

# DECEMBER DANCE CONCERT

December 9 – 11 | Allesee Dance Theatre



**THEATRE**  
& **DANCE**  
at **WAYNE**

Maggie Allesee Department of Theatre and Dance  
College of Fine, Performing and Communication Arts  
WAYNE STATE UNIVERSITY

# Land Acknowledgment

Wayne State University rests on Waawiyaataanong, also referred to as Detroit, the ancestral and contemporary homeland of the Three Fires Confederacy. These sovereign lands were granted by the Ojibwe, Odawa, Potawatomi, and Wyandot nations, in 1807, through the Treaty of Detroit. Wayne State University affirms Indigenous sovereignty and honors all tribes with a connection to Detroit. With our Native neighbors, WSU can advance educational equity and promote a better future for the earth and all people.

**Masks are optional but strongly recommended.**

**Thank you for your cooperation and understanding!**



**WAYNE STATE  
UNIVERSITY**



Maggie Allessee Department of Theatre and Dance Presents

# DECEMBER DANCE CONCERT

## Allessee Dance Theatre

**Runtime:** One Hour and 45 Minutes with a 15 Minute Intermission

Artistic Directors  
**Dr. RAS Mikey Courtney**  
**JESSICA RAJKO**

Costume Design  
**YETUNDE AKITIKORI**

Lighting Design  
**PHILL HALL**  
**EDEN LAUREN COPE**  
**TALIA BOWES**

Sound Design  
**BRIAN COLE**

Stage Manager  
**JILLIAN FOURNIER**

Marketing Lead  
**JESSICA KROUPA**

Guest Artists

**LAWRENCE FUNG, WANJIRU KAMUYU, GABRIELLE MCLEOD,  
TA'RAJEE OMAR, CHRISTOPHER WOOLFOLK**

### Performances (In Order of Appearance)

"Variations 5 parts" .....Choreographer: Biba Bell  
Hannah Andersen  
Jessica Rajko  
Karen Prall  
Dr. RAS Mikey C

"A Space Between...(Now)" .....Choreographer: Ta'Rajee Omar  
Christopher Woolfolk

"The Human (Abstracted)" .....Choreographer: Natalie Garban

"You Won't Forget About Me, but I May First" .....Choreographer: Molly Chieca

"At the Moment of Encounter" .....Choreographer: Wanjiru Kamuyu

*-Intermission-*

"Portal" .....Choreographer: Jessica Rajko  
Dance Improvisation Class

"Configurations" .....Choreographer: Elijah Lennington  
Rachel Meloche

"Trinity" .....Choreographer: Lawrence Fung

"Jit Happens" .....Choreographer: Gabrielle McLeod

*The videotaping or other video or audio recording of this production is strictly prohibited.*

## **PRODUCTION STAFF**

Assistant Stage Manager ..... QUINN JACOB, RACHEL PAULIN,  
JOHN PIERRE  
Scenic Advisor ..... FRED FLORKOWSKI  
Technical Director ..... JOHN KEISLING  
Scenic/Props/Paints Area Head ..... SARAH PEARLINE  
Scene Shop Supervisor ..... MATT GRIBBIN  
Costume Area Head ..... MARY COPHENHAGEN  
Costume Shop Supervisor ..... MARY LEYENDECKER  
Head of Lighting ..... MATT TAYLOR  
Head Electrician ..... SAMUEL CAMPION  
Lighting and Sound Supervisor ..... BRIAN COLE  
Stage Management Area Head ..... DANA GAMARRA  
Marketing and Administration Staff ..... EMILY CLARK, BRANDON GRAVES,  
KYMBERLI SKYE, HANNAH ZEISS,  
MOLLY CHIECA, HAILEY JOACIM,  
CAMDEN MACCAGNONE, TAYA MALGAY,  
NORA RHEIN, CODY SWAIN, ACE THUMA

## **PRODUCTION CREW**

Light Board Operator ..... DANNY AYOTTE  
Sound Board Operator ..... CONNOR CURRIE  
Stage and Wardrobe Crew ..... DANI KNOTT, MARIA REINKE,  
OLIVIA WOEBKE  
Costume Build Crew ..... YETUNDE AKITIKORI, MIA FRONTIERO,  
ALEX LEDBETTER, ZUWAIB RAZZAQ,  
EAMON RYAN, JOE SMENTOWSKI  
Lighting and Sound Technicians ..... ANDREW CANAAN, TERRY EIKLEBERRY,  
CAT FOLEY, JUSTIN GIBSON,  
PHILL HALL, RAE MCCREARY,  
TALIA BOWES, SAMUEL CAMPION,  
LUKA COLLINS, EDEN LAUREN COPE,  
CORRINE DUWE, ALEX PORDON  
Scenic Construction Crew ..... DONNA BEAGLE, SETH BOWEN,  
LUKA COLLINS, SAUSHA KUSTENSOVA,  
SPARROW MATTHEWS, ALEX PORDON,  
JOSHUA PRIM



# Performances (In Order of Appearance)

## Variations in 5 Parts

**Music:** Soma Hayato, Gregory Alan Isakov, Michael Wall, Prince Kaybee (feat. Busiswa & TNS), Agnes Obel.

**Choreographed By:** Biba Bell, Hannah Andersen, Jessica Rajko, Karen Prall, and Dr. RAS Mikey C in collaboration with the performers

**Lighting Design By:** Phill Hall

**Sound Design By:** Dr. RAS Mikey Courtney

**Costume Design By:** Yetunde Akitikori

**Dancers:** Meghan Allen, Lauren Carlini, Andre Chandler, Molly Chieca, Annie Dingwall, Natalie Garban, Maggie Gates, Jaeden Kalbol, Elijah Lennington, Rachel Meloche, Mary Renko, Madeline Smith, Cody Swain, Adari Torres, Taya Malgay

A spontaneous compilation of faculty lead and student inspired movement Variations in 5parts.

