

VARIANCE



FALL 2023 | A BFA DANCE CONCERT

Oct 5 at 8pm—*Live Stream Available*
Oct 6 at 8pm
Oct 7 at 2pm • 8pm

Martha B. Knoebel Dance Theater

CSULB
DANCE

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Dance

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CSULB DANCE

VARIANCE²⁰²³

A BFA DANCE CONCERT

presenting works by Baylee Ferrerra
BFA choreographers Michael Mendoza & Wilma Tsutsui
Jayde Spiegel
Fabián Zuniga

and Guest Artist Kameron N. Saunders

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

Oct 5 - 7, 2023
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 to the Martha B. Knoebel Dance Theater for our 7th Variance Concert. This year marks the start of my 10th year on faculty, and it has been a true highlight of my time in the department to be able to work with so many emerging choreographers, performers, and guest artists.

Tonight you will see four BFA student works, as well as choreography by guest artist Kameron N. Saunders. The evening is a diverse collection of choreography ranging from celebrations of individual identity and community to an exploration of the insidious nature of hearsay and gossip in today's social media culture.

The Department of Dance is delighted to welcome Kameron N. Saunders as a guest choreographer for this year's show. Kameron is an artist working at the intersection of both concert and commercial dance. He is a 2022 Princess Grace Award Winner in Choreography for his work with Dallas Black Dance Theater and also a 2023 Winning Works choreographer for the Joffrey Ballet Chicago. His film work includes last year's Spirited, with Will Ferrell and Ryan Reynolds, and the upcoming The Color Purple, produced by Steven Spielberg and Oprah Winfrey. Currently on tour as a dancer with Taylor Swift's Eras Tour, Kameron has also worked with renowned artists Alonzo King, Matthew Rushing, Chloe Arnold, Ava Bernstine-Mitchell, Sean Bankhead, Fatima Robinson, Ken Page, Danielle Polanco, Martha Nichols and many others.

Following Friday's performance I will moderate a short Q+A session with the student choreographers. 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 email me at rebecca.lemme@csulb.edu 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 stroke at the end.

Rebecca Lemme, Concert Director

order of performance

Bloom

CHOREOGRAPHY	Fabián Zuniga in collaboration with dancers
MUSIC	"Peaceful Water", "Friday Night in Afikim" by Marcelo Nami
COSTUME DESIGN	Valerie Puentes, Kelsey Vidic
PERFORMANCE	Katherine Carter, Samantha Chung, Amber Cunnigan, Jacqueline Escamilla, Jesus Gallardo, Avalon Kelly, Samuel Macias, Cristiline Magaña, Esmeralda Ortiz, Valeria Reséndiz

I express my deepest gratitude to my guides, teachers, community, loved ones, dancers, and every amazing being that has contributed to bringing this vision to life (including those who have gone out of their way to help with this work), along with helping develop me into who I needed to be for all this to be possible. I absolutely could not be at this point without you and all the help, support, compassion, care and love you give me. Thank you and so much love.

Naked Mole Rat

CHOREOGRAPHY	Baylee Ferrerra
MUSIC	Original Composition by Deanna Watkins
COSTUME DESIGN	Odessa Newman
PERFORMANCE	Nathan Acido, Jayden Cardona, Levi Christensen, Anessa Davies, Leah Leon, Christina Morales-Grace, Rachel Olivier, Sydney Robinson, Shanti Topzand
UNDERSTUDIES	Cierra Bennette, Cynthia Zheng

I would first like to thank my parents for their endless love and support. Thank you to all of my friends, family, and mentors who deliberated, brainstormed, questioned, and encouraged me throughout this process. Lastly, I am so grateful to my incredible cast and collaborators for their trust, commitment and contributions.

一期一会 - Ichigo Ichie

CHOREOGRAPHY AND DIRECTION Michael Mendoza and Wilma Tsutsui

MUSIC "Lift Space" by Don Nichols

SOUND DESIGN Don Nichols, Michael Mendoza, Wilma Tsutsui

COSTUME DESIGN Cambria Anderson

PERFORMANCE Cambria Anderson, Abril Fajardo, Brynn Gagne, John Levin Briones, Joanne Olivo, Araceli Rosales, Eliana Wong

Ichigo Ichie is a Japanese four-character idiom that translates to "for this time only." Please enjoy the artistry of our dancers in this work where choreography and improvisation intertwine, allowing for every performance to be a unique experience to be perceived "for this time only". We would like to give the deepest gratitude to our beautiful cast for their patience and craft; they took on the challenge of being in an ever-changing piece and created amazing work. Special thanks to Sunwoo Hong for joining us in this process with an open mind and heart.

