

MFA THESIS FESTIVAL

SPRING 2023 | A THESIS PRESENTATION



March 11 at 5:30pm - AJ Sharp
March 16 at 8pm - Santiago Rivera
March 17 at 8pm - Katie Summers
March 18 at 8pm - Azuki Umeda

Gold Mine Gym
Martha B. Knoebel Dance Theater
Martha B. Knoebel Dance Theater
Martha B. Knoebel Dance Theater

CSULB
DANCE CSULB • College of the Arts
Dance

Cover template design by [Kianna Peppers—behance.net/kiannapeppers](https://www.behance.net/kiannapeppers)
Photography by [Gregory R.R. Crosby](#), [Katie Summers](#), and [Azuki Umeda](#)

50th ANN.

CSULB DANCE

the 2023

MFA THESIS FESTIVAL

AT VARIOUS LOCATIONS ON THE CSULB CAMPUS

presenting works by
Graduate Dance students

AJ Sharp
Santiago Rivera
Katie Summers
Azuki Umeda

Concert Director Rebecca Lemme &
Danzel Thompson-Stout
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

March 11, 2023
Gold Mine Gym

March 16, 17, 18, 2023
Martha B. Knoebel Dance Theater

COLLEGE OF
THE ARTS
 **CSULB**

Give to **Dance**

The CSULB Dance faculty and staff are committed to creating an inclusive, student-centered community where students will discover educational pathways that reflect and expand upon their creative potential, intellectual curiosity, and career aspirations.

While state support and student tuition fund basic operations of the university, gifts from donors like you make this Department and institution truly exceptional. Can you help support our next generation of dance artists and practitioners?

The link above will take you directly to **Giving for CSULB Dance**.

Gifts may be directed to Dance scholarships, the Department, or you can create a scholarship in your name or the name of a loved one. For more information, contact Department Chair Betsy Cooper at Betsy.Cooper@csulb.edu



**CSULB
DANCE**

CSULB • *College of the Arts*
Dance

March 11, 2023 5:30PM at the Gold Mine Gym

buckets (premiere)

CHOREOGRAPHY

AJ Sharp
in collaboration with the performers

MUSIC

Craig Martinson

DRUMLINE

John Brannon, Tanner Dunaway,
Anna Dunford, Michael Wise

COSTUME DESIGN

Kelsey Vidic

PERFORMERS

Cambria Anderson, Brynn Gagne,
Brooke Grayton, Natasha Gyulnazaryan,
Nichaela Hall, Imran Khan,
Christina Morales-Grace, Araceli Rosales,
Julia Russell, Karley Taylor, Wilma Tsutsui,
Eva Watson, Eliana Wong

AJ SHARP, originally from Michigan, is a dancer, choreographer, and dance educator. AJ will be pursuing her MFA in dance at CSULB and teaching Introduction to Modern this fall.



She is a graduate of Oakland University with a BFA in dance. While living in NYC for 8 years, AJ worked with artists such as Alexandra Beller, The Creators Collective, Cora Dance, The Equus Projects, The Physical Plant, Tamika Daniels, Take Root Dance, and The Median Movement. She was chosen for Doug Varone's Choreography Intensive in 2015, where she was mentored by Varone and premiered a new piece at 92 Y. She founded SHARP Dance Co. shortly after and presented works at Triskelion Arts, TADA Youth Theatre, Bogart Gallery, LIC Arts, Gelsey Kirkland Academy of Ballet, Spoke the Hub, and Mark Morris Dance Theater. AJ was the Guest Artist in Residence at Oakland University in 2019, where her dance was selected for the American College Dance Association. AJ is excited to continue teaching, performing, and creating at CSULB.

