

UNION COLLEGE
DEPARTMENT
OF THEATER
AND DANCE

ON THE EDGE

WINTER DANCE
CONCERT 2026



This production has an estimated run time of 70 minutes, with no intermission.

House lights will come up in between each piece to allow for conversations about what you have seen, and to view what is next in the program.

We ask that you remain seated for the duration of the concert. Late seating will be at the discretion of the Front of House Manager.

The piece titled *How Did We Get Here?* contains flickering images and recorded content that some viewers may find disturbing.

The final piece, titled *Beneath The Noise* contains strobe lighting effects.

If you would like to donate in support of the Dance Program beyond the price of your ticket, please scan the QR Code. Make sure to indicate "Dance Program" in the Designation field.



Photography, videography, and audio recording are not permitted during this production.

Thank you for your understanding.

Winter Dance Concert 2026

ON THE EDGE

Artistic Director

Laurie Zabele Cawley

Faculty Choreographers

Laurie Zabele Cawley & Jasmine Roth '14

Guest Choreographer

Stephanie Pizzo

Production Stage Manager & Sound Designer

Mackenzie Trowbridge

Costume Designer & Production Manager

Brittney Belz

Lighting & Projections Designer

Travis Richardson

Student Choreographers

Ashlesha Bhagat '26

Melanie De La Cruz '26

Ava DuBoff '26

Victoria Lucontoni '26

Anthony Montás '26

Jennifer Vil '26

Associate Stage Managers

Claire Knecht '26

Seo Chutaro '27

Associate Lighting Designer

Phoebe Ferguson '27

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

On the Edge grew from a question I find myself returning to again and again: what does it mean to create in times of uncertainty, urgency, and change? The edge is often where risk and vulnerability live, but it is also where clarity, courage, and new possibility begin to emerge. To stand at the edge requires presence. It asks us to listen more closely, to trust what we do not yet fully understand, and to remain open to transformation. This concert is an invitation to enter that space together, to witness, to reflect, and to discover what might be waiting there.

Working with this group of student choreographers, Ashlesha Bhagat '26, Melanie De La Cruz '26, Ava DuBoff '26, Victoria Lucontoni '26, Anthony Montás '26, and Jennifer Vil '26 has been deeply meaningful. Their willingness to be vulnerable, to ask questions, and to trust their own artistic instincts has been a powerful reminder of why this work matters. Their capstone pieces, rooted in research, lived experience, and curiosity, reflect artists coming into their own voices. Their enthusiasm and commitment have helped cultivate a creative space defined not only by rigor, but also by joy, connection, and shared purpose.

This program is further enriched by new works from Visiting Assistant Professor of Theater and Dance Jasmine Roth '14 and myself, alongside a piece by guest artist Stephanie Pizzo, Artistic Director of Eisenhower Dance Detroit and our 2024 Stephanie C. Davis Resident Artist. Jasmine, a Union alumna who majored in Theater and minored in Dance, returns with the insight and perspective shaped by her continued artistic journey, offering students a meaningful example of growth over time. To share space with artists at different stages of their paths creates a continuum of learning and exchange, one that honors both where these artists are and where they are still becoming. In a time when connection and creative expression feel especially vital, this exchange across experience has been grounding, energizing and full of hope.

I am deeply grateful to the designers and production team whose care, imagination, and expertise make it possible for these works to fully unfold. Heartfelt thanks to Brittney Belz, Costume Designer & Production Manager; Mackenzie Trowbridge, Stage Manager & Sound Designer; Travis Richardson, Lighting & Video Designer; and Drew Bodd, Technical Director. Together with their dedicated student crews, they create the environment that holds and supports this work, shaping the visual and sensory world that allows these pieces to be seen, heard, and felt in their fullest form.

I am extremely grateful to the dancers, whose commitment and generosity brought these works to life. Their countless hours in Henle and Yulman spaces were filled with challenge, discovery, trust, and growth. They showed up fully for one another, expanding not only their technical capacities, but also their depth as artists and collaborators. Through their effort they breathe life into each moment on stage, carrying the choreographers' visions forward with honesty and care.

