

DEPARTMENT OF PERFORMING ARTS presents

Together We MOVE

A Performance by DREXEL DANCE ENSEMBLE

February 9–10, 2024

7:30pm



Photo Credit: Johanna Austin



DREXEL UNIVERSITY

Dance

Antoinette Westphal College of Media Arts & Design

DREXEL DANCE ENSEMBLE AND FRESHDANCE CORE VALUES

We strive to provide a safe environment where students can be imaginative, explorative, challenged, surrounded by pluralistic ideas, and guided to achieve artistic and technical goals. We value hard work, working as a team, and the communal spirit it takes to achieve a fully produced dance performance. This home – and place of artistry – will serve the students. This is a place for dancers to learn, expand, unite, and be.

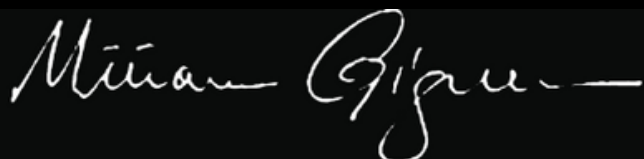
A LETTER FROM THE PROGRAM AND DEPARTMENT

Welcome to this presentation by the Dance Program in the Department of Performing Arts. Dance is a way to express oneself that can only be expressed through embodiment. It is also a platform for understanding other cultures and people; it is about human connection. We hope that the students involved in this performance feel themselves represented, and at the same time learn about others. We also hope the same for our audience. We want all who come to feel comfortable and enjoy the concert, finding ideas and vocabularies that are familiar to them, as well as new concepts and ways of moving.

Both the Dance Program and the Department of Performing Arts are dedicated to providing rich and meaningful artistic opportunities while at Drexel. We offer them the opportunity to perform in large, organized, and professionally directed ensembles. Our goal is to give them the best experience we can offer while they are here and prepare them for an artistic life after graduation. We prepare and encourage our students to continue with dance whether it be a vocation or an avocation.

We want to take this opportunity to thank the dedicated and talented dance faculty in our Department. These accomplished professionals not only create opportunities to learn and develop, but also share their passion for dance, which is contagious to the students. We are so grateful to them for all they do.

We appreciate your support by being here. On behalf of the students and faculty, we sincerely thank you for attending this performance.



Miriam Giguere, PhD
Performing Arts Department Head

LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

Dear Friends,

Welcome to the beautiful Mandell Theater nestled in the heart of Drexel University's campus! The Drexel Dance Ensemble and FreshDance members are excited to entertain you with a kaleidoscope of color, sound, and movement this week!

Our studios have been filled with a flurry of activity over the past four months as thirteen professional and student choreographers and their casts worked to bring multiple artistic visions to life. The Drexel Dance Ensemble, comprised of sophomore, juniors, and seniors, is presenting **Together We MOVE**. The eight pieces, choreographed by local and NYC professional artists, explore the worlds of film noir, immigration, community, and more through the lens of dance. FreshDance, our company of freshmen, has been working with one professional choreographer and four student choreographers to present **Rhythms of Life**. These five pieces showcase the burgeoning talents of our newest dancers through genres ranging from post-modern dance to contemporary ballet.

Making dance look easy is hard! Learning how to dance musically, artistically, and authentically takes practice. Memorizing several minutes of continuous movement sequences in specific spatial arrangements and rhythms takes practice. Dancing with others rather than next to them so that relationships are instantly understood takes practice. Taking an audience on a journey that educates, intrigues, and inspires takes practice. So that is what we do here! Each week, the choreographers and casts gather to craft memorable moments through movement that can be repeated consistently. Our dancers take regular technique classes to hone their technical skills so that they can embody the visions of their choreographers. You are about to experience the results!

Thank you so much for supporting our dancers and choreographers with your presence! Take a journey with us and enjoy some fabulous dancing!

