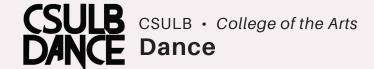


NOVEMBER 19 at 8pm
NOVEMBER 20 at 8pm
NOVEMBER 21 at 8pm
NOVEMBER 22 at 2pm • 8pm

Martha B. Knoebel Dance Theater





CSULB DANCE AND THE COLLEGE OF THE ARTS PRESENT

# N CONCERT

Presenting Works by Tsiambwom M. Akuchu

Dance Faculty Rebecca Bryant Lorin Johnson

Rebecca Lemme

**Danzel Thompson-Stout** 

**Andrew Vaca** 

and Guest Artist Tashara Gavin-Moorehead

**Concert Director** Lorin Johnson

**Lighting Designer** Stacy Fireheart **Technical Director** Stephanie Losleben

Costume Designer Kelsey Vidic

Costume Technician Erika Hansen

Music Director Don Nichols

Video Director Gregory R.R. Crosby

November 19 - 22, 2025 Martha B. Knoebel Dance Theater



#### WELCOME TO CSULB DANCE IN CONCERT



Thank you so much for joining us for CSULB Dance in Concert, our final concert this fall season. From the sublime and powerful work of our guest artist, Tashara Gavin-Moorehead, to each dance carefully crafted by our faculty choreographers, there is much to be inspired by and reflect upon. At CSULB, we pride ourselves on the diversity of programming that invites a wide range of perspectives, an intentional mission that you will

see reflected in this performance. What might be less obvious as you watch the show is the countless hours of planning, work and revision by our faculty, staff and students leading up to this final production. How does one create just the right costume design, lighting color scheme or sound environment to augment a creative vision? The complexity of human endeavor in live performance isn't always visible; a seamlessly coordinated event in which all creative elements flow, whether digital, mechanical, or based in human movement. While our beautiful performers will be at the forefront of your minds as you watch, our students are ever present behind the scenes and involved in all parts of the production, from the welcoming ushers who scanned your tickets to those tasked with operating highly technical equipment in the darkened booth behind you. The Department of Dance's concerts offer a holistic educational opportunity for our students; a hands-on view of not only the skills, but the teamwork and spirit of bringing live performance to an audience. Our goal is educational, but our mission is much more; to bring voice to communities through the power of the arts. We are so glad you are here and we welcome you to our family!

Enjoy the show!

Lorin Johnson, Concert Director

on E pu

#### order of performance

#### **Obsidian Universe**

(premiere)-

CHOREOGRAPHY

Tashara Gavin-Moorehead

MUSIC

"Because of you", "Raise your Vibration" by Theo Croker; "Tantric", "New Jack Bounce", "Diviner( Devan)"

by Christian Scott aTunde Adjuah

**SOUND DESIGN** 

**Don Nichols** 

**PROJECTION DESIGN** 

Gregory R.R. Crosby

**COSTUME DESIGN** 

Kelsey Vidic

PERFORMANCE

Cierra Bennette, Avriell Craig, Janelle Diaz, Aina Eden, Jordan Esquibel, Quartney Mcraw, Lena Moulton, Jameshia Taylor

Thank you to the production team of CSULB Dance for helping me create this story. Thank you to Ahmad, Kharissa, Sonria for your presence throughout the process. Thank you to my family and my ancestors who I would not be here today without their love, support and guidance.

The story of "Obsidian Universe" is inspired by my love of Black/African American culture and my love for fantasy and sci fi fiction. I have always wanted to see a cinematic, futuristic story that uses Black American culture and instead of waiting I decided to create one myself. "Obsidian Universe" is a story steeped in Black/African American culture based in Kwanzaa principles, our music and movement traditions and in our spiritual beliefs.

#### shoulder

(premiere)-

CHOREOGRAPHY & DIRECTION

Rebecca Lemme in collaboration with the dancers

MUSIC

"Otava" by Mika Vainio & Ø; "Secret", "I Saw You" by Fred again.. & Brian Eno

**COSTUME DESIGN** 

Kelsey Vidic

**PERFORMERS** 

Jayden Cardona, Ayanna Dowell, Maya Sabbah, Nathan Waters, Ashlyn Yoshikawa

UNDERSTUDY

King Caleb Chaney

"shoulder" is an exploration of community support, deeply inspired by the ways people come together in times of hardship. It is a meditation on offering, seeking, and accepting care—allowing others to help shoulder the burden. The work uses imagery from nature as a lesson in patience—change that manifests profoundly, yet slowly, as if carved over eons by glacial shift.

Thank you to all of you in the CSULB community and beyond who have been so generous in your care this year. It has been life affirming, and I'm eternally grateful.

