

CSULB DANCE IN CONCERT

SPRING 2024 | A FACULTY & GUEST ARTIST CONCERT

Celebrating
30 YEARS IN THE DANCE CENTER



IN CONCERT

MARCH 13 at 8pm

MARCH 14 at 8pm—*Live Stream Available*

MARCH 15 at 8pm

MARCH 16 at 2pm • 8pm

Martha B. Knoebel Dance Theater

**CSULB
DANCE**

CSULB • *College of the Arts*
Dance

COLLEGE OF
THE ARTS
CSULB

CSULB DANCE

CSULB DANCE in concert

Presenting Works by Rebecca Bryant
Dance Faculty Keith Johnson
Danzel Thompson-Stout
Andrew Vaca

and Guest Artist Steve Zee

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

March 13 - 16, 2024
Martha B. Knoebel Dance Theater

COLLEGE OF
THE ARTS
 CSULB

WELCOME FROM THE CONCERT DIRECTOR



Thank you for joining us at the Spring 2024 CSULB Dance in Concert program, a celebration of 30 years in the beautiful facility we call "home": the CSULB Dance Center. For three decades, our students, staff, and faculty have immersed themselves in the art of dance all while supported by a facility that was created specifically for dance education, creation, scholarship, and performance.

I first stepped into the Dance Center when CSULB hosted a 1994 Conference for the American College Dance Association and have now worked here for over 25 years. I still marvel at how lucky I am to get to work in a space where inspiration, perspiration, and innovation all occur simultaneously. I look forward to coming back in another 30 years (with luck) to witness where the Department has grown and evolved, and to honor all the CSULB Dance students inspired to dedicate their lives to this artform we all love.

I hope that you enjoy our five-dance program featuring new works by Guest Artist Steve Zee, Rebecca Bryant, and Keith Johnson and repertory revivals by Danzel Thompson-Stout and me. Our lobby display will help you appreciate the totality of the action here at CSULB Dance since 1994 with photo displays, a video by Gregory R.R. Crosby about the creation of our building, and a costuming display featuring the work of Designer Kelsey Vidic, Technician Erika Hansen, and former Resident Designer Liz Carpenter. Many thanks to Production Assistants Kat Giannini and Joanne Olivo, along with Lorin Johnson and Kelsey Vidic, who took part in creating this impressive lobby display.

Enjoy the show!

A handwritten signature in white ink that reads "Andrew Vaca". The signature is fluid and cursive, written in a professional but personal style.

Andrew Vaca, Concert Director

order of performance

Grooves

(premiere)

CHOREOGRAPHY

Steve Zee

COSTUME DESIGN

Kelsey Vidic

SET DESIGN

Stephanie Losleben

PERFORMANCE

Kian Bucup-Menjivar, Kaitlin Bates,
Anessa Davies, Heather Davis,
Amaya Rodriguez, Kylie Sanders,
Dylan Shube

Steve would like to thank the CSULB Department of Dance for being so welcoming and enthusiastic in supporting the creation of this piece. Special thanks to Stephanie Losleben, Andy Vaca and Don Nichols. Thanks, also, to Sierra Tanji.

Baby

(premiere)

CHOREOGRAPHY

Keith Johnson
in collaboration with the dancers

MUSIC

“Traced Overhead, Op. 15” Performed
by Thomas Adès, Courtesy of Warner
Classics UK Ltd. By arrangement with
Warner Music Group Film & TV Licensing

PROJECTION

Gregory R.R. Crosby

SET DESIGN

Stephanie Losleban & Keith Johnson

COSTUME DESIGN

Keith Johnson

PERFORMERS

Brandon Garcia Michel, Anabel Irwin,
Taylor Jackson, Michael Mendoza,
Jesus Mora, Madeline Skalet

Keith would like to acknowledge and thank the dancers for their creative contributions and artistry to the work. In addition, Keith would like to thank and acknowledge Gregory R.R. Crosby and Stephanie Losleban for playing along and contributing to the idea.