Sincerely,

Rebecca Malcolm-Naib, Director of DDE and FreshDance

DREXEL DANCE ENSEMBLE

Together We **MOVE**

Beyond the Visible

Choreographed by Yoshito Sakuraba

Dancers: Sadie Arnold, Emily Cratin, Piper Filiault, Alexa Gorman, Audrey Kingree, Josie Mangano, Sara Patterson, Nova Schreiner, Emme Serafino, Madison Simoes, Anastasiya Tarasevich, Emily Uhler, Mia Zlupko

Music: "Still " by Loscil, "Times Passing" by Max Richter, & "Rags to Riches" by Tony Bennett

Costumes: Allyson Mojica

Lighting: Dom Chacon

Set/Props: Chris Totoro

Heartshakes (excerpt)

Choreographed by Shannon Murphy

Dancers: Sadie Arnold, Ellie Engleka, Lily Fanwick, Georgia Parsons, Marissa Powell, Molly Reilly, Emily Uhler, Rebecca Wolin

Music: Original Score by kira shina with music by Steve Surgalski

Text: "Place" developed and performed by Drexel Ensemble;
"Sand Castle" by Kayla Ricketts, read by Shannon Murphy;
"Mimosa" by UArts cast, read by Kayla Ricketts

Costumes: Cybele Moon

Lighting: Dom Chacon

Puppets concept & design: Shannon Murphy,
constructed with help from UArts cast

Nausea

Choreographed by Sangita Pawar

Dancers: Leta Armstrong, Leila Bakilana-Ritz, Chahak Chawrekar, Catherine Citsay, Mary Grace Dempsey, Danielle Flaherty, Erin Ford, Paige Gibson, Brigid O'Neill, Georgia Parsons, Marissa Powell, Neha Rani, Molly Reilly, Anastasiya Tarasevich, Rebecca Wolin, Mia Zlupko

Music: "Jai Devi Mangala Gauri" by Lata Mangeshkar, "Nausea" by Sangita Pawar & "The Hard Way" by Sid Sriram

Costumes: Cybele Moon

Lighting: Dom Chacon

Against

Choreographed by Hannah Dolen in collaboration with the Dancers

Dancers: Ella Herman, Ella Karow, Aria Iuso, Emma Zoe Polyak, India Scott

Rehearsal Assistant: Sydney Wessner

Music: "Het Volk" by Pan-American & "Tide" by Eelke Kleijn

Costumes: Julie Padovan

Lighting: Dom Chacon

Set/Props: Chris Totoro

~INTERMISSION~

SUPER(FORM)

Choreographed by Miles Yeung-Tieu

Dancers: Catherine Citsay, Joey Cody, Emily Cratin, Ellie Engleka, Paige Gibson, Audrey Kingree, Aria Iuso, Georgia Parsons, Callie Pierpoint, Nova Schreiner, India Scott

Music: "Postscrip" by Prurient, "Alone All The Way" by The Body, "Caves" by Clams Casino & "Oh What A Beautiful Mornin" by Richard Rodgers, Oscar Hammerstein II

Soundscape: Miles Yeung-Tieu

Costumes: Allyson Mojica

Lighting: Dom Chacon

Gr[i]ef

Choreographed by Blanca Huertas- Agnew in collaboration with Dancers

Dancers: Morgan Cruise, Piper Filiault, Grace Fisher, Anna Gordover, Sophie Jarger, Josie Mangano, Audrey Miller, Katelyn Miller, Sara Patterson, Molly Reilly, Emme Serafino, Sami Sienkiewicz, Emily Uhler

Music: "Violin Concerto 1 in A minor" by Johann Sebastian Bach, with Musician Daniel Lozakovitch

Costumes: Cybele Moon

Lighting: Dom Chacon

Digital Media: Darren Woodland

Treading Water

Choreographed by Kareem B. Goodwin

Dancers: Leila Bakilana-Ritz, Joey Cody, Mary Grace Dempsey, Danielle Flaherty, TJ Kroger, Hannah Kryman, Aria Iuso, Sara Patterson, Callie Pierpoint, India Scott, Marianna Solares

Music: "Why Does it Hurt So Bad" by Whitney Houston, "Good Bait" by Nina Simone, "Calling You" by Jevetta Stelle & "Unknown Movement" by Jordan Shannon

Costumes: Asaki Kuruma

Lighting: Dom Chacon

Sound Design: Alonzo Hall

Home Again

Choreographed by Jennifer Morley

Dancers: Piper Filaault, Grace Fisher, TJ Kroger, Kara Moran, Sami Sienkiewicz, Tori Strausbaugh, Kaleigh Stuart, Rebecca Wolin, Emily Cratin, Lily Fanwick, Erin Ford, Anna Gordover, Alexa Gorman, Audrey Miller, Sage Warmund, Molly Reilly

Music: "The Other Side" & "From Now On" from The Greatest Showman Original Motion Picture Soundtrack