## A Space Between.... (Now)

**Music:** Four Tet, Roberta Flack

**Choreographed By:** Ta'Rajee Omar and Christopher Woolfolk

**Lighting Design By:** Talia Bowes

**Costume Design By:** Yetunde Akitikori

**Dancers:** Sophia Bonemer, Stormy Davis, Danielle Knott, Kate McAllister, Emiley Pegley, Maria Reinke, Ariana Roman, Tori Sidaway, Kara Smith, Gwendolyn Vaughn, Sophia Williams, Olivia Wuebke

The Reclaim Series was created to ReConnect individuals with the history that lives around them, using movement as a vehicle to access/ explore systems created (passed on) through Identity, Culture, and Art.

A Space In Between is an investigation of the moments between remembering the past and re-imagining the future. This space is commonly known as now. In collaboration with dancers, The ReClaim Series explores this space, and the many ways to design, (Re)Design and (Re)Create it.

# Performances (In Order of Appearance)

## The Human (abstracted)

Music: "Low Rider" by War, "Flip Around" by Mary Sound, "Keiner Kommt Zurück" by Genocide Organ

Choreographed By: Natalie Garban

Lighting Design By: Eden Lauren Cope

Costume Design By: Natalie Garban

Dancers: Meghan Allen, Maggie Gates, Jacob Hobson, Mary Renko, Adari Torres

## You Won't Forget About Me, but I May First

Music: "Almost in Your Arms" by Sophia Loren, "Dream a Little Dream of Me" by Ella Fitzgerald and Louis Armstrong

Choreographed By: Molly Chieca

Lighting Design By: Phill Hall

Sound Design By: Brian Cole

Costume Design By: Molly Chieca

Dancers: Molly Chieca

"You Won't Forget About Me, but I May First" tells the story of a performer stuck in the idea of repetition and feeling lost in something that once brought her so much joy. The piece is done in two settings starting in the dressing room where the performer is hanging onto the idea of feeling stuck and not wanting to acknowledge what she is truly feeling. She wants to put on a show for people but needs to spend time reminding herself what this art truly brings to her. Once leaving the dressing room the performer enters the stage to try to find that joy she once had. Throughout the performance, she is reminded of what she loves about dance and truly learns what it means to be on this rollercoaster which is the art of performing. This story is about finding the love in something that has become a job but remembering why you started it in the first place. This is a piece meant to show the world that you can refine your love and passion for something, it might just take you a minute to remind yourself why you started in the first place.

# Performances (In Order of Appearance)

## At the Moment of Encounter

Music: LACRYMOBOY (Original composition & arrangement)

Choreographed By: Wanjiru Kamuyu

Lighting Design By: Phill Hall

Sound Design By: Brian Cole

Costume Design By: Yetunde Akitikori

Dancers: Meghan Allen, Paige Bearse, Hannah Brown, Madison Collier, Natalie Garban, Maggie Gates, Cescily Kendrick, Rachel Meloche, Mary Renko, Miranda Roman, Faith Sheffield, Kara Smith, Olivia Woebke

## - *Intermission* -

## Portal

Music: Eating Hooks – Siriusmo Remix by Moderat, Siriusmo, and Solomun

Choreographed By: Improvisation Dance Class in collaboration with Jessica Rajko

Lighting Design By: Phill Hall

Sound Design By: Brian Cole

Video Design: Lolo Nosanchuk and Jessica Rajko

Set Design: Lolo Nosanchuk

Costume Design: Yetunde Akitikori and self-sourced

Dancers: Dani Anstandig, Sophia Bonemer, Jenna Campbell, Arianna Cesario, Andre Chandler, Stormy Francis-Davis, Micah Grant, Allie Isaacson, Danielle Knott, Kate McAllister, Emiley Pegley, Maria Reinke, Ariana Roman, Catey Selemba, Tori Sidaway, Kara Smith, Gwen Vaughn, Sophia Williams, Olivia Woebke



# Performances (In Order of Appearance)

## Configurations

Music: Ambient Noise Soundscape

Choreographed By: Elijah Lennington and Rachel Meloche

Lighting Design By: Phill Hall

Sound Design By: Brian Cole

Dancers: Elijah Lennington, Rachel Meloche

Configurations is a trio consisting of two dancers and a chair. The piece explores the connotations of different relationships to the chair and each other in terms of power. With the use of anthropomorphizing a mundane chair it creates more complex reality. With the use of sound and lighting "Configurations" is meant to feel close and intimate. Almost as if you are looking through a keyhole.

## Trinity

Music: Adele Etheridge Woodson

Choreographed By: Lawrence Fung

Sound Design By: Jenstar Hacker

Costume Design: Madison Muszynski

Producer: Jessica Rajko

Videographer and Editor: Lawrence Fung

Dancers: Hannah Brown, Lauren Carlini, Molly Chieca, Evelyn Gaines, Taya Malgay, Jessica Mossner, Declan O'Connell, Katelyn Oliver, Miranda Roman, Cody Swain

# Performances (In Order of Appearance)

## Jit Happens

Music: "Move Yo Body" by Detroit in Effect, "No UFOs" by Model 500, "Timeline" by Underground Resistance, "The Baddest" by Big Sean

Choreographed By: Gabrielle McLeod

Lighting Design By: Eden Lauren Cope

Sound Design/Arrangement By: DJ N10SE and Jaeden Kalbol

Costume Design By: Yetunde Akitikori

Dancers: Andre Chandler, Vanessa Galaviz, Abby Gorgerat, Micah Grant, Allie Isaacson, Nandi Jack, Noor Kaffarani, Jaden Kalbol, Hunter Martin, Declan O'Connell, Erin Potvin, Autumn Rodgers, Ana Sanchez

Jit Happens will take you on a journey of the Jit movement that began in Detroit from the old movements to the present.

