



# CSULB DANCE IN CONCERT

FALL 2023 | A FACULTY & GUEST ARTIST CONCERT

**Nov 15 at 8pm**

**Nov 16 at 8pm**—*Live Stream Available*

**Nov 17 at 8pm**

**Nov 18 at 2pm • 8pm**

Martha B. Knoebel Dance Theater

**CSULB  
DANCE**

CSULB • *College of the Arts*  
Dance

# CSULB DANCE

# CSULB DANCE in concert

**presenting works by  
dance faculty** Tsiambwom Akuchu  
Rebecca Bryant  
Keith Johnson  
Rebecca Lemme  
Andrew Vaca

**and Guest Artist** C. Kemal Nance

**Concert Director** Keith Johnson  
**Lighting Designer** Stacy Fireheart  
**Technical/Lighting Director** Stephanie Losleben  
**Costume Shop Supervisor** Kelsey Vidic  
**Costume Technician** Erika Hansen  
**Music Director** Don Nichols  
**Live Stream Director** Gregory R.R. Crosby

**Nov 15 - 18, 2023**  
**Martha B. Knoebel Dance Theater**

COLLEGE OF  
**THE ARTS**  
 **CSULB**

## A MESSAGE FROM CONCERT DIRECTOR KEITH JOHNSON



On behalf of the CSULB Department of Dance, I am so excited to welcome you to the Martha B. Knoebel Dance Theater for our CSULB Dance In Concert. Tonight you will see five Faculty works, as well as choreography by guest artist C. Kemal Nance.

The Department of Dance is delighted to welcome C. Kemal Nance as a guest choreographer for this year's show. "Kibon," a native of Chester, Pennsylvania, is a performer, choreographer, and scholar of African Diasporan Dance. Nance performed as a principal dancer with Kariamu & Company: Traditions (Philadelphia, PA) and a recurring guest artist with Chuck Davis' African American Dance Ensemble (AADE) in Durham, North Carolina. He currently directs the Nance Dance Collective, an all-male dance initiative that produces dance works about black manhood. His latest work, *Red*, features a combined cast of dancers from the Nance Dance Collective and the Stella Maris Dance Ensemble and will be premiered in Kingston, Jamaica, in November. Nance is a master teacher of the Umfundalai technique of African dance, a founding member of the National Association of American African Dance Teachers, and an Executive Board Member of the Collegium of African Diaspora Dance. He has recently published a chapter about men's experiences in Umfundalai technique classes in Karen Bond's *Dance and the Quality of Life* and two chapters in the soon-to-be-released *African Dance in America: Perpetual Motion and Hot Feet*. His October residency at the Department of Dance was inspiring and eventful.

Thank you so much for joining us. Feel free to meet with the choreographers and dancers in the lobby after the show to share your thoughts.

Enjoy the show!

A handwritten signature in white ink that reads "Keith Johnson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Keith Johnson, Concert Director

## order of performance



(premiere)

**DIRECTION/PROJECTION** Rebecca Bryant

**CO-DIRECTION/REHEARSAL ASSISTANCE** Nicollette Combre

**CHOREOGRAPHY** The Cast, Rebecca Bryant, Nicollette Combre

**MUSIC** "Digital Demise" by Simon Mathewson;  
"Nostalgia Resolution" by Don Nichols

**SOUND DESIGN** Rebecca Bryant, Don Nichols

**COSTUMES** Kelsey Vidic

**PERFORMERS** Kaitlin Bates, Emily Boudreau,  
Kaia Collins, Niza Galindo, Aly Levy,  
Vivian Mulvihill, Joanne Olivo,  
Julia Russell, Topanga Scherf,  
Talisa Solorzano, Ashley Temeyer

*The following are movement excerpts taken from research on a new evening-length work exploring the object/subject relationship with technology in our contemporary world. "Digital Demise" by Simon Mathewson is licensed under a Attribution-NonCommercial-ShareAlike 4.0 International License. "Nostalgia Resolution" contains interpolations from the compositions "Ambient Gratuities," "Irrational Enthusiasm," and "Nostalgia" by Don Nichols. Text extracted/edited from the poem All Watched Over By Machines Of Loving Grace by Richard Brautigan.*

# Watchful Waiting for One

(premiere)