March 16, 2023 8PM at
the Martha B. Knoebel Dance Theater

the serendipitous epiphany:

a jubilation on femininity from a LatinX male perspective
(premiere)

CHOREOGRAPHY

Santiago Rivera

MUSICAL ARRANGEMENT AND PERFORMANCE

Emanuel Osorio, Andres Ramirez,
Teresa Flores Segura

COSTUME DESIGN

Kelsey Vidic

PERFORMERS

Taylor Bedrin, Emily Boudreau,
Niza Gallindo Cardenas, Abril Fajardo,
Michael Mendoza, Brandon Garcia Michel,
Isaac Montalvo, Esmeralda Ortiz,
Alexandra Portillo, Jayde Spiegel,
Matteo Torres

SANTIAGO (SANTI) RIVERA is a M.F.A student at California State University, Long Beach. He is a dance educator and choreographer in the Southern California area. He started dancing and training in the competitive world when he was in eighth grade. In 2016 he received his B.A. in Drama and minor in Educational Studies from the University of California, Irvine. In 2021 he received his Certification in Dance Instruction from Orange Coast College and completed the 2020/2021 Jose Limon Technique Certification Training Program. His training, choreography and teaching methods/styles is heavily informed by the Jose Limon technique, Gaga Movement Language, Bausch Dance Theatre Method, and Butoh. He made his Off-Broadway debut as a choreographer and performer in 2016 as part of UCI's New York Satellite Program. His works have been shown in California, New York, Arizona and Texas. His choreography and mission focuses on equal opportunity for the Latinx and BIPOC Queer communities in "safe" dance spaces.



March 17, 2023 8PM at
the Martha B. Knoebel Dance Theater

Wash (premiere)

CHOREOGRAPHY AND POETRY

Katie Summers

Scroll down to read the text of "Stretched Sail"

MUSIC

"Says" and "A Shimmer" by Nils Frahm;
"Rauðsmári" by Jónsi, Sin Fang,
Alex Somers, and Kjartan Holm; and
original composition by Jordan Fox
Kelsey Vidic

COSTUME DESIGN

INSTALLATION

Stephanie Losleben

PERFORMERS

Evie Barakat, Trinity Canga, Eva Anderson,
Anessa Davies, Shanti Topzand,
Mia Fleming, and Joanne Olivo

Special thanks to Ty Rex, Ava Brackett, Álvaro Cáceres-Muños, Jessica York, and Don Nichols for your invaluable creative contributions to this process.

KATIE SUMMERS is a MFA Candidate and Teaching Associate at CSULB Dance, where she is a Celeste Kennedy Endowed Scholarship recipient. She is currently teaching



Introduction to Modern. Katie received her BFA in Dance from the University of California, Irvine in 2017. Her undergraduate summers were spent with the American Dance Festival, San Francisco Conservatory of Dance, New Dialect, and Northwest Dance Project. She has since danced with Redding City Dance Company and interned at Bethel Conservatory of the Arts. Katie completed Studio du Corps' 450 Hour Pilates Teacher Training Program in 2019 under the guidance of Ron Fletcher Master Teacher, Diane Diefenderfer. Her research interests pertain to the correlation between her poetry-writing and her dance-making practices as well as her passion for the overall health of the dancing person and dance community: mind, body, and spirit.

Stretched Sail

There is a great wave that nearly licks
the crew off-board, one is even left
dangling, rolling over the edge.

We pull her back. We care for her
shattered nerves. She rests
a long while.

She won't be at the helm.

The storm patters away, and the sea
is glass.

Wait, we all wait.

Then the east pushes wind to the west,
the sail stretches, we did nothing
but open it; now here we are,
we are moving like an outstretched,
yielded body, falling
through space.

- Katie Summers

March 17, 2023 8PM at
the Martha B. Knoebel Dance Theater

how i became kinder, and kinder.

