



93<sup>RD</sup> ANNUAL

# SPRING DANCE CONCERT

**APRIL 1-2, 2022**  
**Maggie Allesee Dance Theatre**

**THEATRE**  
& **DANCE**  
at **WAYNE**

Maggie Allesee Department of Theatre and Dance  
College of Fine, Performing and Communication Arts  
WAYNE STATE UNIVERSITY

Maggie Allesee Department of Theatre and Dance Presents

93<sup>RD</sup>  
ANNUAL **SPRING DANCE CONCERT**

**in the Maggie Allesee Dance Theatre**

**Runtime:** 90 minutes with one 15-minute intermission

**Warning:** Show contains adult language and loud noise

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Costume Designer  
**ALEXANDRIA SZCZOTKA**

Sound Designer  
**BRIAN COLE**

Stage Manager  
**LINDSEY SIGLER**

Lighting Designers **TALIA BOWES, SAMMY BROAD, & CAT FOLEY**

Artistic Directors **DR. RAS MIKEY COURTNEY & KAREN PRALL**

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## **Performances**

*(In order of appearance)*

"Attitude" ..... Choreographer: **KAREN PRALL & BASIRA NORRIS**

"the semi-truck that blocks my view is still beautiful" ..... Choreographer: **TAYLOR CRAFT**

"Sike" ..... Choreographers: **OLIVIA "OZZIE" BONICH**

"Profound Mystery" ..... Choreographer: **JACKIE NOWICKI**

*- Intermission -*

"I'm In Here Somewhere" ..... Choreographer: **MALLORY MARSHALL**

"I didn't want to make this, but it's all I have left" ..... Choreographer: **EVELYN GAINES**

"Space Unfounded, but Familiar to Three" ..... Choreographers: **MEGHAN ALLEN,  
ANNIE DINGWAL  
MAGGIE GATES**

"Love and Faith" ..... Choreographers: **DR. RAS MIKEY COURTNEY**

*The videotaping or other video or audio recording of this production is strictly prohibited.*



# 93<sup>RD</sup> ANNUAL **SPRING DANCE CONCERT**

## **PRODUCTION STAFF**

Marketing Lead .....	EMILY CLARK
Assistant Stage Manager .....	JOHN PIERRE
Lighting/Sound Advisor .....	MATT TAYLOR
Stage Management Advisor .....	DANA GAMARRA
Costume Advisor .....	MARY COPENHAGEN
Scenic Advisor .....	FRED FLORKOWSKI SARAH PEARLINE
Theatre Management Advisor .....	JOHN WOLF

## **PRODUCTION CREW**

Costume Crew .....	SAVANNA MCFADDEN MARY RENKO ADARI TORRES
Light Board Operator .....	DIONDRA REYNOLDS
Sound Board Operator .....	PAIGE BEARSE
Crew Technicians .....	TALIA BOWLES PHILLIP HALL
Backstage Crew .....	ABBY GORGARAT
Marketing and Administration Staff .....	JESSICA KROUPA KYMBERLI SKYE HANNAH ZEISS

## **Land Acknowledgment**

Wayne State University rests on Waawiyaataanong, also referred to as Detroit, the ancestral and contemporary homeland of the Three Fires Confederacy. These sovereign lands were granted by the Ojibwe, Odawa, Potawatomi, and Wyandot nations, in 1807, through the Treaty of Detroit. Wayne State University affirms Indigenous sovereignty and honors all tribes with a connection to Detroit. With our Native neighbors, WSU can advance educational equity and promote a better future for the earth and all people.

# PERFORMANCES

## (IN ORDER OF APPEARANCE)

### Attitude

**Music:** "Lifuende" by Serge Beynaud

**Choreographed By:** Karen Prall and Basira Norris

**Lighting Design By:** Sammy Broad

**Sound Design By:** Drums by Basira Norris in collaboration with the dancers

**Dancers:** Brianna Clark, Evelyn Gaines, Cescily Kendrick, Gabbriella Manczuk, Nandi Jack

There are many definitions of cool and or calmness, as we take you on this music, dance, and spoken word journey during these special times we are experiencing we could all use a bit of cool and or calm to assist our mind, body, and souls as we demonstrate this attitude in different ways and Tempo! through our presentation.

This piece is a collaboration between Karen Prall and Basira Norris. "Attitude" is dedicated to Mrs. Katherine G. Ellis.

### the semi-truck that blocks my view is still beautiful

**Music:** Original Composition by Sean Monaghan and Diego Perez-Cuellar

**Choreographed By:** Taylor Craft

**Writer/Text Supervisor:** Kevin Keller

**Lighting Design By:** Talia Bowes

**Sound Design By:** Brian Cole, Sean Monaghan & Diego Perez-Cuellar

**Dancers:** Kaylee Adair, Meghan Allen, Eric Blovits, Jonathan Chapdelaine, Molly Chieca, Madison Collier, Annie Dingwall, Kayla Gonzalez, Natalie Garban, Maggie Gates, Olivia Kimes, Jessica Mossner, Mary Renko, Adari Torres

'The semi-truck that blocks my view is still beautiful' is an excerpt of debut evening-length work from dancer and choreographer, Taylor Craft. Throughout the presentation, the performers continuously beckon themselves and the audience 'when evolving into our present selves, what of our past do we keep with us and what do we have to leave behind?' The performance is a series of movement and dialogue-based scenes performed by a fifteen-person ensemble, paired with an original composition by Diego Perez-Cuellar and Sean Monaghan. Allowing her performers and creative collaborators to read through years of personal writings and revisit Craft's past choreographic material to create the motifs and dialogue central to the work. This work is an attempt to reevaluate the past and leave behind what has been reconciled.

### Sike

**Music:** "Send In The Clowns" by Sarah Vaughan; "Junya" by Kanye West

**Choreographed By:** Olivia "Ozzie" Bonich

**Lighting Design** Pre-recorded

**Sound Design** Pre-recorded

**Dancers:** Olivia "Ozzie" Bonich, Lily Massie, and Hadley Koger

This piece shows what it's like to come across fake people throughout your life that try and take advantage of you/bring you down. It is my representation of my personal struggle in the search for genuine friendship. There is both joy and pain on my ongoing journey. The clown faces represent the "mask" these people put on to disguise their true selves. It explores contemporary dance infused with theatrical elements, while bringing in a twist of hip hop.

