

# THEATRE & DANCE

2024-25



CU ★ PRESENTS



Theatre & Dance

UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO BOULDER

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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.

# **The Current**

**Dance works by faculty and guest artists**

**7:30 p.m., April 24-26 and 2 p.m., April 27, 2025**

**Charlotte York Irey Theatre**

## **CREATIVE TEAM**

**Choreography**

**Helanius J Wilkins  
Laura Malpass  
Lawrence Southall  
Erika Randall  
Michelle Ellsworth  
Anya Cloud  
Tiffany Bong**

**Costume Design**

**Markas Henry**

**With designs by Michiel Keuper**

**Director Of Dance Production**

**Kate Bashore**

**Production Assistant**

**Mackenzie Derrick  
Algernon Schneider  
Kyra MacGregor**

**Stage Manager**

**Connie Lane**

# PROGRAM

## (In)Between

### Choreography

Helanius J. Wilkins

(Movement vocabulary created in collaboration with the performers)

### Performers

Angel Anderson, Elizabeth Ervin, Angela Gumieniak, Becca Schaff

### Music

Andy Hasenpflug: *Bosch's Gardens*

(Original score created for work)

### Lighting Design

Kate Bashore

### About the Choreographer

Louisiana native and Colorado transplant Helanius J. Wilkins is an associate professor of dance and the associate chair and director of dance at CU Boulder. He is a choreographer, performance artist, educator, certified Colorado Change Leader and artivist (artist-activist), whose career spans 29 years of creating choreographies that bridge dance and social justice. Having choreographed more than 60 works, foundations/organizations including NEA, NEFA National

Dance Project, and National Performance Network have supported his work. He founded and artistically directed D.C.-based EDGEWORKS Dance Theater, an all-male dance company predominantly of Black men that toured nationally and internationally (2001-2014). His primary focus is a multi-year, multi-outcome art and social change work titled *The Conversation Series: Stitching the Geopolitical Quilt to Re-Body Belonging*. Service is integral to his work; therefore, he has, and continues to, serve on boards for varied organizations and often volunteers for projects.

[helaniusj.com](http://helaniusj.com)

# In the Middle of the End

## Choreography

Laura Malpass in collaboration with the dancers

Rehearsal Assistant: Madison Jones

## Performers

Kylie Auerbach, Katrina Chandrashekhar Sonwane, Bridget Church, Emma Fujitani, Wren Goldman, Allyson Hineman, Mailin Kulm, Emily Madden, Meriwether McLean, Ellie Pramenko, Maya Rasmussen, Jordan Richard, Claire Terhaar, Macy Will

Understudy: Natalie Eichner

## Music

Vivaldi: *The Four Seasons*; Max Richter: *Shadow*;  
Rob Simonsen: *Mark & Oliver*; Yann Tiersen: *Kadoran*;  
Rob Simonsen: *Coda*; Federico Albanese: *Migrants*

## Lighting Design

Jonathan Spencer

## About the Choreographer

Laura Malpass is a teaching artist, dancer and choreographer—a lover of laughter, learning, listening, chosen and blood family, good books, baking, writing, whimsy, crisp autumn mornings and all things succulent. She believes in change, joy, curiosity, parables and metaphor, and softening into the way life circles and folds in on itself.

Malpass is a lecturer at CU Boulder and assistant school director at Boulder Ballet School. Her choreographic process invites the body's rich physical memory of its emotional, relational, and experiential lives to the surface; their dance film shorts have been featured at Sans Souci Festival of Dance Cinema, ACDA, and CODEO. Malpass is an ABT® Certified Teacher in Primary through Level 7 of the ABT® National Training Curriculum and was named a Teaching Fellow in 2015. Malpass' research in embodied pedagogy practices is continually transforming and expanding: they explore how somatics can be used as a feminist pedagogical tool to restructure classroom power dynamics; cultivating the holistic dancer through a biopsychosocial lens of health, connection, and education; applications of the Ungrading Movement as a practice of equity; and inviting students to partner in co-creating learning spaces with curiosity, compassion and care. [lauramalpass.com](http://lauramalpass.com)

## Program Notes

Grief doesn't have an end. It's not a journey. It's a language.  
The goal isn't finishing; it's fluency.  
—John Onwuchekwa

*In the Middle of the End* is an exploration of the grief we hold ... in any/many forms—tangible, ambiguous and beyond. Our co-created movement dialect moves through/in/with this liminal space ... between is/was, presence/absence, loss/

reclamation ... slowly, we explore the anatomy of grief as it makes a home within us, alone and together. In losing over and over again, in returning to the site of the shift, how do we tenderly soften into the sharp edges of departure?