#### **Desert of the Real**

(premiere)-

CHOREOGRAPHY

Tsiambwom Akuchu & Danzel Thompson-Stout

MUSIC

"Isley's Hymn"
by Terrace Martin & Kenyon Dixon;
"The Frontier by" List::X & Phennel Koliander;
"For Marmish" by Floating Points;
"Rising Sun, Falling Coconut"
by Frits Wentink

SOUND EDITING COSTUME DESIGN

Danzel Thompson-Stout Kelsey Vidic

PERFORMERS

Amanda Campos, Claire Colbert, Matthew Manuel, Fransheska Martinez, Richard Medina, Rachel Olivier, Signe Rodrigues, Elyse Turner

**UNDERSTUDY** 

Mia Katsaros

#### hecho right in front of tú

(premiere)-

DIRECTION/TEXT/PROPS/ VIDEO DESIGN Rebecca Bryant

"Silky Lake" by Mashahiro Takahashi; "White Man Sleeps IV" (excerpt) by Kevin Volans; "Io" and "Sinope" by Dawn of Midi; "One Day More" by Elain Purkey

**SOUND DESIGN** 

Rebecca Bryant & Don Nichols

TRANSLATION CONSULTANTS

Sandra Perez & Sofia Linggi-Perez

**COSTUME DESIGN** 

Kelsey Vidic

**WEARABLE ART** 

Jeanne Medina Le

PATTERN MAKER

Erika Hansen

CONSTRUCTION

Erika Hansen, Kelsey Vidic, Rebecca Bryant

**REHEARSAL ASST.** 

Melissa McCloud

#### **COLLABORATORS/PERFORMERS**

Ava Barrett, Mylah Elisaldez, Brian Helm, Satsuki Higashi, Aimee Ilog, Sofia Linggi-Perez, Nicolette Miguel, Jordyn Sanchez, Hanna Selander, Xene Sommers, Maddie Youmans, Anthi Yphantides

I wish to acknowledge and thank the exquisite dancers who workshopped the beginnings of this material with me in Buenos Aires [Paula Zacharías, Dani Zacharías, and Pablo Sirkin] and Long Beach [Darrian O'Reilly, Rosa Rodriguez Frazier, and Waeli Wang]. Special thanks to the summer research team—especially intrepid alums Sarah Culotta and Allie Miks—who helped further this material; the team included CSULB Dance students Maelee Acosta, Kushi Aeri, Mylah Elisaldez, Brian Helm, Santana Huizar, Priscilla Loya, Karla Ramirez, Ashlyn Yoshikawa. And finally, my deepest gratitude to the brilliant Jeanne Medina Le for the continued collaboration.

#### Wish

(Premiere)

CHOREOGRAPHY Lorin Johnson

in collaboration with the cast

MUSIC "Well Worn" composed, performed

and produced by Max Judelson

COSTUME DESIGN Kelsey Vidic

PERFORMERS Kaela Alvarez, Kennedy Berthiaume,

Akeelah Duffy, Isabela Muguira,

Sydney Robinson

"Wish" is dedicated to all my students at CSULB, past and present. I thank my cast for their enthusiasm, creative ideas and dedication to the process. I also want to acknowledge alumni dance majors Jessica Dunn, Miki Fu, Kimberly Hannah, Belinda Lutes, and Emma Storey, who workshopped ideas with me in the summer of 2012, the early inspiration for this new work.

### The Only Dance That Matters (Smash, Clash, & Thrash)

(2009)

CHOREOGRAPHY

**Andrew Vaca** 

MUSIC

All songs performed by The Clash:
Nicky "Topper" Headon, Mick Jones,
Paul Simonon, and Joe Strummer.
"London Calling" by Jones, Strummer;
"Rebel Waltz" by Simonon, Strummer;
"Should I Stay or Should I Go" and
"Train in Vain" by The Clash.

ORIGINAL COSTUME DESIGN

ADAPTED COSTUME DESIGN

Liz Carpenter

Kelsey Vidic

**PERFORMERS** 

Isabella Fick, Carina Ford, Mandi Jeffery, Arabella Lazzeroni, Mady Leier, Elisa Murray, Jacqueline Pacyna, Kylie Sanders, Emily Schwartzfarb, Kenya Smith, Ramona Vancea Summer Koetters

UNDERSTUDY

Rising from the non-sentimental, do-it-yourself ethic of the 1970s British punk rock movement, The Clash (dubbed "The Only Band That Matters") combined their adventurous writing and distinctive sound with classic outlaw imagery to become rock superstars and members of the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame. Thank you to my 2009 cast for their contributions to this work and my current cast for embodying that rocker who's not afraid to chase their loser ex down a dark alley.