## Theatre Companies

### Company Fresh

March 24 - 25

Allesee Dance Theatre

### Motor City Cabaret

(with Freedom Players)

April 28 - 29

Allesee Dance Theatre

### Freedom Players

(with Motor City Cabaret)

April 28 - 29

Allesee Dance Theatre

For more information, visit [theatreanddance.wayne.edu](http://theatreanddance.wayne.edu)  
or call 313-577-2972



## DECEMBER DANCE CONCERT

## Artistic Directors



**Dr. RAS Mikey (Michael) Courtney** is an Emmy awarded, Assistant Professor of Dance at Wayne State University. Dr. RAS is co-founder and CEO of Fore I'm a Versatile Entertainer (F.I.V.E.) LLC. He holds a B.F.A. in Dance from UARTS in Philadelphia, an MA in Ethnochoreology and Ph.D. in Arts Practice Research from University of Limerick in Ireland. As a cultural conduit, he uses edutainment to spread universal understanding to global communities. His research investigates movement as cultural knowledge through embodied practice, with a specialization on Ethiopia. Dr. RAS has developed a contemporary Ethiopian form he calls Ethio-Modern Dance. He recently published 'Interlude 10: Dancing as a Citizen of the World, in The Artist and Academia (Routledge, 2021) He has facilitated a student/staff exchange between the University of Limerick and Addis Ababa University. Dr. RAS is also an established songwriter/recording artist with two major releases, RASOUL (2018) and Love Year (2020).



**Jessica Rajko** is an Assistant Professor at Wayne State University in dance and big data analytics. She has presented and performed in various collaborative artworks nationally and internationally, including Amsterdam's OT301, Toronto's Scotiabank Nuit Blanche festival and New York City's Gotham Festival at The Joyce Theatre. Jessica has been invited to present her research at several transdisciplinary institutional programs such as Harvard's Digital Futures Consortium, UPenn's Price Lab for Digital Humanities, and University of New Mexico's ART Lab. She is currently conducting collaborative research within Dance Computing Studies - an emerging field and international community of artists/scholars concerned with the ethical and aesthetic dimensions of movement analysis and representation.

## *Maggie Allesee Our Namesake*



In recognition and appreciation of Maggie Allesee's history of generous support of the arts at Wayne State University and of theatre and dance in particular, the WSU Board of Governors approved the renaming of the theatre and dance department in 2012. They had originally named it the Maggie Allesee Department of Dance in 2000 when Dance and Theatre were separate departments.

Maggie's contributions as a volunteer, philanthropist, and community and civic leader have been vast and varied. An avid supporter of the arts, she has served as a board member for the Cranbrook Academy of Arts, Birmingham Bloomfield

Art Center, Detroit Metropolitan Dance Project, Detroit Symphony Orchestra Hall, Meadow Brook Theatre, Michigan Opera Theatre, Music Hall, Eisenhower Dance Ensemble, Oakland University Department of Music, Theatre and Dance, Kendall College of Art and Design, the Salvation Army Women's Auxiliary, Wayne State Hilberry Understudies, and many more.

In addition to donating her time, talents, and knowledge, she also a generous financial contributor to many organizations, particularly in arts and education. She has given individual gifts of \$1 million or more to The Parade Company, Oakland University for the Maggie Allesee School of Nursing to establish a Chair in Gerontology, WSU for the Bob Allesee (Allison) Endowed Chair in Media Studies, Detroit Historical Museum, Music Hall and \$2 million plus gifts to WSU for the Dance Department, Florida State University for a major statue and the establishment of the Maggie Allesee National Center for Choreography, and Michigan Opera Theatre for the reception room and library. Mrs. Allesee was recognized for her \$3 million gift to Hospice of Michigan with the unveiling of the Maggie Allesee Center for Quality of Life. She has received four Honorary Doctorate Degrees from Kendall College of Art and Design, Wayne State University, Oakland University, and Florida State University.

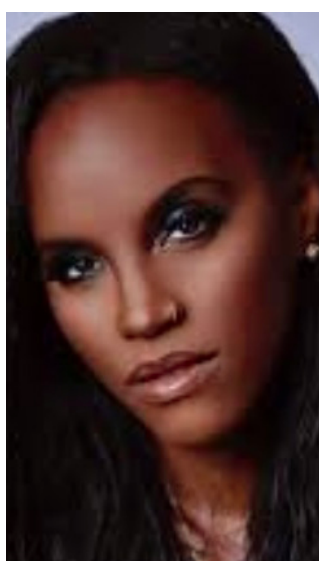




**Lawrence Fung** raised in the concrete jungle of Hong Kong and the American Southwest, the presence of contrast has been a common theme in the dance works, films, and photographs that Lawrence creates. The self-taught photographer and filmmaker has a particular interest in finding details and patterns in his worldly encounters. Inspired by the vastly diverse landscapes, urban architectures, and environments we live in, Fung finds purpose in uncovering the hidden layers and stories beyond what meets the eye. He uses visual language to draw his viewers' attention to an encapsulating storytelling experience by exploring the theories of composition, color, scale, and choreographed camera movement all in relation to dance. As a choreographer and movement artist, Fung is constantly exploring the integration and similarities between ballet and breaking, bringing the opposite disciplines into a free-flowing harmony that exists in a new dimension without contextual boundaries. Modern masculinity, self-discovery, and religion are themes that gravitate Fung's curiosity in his dance-making.



