

Theatre & Dance at Wayne

Maggie Allesee Department of Theatre and Dance | College of Fine, Performing, and Communication Arts
Wayne State University | 4841 Cass Ave, Suite 3207

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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World-renowned choreographer Wanjiru Kamuyu to feature unique work at Wayne State University's Hilberry Gateway April 21-23.

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DETROIT – Paris-based choreographer Wanjiru Kamuyu’s evocative and sensorial choreography draws from her experience of migration across three continents — Africa, North America and Europe. This spring, the Maggie Allesee Department of Theatre and Dance at Wayne State University is proud to bring a piece choreographed by Kamuyu to the brand new Hilberry Gateway for its 94th *Annual Spring Dance Concert: On The Horizon*. The concert runs April 21-23.

On international stages, Kamuyu has worked alongside contemporary choreographers including Bill T. Jones, Iréne Tassebedo, Robyn Orlin, Nathalie Pubelier, Stefanie Batten Bland, and Bartabas. She has collaborated with Jérôme Savary (*a la recherche de Joséphine*) and Julie Taymore (*The Lion King*) for musical productions and director Christian Faure (*Fais danser la poussière*) for films. Her dance “Versatile” began a collaboration with French post-modern visual artist Jean-Paul Goude.

A returning guest artist and resident, Kamuyu is no stranger to Wayne State University. Her piece, “At the moment of encounter,” created in collaboration with Wayne State University dance students, was featured in the 2022 *December Dance Concert* and is transforming to fit a new stage for this spring’s dance concert. Kamuyu’s piece features 12 Wayne State dancers and sources inspiration from the Japanese style of Butoh dance. The dancers embark on a meditative journey to feel a pure form of joy. Progressive movement represents a personal, internal exploration of a different universe. This can be seen in specific and articulate movement in the hands, spine, and shoulder blades of the dancers. Set to a soundscape created by Kamuyu herself, the dancers use a collective intuition and awareness to move as one.

Born in Nairobi, Kenya, Kamuyu is currently based in Paris. She earned an M.F.A. from Temple University in Philadelphia after starting her career in New York. Kamuyu develops projects for Middle-Eastern and African refugees with New World Theater in New York City and with Euroculture in France. Currently, she supports an associate company, WKcollective, with France’s Camin Aktion, and she is associate artist at L’Onde in Vélizy, Paris.

Across the globe, Kamuyu teaches master classes and choreography workshops in Europe, North America and Africa. She realized commissions for director Hassane Kassi Kouyaté (*Burkina Faso*), US-based universities including Mills College, Stephens College, Wayne State University,

University of Michigan, and various dance companies. Her works are internationally acclaimed in the United States, France, Italy, Ireland, Burkina Faso, South Africa, Rwanda, and Mozambique.

Kamuyu's world-class choreography takes the STAGE in the Hilberry Gateway in Detroit. Prices start at \$15 for students, \$18 for seniors, Wayne State alumni, faculty and staff, and \$22 for adults. Tickets can be purchased by phone at 313-577-2972, online at theatreanddance.wayne.edu/2022-2023/spring-dance or in-person at the Box Office up to one hour prior to performance time.

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94th Annual Spring Dance Concert: On the Horizon Performance Schedule

- 7:30 p.m. Friday, April 21 (opening performance)
- 7:30 p.m. Saturday, April 22
- 3 p.m. Sunday, April 23 (closing performance)

Wayne State University COVID-19 Policies

Masks are optional but strongly recommended. Visitors no longer need to complete the Wayne State Daily Screener and masks are now optional. Theatre and Dance at Wayne abides by Wayne State COVID-19 protocols to ensure the safest environment for you and our community. Our commitment to your health and safety includes timely updates to university protocols.

About Theatre and Dance at Wayne

Theatre and Dance at Wayne is the producing entity of the Maggie Allesee Department of Theatre and Dance, a department in the College of Fine, Performing and Communication Arts at Wayne State University. The department offers undergraduate and graduate programs in theatre and dance, including a Bachelor of Arts in Theatre; Bachelor of Fine Arts in Theatre with an emphasis in either Performance, Design and Technology, or Stage Management; Bachelor of Science in Dance; Bachelor of Fine Arts in Dance; Master of Fine Arts in Acting, Set Design, Costume Design, Lighting Design, Stage Management, and Theatre Management; Master of Arts in Teaching Artistry; and a Master of Arts in Arts Administration. Minors are available in Africana Theatre and Dance, Theatre Design and Technology, Theatre, Theatre Management, Dance, Community and Studio Dance. Additional information on academic programs can be found at theatreanddance.wayne.edu/

About Wayne State University

Wayne State University is one of the nation's preeminent public research universities in an urban setting. Through its multidisciplinary approach to research and education, and its ongoing collaboration with government, industry and other institutions, the university seeks to enhance economic growth and improve the quality of life in the city of Detroit, state of Michigan and throughout the world. For more information about research at Wayne State University, visit research.wayne.edu/

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