Smush

CHOREOGRAPHY

Jayde Spiegel

MUSIC

"La Fantasia", "River's End" by Gather;
"hum+sec.s"

by SHOMOMOSmitsuru shimizu
freemusicarchive.org,
licensed under Creative Commons

SOUND DESIGN

Jayde Spiegel

COSTUME DESIGN

Jordyn Apostolache, Kelsey Vidic

PERFORMANCE

Eva Anderson, Taylor Jackson,
Lauren Kay, Trinity Massey,
Alyssa Mena, Elisa Murray, Sierra Tanji,
Eva Watson

UNDERSTUDIES

Mady Leier, Annelise Licata

*Congratulations to my cast for your breathtaking artistry,
resilience, and love.*

Chaos is Calling

CHOREOGRAPHY

Kameron N. Saunders

MUSIC

"Disperse" and "Point" by Empty Set

SOUND DESIGN

Harold Walker

COSTUME DESIGN

Kelsey Vidic

PERFORMANCE

Antoine Armstrong Jr.,
Jordyn Apostolache, Evie Barakat,
Brandon Betancourt, Katrina Giannini,
Malani Janel, Konstantina Ohanian,
Julia Russell, Jennifer Vieweg

UNDERSTUDIES

Isabella Farris, Ashley Magaña

ARTIST BIOS

GUEST ARTIST

KAMERON N. SAUNDERS is from St. Louis, MO. He began his dance training at the Center of Creative Arts. He is a graduate of the University of Missouri-Kansas City with a BFA in Dance. Kameron has worked with renowned artists such as Alonzo King, Matthew Rushing, Chloe Arnold, Ava Bernstine-Mitchell, Sean Bankhead, Fatima Robinson, Ken Page, Danielle Polanco, Martha Nichols and many others. In the summer of 2018 Kameron was one of eight internationally selected choreographers for the Ann & Weston Hicks Choreography Fellowship at Jacob's Pillow in its inaugural year under the direction of Dianne McIntyre and Risa Steinberg. In 2020 Kameron was awarded the Passion Project Grant from the Jaquel Knight Foundation. Kameron has choreographed for acclaimed artist Rashaad Newsome in his exhibit and performance ASSEMBLY at the Park Avenue Armory in New York City. In May of 2022 Kameron had a world premiere with Dallas Black Dance Theatre for his work Black in Time. Last year Kameron premiered as a featured dancer in Spirited, a musical film starring Ryan Reynolds and Will Ferrell, and this year he will be featured in Blitz Bazawule's The Color Purple, produced by Steven Spielberg and Oprah Winfrey. In June of 2022 Kameron performed with Lizzo on the BET Awards and was a featured dancer in the Booty music video with Saucy Santana and Latto. This led him to opening for Lizzo on the Special tour with Saucy Santana. Kameron was a 2022 Princess Grace Award winner in choreography and a 2023 Joffrey Winning Works choreographer. He is currently dancing on Taylor Swift's Eras Tour.

BFA CHOREOGRAPHERS

BAYLEE FERRERRA is a performer, dancemaker, and dance educator based out of Long Beach, California. Originally from Sacramento, she grew up training in various styles at Hawkins School of Performing Arts and performing with Sacramento Contemporary Dance Theater. She is currently in her final semester at California State University, Long Beach where she will receive her BFA in Dance. During her time at CSULB, she has performed both stage and film work by faculty member Rebecca Lemme and student-choreographers Kendall Chatham, Eliza Loran, Santi Rivera, and Odessa Newman. Additionally, Baylee had the opportunity to cultivate and perform an ensemble improvisational work with faculty member Rebecca Bryant in San Juan Sacatepéquez, Guatemala at the Connatural Dance Festival. In her last months of college and beyond, Baylee is passionate about sharing her love for collaborative and intentional art through performance, education, and community.

MICHAEL MENDOZA grew up in Norwalk, California and continues to perform and choreograph. They have been approaching dance as a holistic practice and challenging their artistic expression by amplifying their queer voice in all spaces. They are a BS Candidate in Dance Science and BFA Candidate in Dance at CSULB. Michael has premiered work at Southern California Dance and Choreography Festival, Mix Match Dance Festival, and other venues. They have also premiered work at ACDA hosted by Cal State LA and UCI under the mentorship of Janet Sanderson, Rebekah Hathaway, and Christine Gregory-previous chair, current chair, and co-chair of the Cerritos College Dance Department. They have danced with the Southern California Dance Theater under the direction of Paula Vreulink and have been a company member with Vicious Circle Dance Company under the direction of Valerie Cabag.

JAYDE SPIEGEL is a BFA Candidate in Dance in her senior year at CSULB. Prior to formal dance training, she spent her formative years competing in regional and national gymnastics. While training under Evolve Dance Project, she performed in venues on the Las Vegas Strip as well as Kiel, Germany. Throughout her college career she has danced in modern and improvisational works by artists such as Rebecca Lemme, Dolly Sfeir, and Rebecca Bryant. These have been showcased throughout Southern California and in San Juan Sacatepéquez, at the Connatural Dance Festival. Her self-choreographed, costumed, and sound-designed solo was performed and awarded by ACDA's 2023 Baja Conference. Jayde uses her certification in Fashion Design and Construction, and education in graphic, sound, and physical design throughout her dance practice. She hopes to meld her interest in varying art forms to create multi-dimensional artistic expressions.