Finally, thank you to the audiences who chose to be here. Your presence completes this circle of exchange. My hope is that *On the Edge* offers space to reflect, to feel, and perhaps to recognize something of yourself within the work—and that what you encounter here stays with you long after the performance ends.

Laurie Zabele Cawley

LIST OF WORKS

Tracing the Echo.....Stephanie Pizzo

Let The Caged Bird Sing.....Anthony Montás

time / Frame.....Jennifer Vil

*With Love and Yearning, Us,
and Our Respectful Angst*.....Melanie De La Cruz

Warped Connections.....Victoria Lucontoni

Worldview.....Ava DuBoff

How Did We Get Here?.....Jasmine Roth

Towards Flight.....Jasmine Roth

Familiar Anomaly.....Ashlesha Bhagat

Transformation.....Emily Tobar & Laurie Zabele Cawley

Beneath the Noise.....Laurie Zabele Cawley

CONCERT PROGRAM

Tracing the Echo

Choreography by Stephanie Pizzo

Rehearsal Directors: Anthony Montás & Laurie Zabele Cawley

Music: *In Threes* by Loscil and *120 Million* by Chris Benstead

Performers: Riley Belkin, Melanie De La Cruz, Ava DuBoff, Paige Fox, Diego Fuentes-Alvarado, Tremaine Richardson

Understudy: Anthony Montás

Stage Manager: Seo Chutaro

Lighting Design by Travis Richardson

Is belonging the act of blending in, or the courage to remain distinct while standing side by side...

Let The Caged Bird Sing

Choreography by Anthony Montás

Music: *My Queen is Albertina Sisulu* by Sons of Kemet

Performers: Aaron Armstrong, Lizzy Cardenas, Tremaine Richardson, Jennifer Vil

Stage Manager: Kyra Kelly

Lighting Design by Phoebe Ferguson

As social media has become the most popular platform for current events occurring around the globe, I feel we as a community have become desensitized to the true devastation and heartbreak that is shown on our screens. This piece aims to show a world where sunshine and rainbows are just the tools used by those in power to distract from the truth.

time / Frame

Choreography by Jennifer Vil

Music: *Mazoun* by Jeff Pierre, *Tribal Dances Music* by African Tribal Drums, *Cherokee Pow Wow Drums* by Drums of the World

Sound Mixing by Mackenzie Trowbridge

Performers: Adelaide Dieden, Anthony Montás, Alicia Rose

Stage Manager: Maple Smith

Lighting Design by Travis Richardson

I created this piece as a physical expression of the internal conflict I experience when reflecting on the decisions I have made and am making in my life. Do I hold onto the past and let history repeat itself? Or, do I move past those shames and fears and allow myself to imagine something, someone, better? What future do I have to look forward to?

I would like to acknowledge the Cherokee people and their rhythms that have helped support the story of my piece.

CONCERT PROGRAM

With Love and Yearning, Us, and Our Respectful Angst

Choreography by Melanie De La Cruz, in collaboration with the dancers

Music: *engine of justice* by *mobygratis* music; *original composition & accompaniment* by Jack Gold '27; *voice overs* by Thomas Raimo, Joseph Ladacouer, Hades Panlilio, Delilah Keyes, Cassie DeGeorge, Aaron Armstrong, Simon Meisel, Rafael Lyrio

Spoken Word Section edited by Mackenzie Trowbridge

Performers: Riley Belkin, Ava DuBoff, Tremaine Richardson, Merari Rios Tovar, Emily Tobar

Stage Manager: Mackenzie Trowbridge

Lighting Design by Phoebe Ferguson

*To the listeners and the critics,
We didn't start the fire, how do we put it out?
We need your stories, and you need ours.*

Warped Connections

Choreography by Victoria Lucontoni

Music: *Laughing Dolphin* by Tomas Novoa & *I Am Not Ready* by SouravDasIX011

Sound Editing by Grace Newcombe

Performers: Jerome Anderson, Riley Belkin, Audrey Langlois, Hades Panlilio

Stage Manager: Seo Chutaro

Lighting Designer: Travis Richardson

"Warped Connection" explores how choosing joy creates a path through adverse moments in life, leading to deeper connections with those along for the journey.