**Wanjiru Kamuyu** Wanjiru Kamuyu, native Kenyan based in Paris, France, is associate artist with Theater L'Onde (Velizy, France). Her career began with her genesis in N.Y. City. As a performer she has worked with Jawole Willa Jo Zollar, Bill T. Jones, Molissa Fenley, Anita Gonzales, Okwui Okpokwasili, Nathan Trice, Dean Moss, Tania Isaac...and in Europe with choreographers Robyn Orlin, Emmanuel Eggermont, visual artist Jean-Paul Goude and TV director Christian Faure. Alongside Kamuyu has performed in industrials, television and Broadway musicals, *The Lion King* (Paris) and *Fela!* (UK and Equity European and US tours). Kamuyu founded dance company, WKcollective, associate company with creative production agency camin action (Montpellier, France). Her choreographic projects include tours in the US, Africa, and Europe. Commissions include musical *A la recherche de Josephine*, director Jerome Savory (Paris and International tours); *Love is in the hair*, director Hassan Kassi Kouyate (Paris); US esteemed dance departments (Mills College, U Of M, W.S.U., Stephens College); artistic consulting/ outside eye for choreographer Bintou Dembele's *ZH*; choreographer assistant to Nathan Trice's *Their speech is silver, Their silence is gold*; storyteller Nathalie La Boucher's *La Chevauchee du Gange*. While touring she offers master classes and workshops for dance companies, universities, community and dance centers. Kamuyu holds an MFA (performance and choreography) from Temple University (Philadelphia, PA). She has served as Visiting Guest Professor at Mills College (USA) and is currently core faculty for University of South Florida's Dance in Paris semester and summer programs.



**Gabrielle McLeod (Queen Gabby)** was born in Detroit and raised in Inkster, Mi. Gabby McLeod is the queen of Detroit Jit culture, Queen Gabby has performed in the opera *Blue* with the Detroit Opera and with *Slippage* at the Detroit Institute of Arts; showcased Jit in Paris, France; taught at universities across the country, including Wayne State University and the University of Michigan; choreographing for the Detroit Pistons; and has been featured on platforms such as Red Bull and Forbes Magazine. Queen Gabby's mission is to shine a light on the city's hidden gem and educate future generations about Detroit Jit.

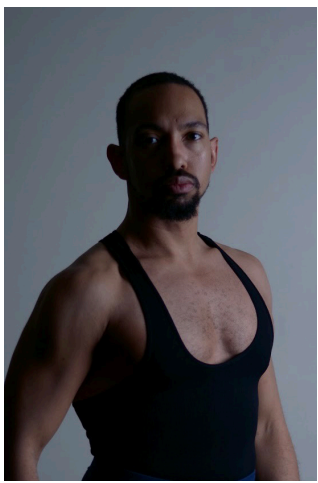


## DECEMBER DANCE CONCERT

## Guest Artists



**Ta'Rajee Omar** is a dancer, educator, and choreographer and the co-creator of the (Re)Claim; Detroit Project, an innovative training platform that explores and imagines the future of Identity, Culture and Art as it relates to our daily lives. As a performer she has worked with choreographers Janis Brenner, Nathan Trice, Wanjiru Kamayu, Jennifer Archibald, Ronald K. Brown, and Francesca Harper, the visual artists Sameer Redy, Indigo Artists Collective, and Nick Cave, modeled for Rachel Comey's New York Fashion Week collection and has been featured on Vogue.com. Since returning to Detroit, she has worked extensively with Aku Kadogo, Marlies Yearby, Cleveland Raw Artists Showcase, and Body Rhythm Dance Theatre, which has become her artistic home.



**Christopher Woolfolk** is a dancer, educator, and choreographer. Born in Detroit, he began his professional dance training at Wayne State University, where he obtained his Bachelors of Science in Dance Education. He continued his training under the guidance of Kevin Iega Jeff at Deeply Rooted Dance Theater in Chicago. Since returning to Detroit, Woolfolk has made his home at Body Rhythm Dance Theatre, where he has worked closely with Shirley Bryant. He has worked extensively with Aku Kadogo, Marlies Yearby, and Ta'Rajee Omar, with whom he created the (Re)Claim; Detroit Project, an innovative training platform that explores and imagines the future of Identity, Culture and Art as it relates to our daily lives.

# SWAPPING CONSTRUCTION VESTS FOR COSTUMES



*94th Annual Spring Dance Concert*  
on the STAGE at the Hilberry Gateway April 21-23, 2023

3,200 sq. ft. of stage space | built-in sprung dance floor | 19' wide wing space | 20'x20' trap | orchestra lift

[theatreanddance.wayne.edu/onstage](http://theatreanddance.wayne.edu/onstage)





**Molly Chieca** is a Michigan-based dancer and choreographer currently studying in her fourth year as a BFA Dance Major and minoring in Theatre Management at Wayne State University. Molly started dancing at a young age taking all styles and genres from a wide range of movement artists such as Hanna Britson, Jill Cassidy, Lawrence Fung, Marc Spaulding, Monique Haley, faculty from the Wayne State Department of Dance, and more. During her time at Wayne State, Molly has been a part of dance companies along with theater department work in the dance ensemble. Molly is excited to be selected as a student choreographer in this year's December Dance concert and can't wait to perform the works she's a part of.



**Natalie Garban** was born and raised in Las Vegas, Nevada. She studied at Bunker Dance Center and Las Vegas Academy of the Performing Arts where she worked under mentors such as Jeanene Huggins, Peter Chu, and Robert Contreras. She developed a deep love for creating choreography and constructing work based on an abstraction of her personal human experience. Since beginning her time at Wayne State, she has harkened her studies towards performance in addition to creation, allowing her to work with Marc Spaulding, Wanjiru Kamuyu, and Meg Paul.



**Elijah Lennington** is a third year B.F.A. dance student with a minor in Anthropology. He moved to Detroit to attend Wayne State University from Ann Arbor, MI. Elijah choreographed the first renditions of "Configurations" with his classmate Rachel Meloche for his Choreography II class, which they then continued to refine. This is his first showing in December Dance, and would like to thank the faculty of the dance program for the opportunity, as well as Rachel for their collaboration on the project.