## CHOREOGRAPHY

Andrew Vaca

movement contributions from the cast

Original Composition by Mike Esperanza

## MUSIC

## PERFORMERS

**The "One"** Delaney Richards and Xene Sommers

**Ensemble** Cierra Bennette, Julisa Carbajal,  
Jayden Cardona, Ayanna Dowell,  
Maretzys Gandra, Laney Patton,  
Sydney Robinson

## SUPPORT FROM THE SIDELINES

Satsuki Higashi, Kacey Ura

*Thank you to my amazing cast for their dedication and inspiration.*

# Death Of A Promise (2016)

## CHOREOGRAPHY

Keith Johnson  
in collaboration with the dancers\*

## MUSIC

“Wrong, Wrong, Wrong” by Ge Gan-Ru

## COSTUMES

Keith Johnson  
in collaboration with Kelsey Vidic

## PERFORMANCE

Jayde Spiegel & Jennifer Viewig (11/15, 11/17, 11/18 mat)

Sierra Tanji & Shanti Topzand (11/16, 11/18 eve)

*DEATH OF A PROMISE* premiered at Highways Performance Space as part of the “New Shoes Festival” on September 30, 2016, and was performed by Francesca Dominguez and Mary Silva. \*Keith would like to acknowledge and thank Francesca and Mary for their creative contributions to this work.

WRONG, WRONG, WRONG! (1155 A.D)

by Lu You

Her hand rosy, tender,  
Pours the yellow t'eng wine,  
Spring hues adorn the city,  
Willows embrace garden walls.  
The East Wind malevolent,  
Conjugal bliss evanescent.  
A heart sorrow-laden,  
Cruel years steeped in loneliness asunder.  
Oh, wrong, wrong, wrong!

Spring as in days of yore,  
So wan and wasted is she,  
Rivulets of tears drench her pink kerchief.  
Peach blossoms falling,  
Stillness pervades pond and pavilion.  
Vows immutable as mountains,  
Yet how futile a lovelorn epistle.  
Ah, woe, woe, woe!

Translation by Vivian Ge and Margaret Leng Tan©2006

# communion (premiere)

## CHOREOGRAPHY

Rebecca Lemme,

in collaboration with the performers

## MUSIC

“Trapped By Yourself” by Evan Hodges;

“Strata”, “Everyone Is Gone” by Moby;

“Raindrops” by We Dream of Eden;

“I Found Peace When You Found Me”

by Sean Williams

## SOUND DESIGN

Rebecca Lemme

## COSTUME AND SCENIC DESIGN

Emily MacDonald

## PERFORMERS

Jordyn Apostolache,

Precious Ellis (Nov 15 -11/17),

Indigo Jacobs (Nov 18), Samuel Macias,

Karley Taylor

*Rarely, if ever, are any of us healed in isolation.*

*Healing is an act of communion.*

*-bell hooks, All About Love*

Special thanks to Trinity Massey who has been such a huge part of the process bringing this work to the stage.

# i promised i'd save a dance for you

Read 10:33 PM

(premiere)

## CHOREOGRAPHY

Tsiambwom M. Akuchu

## MUSIC

"Clair de Lune" by Claude Debussy,  
performed by Brent Hugh

## COSTUME DESIGN

Kelsey Vidic

## PERFORMANCE

Trinity Canga

*"Sometimes to keep yourself together, you must allow  
yourself to leave"*

*- Erin Hanson*

This work is made in partial collaboration with the dancers.  
Thank you Trin and Olivia for your patience and perseverance.



# Haba Na Haba Hujaza Kibaba

(2023)

## CHOREOGRAPHY

C. Kemal Nance

## REHEARSAL DIRECTOR

Danzel Thompson-Stout

## REHEARSAL ASSISTANT

Tashara Gavin-Moorehead

## LIVE PERCUSSIONIST

Aboubacar Kouyate, Malik Sow,  
Mokhamed Pepe Sylla

## COSTUME DESIGN

Kelsey Vidic

## ASST. COSTUME DESIGN

Cambria Anderson

## HAND WOVEN TEXTILES

Jeanne Medina Le

## HAIR/MAKEUP DESIGN

Cambria Anderson

## MEDIA DESIGN

Eme Ospina Lopez

## PROP MASTER

Stephanie Losleben

## PERFORMANCE

Cambria Anderson, Amber Cunnigan,  
Abril Fajardo, Jazmine Gregory, Malani Harrell, Taylor  
Jackson, Maya Sabbah, Dylan Shube, Fabián Zuniga