#### **ARTIST BIOS**

#### **GUEST ARTIST**



TASHARA GAVIN-MOOREHEAD, MFA is a dance storyteller deeply passionate about her African American heritage. She holds a BFA from Virginia Commonwealth University and an MFA from California State University, Long Beach. She has toured both domestically and internationally with Deeply Rooted Dance Theater, Lula Washington Dance Theater, Jazz Antiqua Music and Dance Ensemble, and The New Kariamu & Company.

As an independent choreographer, she has presented her one-woman shows at festivals such as the Los Angeles Dance Festival, LA Women's Theatre Festival, and Highways Performance Space. She approaches her work ethnographically, studying African American history, her Southern roots, and her family lineage.

Tashara is currently researching the relationship between the Nguzo Saba—the seven principles of Kwanzaa—and jazz improvisation as a liberation practice, as well as the potential link between jazz improvisation and non-Western healing methods addressing African American women's health issues.

Her mission is to create theatrical dance stories that uplift, inspire, and transform audiences through African American folktales, customs, and traditions. By merging dance, theatre, and history, she creates immersive experiences that foster both collective and individual healing.

She is thrilled to be CSULB's guest artist this year!





TSIAMBWOM "T" AKUCHU is a hip-hop and theatre artist based in Los Angeles, CA. He works as a choreographer and movement director, creating works for concert dance that stage hip-hop and street dance fused with physical theater. He has choreographed and performed in shows and festivals such as DANCE NOW NYC, SoloDuo, Dumbo Dance Festival, Austin Dance Festival, (de) Color-es Festival and more. "T" is also faculty at CSULB (California State University, Long Beach), teaching street dance.





Dancemaker REBECCA BRYANT is known for a "wonderful insistence on making art about complex ideas" (sandiego.com). Coming from a visual art background, Bryant 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 a 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. Bryant's current research includes the Las Americas Project, which forges intercultural exchanges between CSULB students and dance artists in Mexico/Central America/South America.



Professor LORIN JOHNSON was a dancer with the American Ballet Theatre (ABT) in New York under the directorship of Mikhail Baryshnikov. Johnson's choreography has been presented internationally at The Garage Museum in Moscow, Russia and at the Fabbrica Europa Dance Festival in Florence, Italy. Nationally, his work has been commissioned by the Pacific Symphony Orchestra at Segerstrom Concert Hall, the Celebrate Dance festival at the Alex Theater, the Laguna Dance Festival,

the Dance Under the Stars choreography festival, the Los Angeles Dance Invitational at the Ford Amphitheater, and in downtown Los Angeles with LA Grand Ensemble. Johnson is active as a researcher and writer, publishing on dance history and pedagogy in peer-reviewed journals and books. His book with Oxford University Press, Ballet Practice and History: an Introduction (2025) is a comprehensive and inclusive approach to the study of ballet. Additionally, Johnson teaches advanced levels at the ABT William J. Gillespie School at Segerstrom Center for the Arts and directs ABT's summer programs nationally. Johnson has BA and MA degrees in the humanities (Russian language, culture and arts) from the University of Southern California.



DANZEL THOMPSON-STOUT, an Assistant Professor of Dance at California State University, Long Beach, is a master teacher of the Umfundalai technique and a working professional dancer in both the entertainment and battle industries. His movement practice is rooted in street, club, and Afro-diasporic dances, where he uses dance as a means of reclaiming Blackness through play and highlighting the resilience of marginalized people and their cultures.

With a deep commitment to both preservation and innovation, Danzel values kinesthetic imagination and play in his teaching, choreography, and performance, emphasizing footwork, floorwork, polyrhythmic, polycentric, and holistic movement. His industry credits include performing on the national leg of Usher's Past, Present, Future Tour, while his battle accolades include 1st place wins at Step Ya Game Up (1v1 House), Freestyle Session Worldwide 2024 (1v1 House), Snipes x Just Sole: Sole Open (1v1 House), and RnBeast Vol. 7 (1v1 Open Style). These accomplishments reflect his ability to move fluidly between academic, commercial, and underground spaces while remaining deeply committed to the cultural legacies that shape his artistry.



REBECCA LEMME is a choreographer, performer, educator, and visual artist. She is the Founder and Artistic Director of Acts of Matter, a vehicle for collaborative making, performing, and exploration. Lemme 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. In her 12th year at CSULB, Professor 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



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.

#### Give to **Dance**

CSULB Dance is dedicated to fostering an inclusive, student-centered community where students explore pathways that expand their

creative potential, intellectual curiosity, and career goals. While state funding and tuition support basic operations, gifts from donors like you make our program truly exceptional.

You can help support the next generation of dance artists by giving to Dance Scholarships, the Department, or by creating a named scholarship.

For more information, contact Department Chair Colleen Dunagan at Colleen.Dunagan@csulb.edu

Visit our donation page: Giving for CSULB Dance



#### **PRODUCTION STAFF**

GREGORY R.R. CROSBY is the resident photographer and video director for CSULB Dance, where he produces publicity materials and directs live-streamed performances. He teaches filmmaking courses with an emphasis on screendance and collaborates with BFA students to develop professional artist portfolios that include headshots and studio dance photography.