## Special Thanks

Sarah Gonzales for her eye and clarity; and to the dancers for their authentic presence, openness, and voice within the creation process.

# Grief Forgiveness

## Choreography

Larry Southall

## Performers

Chris Bremner, Caroline Butcher, Kate Gomez-Moore, Edward Lee, Izzy Phipps, Becca Schaff

## Music

The Underground Solution: *Luv Dancin'*

## Lighting Design

Jonathan Spencer

## About the Choreographer

Larry Southall holds an MFA in performance and choreography from the University of Colorado Boulder. A native of the Bronx, New York, 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, Denvr 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 artistic director of The Grass Roots Project under the direction of Rennie Harris.

## **Program Notes**

For Aunt Barbara and Aunt Linda you are appreciated for helping raise me thank you

RIP!

## **Special Thanks**

Thank you faculty, staff and my wonderful dancers!

# Peaches for the Apocalypse

## Choreography

Erika Randall

## Performers

Devon Beckum, Allyson Hineman, Ellie Pramenko,  
Megan Random, Alston Tyndall

## Lighting Design

Kate Bashore

## About the Choreographer

Erika Randall is a dance professor and interim dean and vice provost for undergraduate education at CU Boulder. She co-authored and co-directed the award-winning feature film, *Leading Ladies*, in 2010. In 2014, Ira Glass awarded her “Best Dance on the Radio” for *Hello, Blue Soul*, a piece that merged storytelling and sound. She co-writes and hosts the podcast *The Ampersand*, which can be found wherever you get your podcasts. She was the movement director for the Colorado Shakespeare festival for the last seven seasons and continues to screen dance for camera works internationally. Her newly released novel, *Music for Leaving*, can be found on her website, [erikarandall.com](http://erikarandall.com).

# **Shadow Cell**

## **Choreography**

Michelle Ellsworth

## **Performers**

Devon Beckum, Rhianna Cranston, Olive Kern-Kensler,  
Elena Medina, Alyssa Slatky, Alston Tyndall

## **Lighting Design**

Kate Bashore

## **Choreography Darmaturgy**

Tanniqua-Kay Buchanan

## **Guard Choreography**

Cleo Washington

## **Video Editing, Sound, and Collaborator**

## **AI-Generated Image Collaborator**

Maz Bursten

## About the Choreographer

Michelle Ellsworth often co-mingles technology and carpentry with dance in an attempt to choreograph coping strategies to geopolitical and personal phenomena.

Among Ellsworth's honors are a Doris Duke Artist Award (2019), Guggenheim Fellowship (2016), Doris Duke Impact Award (2015), NEFA National Dance Project Grant (2017, 2014), Creative Capital Fellowship (2013), and USA Artists Knight Fellowship in Dance (2012).

## Program Notes

A glitch feminist attempt to make technology more collaborative.

(you don't know) we are

## Choreography

Anya Cloud in collaboration with the performers

## Performers

Tanniqua-Kay Buchanan, Alston Tyndall

## Music

ANHONI and The Johnsons: *Hope There's Someone*

## Costume T-shirt Design

Michiel Keuper

## Lighting Design

Kate Bashore

## About the Choreographer

I am an experimental dance artist originally from Alaska and currently based between Colorado and Berlin. As a queer white person, I orient my work to cultivate radical aliveness as an artist-activist practice. Collaboration, questioning and deep physicality are central to all of my work. Makisig Akin and I co-direct the project-based dance company The Love Makers Company. Our work has recently been produced internationally by DOCK 11, Tanzfabrik Berlin Bühne, Tanztage Berlin, Movement Research at the Judson, Velocity Dance, OUTsider Fest and What You See Festival.

Important collaborators include Makisig Akin, Sara Shelton Mann, Karen Schaffman, Eric Geiger, Ishmael Houston-Jones, Rebecca Salzer and Nhu Nguyen, among others. I have taught/facilitated internationally at festivals and institutions including at Guatemala Contact Improvisation Festival, Tanzfabrik, ImPulsTanz, Tanzquartier, wcciJAM, Ukraine Contact Improvisation Festival, The Field Center, BeingTouch, and SFD+I among others. I currently serve as assistant professor of dance at University of Colorado Boulder. I hold an MFA from University of California San Diego and am trained in the Feldenkrais Method®.