(premiere)

CHOREOGRAPHY

Azuki Umeda

MUSIC

Robert Gaar, Lucy Liyou, Azuki Umeda

COSTUME DESIGN

Amanda Grunloh, Kelsey Vidic

PERFORMERS

Jordyn Apostolache, Dante Casarin,
Tori Cone, Trinity Massey, Isabella Mendoza,
Azuki Umeda, Melissa Valenzuela,
Jennifer Vieweg

ADDITIONAL PERFORMERS

Jackie Escamilla, Jazmine Gregory,
Amanda Grunloh, Vivian Vo, Fabian Zuniga

AZUKI UMEDA is a Chapman University graduate, receiving her BFA in Dance Performance and BA in Integrated Educational Studies. She is currently attending CSU Long Beach to receive her MFA in dance in May 2023. She has worked closely with choreographers, such as Will Johnston, Paul Kirkland, Jason Young, and Tawnya Kuzia, as well as assisting different



projects and classes with Jojo Gomez, Tessandra Chavez, and Brian Friedman. Recently, she presented work at World of Dance as a headliner for their Championship event. She was also a dancer for Twenty-One Pilots' virtual concert, and for FINNEAS's music video, "Shelter." She has showcased her work at prestigious choreography festivals, such as the IAF Creative Exhibit, The Palm Desert Choreographic Festival, American College Dance Association, as well as the Capezio ACE Awards. She was also named "Outstanding Choreographer for 4 years" at Chapman University's dance program. She has assisted various dance conventions, such as NUVO, Hollywood Connection, and West Coast Dance Explosion. Azuki is a founder of her project-based dance company, AU.THENTICITY. The company aims to create a collaborative environment for artistic exploration.

PRODUCTION CREW

TECHNICAL DIRECTOR Stephanie Losleben

ASSISTANT TECHNICAL DIRECTOR Adrien Padilla

STAGE MANAGER Erin Longhofer

PRODUCTION ASSISTANTS

Nicollette Combre, Ashley Magaña

COSTUME CONSTRUCTION CREW

Brandon Betancourt, Niza Galindo Cardenas,
Brooke Grayton, Vivian Mulvihills

LAUNDRY/LABEL CREW Raichelle Lapid, Nicollette Combre, Tori Cone

ARCHIVE CREW Malani Harrell, Brisa Gelber

PROGRAM DESIGN Gregory R.R. Crosby

SOCIAL MEDIA LEAD Hannah Hesseltine

SOCIAL MEDIA @CSULBDance Nicollette Combre, Ashley Magañaz

GOLD MINE GYM CREW

STAGE CREW

Precious Ellis, Madison Lynch, Anna Velez, Vivian Vo

VIDEOGRAPHY CREW

Tara Hadley, Samuel Macias, May-Kate Torres, Fabian Zuniga

PHOTOGRAPHY Gregory R.R. Crosby

WARDROBE CREW Marika Brooks

MARTHA B. KNOEBEL CREW

RES. HOUSE MANAGER Sylvia Rodriguez-Scholz

HOUSE CREW

Faith Garner, Kat Giannini, Elaina Greenawalt,
Malia Lyons, Oscar Ortiz

PHOTOGRAPHY Colin Harabedian

VIDEOGRAPHY Gregory R.R. Crosby

STAGE CREW

Katherine Carter, Saneer Davis, Leah Leon, Annelise Licata,
Francheska Martinez, Elisa Murray, Rachel Olivier,
Mercedes Villegas

WARDROBE CREW

Dana Bermudez-Hernandez, Jayden Cardona, Julia Hanson

MFA THESIS FESTIVAL

SPRING 2023 | *A THESIS PRESENTATION*



CSULB COLLEGE OF THE ARTS

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

Colleen Dunagan, **Interim Associate Dean**

Tanya Cummings, **Interim Associate Dean**

CSULB DANCE SPRING 2023

Betsy Cooper, **Chair**

FACULTY

Tsiambwom M. Akuchu, Rebecca Bryant, Betsy Cooper, Amy Champion, Liz Curtis, Holley Farmer, Stacy Fireheart, Erika Hansen, Manuel Macias, Tashara Gavin-Moorehead, Francesca Jandasek, Teresa Jankovic, Lisa Johnson, Lorin Johnson, 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, 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 - Hope Hensley

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

SPRING 2023 CSULB DANCE PERFORMANCES

Contemporary Dance Festival | *APRIL 20-22*

Two programs of choreographic works by our undergraduate dance students featuring both stage work and screendance.



For More Information Visit WWW.CSULB.EDU/DANCE