WILMA TSUTSUI is a BFA Candidate in Dance at CSULB. She was born and raised in Fresno, California as the youngest of eight children. Tsutsui is gosei and half Japanese on her father's side, Larry Tsutsui. Her mother, Julie Tsutsui, was her first dance teacher at The Dancing School of Selma, where she developed her passion for dance from her teachers: Beth Zobian, Deanna Driscoll, Nikki Valentine, Cindy Hansen, and her mother. Tsutsui has performed both locally in the Valley and globally in Cuba. Tsutsui grew up dancing in Ballet and Jazz and took her first Modern and Hip Hop classes at FCC, where she graduated with an Associates of Arts in Dance. Ichigo Ichie, created with Michael Mendoza, is her first work shown in concert.

FABIÁN ZUNIGA is a Filipino and Latino dancer and artist. He started formally training in Dance at Cerritos College in 2019, and went on to perform with Maha & Company, transfer to CSULB Dance, join WeBreak Hip-Hop Dance Company, and continue working on developing, both as an artist and his overall Self. He started learning to Break from a relative when he was ten years old, and after stopping when moving away, Fabián came into contact with Dance numerous times until he was finally ready to fully dive into his calling. Along with an artist, being a warrior in the way his path directs him is integral to his identity, and he holds dearly his heart's intention to fight to spread his light that this world needs. He thanks everyone who gives—and has given him—the guidance, teachings, support, love, and care that enable him to fully bloom into his best self, for the benefit of everyone else.

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 in her 10th year 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 - Erin Longhofer

RES. HOUSE MANAGER - Sylvia Rodriguez-Scholz

BFA CHOREOGRAPHIC MENTORS

Tsiambwom Akuchu, Rebecca Bryant, Keith Johnson,
Danzel Thompson-Stout

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

CAMERA OPERATOR - Nick Neira, Guadalupe Vazquez-Sebastian

PRODUCTION ASSISTANT - Delaney Richards

STAGE CREW

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Maretzys Gandara, Amari Rathers, Elizabeth Riley, Dylan Shube,
Karley Taylor, Mary-Kate Torres, Anna Woo-Sam

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Vivian Mulvihill, Brisa Gelber, Poppy Rose

WARDROBE SUPERVISOR - Kelsey Vidic

WARDROBE CREW - Aly Levy, Topanga Scherf

LAUNDRY/LABEL CREW - Konstantina Ohanian & Sunwoo Hong

PROGRAM TEMPLATE DESIGN - Kianna Peppers

PROGRAM DESIGN - Gregory R.R. Crosby

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Chiara Ferrari, Ph.D, **Associate Dean**

CSULB DANCE FALL 2023

Colleen Dunagan, **Chair**

FACULTY

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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

Tamsin Carlson, Bhargavi Sardesai, MJ Wolff

2023-2024 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

CSULB DANCE AWARDS

Celeste Kennedy Scholarship -

Tamsin Carlson, Bargavi Sardesai, MJ Wolff

Department of Dance Scholarship -

Jayden Cardona, Niza Galindo, Malani Janel, Madylin Leier,
Norma Saul, Wilma Tsutsui

Joan Schlaich Award - Nicollette Combre

COTA COMPETITIVE AWARDS

Ameda J. and Julia Bergeron Endowed Scholarship - Fabián Zuniga

COTA Student Travel Endowment Scholarship - Vivian Mulvihill

COTA AWARDS

Donald W. Leonard Endowed Scholarship-

Jordyn Apostolache, Samuel Macias

Jamiesson-Pechstein COTA Endowed Award -

Jacqueline Escamilla, Taylor Jackson,

Ashley Magaña, Valerie Puentes

Richard Baker Award - Sydney Robinson

Lana Alper Award - Cambria Anderson

Dramatic Allied Arts Guild Award - Isabella Farris

Martin Figoten Award - Jesus Gallardo

Fine Arts Affiliates Award - Evie Barakat, Michael Mendoza

Carolyn R. Cunningham Award - Shanti Topzand

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CSULB DANCE

in concert

featuring choreographic works by dance faculty
Tsiambwom Akuchu, Rebecca Bryant
Keith Johnson, Rebecca Lemme, Andrew Vaca
and guest artist C. Kemal Nance

NOVEMBER 15-18, 2023
8PM with a Saturday matinee at 2PM
at the Martha B. Knoebel Dance Theater

livestream
available
November 16

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csulb.edu/dance

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**CSULB
DANCE**

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