

CU★PRESENTS

2023-24 Season



Theatre & Dance

UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO BOULDER

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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.

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The Current

Dance works by faculty and guest artists

7:30 p.m., April 11-13, 2024

2 p.m., April 14, 2024

Roe Green Theatre

Choreography

**Larry Southall, Constance Harris, J. Akiyama,
Chrissy Nelson, Cortney McGuire, André M. Zachery,
Erika Randall and Helanius J. Wilkins**

André M. Zachery appears as a Roser Guest Artist.

Costume Design

Markas Henry

Technical Director

Anna Pillot

Stage Manager

Wessie Simmons

Assistant Stage Manager

Camden Hornor

Program

Sunrise Haiku

Choreography

Helanius J. Wilkins

Performer(s)

Jessica Bertram

Music

Hotline Bling (*The Voice* Performance, 2018), Christiana Danielle

Lighting Design

Kate Bashore

About the Choreographer

Helanius J. Wilkins, Louisiana native and Colorado transplant, is a choreographer, performance artist and educator. Spanning nearly 70 works performed nationally and internationally, Wilkins' creative research is rooted in the interconnections of American contemporary performance, cultural history, and identities of Black men. Wilkins is currently working on his most ambitious work-to-date, *The Conversation Series: Stitching the Geopolitical Quilt to Re-Body Belonging*, a multi-outcome, multi-year art and social change work that confronts and celebrates heritage, resilience, justice and hope. He is the CU Boulder Dance program's Associate Chair and Director. helaniusj.com

In Lieu of Flowers

Choreography

Erika Randall

Performer(s)

Megan Random and Erika Randall, with:

Kylie Auerbach, Jessica Bertram, Aria Billingsley, Sam Blagg, Maya Blom Walker, Lily Buehler, Bridget Church, Hayley Cohen, Khaki Criss, Sara David, Gemma Lilyrose, Leilani Devine-Miller, Natalie Eichner, Arabella Fletchall, Brianna Freeland, Devin Garza, Wren Goldman, Simone Hersh, Allyson Hineman, Apoorva Kanekal, Mailin Kulm, Gabriella Marranzino, Meriwether Mclean, Marlena Nava Chorn, Janelle Nedrow, Claudia Parsons, Maya Rasmussen, Charlotte Rindfuss, Teagan Robinson, Brooke Snisky, Brie Sutton (understudy), Claire Terhaar and Emily Vanleeuwen

Music

Better Son/Daughter, Rilo Kiley (explicit); *Six Violins Sonatas*, Op. 10b No. 6 in C Major, J.104:II.Largo, Carl Maria von Weber; *Give U My Lovin*, Mazzy Star; *Recuerdos de la Alhambra*, Francisco Tárrega, Andrés Segovia. Edited by Megan Random

Lighting Design

Kate Bashore

About the Choreographer

Erika Randall is a dancer, teacher, choreographer, filmmaker and presently the associate dean for student success for the College of Arts & Sciences. As a performer, she has worked with Megan Odom, Teena Marie Custer, Sydney Skybetter, Michelle Ellsworth, the Mark Morris Dance Group and Buglisi/Foreman Dance. Her choreography has been seen in four countries and 16 states over the last 10 years and her internationally award-winning screendance works, including: *Paula + Francesca*, *Down for the Count*, *less, more* and *self defense*, have screened at festivals such as the Beirut International Women Film Festival, the Beyond the Curve International Film Festival in Paris, France, the Starz Denver Film Festival, the Florence Queer

Festival in Italy and the Façade Film Festival in Plovdiv, Bulgaria. Randall co-wrote, directed and choreographed the feature-length dance film *Leading Ladies* (2010) which played to sold-out audiences at more than 65 festivals worldwide. Randall has served as the choreographer/movement director for the Colorado Shakespeare Festival (2017-23). Her podcast, The Ampersand, created with producer Tim Grassley, celebrates the alchemy of ANDing and can be found wherever you listen to podcasts.