## UNDERSTUDIES

Sunwoo Hong, Michael Mendoza

*"Tell me, he said, "What is this thing about time? Why is it better to be late than early? People are always saying, we must wait, we must wait. what are they waiting for?"*

*"Well [...] I guess people wait in order to make sure of what they feel."*

*"And when you have waited—has it made you sure?"*

—James Baldwin

Haba Na Haba Hujaza Kibaba loosely translates as "little by little the container will fill." The mantra reminds one of the value of patience, the delayed satisfaction that comes with knowing that one's desire will eventually be fulfilled. As a dance, Haba Na Haba Hujaza Kibaba challenges the presumed certainty of filled container and in metaphor, explores the discourse a having a container whose contents is repeatedly emptied.

# ARTIST BIOS

## GUEST ARTIST

**OLUKO C. KEMAL NANCE, PHD "KIBON,"** a native of Chester, Pennsylvania is a performer, choreographer, and scholar of African Diasporic Dance. Attendees at the Colloquium of Black Arts in Bahia, Salvador knighted him "Kibon" - the name of a Brazilian ice cream to reflect the "delicious time" they experienced in his movement class. Nance is the senior master teacher of the Umfundalai (umfundalai.net) technique of African dance. In 2021, Umfundalai's progenitor, the late Kariamuwelsh, D. Arts, named him Oluko, the highest honor within Umfundalai's teaching community. His consultant work with the National Association of American African Dance Teachers (NAAADT) has unearthed teachers' training programs for recreational and professional Umfundalai movement practice.

## FACULTY

**TSIAMBWOM M. AKUCHU** is a hip-hop, theatre and performance artist and Assistant Professor of Dance at CSULB. His work focuses on the body and creating meaning through characterization and movement, often focusing on themes such as identity, politics, and race. He often creates work for concert dance that stages hip-hop and street dance fused with physical theater to create a unique performance experience. His choreography has been presented across the country on stages like The Kennedy Center and Joe's Pub at the Public Theater.

Dancemaker **REBECCA BRYANT** is known for a “wonderful insistence on making art about complex ideas” (SanDiego.com). Bryant’s work combines movement, text, video, and objects to address contemporary phenomenon, employing improvisational states and interdisciplinary collaboration. Bryant has shown work in 26 US states and 14 countries, working extensively for thirteen years with Lower Left Performance Collective and collaborating with over two-hundred visual and performing artists. As an Associate Professor at CSULB specializing in improvisation, composition, and somatic approaches, Bryant has taught guest workshops here and abroad, including NYC, LA, Stockholm, Oslo, Berlin, Cluj-Napoca, Budapest, Buenos Aires, Bogota, Guatemala City, San Salvador, and at over twenty US universities.

**KEITH JOHNSON** has danced for Ririe/Woodbury, Creach/Koester, Bill T. Jones/Arnie Zane Dance Company, and Doug Varone and Dancers. In addition, he has worked with Victoria Marks, Colleen Thomas Dance, Stephanie Liapis, and Nancy Bannon. He makes dance films with Gregory R.R. Crosby through Fistbomb Films. Keith is the Artistic Director of Keith Johnson/Dancers and on faculty at California State University, Long Beach. In addition to making dances, he writes poetry, works in neon, found object sculpture, watercolor paintings, re-furbishes lamps/chandeliers and is interested in costume design. [keithjohnsondancers.com](http://keithjohnsondancers.com)

**REBECCA LEMME** is a choreographer, performer, educator, and visual artist. She is the Founder and Artistic Director of the performance group Acts of Matter, which is entering its 10th season this fall. Currently an Associate Professor of Dance at California State University, Long Beach and formerly a full-time faculty member at CalArts, Rebecca holds an undergraduate degree from Princeton University in English and Theater and an MFA from California Institute of the Arts in Choreography.