## Special Thanks

Thank you to Makisig Akin for being Outside Eye for this work.

# REVIVAL

## Choreography

Tiffany Bong

## Performers

Devon Beckum, Edward Lee, Sparrow LoCurto, Elena Medina, Becca Schaff, Camden Sharkey, Sawyer Shepardson, Cleo Washington

## Music

Grant Green, Dianne Reeves, The Ummah: *Down Here On The Ground*; Cajmere, Dajae: *Brighter Days - Dajae - Underground Mix '93*; Tyler, The Creator: *I Hope You Find Your Way Home*

## Lighting Design

Jonathan Spencer

## Program Notes

“HOPE deferred makes the heart sick, but a longing fulfilled is a TREE OF LIFE.” — Proverbs, 13:12

## About the Choreographer

Tiffany “Jimini” Bong is an assistant professor of practice and founding director of Kaufman Connections and The Cypher Summit at the USC Glorya Kaufman School of Dance. She is an international, award-winning hip hop/street

dance artist, educator, entrepreneur and leader that draws on her 20-year experience in dance education and street dance culture to bring next-level pedagogy and programs into diverse spaces that center on communal practice and wellness.

Bong is the founding executive director and artistic director of UniverSOUL Hip Hop, a multicultural group of authentic and socially engaged dance artists with a mission to cultivate community, intergenerational wellness, and wonder through transformative, SOUL-centered dance performance, education, and programming. Their education programs reach more than 100 schools each year and their newest theatrical work—titled *H.O.P.E.*, is a movement love letter to restore hope and joy in the human family, and the show has reached over 15,000 audience members in the first year.

A socio-spiritual activist at heart, Bong continues to build partnerships, productions, and practices that support the authentic preservation and progression of hip hop/street dance culture, particularly as a powerful agent for freedom and transformation.

# PERSONNEL

**CONNIE LANE** (Stage Manager) is delighted to return to CU Boulder's Department of Theatre & Dance for the annual dance concert *The Current*, and is thrilled to work with this team of uber-talented, passionate choreographers and their inspired students producing this work. After a rewarding ten-year career here at CU Boulder as faculty member and production coordinator, Lane's freelance production stage management work is in full swing. Recent rewarding production work include Local Theater's world premieres of *Chasing Breadcrumbs* and *You Enjoy Myself* and the powerful remount of *acts of faith*. She has also been a freelance production stage manager with Olivia Travel since 2007, working with an exceptional production team of long-time colleagues, as we travel the world entertaining the guests of Olivia with A-List artists. Living her best life as a whole queer elder, Lane is full of gratitude for such a rewarding and inspired life with beloveds, both at home and at work.

# PRODUCTION TEAM

## Production Electrician

Monica Bowker

## Lighting Programmer

Jodie Rodgers

## Run Crew

Samantha Antell, Priyanka Balasubramaniyam, Briana Gebhart, Marie-Antoinette Banks, Tyreis Hunte, Alesa Rose Moskal, Macy Lampe, Algernon Schneider, Kyra Macgregor

**Costume Shop Production 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, Sam Antell, Katrina Chandrashekhar Sonwane, Leila Gridley, Angela Gumieniak, Evan Hunter, Nathan Klimpel, Alessa Oltman, Hazel Palmer, Rory Smith, Alston Tyndall

**Lighting Technicians:** Alessa Oltman, Cheri Bauman, Zoe Gidere

**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

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# PERSONNEL

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Associate Chair of Dance and	<b>Academic Advisor</b>
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Helanius J. Wilkins	
Director of Dance Production	<b>Student Hourly Payroll</b>
Kate Bashore	Camden Hornor
Assistant Director of	<b>Costume Rental/Stock Managers</b>
Dance Production	Savannah Gullet
Tyreis Hunte	Camden Hornor
Costume Production Director	<b>Production Bookkeeper</b>
Ted Stark	Sydney Sowl
Assistant to the Costume	<b>Production Shopper</b>
Production Director	Kyra MacGregor
Veronica Dewey	
Technical Director	<b>Wardrobe Supervisor</b>
Jordan Feeler	Brooke Rawcliffe
Associate Technical Director	<b>Dance Costume Coordinator</b>
Stephen Balgooyen	Tyreis Hunte
Production Electrician	<b>Dance Events Coordinator</b>
Monica Bowker	Harveen Gill
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for Dance	Marisa Dinsmoor
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