# PERFORMANCES (CONTINUED)

## Profound Mystery

**Composition by:** To The Sky (feat. Lustina), Voodoo Native, Nomine's Ego by Nomine & Salem by Travis Lake.

**Choreographed By:** Jackie Nowicki

**Lighting Design By:** Sammy Broad

**Sound Design By:** Brian Cole

**Dancers:** Madison Collier, Annie Dingwall, Rebecca Ferragut, Maggie Gates, Abby Gorgerat, Jaeden Kalbol, Savanna McFadden, Rachel Meloche, Gabriella Monteleone, Amity Nelson, Erin Potvin, Mary Renko, Adari Torres, Aliyah Wright

Profound Mystery is an original work choreographed by nationally renowned guest artist Jackie Nowicki, in collaboration with the 2021-22 Wayne State Company One cast. The work investigates the question of "Who Am I" and the process of finding identity in a world filled with others who search for similar answers.

## - INTERMISSION -

## I'm In Here Somewhere

**Music:** "Rusty Nails (Shackleton Remix)" by Moderat; "Food Combination Chart" by AGF; "Liebeslied" by Julia Krasko

**Choreographed By:** Mallory Marshall

**Lighting Design By:** Talia Bowes

**Sound Design By:** Brian Cole, Mallory Marshall

**Dancers:** Eric Blovits, Hannah Brown, Molly Chieca, Natalie Garban, Kayla Gonzalez, Cescily Kendrick, Olivia Kimes, Taya Malgay, Faith Sheffield, Riley Tiarks

"I'm In Here Somewhere" is inspired by the concepts of productivity, taking oneself to their maximum capacity, and what happens as a result of overextending oneself. In a society which emphasizes production, wealth, and "necessary" suffering as much as America does, the choreographer has felt challenged to distinguish her personal ideals from what society has deemed the ideal American citizen. She wonders whether her life would feel more fulfilling if the focus were transferred from what she does to who she is. This piece portrays a group of disconnected people who go through the motions of work-like tasks without a sense of autonomy or individual purpose. They occasionally experience fleeting moments of remembrance – recalling who the person deep inside them is and what that person desires.

## I didn't want to make this, but it's all I have left

**Music:** "Angel Eyes" by Ella Fitzgerald; "Healah Dancing (feat. Ren Ford)" by Keaton Henson; "Do Not Stand at My Grave and Weep" by Mary Elizabeth Frye, read by Evelyn Gaines

**Choreographed By:** Evelyn Gaines

**Lighting Design By:** Talia Bowes

**Sound Design By:** Brian Cole

**Dancers:** Evelyn Gaines

"I didn't want to make this, but it's all I have left" explores the desperate struggle between societal pressures to mourn quickly and the emotional need to mourn fully. It is inspired by the shock and deep pain of personal loss and follows the exasperating search for a grieving practice that soothes. Structured in two movements, this solo performance explores the complexities of grief and confronts the exhaustion of oscillating between running from grief and clinging to it as the last memory of what has been lost.

# PERFORMANCES (CONTINUED)

## Space Unfounded, but Familiar to Three

**Music:** "Wait" by Savage Nightingale

**Choreographed By:** Meghan Allen, Annie Dingwall, & Maggie Gates

**Lighting Design By:** Cat Foley

**Sound Design By:** Brian Cole, Soundscape edited by Maggie Gates

**Dancers:** Meghan Allen, Annie Dingwall, & Maggie Gates

In this piece, the dancers investigate the idea of space and the relationship they have to it and to each other

As a continuation of a piece choreographed in October 2021, the dancers also explore the evolution of movement and learning. Through their dynamic movement, the dancers create an obscure and destabilizing landscape for the audience to witness. These gifted moments are a glimpse into the trio's personal connection with one another and dig into the layers of their relationship.

Meghan, Annie, and Maggie would like to thank the Wayne State faculty for all their help and support.

Special thanks to Meg Paul for being involved with the process from the start and Hannah Andersen for her continuous help as a dance faculty mentor. They also extend their gratitude to Biba Bell, Jessica Rajko, and Dr. RAS Mikey Courtney for their contributions to the growth of this piece. Finally, the choreographers would like to extend a huge thank you to their parents for all their love and support.

## Love and Faith

**Music:** Intro & I Have Faith (feat. Mondli Ngcobo) Composer: Black Coffee

**Choreographed By:** Dr. Ras Mikey Courtney in collaboration with the dancers

**Lighting Design By:** Cat Foley

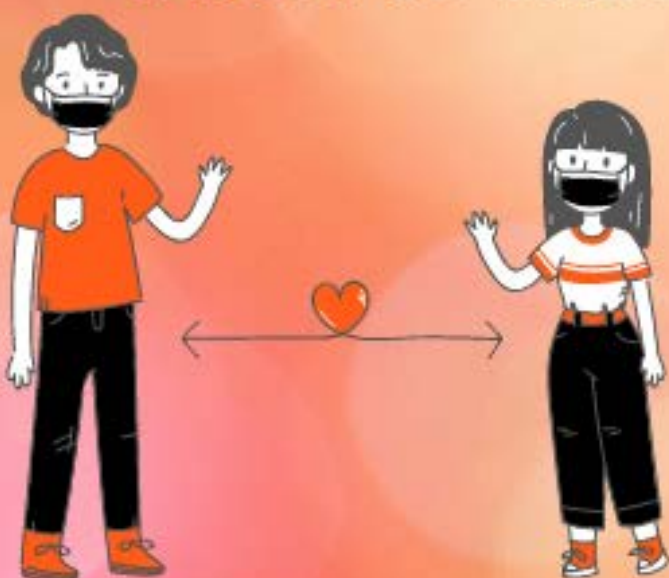
**Sound Design By:** Brian Cole

**Dancers:** Coco Alison, Olivia Bonich, Lauren Carlini, Kendall Ciantar, Vanessa Galaviz, Cescily Kendrick, Luca Kozlowski, Hunter Martin, Jade Moore, Declan O'Connell, Jayda Powell

This piece explores a house where all walks of life are accepted and valued for their uniqueness. Exploring the journey to knowledge of self, with the challenges of perception. We question who we are, what we believe, and how these ideas manifest in how we move, with Love and Faith.

# BE KIND!

PLEASE WEAR YOUR MASK  
INSIDE OF THE THEATRE



Thank  
You!



