

CU ★ PRESENTS

2023-24 Season



Theatre & Dance

UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO **BOULDER**

NEED TO KNOW FOR THE SHOW

- Refrain from using electronic devices **during** the performance. Feel free to view this program on your device at **any time prior to** the performance, **during intermission** or **after the performance ends**.
- Photography and video recordings of any type are strictly prohibited during the performance.
- Smoking is not permitted anywhere. CU Boulder is a smoke-free campus.

CU ★ PRESENTS is
the home of performing
arts at the University of
Colorado Boulder.



Remarkable
performances are the
heart of **CU Boulder
Theatre & Dance**.



CU Boulder acknowledges that it is located on the traditional territories and ancestral homelands of the Cheyenne, Arapaho, Ute and many other Native American nations. Their forced removal from these territories has caused devastating and lasting impacts.

[Read full land acknowledgment.](#)

Roots and Reflections

An MFA thesis concert

7:30 p.m., Nov. 10 and 11, 2023

2 p.m., Nov. 12, 2023

Charlotte York Irey Theatre

This event will have one 15-minute intermission.

Program

Que Será, Será [muy complicated]

Choreography

Kate Gomez Moore, in collaboration with the dancers

Performer(s)

Ellie Barczak, Devon Beckum, Sam Blagg, Caroline Butcher, Brianna Freeland, Kate Gomez Moore, Meriwether Mclean, Edward Lee, Becca Schaff, Camden Sharkey, Claire Terhaar and Macy Will

Music

Live mixed by DJ Kristen Holleyman

Lighting Design

Anna Pillot

Anna Pillot is a dance artist, teacher, production manager, technical director, and adventurer. Her choreography has been featured nationally and internationally, most recently at the 2023 Prague Quadrennial Studio Stage. Pillot enjoys exploring the ways in which technology and dance intersect, coexist and diverge. This research has led her to deepen her exploration of lighting design, projection mapping, video editing and motion capture technology, and to discover enjoyment in supporting the production needs of other artists in the field. Pillot holds a BA in dance performance and choreography, and Spanish from Hope College, and an MFA in dance from CU Boulder.

Costume Support

Madeline Mcroberts and Ted Stark

Thesis Committee

Michelle Ellsworth, Larry Southall and Marcos Davi Silva Steuernagel

Choreographer's Note

The 1955 song *Que Sera Sera*, written by Jay Livingston and Ray Evans and popularized by Doris Day in the Alfred Hitchcock film *The Man Who Knew Too Much*, begins with the lyrics: *When I was just a little girl, I asked my mother what will I be? Will I be pretty? Will I be rich? Here's what she said to me. The chorus continues: Que sera sera, whatever will be. The future's not ours to see. Que sera sera.*

Despite being gramatically incorrect (en Espanol the phrase would be “*que será, será,*”) and sung in a film by a woman who didn't speak Spanish to her kidnapped son, my abuelos heard a little piece of home in the two languages they've switched between for most of their lives. Gracias Tita and Tito, for making a complicated song into a lullaby that gave me permission to exist between worlds.

To mis abuelos, my grandpa, mi mama, my dad, my hermana, mi familia and my family, mis amigos and my friends, gracias for filling my worlds with love. Gracias to my peers, mentors and reader committee for your encouragement, advice and support that got me here. To Kristen, gracias for offering your DJ gifts and the way you see the world through music. To this cast, gracias for coming along for this journey and for how much of yourselves you offered to this process.

I love art-making and world-building with you all.

About the Choreographer

Kate Gomez Moore is an artist whose primary art language is dance. As a maker, dancer, and teacher, Kate sources from the intersections of her lived experiences to create dance that holds complexity and rasquachismo and asks questions of belonging and community. In her work, she aims to foster an environment of curiosity and connection, and is committed to liberatory practices.

Homegoing

Choreography

Jessica Bertram, in collaboration with the dancers

Performer(s)

Jessica Bertram, Taylor Madgett, Belinda Polynice, Anisha Rae, Stephanie Sika and Cleo Washington

Music

Faith's Hymn by Beautiful Chorus; *Rain* by Sunday Service Choir; *I Own The Night* (feat. Saul Williams) by Christian Scott aTunde Adjuah; *Everybody Mad* (instrumental) by O.T. Genesis

Lighting Design

Anna Pillot

Dramaturgy and Assistant Direction

Andre Lumpkin

Costume Design

Jessica Bertram, in collaboration with Theodore Stark and the Theatre & Dance costume department

Projection

Edited by Andre Lumpkin

Choreographer's Note

Excerpt of Alice Walker's Definition of a "Womanist" from *In Search of Our Mothers' Gardens*:

"Loves music. Loves dance. Loves the moon. Loves the Spirit. Loves love and food and roundness. Loves struggle. Loves the Folk. Loves herself. Regardless."

This work is a dedication to Black Women everywhere. It could not be possible without the love and labor of my late grandmother (Jessie Mae Adams), my great aunt (Betty Hodge) and my mother (Sharon Bertram). Each of these women were/are beings of the divine—always teaching me about the sacredness that lives within every fiber of our being as Black Women. Thank you to this cast of Black Women who I now call sisters—the nights of storytelling, struggling, and communing together are the roots of this work. Thank you Dr. Nyeck—the first educator to introduce me to the language, history, and power of Black Womanism/Feminism. Thank you Nii Armah Sowah—for sharing the values, aesthetics, and DNA of African Dance that have driven this piece. Thank you Erika Randall—my first reader, my mentor and a fierce supporter of my dreams within and beyond this institution. Thank you Ant Williams—my dear husband who has loved and supported me/this work without question.