Special Thanks

When my mother was dying, she said, “No flowers. When you think of me: Love, Laugh, Dance.” This piece is a playful queering of the *Waltz of the Flowers* and *The Sonnambula*, and a gift to her, whom I miss every day.

P.E.A.C.E.

Positive Energy Activates Constant Elevation Choreography

Larry Southall

Performer(s)

Kate Gomez Moore, Izzy Phipps, Becca Schaff, Sasha Trubitsyna, Rachel Halmrast, Ryley Carter, Caroline Butcher and Alston Tyndall

Music

Bobby McFerrin

Lighting Design

Jonathan Spencer

About the Choreographer

Larry Southall holds an MFA in performance and choreography from the University of Colorado. A native of the Bronx, he began working with hip-hop dance forms in the early 1980's. He has worked with the Boulder Ballet, The Harambee African Dance Ensemble, Blue Moon Dance Company, Motion Underground, Longmont Symphony and Dance Theatre, Cleo Parker Robinson Summer Institute, Denver School of the Arts and Steamboat Springs Dance Theatre. He has served as a master teacher at Dance Place in Washington, D.C., at Slippery Rock University and for the American College Dance Festival. Southall has choreographed for the Native Tongue Dance Theatre, Skeleton Dance Project, The Black College Dance Exchange and the Legacies concert of the American College Dance Festival in Boulder, and is respected nationally as one of the great traditional hip-hop teachers. Southall is currently rehearsal director of The Grass Roots Project under the direction of Rennie Harris and co-creator of the hip-hop studies certificate along with Rennie Harris at CU Boulder through the Department of Theatre & Dance.

Special Thanks

The RZA, my wonderful cast and my colleagues

Standing on the Wheels of Time

Choreography

André M. Zachery

Performer(s)

Talli Fox, Devin Garza, Sydney Sherman, Jordyn Richard, Becca Schaff, Adin Williams, Olive Kern-Kensler, Ellie Barczak, Amanda Lopez, Devon Beckum, Jake Kinzie and Camden Sharkey

Sound Composer and Design

LaMont Hamilton

LaMont Hamilton (b. 1982) is a multidisciplinary autodidact artist. Hamilton deals with the spiritual, ecological and subconscious through sound, installation, performance, poetry, and lens-based media. Hamilton has been the recipient of several fellowships and awards, including the Jerome Hill Artist Fellowship, Smithsonian Artist Research Fellowship, Artadia Award, ArtMatters Grant and more. He has held artist residencies in arts organizations and museums across the U.S. and Europe.

Video/Cinematography

André M. Zachery

Lighting Design

Kate Bashore

Rehearsal Director

Jessica Bertram

About the Choreographer

André M. Zachery is a Brooklyn-based interdisciplinary artist of Haitian and African American descent and is a scholar, researcher and technologist with a BFA from Ailey/Fordham University and an MFA in performance and interactive media arts from CUNY/Brooklyn College. As the artistic director of Renegade Performance Group his practice, research and community engagement artistically focused on merging choreography, technology and Black cultural

practices through multimedia work. Zachery is a 2016 New York Foundation for the Arts Gregory Millard Fellow in Choreography and a 2019 Jerome Hill Foundation Fellow in Choreography.

His works through RPG have been presented domestically and internationally, receiving support through several residencies, awards and commissions. These have included the LMCC Arts Center on Governors Island, Dance/ NYC Coronavirus Relief Fund, CUNY Dance Initiative, Performance Project Residency at University Settlement, ChoreoQuest Residency at Restoration Arts Brooklyn, 3LD Art & Technology Center, HarvestWorks and a Jerome-supported Movement Research AIR. Awarded grants have been from the Brooklyn Arts Council, Harlem Stage Fund for New Work and a Slate Property SPACE Award. Commissions have come from the Brooklyn Museum, Five Myles/BRIC Biennial and Danspace Project.