# DIRECTOR OF DANCE



**Meg Paul** brings a wealth of significant professional experience in ballet and Broadway performance, choreography, and teaching artistry. Her thirty-year career encompasses a wide range of national and international experience in performance, choreography, directing, teaching, program development, community engagement, and arts management. Paul has worked closely with renowned dance pioneers and choreographers in the field, from the repertoire and artistic direction of Gerald Arpino and Robert Joffrey to works by Sir Meg Paul Frederick Ashton, George Balanchine, William Forsythe, Twyla Tharp, Dwight Rhoden, and Alonzo King. She is a former principal dancer with the Joffrey Ballet and holds extensive national and international touring credits. Paul performed both leading roles and served as dance captain for Twyla Tharp's

Tony award-winning Broadway musical, *Movin' Out*. Her awards include The Princess Grace Award, winner of The International Dance Competition of the Americas, Detroit Renaissance Hero Award, Sue Nine Endowment for Faculty Achievement Award, Wayne State University's CFPCA Teaching Award 2020, and the Copperfoot Award. Co-founder of World Arts Inc., Paul's New York City-based performing arts agency celebrated a decade of representing and producing tours for national and international companies, including Nacho Duato's Compañía Nacional de Danza, Les Ballets de Monte Carlo, Complexions Contemporary Ballet, Les Grand Ballets Canadian, Dance Cuba, Les Ballets Africains, Washington Ballet and more. As Director of Dance with the Music Hall Center for the Performing Arts, Paul curated and directed National City Stars of Ballet and Broadway, which engaged hundreds of local performers and pre-professionals to train and perform with ballet and Broadway professionals. For her work on National City Stars of Ballet and Broadway, Paul was honored as a Detroit Renaissance Hero by the Detroit Free Press. She curated and directed Music Hall's annual 313 Choreography Expo highlighting Detroit's creative impact with other major cities. This yearly event served as an incubator and career launchpad for many local Detroit artists and companies while fostering artistic collaborations, dance education, and community engagement. Currently, Paul is Director of Dance for the Maggie Allesee Department of Theatre and Dance and serves as B.F.A. advisor and head of the ballet curriculum. Since 2012, Paul has curated and directed the Complexions Academy Detroit Intensive at Wayne State University and at The Music Hall Center for the Performing Arts. Concurrently, Paul serves as Ballet Master and Rehearsal Director for Complexions Contemporary Ballet, Director of Complexions Contemporary Ballet Academy, and is on faculty at Spotlight Dance Works, Viva Dance Co, and Adrenaline, Revive and National Dance Honors Conventions. Paul teaches master classes worldwide and choreographs at the collegiate level and for professional dance companies. Dwight Rhoden's *Hissy Fits* and Paul's work, *seed*, both staged and choreographed for the Maggie Allesee Department of Theatre and Dance, were selected for the National American College Dance Association gala performances at The Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C., 2014 and 2016. Paul is certified in Vinyasa Yoga, Progressing Ballet Technique, and Youth Protection Advocates in Dance.

# ARTISTIC DIRECTORS



**Dr. RAS Mikey Courtney** is an internationally recognized performing artist whose life mission is to spread cultural knowledge to communities across the globe through sharing his gift of the arts. Dr. RAS is currently an Assistant Professor at Wayne State University, who holds a B.F.A. in Dance, an MA in Ethnochoreology and a PhD in Arts Practice Research. Dr. RAS' research explores the meaning in movement and investigates the significance of embodied cultural expressions in artistic praxis. Dr. RAS Mikey continually strives to use the arts as a bridge for cultural understanding. "Movement is life and I am a Lifest"



**Karen Prall** is an Associate Professor-Teaching at W.S.U. Detroit, an instructor of African and contemporary dance, Artistic Director of the WSU African Dance Company To Sangana. Supporter/consultant to Ballet Zoe Banjay, African dance and drum, company Monrovia, Liberia in West Africa. Research, physical study, and presenting have taken Prall from N.Y. to Congo, Brazzaville, and Kinshasa, Paramaribo, Ghana, Paris, Liberia, Senegal, Hawaii, Cuba, and Liberia. Founder, Artistic director of the Art of Motion Dance Theatre in Detroit. The youth can walk faster but the elder knows the road. Assisting our students in understanding our past on this journey while navigating the future.



# Dance Company Performances in the Allesee Dance Theatre

## Suspended Reality

*Virtual Dance Collaboratory*

April 9-10

## Dance Workshop Showcase

April 22-24

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Based Upon the Arcadia By  
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Adapted By  
**James Magruder**

Conceived & Original Book By  
**Jeff Whitty**

Directed By  
**Jill Dion**

Choreographed By  
**Lisa LaMarre Wilmot**

Music Direction By  
**Rachael Rose**

Vocal Direction By  
**Danielle Wright**

**April 15 – 24, 2022 in the Hilberry Theatre**

For Tickets and more information visit  
[theatreanddance.wayne.edu](http://theatreanddance.wayne.edu) or call 313-577-2972

**THEATRE  
& DANCE  
at WAYNE**



# GUEST ARTISTS



**Basira Norris** (*Choreographer, "Attitude"*) was born into the African drum and dance world where she started her training early. Work with central African drumming include, training on the traditional Ngoma drums, Conga's, West African Djembe drum and Dundun's. Travelling and performing in West Africa. The knowledge of small instrument's as Shekere, Clave sticks, Nsakala, bell and stick provide the opportunity to perform and teach students rhythms that are not widely known therefore I would call it edutainment. I have traveled with W.S.U to the International Association of Blacks in Dance (IABD) for the past six years as the accompanist for the African Dance classes with K.Pral and drummer for concert. I continue to keep the tradition of the African Arts alive through drum and dance as well as recognizing this was once an art that was forbidden for females in some areas of Africa, it is important to be a positive representation for young girls, boys, and woman that will observe a woman mastering the art of drumming.