If you are witnessing this work, please know that Black Women are Beloved. We each have a responsibility to ensure the protection and empowerment of Black Women in this world. Black Women are committed to the survival of the community. Black Women's lived experiences in opposition to racism and sexism provide tools for the liberation of all people.

About the Choreographer

Jessica Bertram (she/her) is a movement artist of African descent driven by storytelling, research and ultimately, play. She holds degrees in dance and movement studies, and anthropology and human biology from Emory University in Atlanta, Georgia. Currently, Bertram is pursuing an MFA in dance at the University of Colorado Boulder with an emphasis in ethnic studies and a certification in arts administration.

Bertram's research and teaching is grounded in Black feminist/womanist theory and communal liberation practices. She is interested in navigating the intersectional oppressions of race and gender through narrative in performance. Bertram believes that making meaning of the Black woman experience is essential for social transformation and the liberation of all marginalized bodies.

Her choreographic work has been performed and awarded throughout the southeast at the American College Dance Association, Emory University, 7Stages Theatre, The Ferst Center for the Performing Arts, The Atlanta Contemporary Museum and The Movement Lab—Home of T. Lang Dance. In 2024, her work will be performed and adjudicated at the American College Dance Association's Northwest Regional Conference in Ogden, Utah. Dedicated to her passion for the arts, Bertram has worked with non-profit organizations, the National Black Arts Festival (NBAF) as their assistant director of the Move/Dance! Program and Moving in the Spirit, Inc. as a teaching artist specializing in creative youth development. Presently, she is a teaching artist throughout the Denver Metropolitan Area with Cleo Parker Robinson Dance, Lakewood Cultural Center and Creative Dance Kids.

Theatre & Dance Production Team

Stage Manager

Alston Tyndall

Sound Board Operator

Jack Ambrose

Light Board Operator

Jude Stivers

Run Crew

Adin Williams

Wardrobe

Gemma DeNofa

Costume Shop

Production Assistants: Ali Cox, Sara David, Elena Diederich, Liliana Eurich, Koral Jackson, Joan McEnhill, Hope Mills, Wulfgar Parmenter, Brooke Rawcliffe, Hailey Roller, Norah Schaefer, Aodhnaite Shields, Emily Zhou

Dance Production

Technical Crew: Sam Blagg, Devin Garza, Hoang Nguyen, Alessa Oltman, Kaia Schiff, Cadence Ryan, Ruth Goldenburg, Devon Beckum, Maya Walker, Sasha Trubitsyna, Kate Gomez Moore, Joanna Southcott, Alston Tyndall

Scenery and Electrics

Production Assistants: Madelyn Albright, Olivia Allen, Cheri Bauman, Lilly Bergen, Gwen Burke, Hayley Delich, Franco Devecchi, Adam Garb, Xan Gardner, Isabella Jones, Aspen Kimlicko, Adrian Knappertz, Emily Littlefield, Kyra MacGregor, Alessa Oltman, Maggie Schneider, Kai Symons, Kevin White, Sophie Wills, Rachel Zwerenz

Lighting Practicum Students: Mikayla Jassem

The Students of 2050: Roan Cochrane, Zoe Cooper, James Corness, Diego Gelpcke, Maddy Goldberg, Gideon Harris, Koral Jackson, Adrian Knappertz, Jackson Laughlin, Elliott Lewis, Sophie Lisle, Emily Littlefield, Dakota Makinen, Declan Manion, Layla Middleton, Thylyn Moore, Alesa Moskal, Manu Narasimha Moorthy, Tai Ngo, Sam Nicastro, Jenna Rose, Leon Spiess, Jude Stivers, Oliver Szabo, Jacob Turner, Ellison Wavra, Sam Weingart, Ellen Wyatt

Event details are subject to change, but the CU Presents website will always be up to date. Click or tap below to explore your options.



Theatre events

Tickets start at \$20



Dance events

Ticket prices vary



Artist Series

Tickets start at \$20



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As of Sept 25, 2023

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Acting Associate Chair of Dance and Director of Dance

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Lara Maerz

Director of Dance Production

Anna Pillot (fall)

Kate Bashore (spring)

Costume Production Director

Ted Stark

Technical Director

Jordan Feeler

Associate Technical Director

Stephen Balgooyen

Production Electrician

Cooper Braun-Enos (fall)

Music/Accompanist Coordinator for Dance

Jesse Manno

Assistant Director of Dance

Production

Alston Tyndall

Assistant to the Costume Production Director

Veronica Dewey

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Jeanine McCain

Administrative Assistants

Teresa Gould

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Production Shopper

Kyra MacGregor

Wardrobe Supervisor

Joan McEnhill

Dance Costume Coordinator

Madeline McRoberts

Dance Events Coordinator

Hoang Nguyen

Dance Video Recording/Archivist

Katarina Lott

Recruiting Coordinator

Briana Gebhart

Front of House Manager

Devon Beckum

House Managers

Devon Beckum, Sam Blagg

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