



# VARIANCE

FALL 2022 | A BFA DANCE CONCERT

**Oct 13 at 8pm**—*Live Stream Available*  
**Oct 14 at 8pm**  
**Oct 15 at 2pm • 8pm**

Martha B. Knoebel Dance Theater

**CSULB**  
**DANCE** CSULB • *College of the Arts*  
Dance

Cover design by **Kianna Peppers**— [behance.net/kiannapeppers](http://behance.net/kiannapeppers)  
Photography by **Gregory R.R. Crosby**

50<sup>th</sup> ANN.

# CSULB DANCE

# VARIANCE<sup>2022</sup>

A BFA DANCE CONCERT

**presenting works by** Kendall Chatham  
**BFA choreographers** Tori Cone  
Eliza Loran  
Julia Russell

**with Faculty Choreographer** Keith Johnson

**and Guest Artist** Dolly Sfeir

**Concert Director** Rebecca Lemme  
**Lighting Designer** Stacy Fireheart  
**Technical Director** Stephanie Losleben  
**Costume Director** Kelsey Vidic  
**Costume Technician** Erika Hansen  
**Music Director** Don Nichols  
**Video Director** Gregory R.R. Crosby

Oct 13 - 15, 2022  
Martha B. Knoebel Dance Theater

COLLEGE OF  
**THE ARTS**  
 CSULB

## A MESSAGE FROM CONCERT DIRECTOR REBECCA LEMME



On behalf of the CSULB Department of Dance I am so excited to welcome you back into the Martha B. Knoebel Dance Theater for our 6th annual Variance Concert. I am delighted to again be directing this show, which marks our first time back at full capacity in the theater. This is also the kick off of our 50th Anniversary celebration as a department. How glad we are to be back together for this momentous occasion. Thank you for being a part of it.

Tonight you will see four BFA student works, as well as choreography by faculty member Keith Johnson and alum Dolly Sfeir. The evening journeys from the fantastical to inward reflections on the self, gender, and interpersonal relationships, and to the merging of forms from Polynesia and the West. Read on for more details on the work you'll see tonight.

As part of our 50th Anniversary celebration, the Department of Dance is delighted to welcome back Dolly Sfeir, a 2016 alum who graduated Summa Cum Laude with a BFA in Dance. Sfeir grew up in Lebanon and moved to the U.S at the age of nineteen. She is a 2022 NYFA/NYSCA Artist Fellow in Choreography, the 2019 Grand Prize winner of the Palm Desert Choreography Competition, and a recipient of the Ann & Weston Hicks choreographic fellowship at Jacob's Pillow. She was the artist-in-residence for Abingdon Theatre Company (2018-2019), with whom she developed several short films and an evening-length work. Sfeir was awarded a production residency with CUNY Dance Initiative to create an evening-length work that premiered in Spring 2022. Her current commissions include Holstebro Dansekompagni in Denmark, WHIM W'HIM in Seattle, and here at CSU Long Beach.

Following Friday's performance there will be a short Q+A session with the student choreographers and composers moderated by Concert Director Rebecca Lemme. This is an opportunity for audience members to get more perspective on each of the artists' approach and process. Students especially are encouraged to stay and engage in this discussion. Saturday's matinee will be preceded by a community college engagement event; interested dance departments should contact Rebecca Lemme for details.

Thank you so much for joining us. Do stick around after the show to share some of your thoughts with our artists.

Now please enjoy, VARIANCE!

A handwritten signature in white ink that reads "Rebecca Lemme". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal line extending from the end.

Rebecca Lemme, Concert Director

## order of performance

# Impasto

<b>CHOREOGRAPHY</b>	Julia Russell
<b>MUSIC</b>	Original composition by Caden Bartlett
<b>COSTUME DESIGN</b>	Alisha Patel
<b>PERFORMANCE</b>	Eva Anderson, Jordan Barker, Morgan Dragsbaek, Malia Lyons, Sierra Tanji

Impasto is a term in painting that references the purposeful use of texture, such as thick paint and brushstrokes. These brushstrokes represent the hidden scars that make up a person. These scars can appear ugly or unwanted but in the end form and shape us and allow us to explore how we see both the world and ourselves.

