UNION THEATER & DANCE PRESENTS:
WINTER DANCE 2024

BORDERS & BOUNDARIES
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STROBE WARNING:
During the final piece of this concert, there will be a brief moment of strobe-like effects.

Photography, videography, and audio recording are not permitted during this production.
Winter Dance Concert 2024
BORDERS AND BOUNDARIES

Artistic Director
Megan Flynn

Lighting Designer
Drew Bodd

Costume Designer & Production Manager
Brittney Belz

Production Stage Manager
Mackenzie Trowbridge

Assistant Lighting Designer
Ollie Taylor ‘24

Associate Stage Manager
Claire Knecht ‘26

Faculty Choreographers
Hettie Barnhill
Laurie Zabele Cawley
Megan Flynn

Student Choreographers
Rachel Bryan ‘24
Maia Carty ‘24
Eva Crowley ‘24
Sarah Dames ‘24
Adriana Lawton ‘24
Grace Newcombe ‘25
DIRECTOR’S NOTE

Thank you for joining us for this year’s Winter Dance Concert, *Borders & Boundaries* - an evening of original dances choreographed by faculty and students.

When we selected the concert theme last spring, I never could have imagined how relevant and timely of an organizing theme it would be for our community. The 10 unique pieces on the program represent hundreds of hours of choreographic research, and a diverse range of entry points, from the natural world, to the socio-political, to the deeply personal.

Over the past year, some questions that arose included: How do we respond to natural borders versus man-made ones? What defines the edges and limits of a personal boundary in relationships? What are the ways we maneuver around obstacles, alone or with the help of others? The choreographers drew inspiration from star-gazing, childhood memories, feminine expression, power struggles in STEM, Corporate America, and the glass ceilings we place on ourselves. When we create barricades that protect - who is on the inside and who is on the out?

Dance, as a performing art and an academic discipline, creates new knowledge through the body. We problem-solve with others, develop our skills in collaboration, and cultivate empathy for the human condition. As dancers and choreographers, we explore how our bodies engage with new spaces, and ideas. We develop a keen ability to sense and feel the impact of each other’s choices, and physically respond to deepen connection, or initiate change. Dance is such a powerful medium to generate and innovate; to address conflict and engage in meaningful dialogue about difference; and create a more beautiful world.

This year’s Winter Dance Concert features an ensemble of 33 student performers, including the six student choreographers co-enrolled in the *ADA 350: Group Choreography* course. I am so excited to share their work with you tonight!

I am also honored to share the program with two of my faculty colleagues and professional choreographers, Laurie Zabele Cawley and Hettie Barnhill. Their pieces are deeply moving, and demonstrate the immense value of working in a department alongside such generous faculty-artist-scholars, modeling how to collaborate, create, design and produce performance with our students. A very special thank you to Brittney, Drew, Mackenzie and Andrew for their work in mentoring our production and design students as they discover new avenues within the study of Theatre & Dance.

I hope the concert inspires you to explore the perimeter of possibility, too!

Megan Flynn, Artistic Director

*Gustave L. Davis ’59 and Susan S. Davis Director of Dance/Artist-in-Residence*
LIST OF WORKS

Hidden Gems.................................................................Sarah Dames

Invitation (2012).........................................................Laurie Zabele Cawley

Stories of Far Away Places.........................................Rachel Bryan

Snippets of Nostalgia...................................................Adriana Lawton

4l...................................................................................Grace Newcombe

Handle with Care.........................................................Hettie Barnhill
  Additional movement creation by the cast

Lush Echoes.................................................................Maia Carty

Running To Keep Up With Legs Much Longer Than Mine
(For The Record).........................................................Eva Crowley

Signatories......................................................................Megan Flynn
  in collaboration with the dancers

Unseen, Unheard, Unspoken.................................Laurie Zabele Cawley
  in collaboration with the dancers
CONCERT PROGRAM

Hidden Gems
Choreography by Sarah Dames
Music: Motion. and Resonant by Peter Sandberg
Performers: Maia Carty, Ava DuBoff, Lydia Singer, Sage Stinson, Anna Zusi
Stage Manager: Lexi Knowles