**Rachel Meloche** is both a dancer and a choreographer in this year's December Dance Concert. They are excited to showcase their work onstage for the first time at Wayne State. Rachel is a 3rd year BFA Dance Major. This year Rachel is a part of the Pilates mentorship program, Dance Workshop, two repertoires, and just finished being assistant stage manager on *Revolt. She Said. RevoltAgain.* In previous years Rachel has been a part of other repertoires, *Company One*, and senior capstone pieces. They wish to thank their co-choreographer/duet partner for an amazing process and collaborating on a wonderful dance.



# DONOR HONOR ROLL

Wayne State University and the College of Fine, Performing and Communication Arts gratefully acknowledge the support of donors who have made gifts from. Donors have supported critical funds in the Maggie Allesee Department of Theatre and Dance, student success initiatives including the Hilberry Fellowships and Moscow Study Abroad Program, and capital projects including the Hilberry Gateway.

We would also like to thank our subscribers and patrons who donated their ticket purchases and sustained our theatre community during this challenging time for the performing arts. Through your generous gifts, you have ensured that our student actors, dancers, designers, technicians, and managers maintained a vibrant educational experience and made the return to performances at the beloved Hilberry Theatre possible.

We strive for accuracy, but if you have a correction to share or a question about your recent giving, please contact Alison Piech Linn, Director of Philanthropy in the College of Fine, Performing and Communication at [aplinn@wayne.edu](mailto:aplinn@wayne.edu) or 313-577-5336.

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 Karen Prall ..... Assistant Professor of Teaching  
 Jessica Rajko..... Assistant Professor, Dance  
 Dr. Doug Risner ..... Professor, Dance  
 Matthew Taylor ..... Assistant Professor, Lighting  
 Dr. James Thomas..... Professor, Associate Dean

### HILBERRY GRADUATE COMPANY

Acting ..... Jessica Annunziata, Ryan Bernier,  
 LaRaisha DiEvelyn Dionne, X. Alexander Durden,  
 Tommy Favorite, Marcela Garzaro,  
 Adam Graber, Taurean Hogan, Katy Tye  
 Design ..... Yetunde Akitikori, Donna Beagle, Seth Bowen,  
 Andrew Canaan, Trey Eickleberry, Cat Foley,  
 Justin Gibson, Phil Hall, Madison Jones,  
 Sasha Kuznetsova, Alex Ledbetter, Sparrow Matthews,  
 Zuwaib Razzaq, Eamon Ryan  
 Stage Management..... Devon Currie, Jillian Fournier,  
 Bri Stewart  
 Theatre Management ..... Emily Clark, Brandon Graves,  
 Jessica Kroupa, Kymberli Skye, Hannah Zeiss

### BOX OFFICE

Box Office Staff ..... Sydney Haire, Giovanna Sereno,  
Cherlyn Wade

### ADMINISTRATION

4841 Cass Avenue  
 Detroit, MI 48201  
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 theatreanddance@wayne.edu  
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For bios of our faculty and more details about our academic programs, please visit [theatreanddance.wayne.edu](http://theatreanddance.wayne.edu)



## DECEMBER DANCE CONCERT

## Cast and Crew Bios



**Yetunde Akitikori (Costume Design)** having been a dance major during her undergraduate studies has made it so exciting for her to be designing the costumes for the December Dance Concert, also working with various choreographers has been a good learning process for her.



**Meghan Allen** is a Detroit-based dancer and choreographer currently in her junior year at Wayne State University where she is pursuing a B.F.A. in Dance. During her time here, she has had the honor of presenting her own collaborative work in the department's Spring Dance Concert, performing in choreographic works by Monique Haley, Bryan and Shaina Baira, and Dr. RAS Mikey Courtney, as well as many student works, and professional shows outside of the university. Meghan has also had the opportunity to be a part of various companies, including Dance Workshop, the Virtual Dance Collaboratory, and Company Fresh. She is honored and grateful to perform in works by Wanjiru Kamuyu, Natalie Garban, and the dance faculty in this year's December Dance Concert.



**Paige Bearse** is excited to be performing in December dance in her first repertory, and has enjoyed working with the guest artist Wanjiru Kamuyu. She has been studying dance here at Wayne and has spent this semester working on this guest artist piece. She sends love and thanks to her mom, dad, and Grandparents for all their love and support.



**Sophia Bonemer** is a B.S. Dance major. She dances here because she loves to dance.



**Lauren Maria Carlini** is a senior dance major with a concentration in pre-physical therapy at Wayne State University. Lauren was born and raised in Windsor, Ontario, Canada with her parents, twin brother, sister, and younger brother. She grew up dancing competitively at Dance Barre where she was trained in all styles of dance by owners, Blake and Lindsay Angier. Throughout her time here at Wayne State, she has performed with To Sangana, and the Virtual Dance Collaboratory, along with performing in repertoires with Dr. RAS Mikey Courtney, Dr. Biba Bell, and Jessica Rajko.

## DECEMBER DANCE CONCERT

## Cast and Crew Bios



**Madison Collier** is very excited to be a part of the December Dance Concert this year. She is a second year B.F.A. Dance major as well as the department's media liaison. Performing is one of her favorite things to do, and she is very thankful to share that experience with you.



**Eden Lauren Cope (Lighting Design)** Eden is a transfer student and it is her first year being a part of the theatre community at Wayne State University. She is beyond stoked to be working in the program and expresses gratitude to the individuals who have been so incredibly supportive and welcoming. Eden has a special appreciation for designing dance and performance art and has been delighted in the opportunity to work with everyone involved within the December Dance team of dancers, choreographers, designers, and management. She hopes to involve herself on more dance projects in the future as she continues working towards her BFA in Theatre Design and Technology Lighting Focus.