[@actsofmatter](https://twitter.com/actsofmatter) | [actsofmatter.com](http://actsofmatter.com)

Professor **ANDREW VACA** has served CSULB Dance for 25 years as an instructor of jazz and modern dance, a creator of 27 original concert dances, and Department Chair (2011-2018). In May 2023, he was awarded the CSULB President's Award for Faculty Achievement. Andy began dancing with Dale Scholl at Sacramento State and later completed an MFA in dance at UCLA. He has danced in Jazzworks, Ririe-Woodbury Dance Company, Keith Johnson/Dancers, and was Assistant Project Coordinator for Kennedy Center Honoree Twyla Tharp's, *THARP!* With over 30 years in the sports dance team industry, Andy has choreographed nationally televised halftime shows, is an instructor with Pro Action Dance, and is a choreographer for the Pro Bowl Cheerleaders. He is proud to be the creator and Director of *Masters Pro Dance Workshop*, an annual fundraising event for CSULB Dance scholarships that celebrated its 11th year this October. Andy is the former President of the American College Dance Association and recently celebrated 19 years teaching for the LA Music Center's *Dance DTLA* and past TMC Arts programs.

Collaborating with Andy is **MIKE EXPERANZA**, a multifaceted creative force, celebrated for his transformative contributions to the world of dance and choreography. With an innate ability to merge contemporary aesthetics with authentic storytelling, Mike has captivated audiences worldwide. His journey began in Los Angeles and currently in New York City, where he honed his craft, drawing inspiration from urban culture and the human experience. As an accomplished dancer, choreographer, and artistic director, Mike has choreographed for renowned educational programs and companies such as WhimW'him, LACDC, Urbanity, Dark Circles Contemporary Dance, leaving an indelible mark on the dance landscape. His work transcends boundaries, evoking emotion, and pushing artistic boundaries. Mike's work has been described as "bold, athletic movement and theatricality - the latter clearly the coming together of Esperanza's many talents - the company epitomizes the dance of the new millennium: shape-shifting, vernacular-blending with a prescient focus on the brave new world in which we live." ~ Jessica Abrams, Explore Dance.

# 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?

Visit our donation page:

**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 Colleen Dunagan at [Colleen.Dunagan@csulb.edu](mailto:Colleen.Dunagan@csulb.edu)



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## PRODUCTION STAFF

**GREGORY R.R. CROSBY** is the resident photographer and video director for CSULB Dance, producing publicity material and directing concert Live Streams. He teaches classes in filmmaking to graduate and undergraduate students to produce Screendance, and works with BFA students to create working performance artist portfolios; complete with headshots, studio dance photography, and websites. Mr. Crosby obtained his BA in Film and Electronic Arts - Film and Video Production from CSULB and runs a production company, Lost Heart Productions, where he produces his own creative works along with collaborators like Keith Johnson through Fistbomb Films.

[@lostheartproductions](#) [lostheartproductions.com](http://lostheartproductions.com)

**ERIKA HANSEN** always wanted to sew Halloween costumes for a living but never thought it was feasible until she realized that Theatre is costumes year-round. She has several degrees in clothing and costume construction and has experience in Theatre, Opera, Ballet and more. CSULB is her favorite job, challenging her in costumes that allow and enhance movement instead of restricting the body to create the character. She is passionate in her love of making patterns and sewing and is thrilled to share her knowledge with the CSULB Dance.

**STACY FIREHEART** is a Lighting Designer for theater, dance, opera, and event lighting in the Orange County and Los Angeles areas. Over the last sixteen years, she has enjoyed designing and assisting on numerous stage performances working with theaters and theater companies such as International City Theater (Long Beach), Sierra Repertory Theatre (Sonora), Rogue Theater Ensemble (Los Angeles), Griot Theater (Los Angeles), South Coast Repertory Theatre (Costa Mesa), Utah Shakespeare Festival (Cedar City) and Great River Shakespeare Festival (Winona). She received her BA in Drama & Sociology and MFA in Drama (Lighting Design) from University of California, Irvine

**STEPHANIE LOSLEBEN** received her BA in Technical Theatre with an emphasis in Lighting Design from CSU Northridge; but her experience in theater dates back to her childhood days as a performer. Credits include international performances before distinguished Russian and American Ambassadors at the Geneva Peace Talks in 1984, award winner for her lighting design of Tainted Blood at the Road Theatre in Los Angeles, as well as years of lighting and production coordination of special events and gala parties in Southern California. Ms. Losleben's natural environment has always been in educating, and is excited to be a part of CSULB Dance.