Costumes: Julie Padovan

Lighting: Dom Chacon

Drexel Dance Ensemble Company

Name	Major	Graduation Year
Leta Armstrong	Film and Television	2026
Sadie Arnold	Premed Psychology	2026
Leila Bakilana-Ritz	Psychology	2026
Chahak Chawrekar	Buisness Analytiess	2025
Catherine Citsay	Product Design	2025
Joey Cody	Psychology	2026
Emily Cratin	Public Relations	2024
Morgan Cruise	Dance	2025
Mary Grace Dempsey	Elementary Education	2026
Ellie Engleka	Hospitality Management	2026
Lily Fanwick	Biology	2026
Piper Filaault	Dance	2026
Grace Fisher	English and Dance	2024
Danielle Flaherty	Construction Management	2027
Erin Ford	Graphic Design	2026
Paige Gibson	Dance Movement Therapy	2026
Anna Gordover	Public Relations	2024
Lex Gorman	Psychology	2025
Ella Herman	Photography	2026
Aria Iuso	Dance	2024
Sophie Jarger	Nursing	2024
Ella Karow	Graphic Design	2026
Audrey Kingree	Design and Major	2025
TJ Koger	Nursing	2025
Hannah Kryman	Health Science	2027
Josie Mangano	Nutrition Science	2025

Name	Major	Graduation Year
Katelyn Miller	Criminology and Justice Studies	2025
Audrey Miller	Biomedical Engineering	2027
Kara Moran	Custom-Designed Major	2024
Brigid O'Neill	Dance	2024
Georgia Parsons	Dance	2026
Sara Patterson	Dance	2025
Callie Pierpoint	Business and Engineering	2024
Emma Zoe Polyak	English and Psychology	2026
Marissa Powell	Dance	2026
Neha Rani	Health Sciences	2025
Molly Reilly	Dance	2026
Lismari Rosario	Dance	2025
Nova Schreiner	Design and Merchandising	2026
India Scott	Dance	2024
Emme Serafino	Design and Merchandising	2026
Sami Sienkiewicz	Dance	2026
Madison Simoes	Architectural Engineering	2027
Marianna Solares	Architectural Engineering	2026
Tori Strausbaugh	PPE	2025
Kaleigh Stuart	Biomedical Engineering	2024
Anastasiya Tarasevich	EAM	2025
Emily Uhler	Dance	2024
Sage Warmund	Fashion Design	2026
Sydney Wessner	Nursing	2025
Rebecca Wolin	Dance Movement Therapy	2026
Mia Zlupko	Product Design	2024

ABOUT OUR PROFESSIONAL ARTISTS

Rebecca Malcolm-Naib (Director) danced professionally with ZeroMoving Dance Company, Karen Bamonte Dance Works, Chamber Dance Company, Freedman/Coleman Dance Company, Claudia Murphey Dance Company, Battery Dance Company, and with several independent choreographers in prestigious venues including the Joyce Theater (NYC), Meany Center for the Performing Arts (WA), Walker Art Center (MN), Jacob's Pillow (MS), Annenberg Center (PA), Saltzburg Tanz Festival (Austria), and The Kennedy Center (DC). She was Co-Founder and Co-Director of Travesty Dance Group from 1997-2010. Rebecca's choreography has been performed in Cleveland, Seattle, Philadelphia, Maine, Toronto, Houston, and New York City. She is the 2022 recipient of the Ellen Forman Memorial Dance Award for her choreography. Rebecca has taught full-time at the University of Washington and Kent State University, master classes at several U.S. colleges and universities, at Bates Dance Festival's Young Dancers Workshop, and as adjunct faculty at Bryn Mawr College and Swarthmore College. She is the Director of the Drexel University Dance Ensemble. Her research has been published in *Impulse: The International Journal of Dance and Science, Medicine, and Education*. Rebecca graduated summa cum laude and Phi Beta Kappa with a Bachelor of Arts from Mount Holyoke College and received her Master of Fine Arts from the University of Washington. She was a member of the Board of Directors for BalletX from 2012-2021 and rejoined the board in 2022.

Abby Toll (Producer & Stage Manager) is a graduate of Drexel University with a Bachelor of Science in Entertainment and Arts Management. Since graduating in 2018, she has worked as a freelance Stage Manager and Arts Administrator in Philadelphia and the surrounding areas. She has worked for Delaware Shakespeare, Inus Nua, Azuka, and many more. When not working in the arts, Abby is a preschool teacher, working with kids ages 3-5. She loves introducing the magic of the arts to young minds.