Invitation (2012)
Choreography by Laurie Zabele Cawley
Music: Rooftop by Thom Hanreich, La Prima Vez by Traditional Sephardic,
The New World Renaissance Band, Fugata by Astor Piazzola,
Kathryn Stott, Yo-Yo Ma
Performers: Eva Crowley, Sarah DeRosa, Ava DuBoff, Livi Gwinnett,
Grace Newcombe, Alexandra Nicolaus, Lydia Singer,
Sage Stinson, Sarah Dames (understudy)
Stage Manager: Claire Knecht

Stories of Far Away Places
Choreography by Rachel Bryan
Original Music by Aspen Morris ’25
Original Poem written by Rachel Bryan, performed by Ashley Bryan
Performers: Melanie De La Cruz, Sarah DeRosa, Livi Gwinnett,
Morgan Napier, Abby Wilder
Stage Manager: Mackenzie Trowbridge

Simple moments are powerful. My most vivid memories growing up are of sitting on a screened porch on summer nights next to my dad, gazing out into the dark, watching the stars or listening to thunder. We’d take mental snapshots, vowing to ingrain these simple but precious moments into our minds forever. "Stories of Far Away Places" explores the magnetic, comforting, mind-resetting powers of nature. Where do our minds go when the world is perfectly still?
**Snippets of Nostalgia**  
Choreography by Adriana Lawton  
Music: *Kindred* by Kevin Bean  
Performers: Raquel Dueñas, Emily Tobar, Natalie Woodruff  
Stage Manager: Mackenzie Trowbridge

* A bittersweet story of growth and maturing in different directions.

**4!**  
Choreography by Grace Newcombe  
Music: *Peacekeepers* by Dream Cave, *Iron 2021* by Woodkid  
Performers: Eva Crowley, Ava DuBoff, Abby Wilder, Sarah Dames  
*Special thanks to performer Maggie Buckley, for her participation in the creation of this piece.*  
Stage Manager: Maggie Kelley

What happens when women in the STEM field fight for a voice that has been continuously ignored? They support each other, but sometimes the oppressive voices are too loud. Few are heard. It’s up to us to decide if 4, 3, 2, or 1 voice breaks through.  
(***Note: 4! = Four Factorial = 4•3•2•1)
"Handle with Care" by Hettie Barnhill is a choreographic work inspired by a quote from Alice Walker: "The most common way people give up their power is by thinking they don’t have any." This particular quote resonated with me, both as a choreographer and on a personal level, as it echoes the lessons imparted to me by my mother and grandmother. As a Black, queer woman, the concept of power and its manifestation in my life has been a subject of continual reflection and inquiry. This piece serves as both a movement-based dialogue and an exploration of power dynamics, posing the question: Is power inherently negative, or does it simply require careful management and consideration?

Thank you to my family, my cast and to the Union College Theater and Dance Department.

Lush Echoes
Choreography by Maia Carty
Music: Turning Page by Sleeping at Last
Performers: Sarah Dames, Alexandra Nicolaus, Lydia Singer, Sage Stinson, Anna Zusi
Stage Manager: Mackenzie Trowbridge
Running To Keep Up With Legs Much Longer Than Mine (For The Record)
Choreography by Eva Crowley
Melodic arrangement written by Eva Crowley; performed by Travis Crowley (Clarinet), Eva Crowley (Flute), and Jeffrey Crowley (Trombone); piano performed by Travis Crowley
Stage Manager: Thomas Raimo

“Man, they were the golden times, They were the best of my life...And I wish that we could do it again, You guys are the best thing that ever happened to me” -Guys by The 1975. A piece about the joy and magic of childhood. For my best friends in the whole world: my brothers Brian, Travis, and Jeffrey.
Special thanks to Melanie De La Cruz.

Signatories
Choreography by Megan Flynn, in collaboration with the dancers
Performers: Maia Carty, Eva Crowley, Melanie De La Cruz, Sarah DeRosa, Sofia Gray, Livi Gwinnett, Adriana Lawton, Grace Newcombe, Brian Rusk, Emily Tobar
Stage Manager: Spencer Newman

Unseen, Unheard, Unspoken
Choreography by Laurie Zabele Cawley, in collaboration with the dancers
Music: *Fear of Floating* by Daniel Thorne
Performers: Ashlesha Bhagat, Jolita Brettler, Cassie DeGeorge, Melanie De La Cruz, Adriana Lawton, Anthony Montás, Lizzy Paykuss, Anabel Sollinger, Vaishali Srinivasan, Emily Tobar, Jennifer Vil
Stage Manager: Mackenzie Trowbridge
Specialty Lighting Supervisors: Ollie Taylor & Mackenzie Trowbridge