*Julia would like to acknowledge and thank her cast for their continuous support and collaboration.*





# **My...My...My Husband** (2022)

**CHOREOGRAPHY** Keith Johnson  
in collaboration with the dancers\*

**MUSIC** "Chinatown Rock and Roll"  
by David Dominique

**COSTUME DESIGN** Keith Johnson

**PERFORMANCE** Brandon Betancourt (10/13, 10/15 8pm),  
Jesus Mora,  
Damian Sanchez (10/14, 10/15 2pm)

*\*Keith would like to acknowledge and thank Kevin Holland, Matthew Kindig, and Jesus Mora for their creative contributions to this dance. My...My...My Husband was first performed April 27, 2022 by Kevin Holland and Matthew Kindig.*



# Bite Your Tongue

**CHOREOGRAPHY** Kendall Chatham

**MUSIC** Original composition by  
Caden Bartlett

**COSTUME DESIGN** Kelsey Vidic

**PERFORMANCE** Baylee Ferrera, Elaina Greenawalt,  
Taylor Jackson, Madi Moura,  
Jennifer Sandoval

*Kendall would like to thank her cast for their collaboration in creating this piece as well as Kyrea Eubanks for her continued insight and encouragement throughout the process.*

# Stay a While, Stay a Little Longer

**CHOREOGRAPHY** Eliza Loran  
in collaboration with the performers

**SOUND DESIGN** Don Nichols

**COSTUME DESIGN** Odessa Newman, Kelsey Vidic

**PERFORMANCE** Mia Fleming, Nichaela Hall,  
Daylen McWhorter, Odessa Newman,  
Santiago Rivera, Fabian Zuniga

*Eliza would like to acknowledge the creative contribution of everyone involved in the process of this work. Thank you for your trust, honesty, and curiosity.*



# Hapa

<b>CHOREOGRAPHY</b>	Tori Cone
<b>MUSIC</b>	"Loimata E Maligi," "Sapasui," and "Kaleve," by Te Vaka
<b>COSTUME DESIGN</b>	Kelsey Vidic
<b>PERFORMANCE</b>	Nathaniel Acido-Macaraeg, Jordyn Apostolache, Evie Barakat, Marika Brooks, Abril Fajardo, Malani Harrell, Isabella Mendoza, Oscar Ortiz, Dylon Spahr

*Tori would like to thank the Pacific Islander Festival and Association in San Diego, Heali'i's Polynesian Revue, and Opetai'a and Julia Foa'i for their efforts in providing music from Te Vaka, as well as to Jasmine Cone for instilling strong Polynesian values into Tori's life from a young age that have carried over to contribute extensively to this work.*







# It Will Happen Again Tonight

(2020)

<b>CHOREOGRAPHY</b>	Dolly Sfeir
<b>REHEARSAL DIR</b>	Rebecca Lemme
<b>ASST REH DIR</b>	Azuki Umeda
<b>MUSIC</b>	Original composition by Jesse Scheinin
<b>COSTUME DESIGN</b>	Kelsey Vidic
<b>PERFORMANCE</b>	Antoine Armstrong Jr., Isabella Farris, Amanda Grunloh, Ashley Magaña, Konstantina Ohanian, Jayde Spiegel, Melissa Valenzuela, Kaitlyn Helms Wood
<b>UNDERSTUDY</b>	Jennifer Vieweg

*It Will Happen Again Tonight* was originally commissioned by Mare Nostrum Elements.