RPG has earned mentions and favorable reviews from publications such as The New York Times, The New Yorker, The Village Voice, Culturebot, Infinite Blogspot, Futuristically Ancient, Hyperallergic, the Brooklyn Rail, the Daily News and AFROPUNK. As a technologist, Zachery has collaborated with various artists through RPG, the design team of 3LD Art & Technology Center and The Clever Agency on design installations, immersive media productions, film productions, film editing, projection mapping and performance collaborations.

Zachery has worked on significant projects across artistic mediums as a choreographer, media designer and consultant with artists such as Daniel Bernard Roumain, Cynthia Hopkins, Davalois Fearon, Dance Caribbean COLLECTIVE, Arin Maya, Rags & Ribbons, The Clever Agency, Kendra Foster, Manhattan School of Music, Burwell & Sasser and Spike Lee.

Zachery is an assistant arts professor at the Tisch School of the Arts in the Dance Department at NYU. As a scholar, he has been a member of panels, led group talks, facilitated discussions and presented research on a myriad of topics including Afrofuturism, African Diaspora practices and philosophies, Black cultural aesthetics, technology in art and performance, and expanding the boundaries of art making within the community. He has been a panelist and presented his research at institutions such as Duke University, Brooklyn College, University of Virginia, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and the University

of Colorado Boulder. He is an advisory board member of the ATLAS Institute at the University of Colorado Boulder. Zachery has taught at Brooklyn College and been a guest faculty member at the dance programs of Florida State University, Virginia Commonwealth University, The Ohio State University, the University of California Los Angeles, and the University of California Riverside.

Piece Concept

The piece is a dance of dedication to the self we will become. *Standing on the Wheels of Time* can be interpreted within the framework of Afrofuturism as acknowledging the interconnectedness of our respective pasts, our collective present, and our interdependent future. Across many Africanist philosophies, time is not viewed as linear but rather as a cyclical or spiraling dimension, with the past, present, and future constantly influencing and informing each other to shape who we are yet to be.

Program Notes

As a creator, I want to first acknowledge that my work is built from my participation in a community of thinkers, fellow artists, elders, children, family, friends and ancestors. Because of them, I am.

Thank you to my brother, friend, and collaborator LaMont Hamilton for joining me in this creative process and in Boulder as sound composer where we were able to share space and reconnect on so many levels that helped construct this piece for the better. Thank you the entire performing cast—a cohort of bright, inquisitive, courageous and talented individuals who each have the capability to make positive impacts on the world. Thank you to Jessica Bertram, for taking on the responsibility of rehearsal director and taking this work across the line. Thank you Kate Bashore and Markas Henry for being wonderful creative partners as lighting designer and costume designer respectively.

Thank you CU Boulder professors Helanius Wilkins and anya cloud for the invitation and arrangement for me come out as the Roser Guest Artist. Thank you to Ondine Geary for working with us at ATLAS/BBX. Thank you to all the professors, instructors and students who welcomed us and shared time with us.

—Intermission follows this piece—

Life of the Party

Choreography

Constance Harris

Performer(s)

Devon Beckum, Kate Gomez Moore, Tyreis Hunte, Edward Lee, Belinda Polynice, Becca Schaff and Stephanie Sika

Music

Sradenam, Castro De D'Destroyer

Lighting Design

Jonathan Spencer

About the Choreographer

Constance, also known as Connie Love in nightlife circles, is a versatile dance artist with expertise in teaching, performing and choreographing. Her energetic movement style draws from Africanist aesthetics, fusing traditional and contemporary African dance, hip-hop, and house. Holding a Bachelor of Arts in cultural anthropology from Dickinson College and a Master of Fine Arts in dance from the University of Colorado Boulder, Harris brings a rich academic background to her artistry. Renowned for her electrifying performances, she has graced the stages of premier nightclubs and parties nationwide, including The Trestle Inn in Philadelphia, Mile High Soul Club in Denver, Scatta Afrobeats in Denver and Owls Club in Tucson. Harris' talents extend to the festival circuit, where she has showcased her skills at renowned fusion dance events like Migrations in Austin and Jamballah in Portland, sharing her expertise in popular Afrobeats social dances and freestyle. She is currently a guest choreographer for the Department of Theatre & Dance at the University of Colorado Boulder.

