

THEATRE & DANCE

2024-25



CU ★ PRESENTS



Theatre & Dance

UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO BOULDER

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LATECOMERS are seated at the discretion of house management. You may be seated in the nearest available area to minimize disruptions. Some venues may not be able to accomodate late seating.

PHOTOGRAPHY and **AUDIO / VIDEO RECORDINGS** are **PROHBITED** during the performance.

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CU Boulder is a **SMOKE-FREE CAMPUS**.

The University of Colorado Boulder, Colorado's flagship university, honors and recognizes the many contributions of Indigenous peoples in our state. 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.

Open Space

Curated by CU Dance Connection

7:30 p.m., March 7-8, 2025

2 p.m., March 9, 2025

Charlotte York Irey Theatre

Content advisory: This performance contains strobe lighting effects, explicit language, sudden loud noises (including gunshot sounds), and sensitive thematic content. Viewer discretion is advised. If you have a sensitivity to flashing lights, loud sounds, or certain themes, please take necessary precautions and feel free to exit the theater at any time.

CREATIVE TEAM

Choreography

Riley Holcomb

Devon Beckum

Alyssa Slatky

Ellie Barczack

Sam Antell

Claire Terhaar

Madelyn Dusel

Becca Schaff

Costume Design

Ted Stark

Veronica Dewey

Tyreis Hunte

Lighting Design

Alessa Oltman

Evan Hunter

Production Director

Kate Bashore

Production Electrician

Monica Bowker

Production Assistant

Mackenzie Derrick

Stage Manager

Aani Sukumar

PROGRAM

MSMSMSM

Choreography

Riley Holcomb

Performers

Addisson Pribble

Music

SOPHIE: *MSMSMSM*

About the Choreographer

Riley Holcomb is a passionate dance educator and choreographer dedicated to sharing the joy of movement through rhythm and storytelling. For the past two years, she has been teaching dance to children and leading free, community-based tap classes, fostering accessibility and inclusivity in the art form. As an apprentice with Tap Into the Network, she has honed her skills in education-based tap choreography, deepening their commitment to the next generation of dancers. Upcoming projects include serving as the assistant choreographer for *Something Rotten!* (CU Presents) and choreographer for *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee* (Sandbox Student Series). With a love for musical theatre and a strong foundation in tap, Holcomb continues to create work that celebrates rhythm, expression and community.

Special Thanks

I am incredibly grateful to Addison, who has put so much care, love and time into this piece. I quite literally could not have done this without you.

Thank you to my family; I could not have done this without your support and love.

Lastly, thank you to my students, who have always been my biggest source of inspiration and joy

Someone Special

Choreography

Devon Beckum

Performers

Sam Antell, Devon Beckum, Sam Blagg , Elizabeth Ervin, Gracie Hiegel, Nika Ipakchi-Saiy, Skyler Martin, Kylie Powers, Ellie Pramenko, Becca Schaff, Alyssa Slatky, Sasha Trubitsyna

Music

Wham!: *Last Christmas*

About the Choreographer

Devon Beckum is a senior dance major at CU Boulder on the BFA track. This will be her second piece featured in Open Space. *Someone Special* was created in relation to her thesis performance *sorry, i'm projecting* as a way to bring levity to her own life and the stage.

Special Thanks

A very special thank you to the cast of this piece, this would not have been possible without you. I appreciate your willingness to be ridiculous. Thank you Sam and Becca for being willing to fall in love, you guys are my two muses and I will always love choreographing for you.

Reverie

Choreography

Alyssa Slatky

Performers

Gillie Bachrach, Skyler Martin, Jessica McKay,
Avery Maxwell

Music

Nicolas Jaar: *Three Sides of Nazareth*

About the Choreographer

Alyssa Slatky (she/her) is a freshman dance major on the BFA track.