Please note that there will be a brief moment of strobe-like effects during this piece.
FACULTY PRODUCTION TEAM

Hettie Barnhill *(choreographer)* is an Educator, Filmmaker, Director, Choreographer, and founder of 'Create A Space NOW,' a platform leveraging art against bias, racism, and systemic oppression. Her film, "A Love Letter to Brian, Lesley, and Michelle," has earned national and international festival accolades and was honored by the California Senate for its community impact. Her Broadway credits include "Spider-Man Turn Off The Dark," "FELA!" and "Leap Of Faith". Hettie's directorial and choreographic works have been nominated for the New York Innovative Theater Award and Drama Desk Award and include the music video, "Roll The Credits." and live projects "Conversations Embodied Nina Simone and James Baldwin," "Woke- Ness In The Body & Freedom Dance Floors" and Skin|Disordered" Black Theater Troupe Upstate New York's "Skeleton Crew" NY. "This Is Me" for the Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival, and "Now Look!" at La Mama Umbria International in Spoleto, Italy. Hettie graduated from Columbia College Chicago and received her MFA from Goddard College. Hettie has been honored by the NAACP's "Top 21 Leaders 40 & Under" in Arts & Culture and The Shirley Chisholm "Women Of Excellence," and teach in the Theater and Dance here at Union College. Visit HettieBarnhill.com for more.

Brittney Belz *(costume designer & production manager)* Brittney's work has been seen in theaters across the country from Alaska to Vermont. Local design credits include The Hobbit and The Last Wide Open with Adirondack Theater Festival; 6 seasons with Saratoga Shakespeare Company, including last season's Twelfth Night; the world premiere of Lady Randy with WAM Theatre; and several productions, including Things I Know to be True and Mr. Fullerton which won the Berkshire award for costume design with Great Barrington Public Theatre. She is also active with local museums giving educational talks and constructing recreations of historic clothing items for display and performance. Prior to designing regionally, she spent 6 seasons building costumes for the Glimmerglass (Opera) Festival in Cooperstown, NY. She is the Faculty Costume Designer at Union College where she focuses on both historic clothing research and theatrical design. She holds an MFA in Costume Design & Technology from the University of Virginia.

Andrew Robert Bodd [Drew] *(lighting designer)* is the Technical Director here at Union College’s Department of Theatre & Dance. From 2014-2019, he had been the Technical Director, in Morristown New Jersey, at Delbarton School’s Department of Performing Arts. Prior to Delbarton, he has served appointments at Ithaca College’s Department of Theatre Arts in spring of 2014, and Production Manager, Technical Director, and Stage Properties Manager at SUNY at Albany’s Theatre Department during the 2011-2012 academic year. Andrew earned his Master’s of Fine Arts degree, in Technical Direction, from North Carolina School of the Arts in 2011 and his Bachelor’s Degree from Ithaca College in 2002. He has worked over the past 20 years at BESTEK Lighting & Staging, in NYC, performing such duties as, Carpentry Department Head, Electric’s Shop Foreman, Scenic Painter, Rigger, and On-Site Crew Chief. Also, Andrew has worked for such Theaters as Ithaca’s Hangar Theatre, as the Technical Director, from the 2012-2017 seasons, as Props Master at the Hangar Theatre, in 2018, as the Assistant Technical Director, at Utah Shakespearean Festival, as the Assistant Technical Director of The Adam’s Theatre, and at North Carolina Shakespeare Festival, as a Carpenter, Rigger and Welder for the 2009 and 2010 seasons.
FACULTY PRODUCTION TEAM