Mary Elizabeth Stickney (Assistant Director) is a graduate of Drexel University with a Bachelors of Science in Dance and a Masters of Science in Elementary Education with a Special Education certificate. As a teacher of 6 years, this is her third year as a case manager and special education teacher at Pastorius-Richardson Mastery Charter School in Philadelphia. Mary is an alumnus of ArtistYear, an AmeriCorps teaching artist fellowship program; she completed her service year in 2017-2018 teaching movement fundamentals and choreography for South Philadelphia elementary students. Mary enjoys freelance performing and choreographing; she choreographed for the Philadelphia Youth Ballet's 2015 Spring Concert. Mary has studied and worked with global and local artists including David Parsons, Boris Charmatz, Tania Isaac, Leah Stein, Antoinette Coward-Gilmore, Beau Hancock, and Caroline O'Brien.

Britt Whitmoyer Fishel (Assistant Director) is an award-winning choreographer, screendance maker, educator, author, and scholar. Her work examines relationships between the ephemeral nature of live performance and the permanence of dance in the digital sphere, with a research focus on the rhizomes of feminism, gender gap, access, and community. In addition to BF and Artists, she is the director and curator of Opine Dance Film Festival, an annual, international Screendance festival in its 9th season. She holds a BFA in Dance Performance from East Carolina University and an MFA in Dance (Screendance) from the University of Michigan. Fishel has led company tours throughout New York City, Philadelphia, D.C., Richmond, Asheville, Charlotte, Atlanta, Chicago, London, Italy, and France. Her screen work has been seen in Greensboro Dance Film Festival, Y'allywood Film Festival, Detroit Dance City Festival, EnCore Dance on Film Festival, DanceBARN, Dance for Reel, FilmFest by Rogue Dancer, Women in Dance Leadership Conference, FringeArts, MashUp Dance's IWD Festival, as well as several gallery exhibitions across the country. In 2021, Fishel and BF and Artists received the "Lorenzo il Magnifico" International Award for Performance from the Florence Biennale and in 2022 Fishel authored *The Screendance Practitioner's Workbook: A Pre-Production Guide for Creativity and Organization*.

J. Dominic Chacon (Lighting Designer) is a Lighting Designer and Production Manager based in Philadelphia. He has been working in Philadelphia since he arrived here in 2002. He is an Adjunct Professor at Drexel University and the Lighting Coordinator for the Lang Performing Arts Center at Swarthmore College. In Philly he has designed for Walnut Street Theatre, Azuka, People's Light and many more. Outside of Philly his work has been seen at Florida Studio Theatre, Bowery Street Theatre and Long Wharf Theatre. He is dedicated to making theatre a collaboration as well as a learning experience. In addition to his theatre work he is very passionate about his civic duties volunteering for Nonprofits in and around Philadelphia. Some of his favorite collaborations have been Peter and the Starcatcher (Walnut Street Theatre), Blood Wedding (PAC), Dido+ (Curtis Opera). To find out more check out his website domchacon.com

Asaki Kuruma (Costume Designer and Costume Shop Manager) originally from Japan, is a multi-disciplinary artist who has been working professionally with many theater companies and artists in the Philadelphia area. Design credits: Percy Jackson the Lightening Thief, Songs for the New World (Drexel Theatre), Cymbeline (Delaware Shakespeare), Death of a Driver, 72 Miles to Go..., Man of God (InterAct Theatre), Backing Track (Arden Theatre), The Taming!, Pericles (Shakespeare in Clark Park), Kissing the Witches (Ursinus College), House of Desire, A Midsummer Nights Dream (Villanova Theatre), Boycott Esther (Azuka Theater), Las Mujeres (Power Street Theatre Company), Tiger Style! (Philadelphia Asian Performing Artists), Romeo & Juliet, Complete History of America, Abridged, Measure for Measure (Commonwealth Classic Theatre Co). MA - Villanova University. Next up: The Lehman Trilogy at Arden Theatre Co.

Chris Totoro (Production Manager and Scenic and Prop Designer) is the Technical Director/ Production Manager for the Mandell Theater. Outside of Drexel, Chris serves as the Vice President of the Board of Directors for the Vineland Regional Dance Company. He holds a BA in Theatre and a MA in Arts Administration from Rowan University.