**Stormy Davis** is an honors student studying for her B.F.A. in Dance and B.A. in Art History at Wayne State University, as well as a member of Wayne State's Company One. She has studied classical ballet, among other styles, with Gail Choate-Pettit and Melissa Moore at the River Raisin Dance Academy. As a company member with the River Raisin Ballet Company, she has performed soloist roles in *The Nutcracker*, *Coppelia*, *The Wizard of Oz*, *Alice in Wonderland*, *Aladdin*, and *Peter Pan*. Stormy has also attended many classical ballet intensives on scholarship, such as American Ballet Theater New York, Cecchetti Council of America summer intensive, American Ballet Theater Austin TX; as well as acceptance to ABT Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis school, Alonzo King Lines Ballet, and the Kirov Ballet Academy.



**Annie Dingwall** is a third year student pursuing both a B.F.A. in Dance and a B.A. in Psychology. She started dancing at the age of two at Juliart Dance Studio in Troy, Michigan and continued to train there until she graduated high school. During her time here at Wayne State University Annie has been a part of multiple projects and productions. As a dancer she has had the privilege of working with many artists including Dr. RAS Mikey Courtney, Dr. Biba Bell, Jessica Raijko, Jackie Nowicki, and many more. She also had the privilege of presenting "Space Unfounded but Familiar to Three" a work that was choreographed and performed by Maggie Gates, Meghan Allen, and herself. This piece was featured in Wayne State's 93rd annual Spring Dance Concert.



**Jillian Fournier (Stage Manager)** is so excited that Wayne State has allowed them to return to stage managing dance! A Toledo native, Jillian received their BAC from Bowling Green State University before working everywhere from theme parks to cruise ships to community theatre and finally making their way back to school. Jillian would like to thank their husband, Jordan, for supporting them when they said that they wanted to pursue graduate school and becoming a "Theatre Widower" so soon after the wedding. They would also like to thank their mom and dad for saying "yes" to every crazy new adventure their child decided to throw their way. Ad iocus.



## DECEMBER DANCE CONCERT

## Cast and Crew Bios



**Vanessa Galaviz** is a sophomore at Wayne State University, pursuing a B.F.A. in dance. She was born and raised in Detroit, Michigan and started dancing at the age of 3 with Living Arts based in Southwest Detroit. Vanessa is excited to bring a new groove to December Dance: Jit Happens! with To Sangana. She sends all her love to mama, papa, her younger sister, and two older brothers!



**Maggie Gates** is currently a third year B.F.A. dance major at Wayne State. She was born and raised in Clarkston, Michigan, and grew up dancing at The Dance Shoppe in Waterford, Michigan. Throughout her time at Wayne State, Maggie has had the pleasure of working with local and international artists such as Biba Bell, Dr RAS Mikey Courtney, Jackie Nowicki, and Wanjiru Kamuyu. Maggie recently had her own collaborative work presented in the 93rd Spring Dance Concert here at Wayne, as well as the Detroit Dance City Festival. Maggie would like to thank the faculty for the continual support and mentorship they provide.



**Abby Gorgerat** is a Canadian student working towards her B.F.A. in dance. She is one of the dancers in Queen Gabby's Jit piece. Abby aspires to use movement to educate what can't be learned with language. She has her own small business where she resells vintage clothing with a feminine audience focus. You can find her on @styledstaples on Instagram, or Depop or coming soon on the Styled Staples website at [www.styledstaples.com](http://www.styledstaples.com). Abby wants to thank her family and friends for always being there to support her.



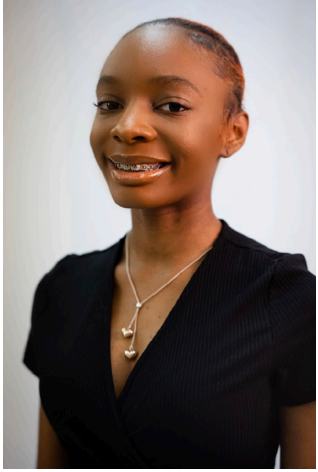
**Phill Hall (Lighting Design)** Phill is delighted for the opportunity to work with Wayne State University's wonderful dancers, choreographers, and guest artists to design for this December Dance Concert! It is always an honor to be able to create a work of art, and in this concert we amazingly made SEVERAL! Ever since working with VDC at Wayne earlier this year, he has had a wicked itch to work on dance pieces. He was also able to design for étude production's Pretty. Odd. Experience over the summer. In addition he is also designing the upcoming 'Christmas Carol' and 'Birthday Club' at Meadow Brook Theatre as well as the Spring Dance Concert at WSU. He would like to thank everyone supportive of dance and the arts, and his most faithful companion: Kasa the Husky.



**Nandi Jack** Aspiring to make connections that are opportune for the service of her community locally and worldwide, Nandi uses movement philosophy and values of justice, integrity and joy in the work she does. Nandi is working on her Bachelor of Fine Arts, and is looking forward to pursuing a Graduate Degree in choreography. Nandi, currently on the Dean's List, also maintains a role as a Resident Advisor for the Campus Housing Department and takes pride in having an active role on campus.

## DECEMBER DANCE CONCERT

## Cast and Crew Bios



**Danielle (Dani) Knott** was born and raised in Detroit, MI. Choosing to study and pursue dance has been an amazing choice and opportunity for her. Graduating from Renaissance High School, she has come to Wayne State's Theatre and Dance Program to expand upon her own artistry and versatility.



**Taya Malgay** (She/Her) is a fourth year B.F.A. in Dance with a minor in Theatre Management. Taya is from Carleton, Michigan, where she began her dance training at age five. At Wayne thus far, her artistic journey has included individual choreographical explorations, STOTT Pilates Teacher Training, coordinating the Wayne State Dance recruitment Instagram page, assisting Dance Department auditions, fundraising and dancing in Dance Workshop 2019-2020, co-artistic directing for The Virtual Dance Collaboratory's "Suspended Reality | Almost a Dream" 2021-2022, performing within the dance ensemble of "Head Over Heels" the Musical, and performing repertoire produced by Marc Spaulding, BAIRA, Jill Cassidy, G<sup>2</sup>, Hannah Andersen, Monique Haley, Lawrence Fung, and many other student-led works.