Worldview

Choreography by Ava DuBoff

Original Music by Robert DuBoff

Performers: Melanie De La Cruz, Hailey Dunn, Claire Knecht, Anthony Montás, Anna Zusi

Stage Manager: Lily Cunningham

Lighting Design by Phoebe Ferguson

"Worldview" is a response to the current climate crisis and the experience of ecological related grief, as we witness our earth burning, crumbling, falling through our fingertips.

CONCERT PROGRAM

How Did We Get Here?

Choreography by Jasmine Roth

Music: *Let My Key Be C* by Nils Frahm & Anne Müller, with added text written and performed by the dancers

Spoken Word Section edited by Mackenzie Trowbridge

Performers: Lizzy Cardenas, Melanie De La Cruz, Ava DuBoff, Paige Fox, Ilana Goldner, Isabelle Gonzalez, Ashlynn Luong, Ainsley Moore, Jennifer Vil

Stage Manager: Kyra Kelly

Lighting Design by Travis Richardson

How did we get here? And is it possible to change directions? to walk away from this edge? Is it helpful to look back to look forward? I gave the dancers a series of prompts about the edges we're collectively experiencing right now, with society, with politics, and with the planet and used those words as part of creating this piece.

Towards Flight

Choreography by Jasmine Roth

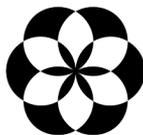
Music: *Motion* by Peter Sandberg

Performer: Ashlesha Bhagat

Stage Manager: Maya Wines

Lighting Design by Travis Richardson

We wanted to explore the feeling of moments in life, or edges, that feel deeply terrifying yet somehow, somehow end up being exactly what you need. Are you actually going to fall off of that cliff, or have you just not realized yet that you have the ability to fly? What does it take to walk through a threshold that divides the known from the unknown?



CONCERT PROGRAM

Familiar Anomaly

Choreography by Ashlesha Bhagat

Music: *Iktara (Instrumental Version)* by Amit Trivedi, Kavita Seth, Amitabh

Bhattacharya & Futari no Kimochi and Hiunno miko Kikyo by Kaoru Wada

Sound Editing by Ashlesha Bhagat, Avery Byron, and Mackenzie Trowbridge

Performers: Aaron Armstrong, Cassie DeGeorge, Alicia Rose

Stage Manager: Mackenzie Trowbridge

Lighting Designer: Travis Richardson

When familiar surroundings change, what once felt grounded can begin to fall apart. "Familiar Anomaly" examines the experience of cultural displacement and adaptation through movement. Through moments of fracture, connection, and adaptation, the dancers transform inherited movement into something personal.

I would like to acknowledge my cultural experiences in India and Japan that have inspired this piece.

Transformation

Choreography by Emily Tobar & Laurie Zabele Cawley

Music: *Bari Improv* by Kaki King

Performer: Emily Tobar

Stage Manager: Seo Chutaro

Lighting Design by Phoebe Ferguson

This piece was inspired by American choreographer Loie Fuller (1862–1928), who was known for her groundbreaking fusion of dance, fabric, and light.