**Jackie Nowicki** (*Choreographer, Profound Mystery*) originates from Chicago, Illinois. She received her BFA in Dance from Western Michigan University, where she graduated summa cum laude and was named Presidential Scholar in April 2008, and she was chosen as the Department of Dance's Distinguished Alumni for the 2016 school year. She danced for Pilobolus Dance Theater in their PCS company performing for them all over the world, and is certified to teach for their Educational Outreach Program. Her professional credits also include dancing for Mike Esperanza's BARE Dance Company, Calen Kurka's :pushing progress, and Marlena Wolfe's The Wolfe Project. Jackie worked as a part-time faculty member at Western Michigan University's Department of Dance, and for ten years had taught all over the New York dance scene including being on faculty at Peridance Capezio Center, and guesting at Steps on Broadway and Broadway Dance Center. In Chicago, she is currently on faculty at Visceral Dance Center, Extensions Dance Center, COMMON Conservatory, The Rooted Space, and was a guest faculty member at Lou Conte Dance Studio. Jackie's athletic, daring, and unique approach to movement has also landed her numerous master classes and conventions throughout the United States and even internationally in Rome, Italy. She is on faculty for Celebrity Dance Conventions, Dance Device Lab, Turn it Up Dance Challenge, and Stage Door Workshops, specializing in Contemporary and Improv classes. Jackie is the artistic director of her own contemporary dance company based out of New York and Chicago, NOW Dance Project. Her choreography has been commissioned by numerous colleges, dance companies, studios, and universities including The Ailey School, Elon University, The HARTT School, Salve Regina University, Western Michigan University, Urbanity, the Peridance Certificate Program, Wayne State University, and many more. Jackie's work has received numerous acclamations and awards and was even selected to perform at the Kennedy Center in Washington, DC, for the American College Dance Association's 2016 National Festival. She also judges for numerous dance competitions in the U.S. and Canada and is a nationally certified personal trainer.

# STUDENT CHOREOGRAPHERS



**Meghan Allen** (*Choreographer, Space Unfounded but Familiar to Three; Dancer*) is a sophomore at Wayne State University, pursuing a BFA in Dance, as well as a BS in Exercise and Sport Science. She is so excited to share her work, "Space Unfounded but Familiar to Three," created in collaboration with Annie Dingwall and Maggie Gates, as well as perform in Taylor Craft's "the semi-truck that blocks my view is still beautiful" in this Spring Dance Concert. During her time at Wayne State, Meghan has been a member of Company Fresh, the Virtual Dance Collaboratory, and Dance Workshop. She has also had the opportunity to perform in multiple Senior Capstones, in addition to choreographic works by Monique Haley and Dr. RAS Mikey Courtney. She is very grateful to be performing and sharing the space with other incredible artists in this concert.



**Olivia "Ozzie" Bonich** (*Choreographer, Sike*) is a dancer, choreographer, and photographer currently based in Detroit, MI. Craft received her B.F.A. in Dance from Wayne State University. Within her career at Wayne State, Craft performed works by Twyla Tharp, Danys 'La Mora' Perez (Oyu Oro Afro-Cuban Experimental Dance Ensemble), Bosmat Nossan (Batsheva Dance Ensemble), Meg Paul, and many others. Craft has been able to work both in and out of the university setting in marketing, arts administration, graphic design, research, film, videography, and photography. Taylor is also a professional photographer and since then has photographed dance for Wayne State and Madonna University and been published in Dance Magazine. At Wayne State, Taylor was able to dance, choreograph, and facilitate within several of WSU's student companies. Taylor's choreography has been showcased in Wayne State University's "Spring Dance Concert" in 2020 and 2022 and received the Copperfoot award for excellence in choreography from WSU in 2020.

# STUDENT CHOREOGRAPHERS (CONTINUED)



**Taylor Craft** (*Choreographer, the semi-truck that blocks my view is still beautiful*) is a dancer, choreographer, and photographer currently based in Detroit, MI. Craft received her B.F.A. in Dance from Wayne State University. Within her career at Wayne State, Craft performed works by Twyla Tharp, Danys 'La Mora' Perez (Oyu Oro Afro-Cuban Experimental Dance Ensemble), Bosmat Nossan (Batsheva Dance Ensemble), Meg Paul, and many others. Craft has been able to work both in and out of the university setting in marketing, arts administration, graphic design, research, film, videography, and photography. Taylor is also a professional photographer and since then has photographed dance for Wayne State and Madonna University and been published in Dance Magazine. At Wayne State, Taylor was able to dance, choreograph, and facilitate within several of WSU's student companies. Taylor's choreography has been showcased in Wayne State University's "Spring Dance Concert" in 2020 and 2022 and received the Copperfoot award for excellence in choreography from WSU in 2020.



**Annie Dingwall** (*Dancer/Choreographer, Space Unfounded but Familiar to Three*) grew up in Troy, Michigan dancing at Juliart Dance Studio. After graduating from Troy High School Annie attended Wayne State University where she is currently working towards both a BFA in Dance and a BA in psychology. During her time at Wayne Annie has been apart of Virtual Dance Collaboratory, Company Fresh, Company 1, and multiple senior capstone piece's, all of which presented her with the opportunity to choreograph, perform, edit, and direct. Annie would like to thank her parents and brother who have supported her through each endeavor in her life and always come to watch her perform. She would also like to thank her dance teachers and professors who have provided endless wisdom and guidance.



**Evelyn "Evie" Gaines** (*Dancer/Choreographer, Attitude & I didn't want to make this, but it's all I have left*) is a Detroit-based dancer and choreographer. She will graduate in the Spring of 2022 from Wayne State University with a B.F.A. in Dance and B.A. in Public Relations and is currently working towards her STOTT Pilates certification. During her time at Wayne, she has performed in works by Meg Paul, Shaina and Bryan Baira, Stephanie Troyak, Germaul Barnes, and other distinguished artists. She also worked as an Administrative Assistant with BAIRA MVMNT PHLOSPHY, primarily focused on grant writing and community outreach. Post-graduation she will be working with Eisenhower Dance Detroit as their Administrative Intern and plans to pursue a performance-based artistic career.



**Maggie Gates** (*Dancer/Choreographer, Space Unfounded but Familiar to Three*) is currently a second year BFA dance major at Wayne State. She was born and raised in Clarkston, Michigan, and grew up dancing at The Dance Shoppe in Waterford Michigan. She is trained in jazz, hip hop, tap, modern, contemporary, ballet, pointe, and Cecchetti. Maggie and her classmates began working on this piece first semester of this year and are beyond grateful for the opportunity to share it at Spring Dance Concert. Being able to work with others was one of Maggie's goals coming to campus this year, so she is extremely glad she was able to find people with the same mindset. Maggie would like to thank the faculty for all the mentorship they have provided throughout this process.