Happily Frayed at the Seams

(2011)

CHOREOGRAPHY

Andrew Vaca

MUSIC

"Zinc" by Zoe Keating, "String Quartet No. 2: VI" by Micahel L. Nyman, "Viva La Vida" by Guy Berryman, Jonathan Buckland, William Champion, and Christopher Martin, Performed by Coldplay, Courtesy of Warner Music UK Ltd. By arrangement with Warner Music Group Film & TV Licensing

ORIGINAL COSTUME DESIGN

Liz Carpenter

ADAPTED COSTUME DESIGN

Kelsey Vidic

PERFORMERS

Eva Anderson, Amanda Campos, Madilynn Chavarria, Elaina Greenawalt, Luke Higuera, Mady Leier, Alyssa Mena, Marianna Pekarek, Sydney Robinson, Claire Rosetti, Julia Russell, Topanga Scherf, Xene Sommers, Ashley Temeyer, Wilma Tsutsui, Eva Watson

This dance is dedicated to Susan McLain, and her mother Joan, daughter Nile, and granddaughter Faith...with love and hope. Many thanks to the amazing Dr. Don Nichols for his musical creation for the livestream, and to Angelynn Bair and Brittany Ullestad for their movement contributions during this dance's infancy. Lastly, thank you to my dancers for their artistic triumphs in re-creating this dance in such a short amount of time.

intermission

Criatura Remix: you'll have to imagine the sheep y los lobos

(premiere)

CHOREOGRAPHY

Rebecca Bryant

MUSIC

"La Misma Variations" and
"Durango Hook" by Don Nichols

SOUND DESIGN

Rebecca Bryant & Don Nichols

TEXT

Rebecca Bryant
with translations by Rosario Lopez

VOICE

Rosario Lopez (Spanish) and
Rebecca Bryant (English)

COSTUME DESIGN

Kelsey Vidic

PERFORMERS

Levi Christensen, Amari Rathers,
Norma Saul, Vivian Vo

This performance is comprised of dance excerpts from a 30-minute multimedia work created for TAXIDANZA (Durango, MX) in collaboration with Sarah Culotta and Jasmyn Hamblin; many thanks to both of these artist/dancers for their creativity, contentiousness, and comradery.

Manifesting Our Destiny

(2019)

CHOREOGRAPHY

Danzel Thompson-Stout

MUSIC

"Collection of Rennie Harris Quotes"
composed by Matthew Scott Powell
"Amen For 8 Years Prayer" by House Victims

COSTUME DESIGN

Kelsey Vidic

ASST. COSTUME DESIGN

Cambria Anderson

PERFORMERS

Evie Barakat, John Briones,
Jackie Escamilla, Malani Harrell,
Lauren Kay, Annelise Licata,
Samuel Macias, Malia Marchant,
Fransheska Martinez, Elisa Murray,
Konstantina Ohanian, Rachel Olivier,
Shanti Topzand

UNDERSTUDIES

Maretzys Gandara, Elyse Turner

With profound gratitude, this choreographic journey has been shaped and nurtured by the hearts and bodies that have breathed life into it. To the original 2019 cast, your trust, your beautiful movement voices, and your resilience have sown the seeds of humility and vulnerability that continue to flourish within this work.

To my mentors, who urged me to embark on this creative odyssey in 2019, your guidance propelled me to create a piece so raw and authentic to my expression. This work rekindled my passion for choreography, providing a clear path for my artistic voice to take root.

To this extraordinary 2024 cast, your dedication has been nothing short of transformative. Through your selfless commitment, you've elevated this piece to new heights, breathing fresh life into its essence. I'm proud, inspired, and excited for the audience to witness your light.

My deepest gratitude extends to the vibrant pulse of club culture, particularly black culture, for creating a profound sound, space, and dance. This piece stands as a testament to that culture—a glimpse into the past, a reflection of the present, and a promise of a future where dance remains a sanctuary of healing, love, and community. It is a celebration of the indomitable spirit that transforms nothingness into an unyielding force, reminding us that this space, this dance, this sound, and this culture endure—immutable and invincible.