Program Notes

Stemming from parts of an old work which explores themes of déjà vu, *Reverie* studies this concept through dancer relationships with one another, the audience, and themselves. With movement driven by the objective to push the boundaries of what musicality can mean, this piece aims to create a peculiar feeling for the audience and leave them with questions regarding authenticity and their own sense of self.

Special Thanks

The biggest shoutout to this beautiful cast for their unwavering dedication and willingness throughout this process. Your patience as I navigate my first collegiate work does not go unnoticed. I am eternally grateful for your commitment, thank you for bringing this vision to life in more ways than I could have ever imagined! I would also like to thank the panel of adjudicators for seeing potential in this research and for offering me guidance and mentorship with this work. Last, but never least, thank you to my mom for being my biggest supporter and for never having a second thought when I moved across the country to create and share dance.

Melodic Sentimentality

Choreography

Ellie, Barczak

Performers

Ellie Barczak, Izzy Bansel, Devon Beckum, Sam Blagg, Elizabeth Ervin, Talli Fox, Devin Garza, Olive Kern-Kensler, Claudia Parsons, Izzy Phipps, Kylie Powers, Becca Schaff, Sasha Trubitsyna

Music

Delta Spirit: *Yamaha*

Edited by Ellie Barczak

About the Choreographer

Ellie Barczak is a senior undergraduate dance major and choreographer in the CU Theatre and Dance department.

Program Notes

Melodic Sentimentality encompasses sentimental moments of fleeting nostalgia while reflecting back on time within the dance department. Featured dancer Becca Schaff encompasses the feelings of nostalgia while shifting through different moments and memories with other dancers.

Special Thanks

Big thank you to the wonderful cast of dancers that have stuck with me throughout this ever-changing research. I feel really grateful to have had the privilege of having these intelligent movers in this process with me and to have constantly been inspired by each one of them.

Another big thank you to the adjudicators and specifically Anya Cloud for diving into this research with me and mentoring me throughout this entire process and year. I am really grateful for your insights and constantly pushing me to dig deeper in my intentionality and movement.

safe and sound

Choreography

Sam Antell

Performers

Gabi Marranzino, Avery Maxwell, Meriwether Mclean,
Jordyn Richard, Sydney Sherman, Alyssa Slatky

Music

Taylor Swift: *Safe & Sound* (Taylor's Version)

(feat. Joy Williams and John Paul White)

Edited by Sam Antell

Care Statement

This piece touches on sensitive topics. Everyone is invited to leave before the piece begins. The topics in this piece touch on events involving gun violence. The choreographer was in a school shooting and this piece dives into that experience and the emotions of that experience. To learn more and help work towards ending gun violence, go to everytown.org. Please.

About the Choreographer

Sam Antell (she/her) is a loving artist, mover, creator and human. She is endlessly inspired to explore the human experience through movement, dance, and connection.

Special Thanks

To my cast, the biggest thank you in the world isn't enough. You are such magical, loving, and inspirational humans. Thank you for diving deep and going to the most vulnerable places with me. For supporting me throughout everything. For not letting me give up. It is an honor to know and work with each of you.

To the adjudicators, thank you for seeing the potential in my work and pushing me to go beyond what I thought I could do.

To my mom, thank you for always supporting and believing in me from the beginning. You are the reason I am who I am. You constantly inspire me and are a part of everything I do.

i'm here when you are

Choreography

Claire, Terhaar

Performers

Meriwether Mclean, Ellie Pramenko, Claire Terhaar, Macy Will

Music

Maria Spyropoulou: *Aida*

About the Choreographer

Claire is a senior at CU Boulder and is studying for a BA in dance.

Special Thanks

Special thanks to Anna, Ted and Alston. And to my dancers my dancers my dancers. This was for you.