**Mallory Marshall** (*Choreographer, I'm In Here Somewhere*) is a performer, choreographer, and educator based in Metro-Detroit. Before college, Mallory spent 16 years training in a variety of genres at The Dance Shoppe in Waterford, MI. She has excelled at WSU as a performer, choreographer, research assistant, dance captain of the spring 2022 musical, and recipient of multiple scholarships. Outside of WSU, Mallory has trained and performed in some of the country's most popular dance hubs including Los Angeles, New York City, and Chicago. She is a versatile, multidisciplinary artist who moves fluidly through the roles of performer, teacher, and choreographer. This spring, she will graduate from WSU with a B.F.A in dance and begin her journey to seek employment as a professional dancer.



# Maggie Allesee Our Namesake



In recognition and appreciation of Maggie Allesee's history of generous support of the arts at Wayne State University and of theatre and dance in particular, the WSU Board of Governors approved the renaming of the theatre and dance department in 2012. They had originally named it the Maggie Allesee Department of Dance in 2000 when Dance and Theatre were separate departments.

Maggie's contributions as a volunteer, philanthropist, and community and civic leader have been vast and varied. An avid supporter of the arts, she has served as a board member for the Cranbrook Academy of Arts, Birmingham Bloomfield Art Center, Detroit Metropolitan Dance Project, Detroit Symphony Orchestra Hall, Meadow Brook Theatre, Michigan Opera Theatre, Music Hall, Eisenhower Dance Ensemble, Oakland University Department of Music, Theatre and Dance, Kendall College of Art and Design, the Salvation Army Women's Auxiliary, Wayne State Hilberry Understudies, and many more.

In addition to donating her time, talents, and knowledge, she also a generous financial contributor to many organizations, particularly in arts and education. She has given individual gifts of \$1 million or more to The Parade Company, Oakland University for the Maggie Allesee School of Nursing to establish a Chair in Gerontology, WSU for the Bob Allesee (Allison) Endowed Chair in Media Studies, Detroit Historical Museum, Music Hall and \$2 million plus gifts to WSU for the Dance Department, Florida State University for a major statue and the establishment of the Maggie Allesee National Center for Choreography, and Michigan Opera Theatre for the reception room and library. Mrs. Allesee was recognized for her \$3 million gift to Hospice of Michigan with the unveiling of the Maggie Allesee Center for Quality of Life. She has received four Honorary Doctorate Degrees from Kendall College of Art and Design, Wayne State University, Oakland University, and Florida State University.



## GROUP SALES

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All attendees must bring approved Campus Screener and wear a mask.



# *Community Engagement*

Did you know that each year, the Maggie Allesee Department of Theatre and Dance provides tens of thousands of Detroit's children with free or low-cost access to the performing arts?

## **TOURING COMPANIES**

We take theatre and dance to schools and community centers throughout Metro-Detroit in the spring. Our touring companies include:

- ★ **Black Theatre & Dance Program**

- ★ **To Sangana African Dance**

This is dynamic dance company thrills audiences with quality African-derived dance and drum presentations, guaranteed to inspire, invigorate, educate, and entertain. The company celebrates rich cultural traditions from the African heritage, as well as the contemporary African-American experience.

- ★ **Freedom Players**

The Freedom Players create a new social justice project each year which illuminates and engages students in Detroit Public Schools Community District in current socio-political challenges, utilizing teaching artists through performance and conversation on race and privilege as a means of bridging communities.

- ★ **Company One Dance**

The lecture-demonstration performance format is built to engage students in an experience of seeing and experiencing movement as a form of communication.

- ★ **Motor City Cabaret**

Our musical theatre outreach program aims to create an awareness and appreciation of the art of theatre and dance through an energetic and informative 50-minute performance.





# DONOR HONOR ROLL

Wayne State University and the College of Fine, Performing and Communication Arts gratefully acknowledge the support of donors who have made gifts from September 1, 2020 – September 29, 2021. Donors have supported critical funds in the Maggie Allesee Department of Theatre and Dance, student success initiatives including the Hilberry Fellowships and Moscow Study Abroad Program, and capital projects including the Hilberry Gateway.

We would also like to thank our subscribers and patrons who donated their ticket purchases and sustained our theatre community during this challenging time for the performing arts. Through your generous gifts, you have ensured that our student actors, dancers, designers, technicians, and managers maintained a vibrant educational experience and made the return to performances at the beloved Hilberry Theatre possible.

We strive for accuracy, but if you have a correction to share or a question about your recent giving, please contact Alison Piech Linn, Director of Philanthropy in the College of Fine, Performing and Communication at [aplinn@wayne.edu](mailto:aplinn@wayne.edu) or 313-577-5336.

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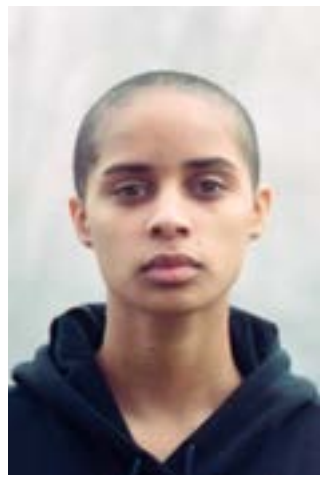
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# CAST AND CREATIVE TEAM



**Kaylee Adair** (*Dancer, the semi-truck that blocks my view is still beautiful*) is a BFA Dance Honors student with a minor in Nutrition and Food Science. She began training at the age of 3, and continued training at Broadway Dance Company in Lake Orion. Kaylee is thankful to be able to perform in her final Spring Dance Concert before graduating in May. She will be performing in "the semi-truck that blocks my view is still beautiful" choreographed by Taylor Craft. Kaylee has been thankful to be a part of this process of a piece that has grown so much throughout this year. While it's bittersweet, Kaylee is excited to enjoy her final Spring Dance Concert with the department and is ready for what is to come in her future.



**Coco Alison** (*Dancer, Love and Faith*) is excited to be part of Dr. Ras's repertory this semester, "Love & Faith," as it dives into humanistic movement within dance. Her focus so far has been on bettering her technique and stage presence through the dance program at Wayne State. She sends love to her 7 siblings and many thanks to her parents for supporting her choice to dance.