**Laurie Zabele Cawley** *(choreographer)* currently serves as the Lecturer and Assistant Director of Dance at Union College, with over 35 years of experience in performance, choreography, and dance education. She has performed with esteemed dance companies such as Whitley Setrakian and Dancers-People Dancing, Eisenhower Dance Ensemble, Harbinger Dance Company, Ann Arbor Dance Works, and 2 Duet Theater. Additionally, she has collaborated extensively with independent artists and taught nationally and internationally in academia, conservatories, residencies, and workshops. Laurie's choreographic works across her career embody her distinctive artistic vision and innovative approach to movement. In 2013, she founded the multigenerational Loose Change Dance Collective with a mission to challenge conventional perceptions of dancers. The collective has performed in notable venues across cities such as NYC, Rochester, Brooklyn, Geneva, and throughout the capital region. As Artistic Director she has devised full-length productions, including "Interplay," "Tides of Magnets," and "She Said", alongside festival and commission work. Laurie's dedication to fostering collaboration extends globally, with a particular focus on empowering women artists, and productions like "Women, Work, Force" have brought together dancers from Detroit, Seville, and NYC.

**Megan Flynn** *(artistic director, choreographer)* is the Gustave L. Davis ’59 and Susan S. Davis Director of Dance/Artist-in-Residence at Union College. She earned her MFA in Dance from the University of California-Irvine; Professional Diploma in Dance Studies from Trinity Laban Conservatoire of Music & Dance in London; and BFA in Dance, *summa cum laude*, from Tulane University. Her choreography has been presented across the US and abroad, including: FringeArts at the Reading Terminal Market, Philadelphia Fringe Festival, Koresh Artist Showcase, Come Together Dance Festival, and Muhlenberg College (PA); Delaware Art Museum (DE); Cincinnati Fringe Festival (OH); Built on Stilts (MA); 30-30-30 at Dixon Place, Earl Mosley’s Institute of the Arts, and Choreography on the Edge (NY); The Dragon’s Egg (CT); UCIrvine’s xMPL Theater, and Claire Trevor Theater (CA); ATLAS/ImPulsTanz: Vienna International Dance Festival (Austria); Bonnie Bird Theatre (England); Edinburgh Fringe Festival with the Union Dance Program (Scotland); and site-specific locations in southern Spain. As a dancer, she performed with David Parker & The Bang Group, Eliza Miller Dance, and Kathy Westwater (NYC); Jimena Bermejo, and Nicole Pierce/EgoArt, Inc. (Boston). She continues to create and perform as the artistic director of the Megan Flynn Dance Company (Philadelphia), and as a member of The NADINE Project, a choreographic collective based in New England, under the direction of Janet Soares and Libby Nye.  

**Mackenzie Trowbridge** *(production stage manager & sound coordinator)* is a freelance stage manager, production manager, and dog walking extraordinaire! She typically resides in Queens in New York City, but spends her winter seasons here at Union as an adjunct professor, teaching Stage Management. She also serves as the Company Manager for The Golden Gays Drag Troupe and works as a virtual assistant with YPI Summer Camp, where she teaches musical theater each August to kids ages 10 -18. Mackenzie has been the resident Production Stage Manager for Adelphi University’s Department of Dance since the fall of 2015, a position which has given her the opportunity to call pieces by many choreographers, including Martha Graham, Lar Lubovitch, Aszure Barton, Takehiro Ueyama, Mark Morris, Earl Mosley, Larry Keigwin, Murray Louis, Doug Varone and more. She recently joined The Ailey School as a staff stage manager where she works with all levels of Ailey School students, from the Junior Division to collegiate-aged Certificate Program Graduates. Broadway credits include work as a props assistant on *Dangerous Liaisons* and *The Babylon Line* (2016), and *The King and I* (2018). Regional theatrical credits include work with La Mama, The Hangar Theater Company, NY Stage and Film, ArcStages, The Argyle Theatre, Ma-Yi Theater Company and many more. BFA Graduate of Adelphi University’s Dept. of Theatre (2016). Proud Member of Actor’s Equity Association.
Zoe Amram ('26)
Forest Hills, NY
Major: Psychology
Minor: Political Science

Ashlesha Bhagat ('26)
Kolkata, India
Majors: Computer Science & Studio Arts
Minor: Seward

Jolita Brettler ('25)
East Harlem, NY
Major: Theater
Minors: Visual Arts & Dance

Rachel Bryan ('24)*
Hudson, MA
Major: Geoscience
Minor: Spanish

Maggie Buckley ('27)
Plymouth, MA
Major: Biomedical Engineering
Minor: Dance

Maia Carty ('24)*
Providence, RI
Major: Environmental Science
Minor: Mechanical Engineering & Dance