# ARTIST BIOS

## GUEST ARTIST

---

**DOLLY SFEIR** grew up in Lebanon and moved to the U.S at the age of nineteen. She is a 2022 NYFA/NYSCA Artist Fellow in Choreography. She is the 2019 Grand Prize winner of the Palm Desert Choreography Competition, and recipient of the Ann & Weston Hicks choreographic fellowship at Jacob's Pillow. She was the artist-in-residence for Abingdon Theatre Company (2018-2019), with whom she is developing several short films and an evening-length work. She was awarded a production residency with CUNY Dance Initiative to create an evening-length work, which premiered in Spring 2022. Her current commissions include Holstebro Dansekompagni in Denmark, WHIM W'HIM in Seattle and CSU Long Beach.

Her film *It Cries too Loudly* has been circulating the film festival sphere at festivals such as San Francisco Dance Film Festival, Portland Film Fest, and has received 'best short film' from Wilddogs festival and 'best cinematography' from Eastern Europe Film Festival.

Sfeir's work has been presented at the Battery Dance Festival, Diavolo Dance Theater, Alvin Ailey City Theater, LPAC and many more.

Sfeir graduated summa cum laude from CSU Long Beach with a BFA in Dance, where she was awarded a College of the Arts Scholarship. Sfeir appeared in nationwide Lebanese musicals by the Rahbani Brothers, including work choreographed by Debbie Allen.

**dollysfeir.com**

## **FACULTY**

---

**KEITH JOHNSON** has danced for Ririe/Woodbury Dance Company, Creach/Koester, Bill T. Jones/Arnie Zane Dance Company and Doug Varone and Dancers. In addition, he has performed with Bili Young/Colleen Thomas and Dancers, Nancy Bannon, and Victoria Marks. Keith is the Artistic Director of Keith Johnson/Dancers and the Co-Director of Fistbomb Films with Gregory R.R. Crosby. He was named the Distinguished Alumni for 2012/13 from The Department of Modern Dance at the University of Utah. He has been awarded two Lester Horton Awards for Choreography, been a Djerassi Artist Resident, has taught at ADF, Doug Varone and Dancers Summer Intensives, Beijing International Dance Festival and has performed in major venues internationally. Keith is on faculty at CSULB.

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

## **BFA CHOREOGRAPHERS**

---

**KENDALL CHATHAM** is currently a fourth year Dance BFA candidate at CSULB. Her dance training began at age five in ballet, jazz, contemporary, and modern. As a student, Kendall began her choreographic pursuits by working with her peers and at local dance studios in Fort Worth, TX and has presented a piece at CSULB in the Contemporary Festival. She has performed with artists including Jenn Freeman, Sarah Stanley, Hailey Hoffman, Rebecca Lemme, and Andrew Vaca. Kendall teaches at local studios, working with their companies to choreograph and train young dancers for competitions, winning a choreography award at 8 National Dance Competition. Kendall is most inspired by composition and the creative process. She plans to pursue choreographing and collaborating with her peers as well as teaching children and continuing to foster her dance education by getting her MFA in Dance or Choreography.

[@kendallchatham](https://www.instagram.com/kendallchatham)

**TORI CONE** is a multicultural BFA Candidate in dance at CSULB. Tori's training began with the San Diego Civic Dance Association and Heali'i's Polynesian Revue at age three. She trained in a variety of techniques and worked with many choreographers including Daniel Lewis, where she performed in a restaging of *A Choreographic Offering* developed by Jose Limón. Through CSULB, Tori has been featured in Sarah Swenson's *Fimmine* and will be performing Donna Uchizono's *State of Heads* this November. With Vox Dance Company, Tori has professionally performed in collaboration with Partch Ensemble for their works *Plectra and Percussion*. She also represents Hip-Hop team V-Mo and has been invited by Steezy Co to dance for well-renowned Artist Jackson Wang. Tori hopes to continue deepening her relationship with herself, her voice, and her aspirations after she graduates in 2023 to go on to commercial and company work, while obtaining her MFA. [@\\_toricone\\_](#)