**Eric Blovits** (*Dancer, the semi-truck that blocks my view is still beautiful & I'm In Here Somewhere*) is a Detroit-based dance artist who grew up in Saline, Michigan. At a young age, he developed a love for breaking before expanding into other forms of movements and techniques. Eric began experimenting, researching, and developing his particular movement style early on in his journey. Continuing his studies at Wayne State University, he was able to invest and research his unique style of physical dance-theatre, drawing inspiration from both concert and street-dance worlds, specifically the Detroit breaking community. He has studied and worked with movement artists such as Bryan and Shaina Baira, Meg Paul, Adam McGaw, and Bosmat Nassan. He has performed at Judson Church, Detroit Institute of the Arts, Detroit Music Hall, and the Detroit Opera House.



**Talia Bowes** (*Lighting Designer and Programmer, the semi-truck that blocks my view is still beautiful, I'm In Here Somewhere, & I didn't want to make this, but it's all I have left*) is so happy to be a part of this wonderful collection of artists as Lighting Designer and Programmer. Talia is a Sophomore at Wayne State with a passion for lighting which she has been involved in for six years now. She is so excited to see where the rest of her time at Wayne State will take her, and for all the adventures beyond. You might have seen some of Talia's work with WSU in "Making Our Mark" (Lighting Designer), "Snow Queen" (Assistant Lighting Designer), as well as the virtual production of "...And Justice for All" (Designer). She would like to thank her amazing supporters and mentors for everything they've done and will do for her.



**Hannah Brown** (*Dancer, I'm In Here Somewhere*) is currently completing her third year at Wayne State University with a B.F.A. in Dance and a design minor focused on interior design. Hannah is from Carmel, Indiana where she trained at Expressenz Dance Center. Over the course of her time at Wayne State, Hannah has had the pleasure of being a part of residencies with Bosmat Nossan, Hanna Bricston, Monique Haley, and more. Outside of Wayne State, Hannah has trained at Visceral Dance Center, Engage Workshops, NW Dance Project, Moonwater Dance Project, and River North Chicago.



**Lauren Carlini** (*Dancer, Love and Faith*) is thrilled to be back performing for a live audience and is excited to share her love for dance with you during this concert. Lauren first came to Wayne State University from Windsor, Ontario, Canada where she graduated as the Prime Minister of her high school, St. Thomas of Villanova. Lauren is currently a junior majoring in a B.S. in Dance and Pre-Physical Therapy. She has spent this semester rehearsing for the capstone showcase, Dr. Biba's Repertoire that she will be performing at the end of April, Dr. RAS' repertoire being performed in this "Spring Dance Concert," and choreographing, directing, and producing her own dance film for the Virtual Dance Collaboratory (VDC) being premiered in April. She is beyond grateful for these incredible opportunities and sends a big thank you to her teachers, friends, and family for their unconditional support and guidance.



# CAST AND CREATIVE TEAM (CONTINUED)



**Molly Chieca** (*Dancer, the semi-truck that blocks my view is still beautiful & I'm In Here Somewhere*) is an artist and dancer currently studying as a B.F.A. dance major at the Maggie Allesee Department of Dance at Wayne State University. She trains daily with a concentration in Ballet and Modern but also takes a wide variety of other classes to keep herself versatile. At Wayne, Molly has had the opportunity to train with professional choreographers and has had guidance from her many professors. She has also been in Company One and Virtual Dance Collaboratory where she has learned the inner workings of a dance company. Molly is excited to be performing in two student works and is grateful for the opportunity that these choreographers have given her.



**Kendall Ciantar** (*Dancer, Love and Faith*) danced with the Moscow ballet for two years over the winter season, performing in their version of "The Nutcracker Suite." Since then, she has also had the opportunity to dance with American Ballet Theatre in Detroit for their production of "Sleeping Beauty." Kendall decided to come to Wayne State University because she was enthralled with the idea of dancing in Detroit. Through the WSU dance department, she had the option to receive not only her B.F.A. but have the choice to pursue a certification in STOTT Pilates mat and reformer as well. Through WSU, Kendall has had the opportunity to audition for and been accepted into repertoires to work with different choreographers, such as Rachel Harbert, Shawn T Bible, Meg Paul, Stephanie Troyak, Adam McGaw, and many more. Through her Pilates mentorship program, she has had the privilege of teaching Pilates classes too. Kendall has worked under the



**Brianna Clark** (*Dancer, Attitude*) is excited, yet emotional, to perform in her last "Spring Dance Concert" within the dance department. Brianna is from Detroit, MI whose passion for dance began at a young age and she's proud of being the artist that she has become within the past four years. She's grateful for the performance and choreographic opportunities that the department offered, in addition to having a supportive community. She would like to thank her family, friends and staff who supported her on her journey and excited to see what the next chapter of her life is going to bring.



**Brian Cole** (*Sound Designer, the semi-truck that blocks my view is still beautiful, Profound Mystery, I'm In Here Somewhere, I didn't want to make this, but it's all I have left, Space Unfounded, but Familiar to Three, & Love and Faith*) is a sound and lighting technician at WSU. He graduated from the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff where he received his B.S. in Sound Recording Technology. Brian has done mixing, designing, and composed in some productions at Wayne State such as "Cloud 9," "The Colored Museum," "Xtigone," "Venus," "Mamma Mia," the upcoming Hilberry production "Head Over Heels," and also Freedom Players "I Am" showcase. Being a Detroit native, Brian is also a musician where he plays piano and has played behind various artists (The Miracles, Vandellas, Undisputed Truth, The Floaters, Willie Ford and The Dramatics.) This last summer Brian performed in the U.K. where he toured in various cities. Brian's drive in the performing arts is what strives him every day to be the best he can be.



**Rebecca Ferragut** (*Dancer, Profound Mystery*) is a first year B.F.A. Dance major. She moved to Detroit from St. Joseph, a city on the coast of Lake Michigan. Becca is a part of Company One and performed in their "Hustle and Grit" show last semester. She is excited to share this piece with a new audience and hopes you enjoy!



**Cat Foley** (*Lighting Designer, Space Unfounded, but Familiar to Three & Love and Faith*) is an alumnus of Eastern Connecticut State University with a B.A. in Performing Arts concentrating in Technical Theatre. This is their second year as a lighting design graduate, and they are jazzed to be back at work in person. Cat's lighting credits include Wayne State's recent production of "Fairview," and last year's "December Dance Concert."

# CAST AND CREATIVE TEAM (CONTINUED)



**Vanessa Galaviz** (*Dancer, Love and Faith*) Born and raised in Detroit, receiving her training through Living Arts and continuing at Cass Tech, Vanessa is excited to continue at Wayne State. She has spent this semester working with peers in class creating choreography in addition to expanding the knowledge of movement at Ballet Folklorico de Detroit. She sends all her love to mama, papa, her little sis, and two older brothers!