Allyson Mojica (Costume Designer) is a designer and seamstress new to the Philadelphia arts scene from North Carolina. Currently, she holds the title of Costume Supervisor at Sesame Place in Langhorne, PA. Previously, she has done freelance design for musical theatre and dance including shows such as Kinky Boots, School Girls: The African Mean Girls Play, and Urinetown. Outside of theatre, she has done bridal alterations, interior design production, and general crafts. She would like to give thanks to her mentor Cybele Moon for this opportunity to be introduced to the Philadelphia theatre and dance community.

Cybele Moon (Costume Designer) is a costume designer, educator and visual artist. As a costume designer she has worked with theater and dance companies, live events and film, as well as colleges and universities, to design and create costumes for over 150 productions. Her work has been seen onstage in New York, Chicago, Philadelphia, Los Angeles, New Orleans and many other locations across the United States. As a visual artist, Moon works with textiles, cut-paper collage and multi-media Installations. Her work has been exhibited at galleries, public events, and with community organizations in Pennsylvania, California, Connecticut, and Illinois. Moon has held full-time Academic appointments with Wesleyan University and East Carolina University, in addition to adjunct positions with Temple University, the University of the Arts, California Institute of the Arts, and Austin Community College. She has given numerous guest lectures at higher education institutions in Pennsylvania, California, Michigan, North Carolina, Ohio, and Illinois. Moon has truly enjoyed designing and creating for the Drexel Dance Ensemble once again, and looks forward to future creative collaborations in Philadelphia, and beyond, this year.

Julie Padovan (Costume Designer) is a costume designer and theater technician. Her previous credits include: Costume Designer- Disney Descendants at Wolf Performing Arts Center (2023), Drexel Dance Ensemble & FreshDance Winter and Spring Concerts (2022). Wardrobe Supervisor- This is The Week That Is (2023) at 1812 Productions, The Play That Goes Wrong (2023) at 1812 Productions.

Hannah Dolen (Choreographer) is a New York City-based dancer and choreographer from Columbus, Ohio. She trained at Columbus Dance Theatre before attending Drexel University, graduating summa cum laude in 2022 with a Bachelor of Science in Dance and minors in Psychology and Somatics. While at Drexel, Hannah participated in several student performances and showcased her own choreography in *Walk the Burning Coals*, a trio in which she also danced. She performed at the 2019 Beijing Dance Festival and the 2022 Puerto Rico Classical Dance Competition Gala. Hannah has studied with Brendan Fernandez, Miriam Giguere, Blanca Huertas-Agnew, Valerie Ifill, Dara Meredith, Jennifer Morley, Sandra Parks, Olive Prince, Meredith Rainey, Antonello Tudisco, and Thuy Wyckoff, among others. She has worked closely with choreographer Sidra Bell as a fellow, production assistant, and wardrobe manager for Sidra Bell Dance New York (SBDNY). Since moving to New York City, Hannah attended the Gibney Summer Study Program and was the first to hold the position of Executive Team Associate at Gibney Dance, working closely with Gina Gibney and Alaina Wilson. Freelance performances include a solo excerpt onstage at Arts on Site in the East Village choreographed by Kar'mel Antonyo Wade Small entitled *grace's illusion // psykle.ii* and an outdoor group production of *When Fear Is a Raging Bull* with Yaa Samar! Dance Theatre. Most recently, Hannah participated as a selected artist in SBDNY's biennial laboratory, *WINTER | MODULE 24*, in New York City. Hannah is also a Pilates instructor, having received her training through Drexel Pilates. She teaches clients both at Equinox Fitness Club and privately in their homes.

Sangita Pawar (Choreographer) is a Philadelphia-based multimedia artist and dancer. She earned her Master of Arts in Performance Studies from NYU in 2022 and is currently pursuing a PhD in Dance at Temple University. She seeks to combine her extensive dance background, research in performance theory, and analyses of everyday performance to develop an embodied artistic practice that allows her audiences to develop kinesthetic empathies for the diverse identities that make up modern America.