Fruits of our Labor

Choreography

Maddie Dusel

Performers

Garrett Botsch, Julia Brett, Ashley Cazier, Maddie Dusel, Brianna Freeland, Avery Jackson, Olive Kern-Kensler, Georgia Marsh, Keira Saban, Sawyer Shepardson, Sydney Sherman, Emily Vanleeuwen

Music

The Limiñanas: *Migas 2000*; MGMT: *When You Die*
Edited by Maddie Dusel

About the Choreographer

Maddie Dusel is a junior dance major at CU Boulder.

Program Notes

Fruits of our Labor explores the themes of community, labor, and the passage of time. This work examines what it means to reap the benefits of continuous effort, traversing the physical and emotional investment required to sustain both individual and collective growth. By embodying cycles of effort and reward, this piece invites audiences to reflect on the rhythms of persistence and the interconnectedness of those who labor together.

Special Thanks

To my beautiful cast of dancers, from the depths of my heart, thank you. Your dedication, your sweat, your spirit and your willingness to dive into creation have shaped this piece into something beyond movement. I am eternally grateful for your artistry, your trust, and the way you breathe life into every step. This work would not exist without you, and I am honored to have shared this journey with such incredible souls.

(never) again

Choreography

Becca Schaff

Performer

Becca Schaff

About the Choreographer

Becca Schaff is a multidisciplinary dancer and choreographer that creates works inspired by the environment inside queer dance clubs and the community established within. Through her queer identity, she challenges the boundaries between modern and hip-hop dance, disrupting the stark binary between the styles. Schaff desires to dance with her full movement experience and vocabulary to transcend the labels of style while still respecting the deep roots and culture that hip-hop styles entail.

Special Thanks

Thank you to the queer ancestors who have paved the way for us. Thank you to the women who have lived this before. Thank you to my mama for being my best friend and willing to share your heart with me. Thank you to grandma for your sloppy kisses, behind the ear sniffs, and abrasive humor. I love you to the moon and back.

PRODUCTION TEAM

Light Operator

Priyanka Balasubramaniam

Sound/Video Operator

Riley Holcomb

Deck/Stage

Harley Rose

Cleo Washington

Costume Shop Assistants: Marie-Antoinette Banks, Jonathan Bashford, Alexandria Cox, Sara David, Elena Diederich, Liliana Eurich, Briana Gebhart, Maddy Goldberg, Savvy Gullett, Tyreis Hunt, Koral Jackson, Rebekah Jeffery, Shannon Kosman, Kirra Lindauer, Kyra MacGregor, Madeline McRoberts, Hope Mills, Adison Palmer, Wulfgar Parmenter, Cyrus Porter, Brooke Rawcliffe, Hailey Roller, Norah Schaefer, Sydney Sowl, Kai Symons, Emily Zhou, Khalil Flowers

Dance Production Crew: Kaia Schiff, Katrina Chandrashekhar Sonwane, Edward Lee, Devon Beckum, Angela Gumieniak, Evan Hunter, Nathan Klimpel, Alessa Oltman, Hazel Palmer, Rory Smith, Alston Tyndall

Lighting Technicians: Alessa Oltman, Cheri Bauman, Zoe Gidiere

Scene Shop Production Assistants: Lilly Bergen, Gwen Burke, Peyton Burns, Roan Cochrane, Hayley Delich, Xan Gardner, Ruth Goldenberg, Lauren Haas, Nathan Klimpel, Emily Littlefield, Kyra MacGregor, Sam Nicastro, Algie Schneider, Kai Symons, Sophie Wills, Rachel Zwerenz

2050 Production Students: Vianney Aguilar, Cheri Bauman, Peyton Burns, Tina Cao, Haiden Croker, Briana Gebhart, Mia Gerson, Savannah Gullett, Jasmine Jones, Cynthia Kistle-Bennett, Zane Larson, Izzy Lauer, Kirra Lindauer, Ian McCance, Gabe Miller, Hope Mills, Daniel Oliveri, Edie Roth, Elizabeth Schlue, Riley Schvimmer, Sasha Solovyev, Sydney Sowl, Isabel Szucs, Carson Whitlock

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