**Kayla Gonzalez** (*Dancer, the semi-truck that blocks my view is still beautiful & I'm In Here Somewhere*) grew up dancing both at The Dance Zone and at the Las Vegas Academy of the Arts. She recently graduated from Wayne State University with a B.F.A in Dance Performance. While there she has trained under Meg Paul, Dr. Biba Bell, Jessica Rajko, Bryan and Shaina Baira, and Dr. RAS Mikey Courtney. She has also had the pleasure of working with choreographers and educators, both within and outside of the university, including works by Twyla Tharp, Maya Orchin, Meg Paul, Biba Bell, Adam McGaw, Bosmat Nossan, Monique Haley, Stephanie Troyak, Shawn T Bible, and G<sup>2</sup> (Beth Grazyk and John Gutierrez) amongst others. She has been able to travel through the country and abroad to Lucca, Italy for various intensive and workshop experiences. Gonzalez has had the opportunity of presenting work at Wayne State in the departmental "December Dance Concert,"



**Abby Gorgerat-Sutherland** (*Dancer, Profound Mystery*) is excited to have begun working on her B.F.A. in dance. She will be doing choreography and real estate side by side after her studies. Abby is from Amherstburg, ON, Canada. Her first year of being a cross border student has been a wild ride. Literally. With current political stances on the other side, getting to school has been difficult at times, but the joy of dance makes everything worth it.



**Nandi Jack** (*Dancer, Attitude*) is working on her Bachelor of Fine Arts in Dance with a Minor in Sport/Entertainment Law at Wayne State University. She has always had a love for the arts, entertainment, and performing. Being an avid student, Nandi, currently on the Dean's List, maintains a role as a Resident Advisor for the Campus Housing Department. Understanding how important making connections and being involved on campus is, Nandi takes great pride in being a public figure for the university. In The Maggie Allesee Dance Department, Nandi also audited and secured a role in a residency with choreographer Monique Haley. Ms. Haley is currently an assistant professor at Western Michigan University, but has an immense professional career investigating the nuances of jazz dance and in black culture.



**Cescily Kendrick** (*Dancer, Attitude, I'm In Here Somewhere, & Love and Faith*) joined Wayne in 2019. This semester, she has had the chance to take part in dancing outside for the Detroit Sidewalk Festival, and accompanied Company One in their contribution to the unveiling of an exhibit within the Detroit Community. Not only this, but she held her first master class in November in Battle Creek, MI. She was granted the opportunity to work with Mallory Marshall and Kendall Ciantar for the Senior Capstone Showcase. Now, for the first time, she will be in 3 pieces for the departmental showcase under the direction of Mrs. Karen Prall, Mallory Marshall, and Dr. RAS Mikey Courtney in the 2022 "Spring Dance Concert."



**Olivia Kimes** (*Dancer, the semi-truck that blocks my view is still beautiful & I'm In Here Somewhere*) is a fourth-year dance B.F.A. major at Wayne State with a minor in musical theatre. She has performed in numerous dance concerts and theatre performances in her time there, including work by Dr. Biba Bell, Meg Paul, Danys LaMora Perez, BAIRA MVMNT PHLSPHY, Dr. RAS Mikey Courtney, Karen Prall, and Adam McGaw among others. Kimes is also a choreographer and recently premiered a solo "Sweet Disbeliever" at this past year's December Dance Concert, as well as recently choreographing a production of Steven Sater's "Spring Awakening." In this show Kimes will be dancing in "i'm in here somewhere" and "the semi-truck that blocks my view is still beautiful." She hopes you enjoy the show!



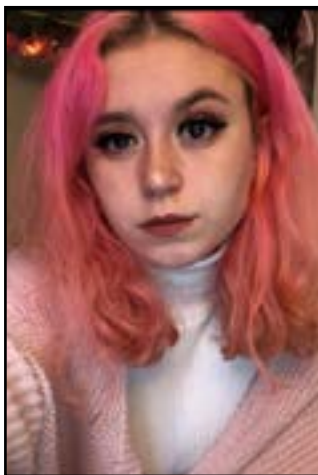
# CAST AND CREATIVE TEAM (CONTINUED)



**Luca Kozlowski** (*DancerLove and Faithi*) moved to Detroit from their hometown Lapeer, MI. Luca is currently working towards their B.S. in Dance with a minor in archaeology. They also have been interning at the Gordon Grosscup Museum of Anthropology here at Wayne State University for their B.S. capstone. Luca also loves to create projects that revolve around dance, art and horror. One of these projects was just performed in the WSU Dance Senior Showcase in New York City during spring break. They want to say, "Thank you and love you!" to mom, dad, Chase, Gracie, and Kelsey for all their support.



**Taya Malgay** (*Dancer, I'm In Here Somewhere*) is a third year B.F.A. in Dance; Minor in Theatre Management. Taya is from Carleton, Michigan, where she began her dance training at age five. At Wayne thus far, her artistic journey has included individual choreographical explorations, STOTT Pilates Teacher Training, coordinating the Wayne State Dance recruitment Instagram page, assisting Dance Department auditions, fundraising and dancing in Dance Workshop 2019-2020, performing repertoire from student-led works, Marc Spaulding, BAIRA, Jill Cassidy, G^2, Hannah Andersen, Monique Haley, and Lawrence Fung, and co-artistic directing for The Virtual Dance Collaboratory this semester. Outside of the department, Taya is the president of the WSU Chapter under We Are Queens, a non-profit organization providing professional mentorship and building development skills for college dancers.



**Gabriella Manczik** (*Dancer, Attitude*) is a B.S. in Psychology at Wayne State. She has danced for many years and wanted to keep it in her life.



**Alexandria Marie** (*Costume Designer*), a recent graduate of Wayne State University, is excited for the opportunity to work with the wonderful dance department on the Spring Dance again. You may have seen her work in the last December Dance concert, or more recently in the Jewish Ensemble Theatre's annual performance of The Diary of Anne Frank. Alexandria is incredibly grateful to be working with the department again even after graduation and is thankful to her family and friends for all their continued support.