Eva Crowley ('24)*
Croton-on-Hudson, NY
Major: Physics
Minors: Astrophysics & Dance

Sarah Dames ('24)*
Westchester, NY
Majors: Mathematics & Sociology
Minors: Data Analytics & Dance

Melanie De La Cruz ('26)
Tampa, FL
Majors: Political Science & Theater
Minor: Dance

Cassie DeGeorge ('26)
Middletown, NJ
Major: English
Minor: History

Sarah DeRosa ('25)
Barrington, RI
Major: Neuroscience
Minor: Dance

Mahek Desai ('24)
Parsippany, NJ
Majors: Biology & Sociology

Ava Duboff ('26)
Saratoga Springs, NY
Major: Environmental Science
Minors: Dance, Classics

Raquel Dueñas ('25)
Ojai, CA
Major: Chemistry
Minor: Spanish

Sofia Gray ('27)
Schenectady, NY
Major: Economics
Minor: Dance

Livi Gвинnett ('25)
Greensboro, NC
Majors: Math & Computer Engineering
Minor: Cryptography

Anthony Montás ('26)
Boston, MA
Major: Psychology
Minors: Theater & Gender Sexuality and Women’s Studies
PERFORMERS & STUDENT CHOREOGRAPHERS*

Morgan Napier ('25)
Syracuse, NY
Major: Biomedical Engineering

Grace Newcombe ('25)*
Cortlandt Manor, NY
Major: Mathematics
Minor: Dance

Alexandra Nicolaus ('24)
Ballston Spa, NY
Major: Biomedical Engineering
Minors: Electrical Engineering & Mathematics

Adriana Lawton ('24)*
Niskayuna, NY
Major: Psychology
Minors: Spanish & Dance

Lizzy Paykuss ('26)
Arlington, MA
Major: Psychology
Minor: Computer Science

Alicia Rose ('27)
Boston, MA
Major: Political Science
Minor: Philosophy

Brian Rusk ('25)
Sykesville, MD
Major: Theater

Lydia Singer ('24)
Sharon, MA
Majors: Anthropology, French, & Francophone Studies

Anabel Sollinger ('25)
Weston, CT
Major: Political Science
Minor: Dance

Vaishali Srinivasan ('25)
Frisco, TX
Major: Biology & Philosophy
Minor: Dance

Sage Stinson ('25)
Palatine Bridge, NY
Major: Psychology
Minor: Dance & Anthropology

Emily Tobar ('27)
Houston, TX
Major: Political Science, Spanish, & Hispanic Studies
Minor: Dance

Jennifer Vil ('26)
Dover, DE
Majors: Pre-Med and Spanish

Abby Wilder ('25)
Ithaca, NY
Majors: Math & Sociology
Minor: Data Analytics

Natalie Woodruff ('27)
Key West, FL
Major: Psychology

Anna Zusi ('26)
Northampton, MA
Major: Neuroscience
STAGE MANAGEMENT & CREW

Victoria Avon (’24)
Cortlandt Manor, NY
Majors: Biology & Psychology
Minor: Theater

Robert “Eli” Coleman (’24)
East Greenwich, RI
Major: Theater

Claire Knecht (’26)
Wilmington, NC
Major: Psychology
Minor: Gender, Sexuality and Women’s Studies

Alexandra Knowles (’27)
Pawling, NY
Major: Mechanical Engineering
Minor: Theater

Maggie Kelley (’24)
Wenham, MA
Majors: Theater and English
Minor: Computer Science

Spencer Newman (’25)
Santa Monica, CA
Major: Theater

Thomas Raimo (’24)
Ballston Spa, NY
Majors: Neuroscience & Theater

Sasha Stark (’25)
West Chester, PA
Major: Biochemistry
Minor: Theater

Ollie Taylor (’24)
Chapel Hill, NC
Majors: Classics & Computer Science
Minor: Theater

Armaan Uppal (’26)
Ellicott City, MD
Majors: Chemistry and Classics
PRODUCTION COLLABORATORS

