

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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The CSULB Department of Dance in the College of the Arts presents:

CSULB DANCE IN CONCERT—CELEBRATING 30 YEARS IN THE DANCE CENTER
a concert of original choreography by CSULB Dance Faculty,
March 13-16, 2024 at the CSULB Martha B. Knoebel Dance Theater

Long Beach, CA –The CSULB College of the Arts and Department of Dance present the *CSULB Dance in Concert—Celebrating 30 Years in the Dance Center*, an original program of five dances choreographed by members of the widely diverse CSULB Department of Dance faculty. Concert presentations are Wednesday-Friday, March 13-15 at 8:00 PM and Saturday, March 16 at 2:00 PM and 8:00 PM. The March 16, 8:00 PM show is the *Gala Presentation* honoring the Scholarship Dancers of CSULB Dance and celebrating 30 years of artistic accomplishment in the CSULB Dance Center, with special student introductions and a post-concert reception in the lobby of the Martha B. Knoebel Dance Theater (tickets are limited for this performance). This exciting program will be live-streamed on Thursday, March 14 at 8:00 PM in addition to performed live in the CSULB Martha B. Knoebel Dance Theater.

CSULB Dance in Concert features new and restaged work by four CSULB full-time dance faculty and a premiere by Guest Choreographer and CSULB tap instructor Steve Zee. Audiences can look forward to work in tap, collaborative post-modern, modern, house dance, and contemporary/jazz dance styles. In the new tap work *Grooves*, Zee takes the core idea that tap dancers are musicians to its next logical place (after all, tap dance is a form of music and tap dancers make rhythm while they dance, so why just stop at feet?). Dancers play through swing, funk, and samba grooves using a mix of choreography and improvisation. Rebecca Bryant's premiere, *Criatura Remix: you'll have to imagine the sheep y los lobos*, shares movement excerpts from the latest multimedia piece in her *Criatura* series, investigating a range of somatic experiences along the spectrum of joining, assimilating, and fitting in. The soundscore weaves original music by Don Nichols with prose and poetic/rhythmic text created by Bryant, oscillating between Spanish and English. The creation of Keith Johnson's *Baby* is a combination of the unknown and chance games, inspired by the conceptual choices of Merce Cunningham, Trisha Brown, John Cage, and Marcel Duchamp. Johnson created this work, presented alongside a new film by CSULB Dance's resident Filmmaker Gregory R.R. Crosby and a set by Technical Director Stephanie Losleben, to include artistic elements, including the music, that come together for the first time in performance. Danzel Thompson-Stout's *Manifesting our Destiny* extracts the multifaceted layers of house dance through an explosive experience that focuses on the power of community and the importance of individual expression. The work strives to be an extension of what already exists in this cultural form, with roots in New York dance clubs, and shines light on an experience of marginalized people that created and continue to create a safe space of freedom and expression from 'nothing'. In *Happily Frayed at the Seams* (2011), choreographer Andrew Vaca and his dancers explore life as a series of pathways, where sometimes they need to step sideways in order to ultimately move forward. This group dance in contemporary and jazz dance styles is dedicated to the late Susan McLain, a beloved member of the CSULB Dance faculty.

No CSULB Dance concert is complete without the invaluable collaborative efforts of our production team. Technical Director Stephanie Losleben; Lighting Designer Stacy Fireheart; Costume Design Supervisor and Shop Manager Kelsey Vidic; Costume Technician Erika Hansen; Technology and Media Advisor Gregory R.R. Crosby; and Music Director Dr. Don Nichols have all contributed in multiple ways to the artistic excellence of these choreographic visions.

Performances of *CSULB Dance in Concert—Celebrating 30 Years in the Dance Center* are in the Martha B. Knoebel Dance Theater, just east of the Walter Pyramid on Atherton Street. Tickets for March 13-15 at 8:00 PM and Saturday, March 16 at 2:00 PM are \$25 for the general public and \$16 for students, CSULB faculty/staff, and seniors. For the March 16, 8:00 PM *Gala Presentation*, limited tickets are available at \$35 general public and

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\$25 students/CSULB faculty and staff/seniors. To purchase tickets, visit <https://www.csulb.edu/dance>. All tickets must be purchased online. Ticket sales are available until 30 minutes past the start of each show, or until sold out. \$15 campus parking is available in CSULB Parking Lot G12, directly in front of the Carpenter Performing Arts Center, via parking kiosk (cards only) and the [ParkMobile App](#).

The Concert will also be streamed live via Eventbrite at 8 PM on Thursday, March 14. To access the streaming links, please visit <https://www.csulb.edu/dance>. Tickets are \$25 General and \$16 students/CSULB faculty and staff/Seniors per stream. Live stream video will be available to view through Sunday, March 17.

For show information or to discuss bringing a group to see the concert, contact Concert Director Andrew Vaca at Andrew.vaca@csulb.edu, or visit www.csulb.edu/dance. For parking information, visit <https://www.carpenterarts.org/directions-and-parking>. To make donations to the CSULB Department of Dance and our Scholarship program, visit <https://www.csulb.edu/dance> and click on GIVE.

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