Beneath the Noise

Choreography by Laurie Zabele Cawley

Music: *It's So Good* by Jamie xx and *Contact* by Christophe Filippi

Performers: Melanie De La Cruz, Ava DuBoff, Hailey Dunn, Paige Fox, Evelyn

Jacobsen, Claire Knecht, Audrey Langlois, Anthony Montás, Lizzy Paykuss

Stage Manager: Mackenzie Trowbridge

Lighting Design by Travis Richardson

CHOREOGRAPHERS



Ashlesha Bhagat '26



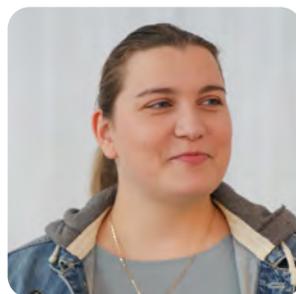
Laurie Zabele Cawley



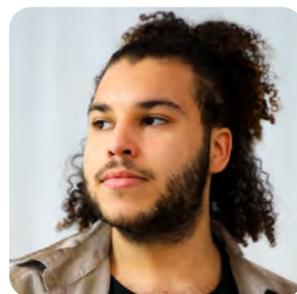
Melanie De La Cruz '26



Ava DuBoff '26



Victoria Lucontoni '26



Anthony Montás '26



Stephanie Pizzo



Jasmine Roth '14



Jennifer Vil '26

GUEST ARTISTS

Eisenhower Dance Detroit Artistic Director **Stephanie Pizzo**, joined the company as a founding member in 1991. At various points in her dance career with EDD, she served as Resident Choreographer, Associate Artistic Director, and Co-Artistic Director. Ms. Pizzo now leads the company into her 7th season as Artistic Director. She focuses on collaborating with the highest quality national and international artists and creating strong ties within the metro Detroit community through the art of dance. Her dance for film work, *The Five Tangos*, inspired by the music of Astor Piazzolla and created in collaboration with the Detroit Institute of Art and Zazu Creative Studio, was selected as the winner of BEST EXPERIMENTAL film, 2022 Dancecentric Film Festival (Florida); semi-finalist, 2022 Inspired Dance Film Festival (Australia); and featured online in Dance Magazine's "Friday Film Break."

Ms. Pizzo also believes in educational programming and youth mentorship as key tools to develop community connection. She works to use the art of contemporary dance both as a means to present beautiful, athletic, and engaging repertory and as a vehicle to reflect on and explore issues of social significance. She has set her choreography at Illinois State University, Texas A&M University, Texas Christian University, and Wesleyan University, along with having staged numerous works by Laurie Eisenhower on companies and universities throughout the United States. Her work has been presented in Tel Aviv as part of Eisenhower Dance Detroit's production of *The Light Show*, at international dance festivals in Poland, and the *Inside/Out Stage* at Jacob's Pillow. A native of Clinton Township, Michigan, Ms. Pizzo holds a Bachelor of Arts in Dance from Oakland University. In 2009, she received a Distinguished Alumni or "MaTiLda" award from the Department of Music, Theatre and Dance. She served as a special lecturer in dance at Oakland University for 12 years.

GUEST ARTISTS

Mackenzie Trowbridge (*production stage manager & sound designer*) is a freelance stage manager, production manager, and dog walker extraordinaire! She typically resides in Queens, New York, but spends her winter seasons here at Union as an adjunct professor, teaching Stage Management. This is Mackenzie's fifth Winter Dance Concert. Other Union College productions include Sound Design for the Dept of Theater's production of WITCH last year.

Mackenzie works as a virtual assistant with YPI Summer Camp, where she teaches musical theater each August to kids ages 10–18. She 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, and more. She freelances with The Ailey School as a staff stage manager, working with all levels of Ailey students, from the Junior Division, to collegiate-aged Certificate Program Graduates, to the Ailey Extension program.

Broadway credits include work as a props assistant on *Les Liaisons Dangereuses*, *The Babylon Line*, and *The King and I*. Regional theatrical credits include 10 years at the Hangar Theater Company, along with credits from La Mama, NY Stage and Film, ArcStages, The Argyle Theatre, Ma-Yi Theater Company and many more. Served as the Company Manager for The Golden Gays Drag Troupe. Production management experience with the Hangar Theater Company and Flux Theater Ensemble.

BFA Graduate of Adelphi University's Dept. of Theatre (2016). Proud Member of Actor's Equity Association. www.mtrowbridgesm.com

PERFORMERS & STUDENT CHOREOGRAPHERS*

Jerome Anderson ('26)
Chicago, IL
Majors: Psychology & Theater

Aaron Armstrong ('28)
Minneapolis, MN
Major: English / Theater ID
Minor: Seward: Education

Riley Belkin ('28)
Austin, TX
Major: Biology
Minor: Dance

Ashlesha Bhagat ('26)*
Kolkata, India
Majors: Computer Science &
Visual Arts
Minor: Seward: Creative Expressions