Kareem B. Goodwin (Choreographer), a native of Philadelphia, PA, began his dance journey at the Point Breeze Performing Arts Center. Here, he received formal training under renowned choreographers such as Charon Mapp, Wayne St. David, Anthony Burrell, and Faye Snow. Afterwards, Kareem pursued his education at The University of the Arts. He focused on Jazz Dance with a special emphasis on Choreography, and his talent was recognized when he was awarded the Choreography prize upon graduation. Throughout his career, Kareem has had the privilege of collaborating with esteemed choreographers including Christopher L. Huggins, Louis Johnson, Ronen Koresh, Gary W. Jeter II, Tommie-Waheed Evans, Dara Meredith, Kirven Douhit-Boyd, Zane Booker, and Arthur Mitchell. Currently, Kareem serves as a faculty member at the Dance Institute of Philadelphia, The Pointe! Dance Studio, Ms. Carol's Center for Dance, Leaders and Legends Performing Arts Academy and the Ngoma Center for Dance. In addition to being a dancer, Kareem is an accomplished choreographer. He has set works on various dance companies and institutions such as 6 O'clock Dance Theatre, West Chester University, State University of New York (Oneonta Campus), and Eleone Dance Theatre. Kareem now holds the position of Director of Grace Dance Theater 2. Furthermore, he is the Resident Choreographer for Dissonance Dance Theater. Together with the dance company's Artistic Director, Shawn Short, he co-choreographed the film "MUTE: Dance Silenced by COVID," which won the prestigious Best Dance Film award at the Cannes World Film Festival. Kareem continues to make significant contributions to the world of dance through his artistry, teaching, and choreographic work.

Blanca Huertas-Agnew (Choreographer) began her training in Puerto Rico under the tutelage of her mother, Blanca E. Cortés. She later joined Ballet Concierto de Puerto Rico as an Apprentice (Taller) and further became a member of the corps of ballet under the direction of Lolita San Miguel. Later, she joined Ballets de San Juan, where she earned the title of Principal Soloist under the direction of Ana García. During her career, she had the opportunity to perform an array of classical, neoclassical, and contemporary repertoires. She was chosen to dance lead roles such as Lise in *Fille Mal Gardée*, Swanilda in *Coppélia*, Princess Tsarevna in *Firebird*, and Myrtha in *Giselle*. During her years at Ballets de San Juan, she performed Balanchine's repertoire with lead roles as Polyhymnia in Balanchine's *Apollo* and *Who Cares?* As a soloist and corps of ballet, she performed *Serenade*, *Valse Fantaisie*, *Rubies*, and *Concerto Barocco*. As a corps de ballet member at Ballet Concierto de Puerto Rico, she learned classics such as *Swan Lake*, *Don Quixote*, *Romeo & Juliet*, *Giselle*, and *Nutcracker* from ballet masters such as Nicolas Beriozoff and José Parés. Autochthonous repertoire from Puerto Rican Choreographers includes *Los Soles Truncos*, *Amores*, *Julieta*, *Pas de Quatre Criollo*, y *Misa Criolla*, to mention some. She also had guest appearances with Ballet Municipal de San Juan under her father's direction, Victor Huertas. Her professional career allowed her to perform not only in her native Puerto Rico but also in the United States, Central America, South America, and Europe.

During her developing years, she had the opportunity to learn from dance professors from different methodologies, such as Michael Vernon, Alexander Filipov, Amelia Gilmore, Francesca Corkle, Ramon Molina, Juan Anduze, Sandra Jennings, Alexander Kamaranski, Gloria Govrin, Maria Carrera, Carlota Carrera, Marina Eglevsky, Petra Bravo, Hilda Navarra, David Storey, and Kun-Yang Li providing her diversified training for a multifaceted career.

As an educator, Blanca is an ABT® Certified Teacher who successfully completed the ABT® Teacher Training Intensive in Primary through Level 7 & Partnering of the ABT® National Training Curriculum. She was also an ABT® Affiliate Teacher, an honor given to ABT® Certified Teacher that presented students for examinations and passed with High Honors. She is experienced in Classical French, Russian, Italian, and Cuban dance schools. Her students have been accepted to International Programs such as the Royal Ballet and Paris Opera Summer Programs, as well as national programs such as the American Ballet Theatre Summer Intensive, The Cuban Classical Summer Intensive at The School of Ballet Hispánico, The School of Pennsylvania Ballet, and Ellison Summer Intensive in NY. Blanca was the founder and Artistic Director of Pennsylvania Ballet Arts in Chalfont, PA. Blanca is certified to teach Progressing Ballet Technique Junior through Advanced level, acquiring PBT Level 3 Badge designation, the highest designation in the program. Most recently, Blanca completed her Certification in CUBALLET with Laura Alonso in primary through advanced levels.