Lettuce & Pancakes

Choreography

J. Akiyama & Chrissy Nelson, in collaboration with Cortney McGuire

Performer(s)

J. Akiyama & Chrissy Nelson

Music

Piano Sonata No. 14 in C-sharp minor, Op. 27, No. 2 “Moonlight Sonata”, *Adagio sostenuto*, Ludwig van Beethoven, performed by Steve Anderson

Lighting Design

Jonathan Spencer

Improvisational Text

J. Akiyama & Chrissy Nelson

About the Choreographers

J. Akiyama is an improvisational artist and somatic psychotherapist based in the Boulder area.

Chrissy Nelson is a dance artist, somatics-based movement educator and physical therapist. She is a lecturer in dance at CU Boulder, facilitates the Department of Theater & Dance Wellness Program, and co-directs The Field | Boulder. Nelson's creative research involves body-centric work that spans unplugged improvisational solos to large scale evening-length dance | theater | media work, including collaborative CU ATLAS residencies *cLementines & cChocolate* (2012) and *The Pain of Becoming* (2014), and her graduate thesis project, *Skin & Pulp* (2013). More recently, Nelson premiered in *the backyard* (2019) in The Current, and *Loose Gravel* (2023), an evening-length work presented at Luther College.

Cortney McGuire is a local improviser and loves hugs, great music and laughing. She has danced all over the spectrum of movement, but has found her true passion in improvisation.

Special Thanks

J. Akiyama & Chrissy Nelson have been in process together since 2010. J. Akiyama, Chrissy and Cortney last performed together in 2016, in *Spring Vacation*. We have tremendous amounts of gratitude for each other. And we appreciate you, the audience, for sharing in this dialogue with us.

The Anthem

Choreography

Larry Southall

Performer(s)

Chris Bremner, Becca Schaff, Edward Lee, Belinda Polynice, Ellie Barczak, Kate Gomez Moore, Izzy Phipps, Izzzy Banse, Rachel Halmrast, Sasha Trubitsyna, Riley Carter, Sparrow LoCurto, Cleo Washington, Emily Garza, Sawyer Shepardson, Riley Holcomb, Brianna Freeland, Emily Vanleeuwen, Adin Williams, Maya Bloom Walker, Sam Blagg and Tyreis Hunte

Music

Marvin Gaye

Lighting Design

Jonathan Spencer

Special Thanks

My cast and my colleagues

Theatre & Dance Production Team

Wardrobe Supervisor

Madelyn Goldberg

Run Crew

Cassie Greenly

Hazel Palmer

Kyra MacGregor

Ileana Hills

Harley Butler

Sam Lustig

Claudia Parsons

Katrina Chandrashekhar

Sonwane

Costume Shop

Production Assistants: Ali Cox, Sara David, Elena Diederich, Liliana Eurich, Koral Jackson, Kirra Lindauer, Joan McEnhill, Wulfgar Parmenter, Brooke Rawcliffe, Hailey Roller, Norah Schaefer, Emily Zhou
Practicum: Marisa Dinsmoor, Kees Nachbahr, Emma Quirk, Norah Schaefer, Libby Shull

Dance Production

Technical Crew: Sam Blagg, Devin Garza, Hoang Nguyen, Alessa Oltman, Kaia Schiff, Cadence Ryan, Edward Lee, Devon Beckum, Maya Walker, Sasha Trubitsyna, Katrina Chandrashekhar Sonwane, Kate Gomez Moore, Harveen Gill, 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

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