Costume Shop Supervisor......................................................... Brittney Belz
Technical Director...............................................................Drew Bodd
Scene Shop Supervisor........................................................... Robin MacDuffie
Projections Consultant.........................................................Andrew Mannion
Sound Coordinators......................Armaan Uppal & Mackenzie Trowbridge
Costume Shop Assistant & First Hand...............Sarah Goethe-Jones
Performance Photography & Videography............ Ryota Matsue
Dressers.................................................................Sasha Stark & Victoria Avon
Assistant Lighting Designer & Programmer.............. Ollie Taylor
Light Board Operator.........................................................Lexi Knowles
Sound Operator.............................................................Robert “Eli” Coleman
Deck Stage Managers..................Spencer Newman, Maggie Kelley, Thomas Raimo
Student Calling Stage Managers............Maggie Kelley, Lexi Knowles, Spencer Newman, Thomas Raimo

Graphic Designer..........................................................Andrew Mannion
Box Office Team............................................................Brendan Cullen & Aldo Leal
House Manager.............................................................Naomi Goldsmith

Light Hang & Focus Team ..........................ATH-117: Lighting Design
Andrew Barton, Eugene D’Amico, Wyatt Gehman, Vic Lucontoni,
Phuong Nguyen, Brian Rusk, Samiratou Sanga, Asher Zive

Work Study (Dance).........................Eva Crowley, Mel De La Cruz, Grace Newcombe

Work Study (Scene Shop)..........................Jerome Anderson, Victoria Avon,
Zach Dickinson, Lexi Knowles, Eli Valore-Caplan

Work Study (Costume Shop).........Dana Aument, Elaine Du, Evelyn Mallory,
Emmett Suh, Christian Thompson,
Ysobel Thompson, Jennifer Vil


DEPARTMENT OF THEATER & DANCE
FACULTY & STAFF

Omonike Akinyemi - Adjunct Instructor, Dance
Hettie Vyrine Barnhill - Adjunct Instructor, Theater & Dance
Brittney Belz - Interim Department Chair, Costume Designer, Production Manager
Cheryl Black - Visiting Assistant Professor, Theatre
Drew Bodd - Technical Director & Lighting Designer
Laurie Zabele Cawley - Assistant Director of Dance, Lecturer
Megan Flynn - Gustave L. Davis '59 and Susan S. Davis Director of Dance, Artist-in-Residence
Brenna Geffers - Adjunct Instructor, Theater
Christine Geren - Adjunct Instructor, Dance
Charlie Jones - Office Assistant
Jorge Luna - Adjunct Instructor, Theater
Robin MacDuffie - Scene Shop Technician
Andrew Mannion - Senior Lecturer, Scene Designer
Freddy Ramirez - Adjunct Instructor, Dance
Victoria Rotondi - Arts Department Coordinator
Mackenzie Trowbridge - Adjunct Instructor, Stage Management
Dan Venning - Associate Professor, Theatre
Patricia Culbert - Professor Emerita, Theater & Dance faculty 1997-2019
William A. Finlay - Professor Emeritus, Chair of Theater & Dance 1994-2019
Miryam Moutillet - Professor Emerita, Gustave L. Davis '59 and Susan S. Davis Director of Dance, Senior Artist-in-Residence Dance 1996-99, 2001-22
Charles Steckler - Professor Emeritus, The Dwane W. Crichton Professor of Theater, Stage Designer
SPECIAL THANKS

Charlie Jones
Ryota Matsue
Dr. Gus & Sue Davis
Mr. and Mrs. David L. Henle
Dr. Frank A. Pepe - in memoriam
Stephanie C. Davis Dance Residency
Gail & Carl George Annual Fund

We acknowledge that we live, work, and study at Union College on the traditional homelands that were originally peopled by the Iroquois Confederacy, including the Cayuga, Mohawk, Oneida, Onondaga, Seneca, Haudenosaunee (The People of the Longhouse), and other tribes. What we call Schenectady is a Dutch version of a Mohawk word skahnéhtati, meaning 'The Place Beyond the Pines.' As a College, we honor the land itself with gratitude and acknowledge the people who have stewarded the land throughout the ages.
Union Theater & Dance: Coming Soon!

Spring 2024

Steinmetz Dance Festival
May 10th

Intimate Afternoon with Dancers: WDC Viewing Party
May 17th

Dance Experience Showcase
May 24th

You on the Moors Now
by Jaclyn Backhaus, directed by Jasmine Roth
May 29th-June 2nd