabeth Riley

Nia Khan

GEL/DECK RUN CREW

Faith Stanton

Jordan Brookins

Aliah Teclaw

Yaritza Flecha

WARDROBE CREW

Sydney Hagerman

Taylor Adams

Annie Morgan

LIGHT BOARD OPERATOR

Ely London

SOUND BOARD OPERATOR

Nina Crouchelli

MEDEA CREW

Lindsey Jennings

Emily Schwartz