She was part of the Faculty of the Philadelphia Ballet, formerly Pennsylvania Ballet, and was an adjudicator in their national audition tour. In addition, she was the lead teaching artist of the Pennsylvania Ballet in different Community Engagement Programs. Blanca is part of the Faculty of La Academia de Ballet Hispanico in New York City. Blanca also has a bachelor's degree in Business Administration from Temple University with a concentration in Risk Management & Insurance with a second concentration in Real Estate. In 2017, she received the Howard Gilman Fellowship Award at Jacksonville University, where she completed her MFA in Choreography in 2019, graduating with high honors. Blanca has been commissioned to choreograph for Drexel University and was an Adjunct Professor of the Drexel University Dance Program in 2020-21. Blanca is the Founder and Artistic Director of the Puerto Rico Classical Dance Competition, the first classical dance competition in Puerto Rico. Blanca is currently Academy Director at Cincinnati Ballet."

Jennifer Morley (Choreographer) is an Associate Teaching Professor, the Somatics Coordinator, and Interim Department Head in the Drexel University Dance Program. She is the Director of both the Drexel Pilate studio and the 450-hour Drexel Pilates training program. JMO is excited to bring Broadway to the Ensemble stage and thanks all the Hughs and the Zacs for their work on this showstopper. On a scholarly note, Jmo's research is centered in existing and emerging embodied practices and the cultures and value systems from which they emerge. This is a very formal way of saying she cares about what you think, how you feel, and how that connects to movement. Her book, *The Pilates Teacher's Toolkit*, comes out in 2024. Her work was most recently presented at the Somatic Dance conference in Geneva New York, the Cardell Dance Studio in Philadelphia, and the American College Dance Festival in Maryland. She has had a two-year choreographic residency at Philadelphia's Community Education Center and been the recipient of multiple New Stages for Dance grants through Dance USA Philadelphia and the Pew Center for Arts and Culture. She is performing alongside her partner Ali and her daughter Adelaide in *Burgundy Blue's Dreamland* this winter.

Shannon Murphy (Choreographer) is a dance artist/educator. She received her MFA in Dance from the University of the Arts and a BA in dance from Point Park University. She is faculty specializing in Franklin Method for dance at Franklin Method Institute, Switzerland, working alongside Eric Franklin since 2008. As an educator, she is committed to radical sustainability and develops curricula to reduce injury and support healing for performers. Shannon is an Assistant Professor at Temple University (Theater), was an adjunct professor at Drexel University, and Assistant Director of the Drexel Dance Ensemble, Stockton University, and UArts, where she was the Curricular Head of Body Pathways for 10 years. Her work has recently been presented at Icebox Project Space, Penn Museum, The Painted Bride Art Center, and as asynchronous performance in the form of zines. Her choreographies span contemporary dance theater, musical theater, and emergent improvisational scores. Shannon has performed for choreographers such as Charles Anderson, Nichole Canuso, Group Motion, Jaamil Kosoko, and Annie Wilson, and was co-director of *idiosynCrazy* productions alongside founder Jumatatu Poe. Find more at ShannonMurphyDance.com

Yoshito Sakuraba (Choreographer) is a founding artistic director of Abarukas and an award-winning choreographer. Hailing originally from Japan, Yoshito embarked on his artistic journey in the heart of New York City, igniting a career that has since spanned the globe, presenting work in Germany, Poland, Italy, Spain, Israel, Mexico, and the United States. Yoshito has had the privilege of presenting his work at stages including the Joyce Theater, BAM Fisher, Jazz at Lincoln Center, Jacob's Pillow, Kaatsbaan, and the McCallum Theater. His dedication to his craft led him to numerous accolades, including the Best Choreography Award at the FINI Dance Festival in Italy and the Audience Award at the Masdanza International Contemporary Dance Festival in Spain. Notably, he was honored as a winner of NW Dance Project's Pretty Creatives and Whim W'Him's Shindig. Beyond his own company's repertoire, Yoshito has been entrusted with commissions from institutions and companies around the world. His choreography has graced the stages of renowned organizations such as NW Dance Project, Whim W'Him, the Bayerisches Staatsballett in Munich, DAF in Rome, Lamondance in Vancouver, Louisville Ballet, Ballet Arkansas, Ballet Des Moines II, Newport Contemporary Ballet, Litvak Dance, Pony Box Dance Theater, Nimbus Dance, Peridance Contemporary Dance Company, Graham II, Houston Contemporary Dance Company, Salt Contemporary Dance's Link Festival, the Rozsa Center for the Performing Arts, and Jamaica Performing Arts Center. Yoshito's passion extends to nurturing the artistic expressions of emerging talents, and he has been invited to inspire and instruct at institutions such as the Joffrey Ballet School, Martha Graham School, Paul Taylor School, Alvin Ailey/Fordham University, University of North Carolina School of the Arts, Peabody at Johns Hopkins University, Marymount Manhattan College, Barnard College, Vassar College, Reed College, DLNY, MOVE I NYC, and Steps on Broadway Conservatory.