Lizzy Cardenas ('28)
Houston, TX
Majors: Geoscience & Spanish
Minor: Dance

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

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

Adelaide Dieden ('29)
The Woodlands, TX
Major: Neuroscience
Minors: French, Dance

Ava DuBoff ('26)*
Saratoga Springs, NY
Major: Environmental Science
Minors: Dance, Classic Civilizations

Hailey Dunn ('28)
Worcester, MA
Major: Neuroscience
Minor: Dance

Paige Fox ('27)
Salem, MA
Major: Theater
Minor: Dance

Diego Fuentes-Alvarado ('29)
San Diego, CA
Major: Physics
Minor: Music Technology

Ilana Goldner ('26)
East Meadow, NY
Major: Environmental Science

Isabelle Gonzalez ('29)
Hell's Kitchen, NY
Major: Undecided

Evelyn Jacobsen ('27)
Kirkwood, PA
Major: Biology
Minor: Visual Arts

Claire Knecht ('26)
Wilmington, NC
Majors: Psychology & Gender,
Sexuality, and Women's Studies

PERFORMERS & STUDENT CHOREOGRAPHERS*

Audrey Langlois ('28)
Chazy, NY
Major: Biomedical Engineering
Minor: Dance

Tremaine Richardson ('26)
Moore, SC
Majors: Electrical Engineering &
Mathematics

Victoria Lucontoni ('26)*
Concord, MA
Major: Theater
Minor: Dance

Merari Rios Tovar ('26)
Wilmington, DE
Majors: Political Science & Spanish ID

Ashlynn Luong ('28)
Hanoi, Vietnam
Major: Psychology

Alicia Rose ('27)
Boston, MA
Majors: Political Science & Philosophy
Minor: Dance

Anthony Montás ('26)*
Boston, MA
Majors: Psychology & Theater ID
Minors: Dance & Gender, Sexuality,
and Women's Studies

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

Ainsley Moore ('29)
Salt Lake City, UT
Majors: Mathematics & Sociology
Minor: Dance

Jennifer Vil ('26)*
Dover, DE
Major: Spanish
Minors: French, Dance

Hades Panlilio ('26)
West Hatfield, MA
Major: Computer Science
Minor: French

Anna Zusi ('26)
Northampton, MA
Major: Neuroscience
Minor: Data Analytics

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

STAGE MANAGEMENT & CREW

Seo Chutaro ('27)

Honolulu, HI

Majors: Theater & History
Minors: Political Science &
Law and Humanities

Claire Knecht ('26)

Wilmington, NC

Major: Psychology & Gender,
Sexuality, and Women's Studies

Lily Cunningham ('27)

Annapolis, MD

Majors: Biomedical Engineering
& Theater

Lexi Knowles ('27)

Pawling, NY

Majors: Mechanical Engineering
& Theater

Phoebe Ferguson ('27)

Kingston, RI

Majors: Theater & Visual Arts

Any Landi ('27)

The Bronx, NY

Major: Psychology
Minors: Creative Writing &
Theater

Isa Gonzalez ('28)

Boston, MA

Major: Theater
Minor: Religious Studies

Maple Smith ('28)

Alexandria, VA

Majors: Environmental Policy &
Theater

Kyra Kelly ('27)

Saratoga Springs, NY

Major: Theater
Minors: Studio Art & Computer Science

Maya Wines ('27)