**DR. DON NICHOLS** is a composer, percussionist and long-time collaborator with dance. He is a former Fulbright scholar to Sweden and recipient of an Indiana Arts Commission Grant for his solo electro-acoustic recording "Station of Small Sounds." Previous artistic collaborators include Steven Schick, Roger Reynolds, Evelyn Glennie, Sean Griffin, Ron Athey, Peter Carpenter, bkSoul, Kim Epifano, Ray Dillard, and Lower Left Performance Collective. Don has performed at Carnegie Hall, REDCAT and Disney Hall, and his music for dance has been presented at the ACDA National Festival, 92nd Street Y, Judson Church and Joyce SOHO.

**KELSEY VIDIC** was born in Florida. She began her career in costumes by interning with Brevard Music Center, STAGES St. Louis, Gomez-Gracia in London and the Santa Fe Opera. She received an MFA in Costume Design at the University of Texas at Austin. Working with bodies, textiles and space opened doors to work with the Intel Corporation, Opera på Skåret Sweden, American Players Theatre, and LA Contemporary Dance Company. Vidic is the Costume Shop Supervisor for the Dance Department at CSULB. She strives to listen with her eyes and prefers the present moment.

## PRODUCTION CREW

**TECHNICAL DIRECTOR** Stephanie Losleben

**ASSISTANT TECHNICAL DIRECTOR** Stephanie Losleben

**STAGE MANAGER** Erin Longhofer

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

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

**CAMERA OPERATORS** Artur Lago-V., Elizabeth Riley

**PRODUCTION ASSISTANTS** Valeria Resendiz

## STAGE CREW

John Briones, Dante Casarin, Mya Coffman, Carly R. Harris, Alana Lopez, Alyssa Mena, Valerie Park, Marianna Pekarek, Claire Rosetti, Wilma Tsutsui

## HOUSE/PUBLIC RELATIONS CREW

Samantha Chung, Grace Hager, Reagan Murray, Poppy Rose, Jordyn Sanchez

**COSTUME CONSTRUCTION CREW** Eva Anderson, Lindsay Rodriguez

**WEAVING CREW** Esmeralda Blanco Obregon, Trinity Juarez, David Dardis, Tiffany Valmocena

**WARDROBE CREW** Anabel Irwin, Avalon Kelly

**LAUNDRY CREW** Sunwoo Hong, Konstantina Ohanian

## COSTUME SHOP ARCHIVE

Dana Bermuda Hernandez, Rosita Rico, Michelle Rosales

**PROGRAM TEMPLATE DESIGN** Kianna Peppers

**PROGRAM DESIGN** Gregory R.R. Crosby

**SOCIAL MEDIA LEAD** Hannah Hesseltine @CSULBDance



## CSULB COLLEGE OF THE ARTS

Royce W. Smith, PhD, **Dean**

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

Anthony Byrnes, **Acting Associate Dean**

## CSULB DANCE FALL 2023

Colleen Dunagan, **Chair**

### FACULTY

Tsiambwom M. Akuchu, Zakiya Atkinson, Kendall Baab, Rebecca Bryant, Betsy Cooper, Amy Champion, Tamsin Carlson, Liz Curtis, Stacy Fireheart, Erika Hansen, Tashara Gavin-Moorehead, Francesca Jandasek, Teresa Jankovic, Keith Johnson, Lisa Johnson, Lorin Johnson, Sarah Leddy, Rebecca Lemme, Stephanie Losleben, Manny Macias, Brenna Monroe-Cook, Don Nichols, Steven Sofia, Danzel Thompson-Stout, Andrew Vaca, Kelsey Vidic, Lora Wilson, Brooke Winder, Aimée Wodobodé, MJ Wolff, 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

Tamsin Carlson, Bhargavi Sardesai, MJ Wolff

# 2023-2024 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

## CSULB DANCE AWARDS

Celeste Kennedy Scholarship -  
Tamsin Carlson, Bhargavi 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. & 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

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)

**This Spring we will be celebrating  
30 years at the Dance Center!**

# SPRING 2024 CSULB DANCE PERFORMANCES

**2024 Spring CSULB Dance in Concert** | *MARCH 13-16*

A series of unique choreographic works from our dance faculty and guest artists.

**Contemporary Dance Concert** | *APRIL 25-27*

A program of choreographic works by our undergraduate dance students featuring both stage work and screendance.

# CSULB DANCE

**For More Information Visit** [WWW.CSULB.EDU/DANCE](http://WWW.CSULB.EDU/DANCE)