Mr. Crosby earned his BA in Film and Electronic Arts with a concentration in Film and Video Production from California State University, Long Beach. He is also the founder of Lost Heart Productions, where he creates original works. Select projects are available to stream on Amazon Prime and Vimeo OnDemand.

#### (a) lostheartproductions.com (a) @lostheartproductions

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 CSULB 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.

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.

#### **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 Shop Supervisor and Costume Designer for CSULB Dance. She strives to listen with her eyes and prefers the present moment.

#### **PRODUCTION CREW**

ASSISTANT TECHNICAL DIRECTOR Julian Fernandez

**STAGE MANAGER** Erin Longhofer

RES. HOUSE MANAGER Sylvia Rodriguez-Scholz

CAMERA OPERATORS Artur Lago-V., Erick Tapia Escalera

**PRODUCTION ASSISTANT** Carina Ford

STAGE CREW Indya Bluford, Bryanna Fisher, Faith Ganske, Riley Hall, Lilah Havner, Cassidy Johnston, Mia Macias, Juan Preciado Ospina, Marisol Palacios, Jaxie Russell

STAGE CONSTRUCTION CREW Kushi Aeri, Andrea Garcia, Indigo Jacobs, Jade Madrigal, Claire Rosetti, Nathan Waters

HOUSE/PUBLIC RELATIONS CREW
Anna Abrego, Armita Azizi,
Zion Emerald Davis, Ageha Nagatomo, Tamar Roide

COSTUME CONSTRUCTION CREW Precious Ellis

WARDROBE SUPERVISOR Kelsey Vidic

WARDROBE CREW Kiera Salley, Christy Schneider, Jasmine Valdez

LAUNDRY CREW Lilly McFarren

PHOTOGRAPHY/PROGRAM DESIGN Gregory R.R. Crosby

SOCIAL MEDIA LEAD Lillian McKenzie @ @CSULBDance



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Dr. Colleen T. Dunagan, Chair

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John Siegel - Head Athletic Trainer

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Kennedy Berthiaume, Amy Ernst, Cammie Kao, Sofia Linggi-Perez, Ricky Medina, Maggie Ogle

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CR Carolyn R. Cunningham Endowed Scholarship Mandi Jeffery
Celeste Kennedy Endowment

Amy Jan Ernst, Cameron Kao, Sofia Linggi-Perez

#### DANCE DEPTARTMENT SCHOLARSHIP

Kaela Alvarez, Elise Conlay, Grace Hager, Alana Lopez, Kenya Smith

#### DANCE, MUSIC, THEATRE

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Lana Alper Endowed Scholarship Amanda Campos, Aimee Ilog
Jamiesson-Pechstein College of the Arts Endowed Scholarship
Melodee Aguilera, Trinity Massey, Maya Sabbah, Elyse Turner
Harvey and Amy Waggoner Endowed Scholarship Colin Dean

#### **COTA COMPETITIVE AWARDS**

Carolyn Campagna Kleefeld COTA Endowed Kennedy Berthiaume Carolyn Campagna Kleefeld COTA Endowed Sydney Robinson

#### **COTA AWARDS**

Donald W. Leonard Endowed Scholarship
Indya Bluford, Mateo Esparza, Isabella Ladine
Richard Baker Endowed Scholarship Leah Leon
DAAG Scholarship Salvador Gutierrez
Fine Arts Affiliates Scholarship Madylin Leier, Kylie Sanders

#### **CSULB AWARDS**

CSULB Graduate Fellowship Ricky Medina, Maggie Ogle

This program made possible through funds from CSULB's Instructionally Related Activities Fees.

For more information on CSULB Dance, visit

Come back for more amazing concerts from CSULB Dance!

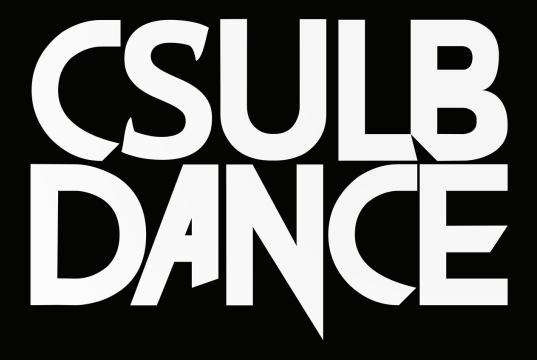
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**2026 MFA Dance Concert** | *MARCH 5-7* 

Culminating choreographic works from our talented MFA students

**2026 Contemporary Dance Concert** | APRIL 23-25

Presenting works by our undergraduate dance students.



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