**Hunter Martin** was born and raised in Clinton Township, MI and now resides in Canton, MI. Hunter is currently on the path to pursue an Honors Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in Dance with a minor in Theatre and her projected graduation year is Spring 2024. Hunter's life mission is to inspire others and to represent the voice of the unheard. The trauma, anger, joy, and blissful emotions felt as a result of current-day events, can all be conveyed through movement. Her process of composing choreography grants time to use dance as an opportunity to tell a story or share a message, without having to verbally say anything.



**Kate McAllister** is a first year B.F.A. Dance and B.S. Information Technology major with a minor in Business Administration. She is originally from Troy, MI and has been dancing since the age of three at Juliart Dance Studio where she now teaches dance. She is a current member of Wayne State's Company One touring ensemble and is excited to be performing with the company as well as with her dance improvisation class in her first December Dance concert.



**Declan O'Connell** is in his final year at WSU as a B.F.A. Dance Major. The two pieces that he dances in the show are a Jit piece in which his tap training greatly assisted him in learning. The other piece is a screen dance in which was an amazing learning experience.



## DECEMBER DANCE CONCERT

## Cast and Crew Bios



**Rachel Paulin (Assistant Stage Manager)** is currently a Theatre major with a minor in Musical Theatre at Wayne State. She is usually seen on the stage, but she is so happy to support Company One as their ASM! Her notable previous performance credits include *Phantom of the Opera* (Christine Daaé), *Head Over Heels* (Singing Chorus), *The Snow Queen* (Ensemble), *Hello, Dolly!* (Dolly Levi), and *RENT*. She is so grateful for the constant support of her parents, friends, and the amazing theatre and dance community at Wayne State.



**Emiley Pegley** is in her first semester at Wayne, and she is so grateful to be here. She has learned so much already. She is so excited to grow and continue to be inspired. Being part of the artistic community in Detroit has been a dream come true.



**Maria Reinke** is a freshman B.F.A. dance major, coming to Wayne State after graduating from Roseville High School this past spring. Maria began dancing at the age of four, completing most of her dance training at Dance Expressions Dance Studio in St. Clair Shores, MI. She is excited to be a part of her first performance season with both the Wayne State Dance program and as a member of Company One. She sends a big "Thank you!" to everyone coming to watch and support her.



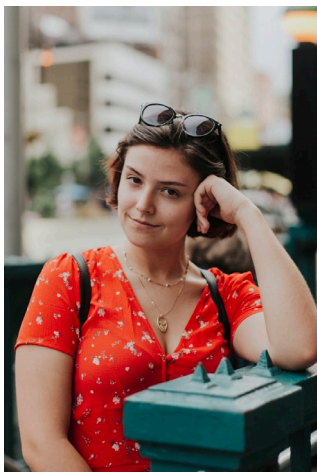
**Mary Renko** is a second year B.F.A. Dance Major here at Wayne State. She is incredibly grateful and excited to perform in her second December Dance Concert. Mary is honored to be able to perform in Wanjiru Kamuyu's piece, Natalie Garban's piece, and the collaborative faculty piece in this year's concert. Mary is eager to continue learning and growing as an artist as she continues on her journey at Wayne and beyond as she strives to dance professionally. She has a limitless amount of gratitude for the support of her family, friends, and all of the opportunities she has been able to receive here at Wayne.



**Autumn Rodgers** is a senior in the B.S. Dance program at Wayne State. This is her second and final year after completing classes at Macomb Community College. She is a self-taught dancer and wanted to attend Wayne State to expand her knowledge of dance. She is excited to graduate and move forward into the future of dance.

## DECEMBER DANCE CONCERT

## Cast and Crew Bios



**Miranda Roman** is a third year dance major and is so excited to be performing in "At The Moment of Encounter!" They hope you enjoy the embodied seaweed.



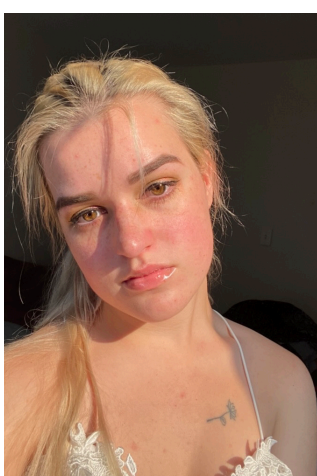
**Ana Sanchez** is very excited to be performing in her last December Dance Concert. She is extremely grateful to be part of Jit Happens and being able to learn a new style of dance that is native to Detroit. Ana is a B.S. Dance Senior and also a B.A. Actuarial Mathematics Student. She is currently the Student Delegate for the Directors in Dance and hopes to continue to work in the dance administration field after graduation. She is very thankful for all the support from her professors and her family.



**Tori Sidaway** is a freshman B.S. dance major at Wayne State University. She graduated with the class of 2022 from Livonia Churchill High School as a member of their Creative and Performing Arts Program. Tori has been dancing and performing since she was four years old and most recently danced at Miss Jean's Dance Arts. She is excited to experience the stage as a member of the Wayne State Dance Program while also being a part of Company One. Tori would like to thank everyone who has helped her come this far, and she looks forward to what comes next.



**Kara Smith** is a first year B.F.A. Dance Major with a Minor in Exercise and Sport Science. She moved to Wayne State University from Macomb, Michigan and is excited to be performing for her first time in a December Dance Concert! She has loved the experience of learning and perfecting the pieces that will be featured in tonight's performance, and she's looking forward to continuing her passion in the years to follow!