Miles Yeung-Tieu (Choreographer) Originally from Oklahoma City, OK, Miles Yeung-Tieu is a dance artist currently based in Philadelphia, PA. Miles received his training at the University of the Arts completing both his BFA in Modern Performance ('14) and MFA in Dance ('19). Throughout the completion of both degrees, he has had the opportunity to be in exchange with various international institutions including Centre National de la Danse (Paris, France), Institut Chorégraphique International - Centre Chorégraphique National (Montpellier, France), and Le Biennale di Venezia (Venice, Italy). Beyond his time as a student at UArts, Miles has also served as faculty assisting in productions and works by Douglas Becker, Mark Haim, and Symone Holliday, as well as teaching various studio practices courses for the schools of Dance and Musical Theater. Miles's performance credits include Stacey Tookey's Still Motion, Helen Simoneau Danse, national tours with Brian Sander's JUNK, the New York City production of the Radio City Christmas Spectacular, teted Performance Group, and La Biennale di Venezia's Arsenale della Danza. As a member of the Arsenale della Danza, Miles was able to study and perform works by international artists including Francesca Harper, Pichet Klunchun, Adriana Borriello, Ko Murobushi, Josef Frucek and Linda Kapetanea while also creating and touring a new work by Ismael Ivo, Biblioteca del Corpo, throughout Europe and South America. Most recently, Miles has served as faculty at Cornell University where he has taught modern, ballet, composition, as well as premiering two new works (Event Horizon [2022], CRICKET [2023]). Here, he also restaged and performed Mark Haim's solo work The Goldberg Variations. Currently he dances with Brooklyn-based company Reggie Wilson/Fist and Heel Performance Group touring the work POWER, and works as a collaborator with Philadelphia-based company BigKid Dance, under the direction of Mark Caserta, with their upcoming premier of a new work BRUTE.

ENSEMBLE STAFF

Ensemble Director: Rebecca Malcolm-Naib

Producer: Abby Toll

Assistant Directors: Mary Elizabeth Stickney & Britt Whitmoyer Fishel

THEATER STAFF

Mandell Theater Managing Director: Caroline Leipf

Mandell Theater Technical Director: Chris Totor

Audience Services Coordinator: Liv Shoup

Assistant Technical Director: AJ Bloomfield

Stage Manager: Abby Toll

Deck: Sophie Rutan, Vivien Ho & Tim Egenton

Master Electrician: Alan Stelmukh

Assistant Master Electrician/Swing: Ta'Liyah Thomas

Sound Technician: Amelia Hooker

Costume Shop Manager: Asaki Kuruma

Asst. Costume Shop Manager: Mae Merkle

PRODUCTION STAFF

Lighting Designer: Dom Chacon

Scenic/Prop Design: Chris Totor

Costume Designers: Asaki Kuruma, Cybele Moon, Allyson Mojica,
Julie Padovan, Mae Merkle

Graphic Design: Bridget McLaughlin

Program Design: Sage Warmund, Piper Filiault, Emma Zoe Polyak

DEPARTMENT OF PERFORMING ARTS

Interim Department Head: Brent White

Department Administrator: LaShanetta Harris

Department Assistant: Galen Blanzaco

Performing Arts Ensemble Production Associate: Lauren Tracy

Interim Dance Program Director: Jennifer Morley

Music Program Director: Luke Abruzzo

Theatre Program Director: Nick Anselmo

Graduate Assistant: Esteban Reina Soto

SUPPORT GREAT PERFORMANCE

Performing arts are a vital part of the Drexel academia and student life. Donations support the operation of our performing arts venues, including the Mandell Theater and URBN Annex Black Box Theater, as well as performing arts ensembles and programs. Celebrate 50 years of Mandell Theater with a gift to Drexel Performing Arts today! [Giving.drexel.edu/PerformingArts](https://giving.drexel.edu/PerformingArts)

CONNECT WITH US



Facebook: [@Drexel Dance](#)



Instagram: [@drexeldance](#)

VISIT US AT
drexel.edu/performingarts/dance

BUY TICKETS FOR UPCOMING EVENTS AT
drexelperformingarts.com



DREXEL UNIVERSITY

Performing Arts

Antoinette Westphal College of Media Arts & Design