**ELIZA LORAN**, 20, is a fourth-year BFA Candidate in the CSULB Department of Dance. Born and raised in Berkeley, CA, Eliza spent three years training with the ODC Dance youth company in San Francisco. Her artistic journey continued once entering college, where Eliza has had the opportunity to work with faculty members Rebecca Lemme and Keith Johnson, guest choreographers Marjani Forté-Saunders and Donna Uchizono, student choreographer Yukiko Nimura, among others. She has also presented her own work, including her screen dance *3000 and 6* in the 2021 Spring Dance Festival and live/video work *crush me mush me* in the 2022 Contemporary Dance Festival. In her last year at CSULB and beyond, Eliza hopes to continue performing with joy, creating with curiosity, and furthering her passion for improvisation. [@elizaloran](#)

**JULIA RUSSELL** is a BFA Candidate in Dance in her third year at CSULB. Her training includes a wide variety of forms including ballet, jazz, contemporary, tap, and hip hop, as well as movement from a multitude of cultures such as Irish dance, West African dance, and Bollywood. More recently, Julia has been honing and exploring jazz and contemporary movement through choreographing for dance teams, musicals, and work with her peers. She finds inspiration in the congealed traumas of individuals that are part of the human condition. She loves to expose and explore these carried traumas, presenting them openly when they are commonly unspoken and thus unexpressed. Julia looks forward to finishing her BFA degree at CSULB before moving on to pursue dance and choreography professionally. She also hopes to never stop teaching and continue her work as a fitness instructor.

**@julia\_\_russell**

## **CONCERT DIRECTOR**

---

**REBECCA LEMME** is a choreographer, performer, educator, and visual artist, as well as Artistic Director of the performance group Acts of Matter. Currently an Associate Professor of Dance at CSULB, Rebecca has been commissioned and presented by LA Contemporary Dance Company, Visceral Dance Chicago, Santa Barbara Dance Theater, River North Dance Chicago, Thodos' New Dances, California Institute of the Arts, Loyola Marymount University, Columbia College Chicago, Loyola University Chicago, among others. Additionally, she has toured nationally with contemporary repertory companies Luna Negra Dance Theater and River North Dance Chicago. Lemme was formerly a full-time faculty member at CalArts and has additionally been on faculty at Columbia College Chicago, Roosevelt University, Hubbard Street's Lou Conte Dance Studio, Visceral Dance Center, and Joffrey Ballet Chicago. Rebecca holds a BA in English and Theater from Princeton University and an MFA in Choreography from California Institute of the Arts.

**@actsofmatter**

**actsofmatter.com**

## **PRODUCTION CREW**

---

**TECHNICAL DIRECTOR** - Stephanie Losleben

**ASSISTANT TECHNICAL DIRECTOR** - Adrien Padilla

**STAGE MANAGER** - Stephanie Losleban

**RES. HOUSE MANAGER** - Sylvia Rodriguez-Scholz

### **BFA CHOREOGRAPHIC MENTORS**

Rebecca Bryant, Rebecca Lemme, Brenna Monroe-Cook,  
Danzel Thompson-Stout

**PHOTOGRAPHY/LIVE STREAM DIRECTOR** - Gregory R.R. Crosby

**CAMERA OPERATOR** - Christina Morales-Grace

**PRODUCTION ASSISTANT** - Margaret Matterson

### **STAGE CREW**

Samantha Chung, Amber Cunnigan, Jesus Gallardo, Tara Hadley,  
Colin Harabedian, Michael Mendoza, Joanne Olivo, Lexi Portillo,  
Araceli Rosales, Jennifer Vieweg

### **HOUSE/PUBLIC RELATIONS CREW**

Topanga Scherf, Jazmyne Rayner-Anorve, Delaney Richards,  
Jackie Escamilla, Esmeralda Oritz

### **CONSTRUCTION CREW**

Cambria Anderson, Kendall Chatham, Morgan Dragsbaek,  
Niza Galindo, Brisa Gelber, Kat Giannini, Malani Harrell,  
Taylor Jackson, Vivian Mulvihill