**Madeline Smith (Maddie)** is excited to be a part of December Dance this year! She is from the metro-Detroit area and is currently a senior at Wayne State University. She has been dancing for over 18 years, learning styles such as tap, jazz, modern, contemporary, heels, and ballet. She is also an avid rock climber and reader. Huge thanks to her family, friends and castmates for their support.



## DECEMBER DANCE CONCERT

## Cast and Crew Bios



**Cody Swain** is a fourth year B.F.A. Dance major with a minor in Theater Management. He started his journey within dance his freshman year of high school and since then, he has explored several different styles and continues to find new ways to contribute to dance. After being uncertain about his ability to perform due to a knee injury, Cody is overjoyed to be a part of the December Dance Concert. He wants to thank everyone who has supported him throughout his years here at Wayne State and hopes everyone enjoys the show.



**Gwendolyn Vaughn** is excited for shifting from dancing for fun to pre-professional training. She is pursuing a B.S. Dance degree with a minor in Near Eastern Studies. She is a freshman who has spent this semester getting to know her peers who she wishes to continue dancing with. She wishes to thank all her family, friends, and dance teachers who have supported her during this time.



**Sophia Williams** is a first year B.S. in dance and a second year B.F.A in design with a concentration in graphic design. So far being at Wayne State has brought many opportunities for Sophia. She is apart of both the Art and Art History department as well as the Theatre and Dance Department. This semester Sophia is apart of Company One, the touring dance company. She has been able to collaborate with other first year dance majors in the company as they learn dances as well as she is one of the Media Liaisons for the Company. Here at Wayne she has been able to combine both her studies to create art. She is looking forward to whatever else comes her way here at Wayne State.



**Olivia Woebke** is so excited for her first performances with Wayne State University! This semester she has had the privilege of dancing with Company One and participating in two residencies. She is originally from Bloomington, Minnesota and has also enjoyed exploring Detroit this fall. She is sending lots of love to her family back home and to everyone on campus who has supported her this fall!



# THEATRE & DANCE at WAYNE

## 2022-2023 Season

*\*titles subject to change*

### SUBSCRIPTION SERIES

*Rent*

*The Merry Wives of Windsor*

*Marcus; or The Secret of Sweet*

*Cabaret*

*Orlando*

### SUBSCRIPTION ADD-ONS

*Revolt. She Said. Revolt Again.*

*December Dance Concert*

*The 94th Annual Spring Dance Concert*

### THE UNDERGROUND SERIES

*The End of a Society*

*The People V. Friar Laurence, The Man*

*Who Killed Romeo and Juliet*

*She Kills Monsters*

### DANCE COMPANIES

*Company One*

*Capstone Dance Concert*

*To Sangana*

*Dance Workshop*

### THEATRE COMPANIES

*Freedom Players*

*Company Fresh*

*Motor City Cabaret*

Maggie Allesee Department of Theatre and Dance  
College of Fine, Performing and Communication Arts  
WAYNE STATE UNIVERSITY

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Everybody, 2021-2022  
Chuk Nowak Photography



# *Community Engagement*

## **TOURING COMPANIES**

We take theatre and dance to schools and community centers throughout Metro-Detroit in the spring. Our touring companies include:

### ★ **Company One Dance**

The lecture-demonstration performance format is built to engage students in an experience of seeing and experiencing movement as a form of communication.

### ★ **Freedom Players**

The Freedom Players create a new social justice project each year which illuminates and engages students in Detroit Public Schools Community District in current socio-political challenges, utilizing teaching artists through performance and conversation on race and privilege as a means of bridging communities. Freedom Players is part of the Black Theatre & Dance Program.

### ★ **Motor City Cabaret**

Our musical theatre outreach program aims to create an awareness and appreciation of the art of theatre and dance through an energetic and informative 50-minute performance.

### ★ **To Sangana African Dance**

This dynamic dance company thrills audiences with quality African-derived dance and drum presentations, guaranteed to inspire, invigorate, educate, and entertain. The company celebrates rich cultural traditions from the African heritage, as well as the contemporary African-American experience. To Sangana is part of the Black Theatre & Dance Program.

Learn more about and how you can support these programs at [theatreanddance.wayne.edu/about/community](http://theatreanddance.wayne.edu/about/community)





# Prepare to Succeed

Earn your degree from Wayne State University's Maggie Allesee Department of Theatre and Dance

## **BACHELOR OF ARTS in THEATRE**

The Bachelor of Arts is a general curriculum for those who wish to hone job skills with challenging courses in all aspects of theatre.

## **BACHELOR OF FINE ARTS in THEATRE**

This major is an intensive pre-professional curriculum that must be followed in consultation with a B.F.A. adviser of theatre. The program is designed to provide a broad understanding and an opportunity for full experience in the theatre arts through a curriculum of pre-professional training.

## **BACHELOR OF FINE ARTS in DANCE**

Prepares you for a professional careers as a performing artist, choreographer or dance scholar. Dance technique and the history, philosophies, and aesthetics of dance are all central to this program.

## **BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN DANCE**

Combines university-level dance studies with a broad program of general study in the arts and sciences.

## **MASTER OF FINE ARTS**

The Master of Fine Arts curriculum is a three-year program of intensive practical training. The central component of the program is frequent performance, production and management under professional conditions. The curriculum offers the following specializations:

- Acting
- Design (Scene, Costume, or Lighting)
- Stage Management
- Theatre Management

## **MASTER OF ARTS**

A Master of Arts degree in Teaching Artistry or Arts Administration entails a specialized curriculum for those who wish to continue honing non-performance, communication skills related to the fields of theatre and dance.

- Arts Administration
- Teaching Artistry

**Learn more and apply at [theatreanddance.wayne.edu](http://theatreanddance.wayne.edu)**