**Savanna McFadden** (*Dancer, Deep Mystery*) is excited to be performing in her first "Spring Dance Concert" in the piece "Deep Mystery." Savanna moved here from Winter Haven, FL where her family currently lives. However, she grew up Macomb, MI, where she danced for the Macomb Ballet Company. Savanna graduated high school in 2019 and later that year accepted a spot in Pittsburgh Ballet Theatre's graduate where she studied ballet and worked closely with a professional ballet company. She has also danced in Orlando, FL, where she also had the opportunity to train in aerial arts. She wants to send a big thank you to her mom, dad, nana, papa, and her amazing teacher past and present for their support.

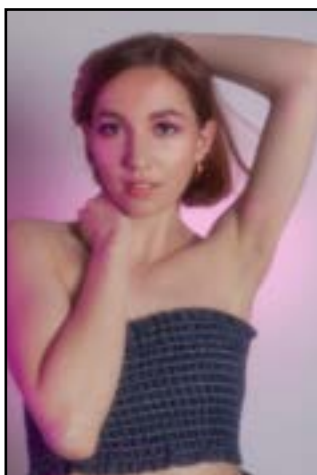


**Rachel Meloche** (*Dancer, Deep Mystery*) is excited to be in their first "Spring Dance Concert" here at Wayne State. Rachel grew up in Birmingham, MI and danced at a variety of studios in the area before coming to Wayne State. They are a second year B.F.A. dance honors major and theatre management minor. Rachel has a background in contemporary and hip hop and has also trained in ballet, tap, and jazz. Rachel is performing in a piece called Deep Mystery choreographed by guest artist Jackie Nowicki. This piece was a part of Wayne State's Company One Show Hustle and Grit. They toured with Company One during the Winter semester. Rachel would like to thank their mom, dad, and sister for always supporting them.

# CAST AND CREATIVE TEAM (CONTINUED)



**Jade Moore** (*Dancer, Love and Faith*) is ready and happy to perform with her fellow peers in this year's 2022 "Spring Dance Concert". Jade is a first-year student at Wayne State University, working on her dual degree of Bachelor of Science in Dance and Business Management. She wants to thank God, her family, friends, and instructors for helping her with her journey as a dancer.



**Jessica Mossner** (*Dancer, the semi-truck that blocks my view is still beautiful*) began her dance training at the Young People's Ballet and later the Grand Rapids Ballet School. She continued her studies at Wayne State University, pursuing her B.F.A. in dance, and shifted her focus from classical ballet to contemporary and modern techniques, improvisation, and choreography. While at Wayne, she was cast in various guest artists' work including Adam McGaw, Stephanie Troyak, Bosmat Nossan, Shawn T Bible, and Lawrence Fung. Jessica has branched out into the world of fashion and design as a model and most recently walked the runway for the launch of Maison Black. Post-graduation, she is intent on exploring her interest in the world of landscape and architecture and hopes to create a holistic view of design, space, storytelling, art, and community.



**Declan O'Connell** (*Dancer, Love and Faith*) a 3rd year B.F.A. dance student at WSU. He is excited to showcase what he has been working on in his repertory class this semester called "Love & Faith" by Dr. RAS Mikey Courtney.



**John Pierre** (*Assistant Stage Manager*) is beyond excited to be working on his second dance concert at Wayne State! As he closes out his first year at Wayne State John has already worked on many productions including "The Old Man and the Sea" as the Stage Manager, Company One "Hustle and Grit" as the Stage Manager, and "Fairview" as the Assistant Stage Manager. This semester he has also been working in the Theatre Management Office as a Graphic Designer and is looking forward to the next season creating graphics and stage managing across the board. His next project will be the final production of the Underground Series "Raisonneur" at the beginning of May.



**Erin Potvin** (*Dancer, Profound Mystery*) is so pumped to perform and share her love for movement through company one's piece titled "Profound Mystery." Erin came from Macomb, Michigan to Detroit, Michigan to go into Wayne State's B.F.A. dance program. She is Minor in Psychology and hopes to become a dance therapist after graduation.



**Jayda Powell** (*Dancer, Jayda Powell*) is a senior B.F.A. Dance Major, and this is her final "Spring Dance Concert." Jayda was born and raised in Jackson, Michigan where her mother enrolled her in Pre-Ballet at the age of three and she has been dancing ever since. At the age of twelve, Jayda was an assistant dance teacher and at the age of fifteen she started teaching classes independently. Jayda has been employed at In Focus Dance Center since 2019, where she choreographs competitive and recital dance routines, instructs private lessons, and instructs class lessons. Throughout her experience at Wayne State University, she has had the opportunity to perform works by Della Hamby, Adam McGaw, Meg Paul, Jill Cassidy, and Stephanie Troyak amongst others.



# CAST AND CREATIVE **TEAM** (CONTINUED)



**Mary Renko** (*Dancer, the semi-truck that blocks my view is still beautiful & Profound Mystery*) is a first year B.F.A. Dance Major who is incredibly excited and honored to perform in "Profound Mystery" by Jackie Nowicki and "the semi-truck that blocks my view is still beautiful (an excerpt)" by Taylor Craft for the "Spring Dance Concert." Mary has had the opportunity to be in Company One and Dance Workshop throughout the year, as well perform works created by Jackie Nowicki, Monique Haley, and multiple capstone pieces created by talented students at Wayne State. Mary aspires to get certified in Mat Pilates, as well as continuing on her path towards her dance career. She is extremely grateful for all she has learned and all the opportunities she has received so far at Wayne and cannot wait to continue her journey.



**Lindsey Sigler** (*Stage Manager*) holds a B.F.A. in Stage Management from the University of North Carolina School of the Arts. She has stage managed for numerous companies such as: The Gateway, Piedmont Opera, Open Dream Ensemble, The Mad Cow, The Young Company, and the Boston Conservatory. She served as a project manager for Stage Rigging Services, a theatrical rigging company that installs fly systems, taught technical theatre to high school students in Birmingham, AL, and spent numerous summers running programs at summer camps.



**Riley Tiarks** (*Dancer, I'm In Here Somewhere*) is excited to continue her dance education through the Spring Dance Concert. She is currently pursuing a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Dance and a Bachelor of Science in Kinesiology. Riley came to Detroit from Columbus, Ohio where she graduated high school. She has spent this semester focusing on not only dance performances, but also in her interest of dance sciences. She sends her love and appreciation to her family, friends, and faculty who have always and continue to support her.

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Heathers, 2019-2020  
Chuk Nowak Photography