- Danzel Thompson-Stout

ARTIST BIOS

GUEST ARTIST

STEVE ZEE is a globe-trotting tap dancer who has trained and performed with the Nicholas Brothers, Gregory Hines and countless other tap notables. He has taught and performed across the United States, Europe, Brazil and China and has done four oral histories of significant tap dancers that are housed at prestigious scholarly institutions, including the Jerome Robbins Dance Division of the New York Public Library for the Performing Arts and the Academy of Television Arts & Sciences. He has been a member of the Jazz Tap Ensemble and Rhapsody In Taps. Check out his Ted talk *Tap Dancing Is The Story Of America*. In his subscription-based, online tap training program, Tap Academy Online, Steve currently teaches lessons in two languages to subscribers in dozens of countries on six continents. Please visit www.tapacademyonline.com. Steve is also on faculty in the Dance Departments at Loyola Marymount University and El Camino College.

stevezee.com

FACULTY

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 Dance Company, Creach/Koester, Bill T. Jones/Arnie Zane Dance Company, and Doug Varone and Dancers. In addition, he has performed with Bill Young/Colleen Thomas and Dancers, Nancy Bannon, Stephanie Liapis, 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, a 2015 and 2024 Djerassi Artist Resident, has taught at ADF, Doug Varone and Dancers Summer Intensives, and Beijing International Dance Festival. As a performer, he has performed in major festivals and concert halls worldwide including the Joyce Theatre, Jacob's Pillow, the Redcat Theatre, Tokyo International Festival, the Melbourne Festival, and Queen Elizabeth Hall. In addition, Keith has explored visual arts: printmaking, art installations, sculpture, neon art, minimalist watercolors, and costuming. Keith is a Professor at California State University, Long Beach where he teaches composition, improvisation, and technique courses. keithjohnsondancers.com

Assistant Professor **DANZEL THOMPSON-STOUT** specializes in street, club, and afro-diasporic dances, using dance as a means of reclaiming blackness through play and highlighting the resiliency of marginalized people and their cultures. He values kinesthetic imagination and play in his teaching, choreography, and performance, emphasizing footwork, floorwork, polyrhythmic, polycentric, and holistic movement. Danzel is a strong advocate for promoting and preserving the vibrancy of street, club, and afro-diasporic dance cultures, dedicating himself to being an active agent in their continued growth while also unveiling untold underground stories and forming his own imagined world of liberation for the self and collective through dance.

Professor **ANDREW VACA** has served CSULB for 25 years as an instructor of jazz and modern dance, a creator of 26 concert dances, faculty Production Coordinator, and Department Chair. Andy began dancing at Sacramento State University under Dale Scholl and later completed an MFA in dance at UCLA where he studied with Janis Brenner, Ronald E. Brown, Pat Catterson, Sharon Kinney, Angelia Leung, Risa Steinberg, Dan Wagoner, and many others. He has danced in Jazzworks, Ririe-Woodbury Dance Company, Keith Johnson/Dancers, and was Assistant Project Coordinator for Twyla Tharp's, *THARP!* With 35+ years in the sports entertainment industry, Andy has choreographed televised halftime shows, is a choreographer for the Pro Bowl Cheerleaders, and is the Director Workshop facilitator and a choreographer with Pro Action Dance (www.proactiondance.com). He is proud to be the creator and Director of Masters Pro Dance Workshop, an annual fundraising event for CSULB Dance scholarships. Andy is the former President of the American College Dance Association and will soon celebrate 20 years teaching for the LA Music Center's Dance DTLA community events.

CSULB 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



**CSULB
DANCE**

CSULB • *College of the Arts*
Dance

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

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 about her love of making patterns and sewing and is thrilled to share her knowledge with the Department of Dance.