Watertown, NY

Major: Theater

PRODUCTION COLLABORATORS

Costume Shop Supervisor.....	Brittney Belz
Technical Director.....	Drew Bodd
Scene Shop Supervisor.....	Kevin Miller
Costume Shop Assistant.....	Sarah Goethe-Jones
Performance Videography.....	Sean Junda
Production Photography.....	Paul Buckowski
Wardrobe Crew.....	Anya Landi
Sound Operator.....	Maya Wines
Deck Stage Managers.....	Lexi Knowles, Isa Gonzalez
Student Calling Stage Managers.....	Lily Cunningham, Kyra Kelly, Maple Smith, Maya Wines
Graphic Designer.....	Carlos E. Martínez
Program Designer.....	Mackenzie Trowbridge
Box Office Team.....	Brittney Belz, Emmett Suh, Lorna Ly
Publicity & Promotional Support.....	Charlie Jones
House Manager.....	Gohar Shehzad
Work Study (Dance).....	Melanie De La Cruz, Isabella Rossi, Emily Tobar
Work Study (Scene Shop).....	Taleeya Albright, Jerome Anderson, Meyri De Leon Arias, Zach Dickinson, Jasper Geer, Lexi Knowles, Maple Smith, Alyssa Steel, Holden Talluto-Hiris, Regan Roitz
Work Study (Costume Shop).....	Dana Aument, Lily Cunningham, Melanie Thomas-Denaxas, Elianny Evangelista, Izabella Hartmann, Danielle Gesser Sapir
Work Study (Lighting Department).....	Alexandra Belliard, Joey Cerulli, Sean Driscoll, Janelle Otoo-Appiah

DEPARTMENT OF THEATER & DANCE FACULTY & STAFF

Omonike Akinyemi - Adjunct Instructor of Flamenco

Hettie Vyrine Barnhill - Adjunct Instructor of Afro-Dance & Hip Hop

Brittney Belz - Department Chair, Senior Lecturer of Costume Design,
& Costume Shop Supervisor

Drew Bodd - Lecturer, Technical Director, Sound Supervisor

Laurie Zabele Cawley - Gustave L. Davis '59 & Susan S. Davis
Director of Dance, Lecturer

Kim Engel - Stephanie C. Davis Dance Residency Coordinator

Christine Geren - Adjunct Instructor of Ballet & Pilates

Sarah Goethe-Jones - Costume Shop Assistant

Charlie Jones - Publicity and Promotion Support

Jessica Lubin - Adjunct Instructor of Silks

Kevin Miller - Scene Shop Supervisor

Gabriel Thom Pasculli - Lecturer of Performance & Directing, Co-Director of Musical
Theater & Vocal Performance Minor

Freddy Ramirez - Adjunct Instructor of Jazz, Tap, Broadway Dance, & Latin Dance

Travis Richardson - Lecturer of Lighting & Projection Design, Lighting Supervisor

Jasmine Roth '14 - Visiting Assistant Professor of Performance & Directing

Victoria Rotondi - Arts Department Coordinator

Mackenzie Trowbridge - Adjunct Instructor of Stage Management

Dan Venning - Associate Professor of Dramatic Literature,
Theatre History & Performance Criticism

Patricia Culbert - Senior Artist-in-Residence Emerita of Theater & Dance
1997-2019

William A. Finlay - Professor Emeritus, Chair of Theater & Dance
1994-2019

Miryam Moutillet - *Gustave L. Davis '59 and Susan S. Davis* Director of the Dance
Program, Senior Artist-in-Residence Emerita 1996-1999, 2001-2022

Charles Steckler - *The Dwane W. Crichton* Professor
Emeritus of Theater, Scenic Designer 1971-2017

SPECIAL THANKS

Armaan Uppal
Lexi Knowles
Kim Engel

DONORS

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Mr. and Mrs. David L. Henle '75
Dr. Frank A. Pepe- in memoriam
Stephanie C. Davis Dance Residency
Gail & Carl George Annual Fund

And the generosity of patrons like you.

We would like to acknowledge that we here at Union College live, work, and study on the traditional homelands of the Haudenosaunee Confederacy, including the Cayuga, Mohawk, Oneida, Onondaga, Seneca, and other tribes. As a College, we honor the land itself with gratitude and respect for all of its Indigenous Peoples past and present, and acknowledge those who have lost lives and had their land taken unjustly throughout the ages.

Union Theater & Dance: Coming Soon!

Spring 2026

Lothridge Festival of Dance at Steinmetz Day
May 9th 4:00pm

Intimate Afternoon with Dancers
May 15th 4:00pm

ReUnion Hamlet Behind The Scenes
May 15th 5:30pm

Hamlet by William Shakespeare,
adapted and directed by Jasmine Roth
May 20th - 24th



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Union College Theater & Dance Department

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