**WARDROBE CREW** - Brandon Garcia Michel, Elizabeth Haskins

**PLAYBILL COVER DESIGN** - Kianna Peppers

**PLAYBILL DESIGN** - Gregory R.R. Crosby

## **CSULB COLLEGE OF THE ARTS**

---

Anne Justine D'Zmura, **Acting Dean**

Colleen Dunagan, **Interim Associate Dean**

Tanya Cummings, **Interim Associate Dean**

## **CSULB DANCE FALL 2022**

---

Betsy Cooper, **Chair**

## **FACULTY**

---

Tsiambwom M. Akuchu, Rebecca Bryant, Betsy Cooper,  
Amy Champion, Gregory R.R. Crosby, Liz Curtis,  
Stacy Fireheart, Erika Hansen, Tashara Gavin-Moorehead,  
Teresa Jankovic, Keith Johnson, Lisa Johnson,  
Lorin Johnson, David Kim, Renee Kim, Sarah Leddy,  
Rebecca Lemme, Stephanie Losleben,  
Brenna Monroe-Cook, Shyamala Moorty, Don Nichols,  
Santi Riviera, AJ Sharp, Steven Sofia, Katie Summers,  
Pat Taylor, Danzel Thompson-Stout, Azuki Umeda,  
Andrew Vaca, Kelsey Vidic, Lora Wilson, Brooke Winder,  
Aimée Wodobodé, Steve Zee

## **STAFF**

---

Gregory R.R. Crosby, Erika Hansen, Hannah Hesseltine,  
Stephanie Losleben, Don Nichols, Sylvia Rodriguez-Scholz,  
Kirsten Sumpter, Kelsey Vidic

## **DANCE CLINIC**

---

John Siegel - Head Athletic Trainer

## **GRADUATE ASSISTANTS**

---

Santi Rivera, AJ Sharp, Katie Summers, Azuki Umeda

# **2022-2023 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS**

## **CSULB DANCE AWARDS**

Celeste Kennedy Scholarship - Katie Summers, Azuki Umeda

Department of Dance Scholarship -

Eva Anderson, Dana Bermudez Hernandez, Emily Boudreau,  
Faith Garner, Jazmine Gregory, Tara Hadley, Hope Hensley,  
Jessica Marin, Topanga Scherf, Wilma Tsutsui, Eva Watson

Joan Schlaich Award - Hensley Hope

## **COTA COMPETITIVE AWARDS**

Kleefeld Award- AJ Sharp

Fine Arts Affiliates Endowed Award - Tori Cone

## **COTA AWARDS**

Jamiesson-Pechstein COTA Endowed Award -  
Cambria Anderson, Ashley Magaña, Nichaela Hall

Richard Baker Award - AJ Sharp

Lana Alper Award - Eve Barakat, Jacqueline Escamilla

Dramatic Allied Arts Guild Award - Isabella Farris

Martin Figoten Award - Baylee Ferrerra

Fine Arts Affiliates Award - Levi Christensen

Carolyn R. Cunningham Award - Kaitlyn Helms Wood

Harvey & Amy Waggoner Award - Christina Morales-Grace

This program made possible through funds from CSULB's  
Instructionally Related Activities


For more information on CSULB Dance visit

**[www.csulb.edu/dance](http://www.csulb.edu/dance)**



# CSULB DANCE

in concert  
NOVEMBER 16-19, 2022



Return to the Martha B. Knoebel Dance Theater November 16-19 for the  
**CSULB Dance in Concert**

featuring choreographic works by dance faculty

**Tsiambwom Akuchu, Lorin Johnson, Rebecca Lemme, Danzel Thompson-Stout, and Andrew Vaca**  
with guest artist **Donna Uchizono**  
more info at [www.csulb.edu/dance](http://www.csulb.edu/dance)