STACY FIREHEART is an educator and Lighting Designer for theater, dance, opera, and event lighting. Over the last twenty years, she has enjoyed designing and assisting on numerous stage productions working with dance and theater companies such as On the Edge Dance, International City Theater, A Noise Within, Rogue Theater Ensemble, South Coast Repertory Theatre, Utah Shakespeare Festival, and Great River Shakespeare Festival. Mrs. Fireheart joined the Backhaus Dance company as resident lighting designer in 2021 and has enjoyed designer lights for the majority of CSULB's dance concerts since 2017. Currently, she is an Adjunct Professor at CSULB, UC Irvine, and Orange Coast College, teaching courses in lighting design and production.

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 education, and she 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. His latest project is a solo recording of improvisations on a circuit-bent Omnichord. More info at Donnichols.Bandcamp.com.

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 works as the Costume Design Supervisor and Costume Shop Manager for the CSULB Department of Dance. She strives to listen with her eyes and prefers the present moment.

PRODUCTION CREW

ASSISTANT TECHNICAL DIRECTOR Adrien Padilla

STAGE MANAGER Erin Longhofer

RES. HOUSE MANAGER Sylvia Rodriguez-Scholz

CAMERA OPERATORS Artur Lago-V., Guadalupe Vazquez-Sebastian

PRODUCTION ASSISTANTS Katrina Giannini, Joanne Olivo

STAGE CREW Ava Battle, Jeffrey Bull, Sami Cady, Elise Conlay, Michelle Delgado, Aina Eden, Isabella Fick, Satsuki Higashi, Indigo Jacobs, Mia Katsaros, Olivia Leyva, Gael Martinez-Castaneda, Valerie Park, Talisa Solorzano

STAGE CONSTRUCTION CREW

Ciera Bennette, Laney Patten, Sydney Robinson

HOUSE/PUBLIC RELATIONS CREW

Nathaniel Acido-Macaraeg, Timneat Daniel, Eberlyn Aaliyah Hernandez, Gabriella Parks, Michelle Rosales, Cynthia Zheng

ASSISTANT COSTUME DESIGNER Cambria Anderson

COSTUME CONSTRUCTION CREW

John Briones, Tara Hadley, Alyssa Mena, Jasmin Martinez

WARDROBE CREW Katherine Carter, Beau Esparza, Maya Sabbah

LAUNDRY CREW Saneé Davis, Gianna Garcia

PHOTOGRAPHY/PROGRAM DESIGN Gregory R.R. Crosby

SOCIAL MEDIA LEAD Sierra Tanji @CSULBDance

CSULB COLLEGE OF THE ARTS

Royce W. Smith, Ph.D, **Dean**

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

Anthony Byrnes, **Acting Associate Dean**

CSULB DANCE SPRING 2024

Dr. Colleen T. Dunagan, **Chair**

FACULTY

Tsiambwom M. Akuchu, Zakiya Atkinson, Kendall Baab, Rebecca Bryant, Betsy Cooper, Amy Champion, Tamsin Carlson, Gregory R.R. Crosby, 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, Brynn Shiovitz, 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, Stephanie Losleben, Don Nichols, Sylvia Rodriguez-Scholz, Kirsten Sumpter, Sierra Tanji, 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 Fees.

For more information on CSULB Dance, visit

www.csulb.edu/dance

Come back for more amazing
dance concerts from CSULB Dance!

FALL 2024 CSULB DANCE PERFORMANCES

2024 Variance: A BFA Dance Concert | *OCTOBER 10-12*

Choreographic works from our talented BFA students and
CSULB Dance faculty Keith Johnson and Danzel Thompson-Stout.

2024 Fusion Dance Concert | *NOVEMBER 22-23*

Collaborating with the Bob Cole Conservatory Symphony Orchestra, under the
direction of Johannes Müller Stosch, this concert will feature new work by Guest
Artist Hannah Thomas and CSULB Dance Faculty Tsiambwom Akuchu, Rebecca
Bryant, Lorin Johnson, Rebecca Lemme, and Andrew Vaca.

CSULB DANCE

For More Information, Visit WWW.CSULB.EDU/DANCE