CSULB DANCE IN CONCERT

FALL 2026 | *A FACULTY CONCERT*



NOVEMBER 18 at 8pm
NOVEMBER 19 at 8pm
NOVEMBER 20 at 8pm
NOVEMBER 21 at 2pm • 8pm

Martha B. Knoebel Dance Theater

CSULB DANCE

CSULB • *College of the Arts*
Dance

COLLEGE OF THE ARTS
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CSULB DANCE AND THE COLLEGE OF THE ARTS PRESENT

2026 CSULB DANCE IN CONCERT

Presenting Works by	Rebecca Bryant
Dance Faculty	Rebecca Lemme
	&
	Andrew Vaca

Concert Director	Danzel Thompson-Stout
Lighting Designer	Stacy Fireheart
Technical Director	Stephanie Losleben
Stage Manager	Erin Longhofer
Costume Designer	Kelsey Vidic
Costume Technician	Erika Hansen
Music Director	Don Nichols
Video Director	Gregory R.R. Crosby

November 18 - 21, 2026
Martha B. Knoebel Dance Theater

COLLEGE OF THE ARTS
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A MESSAGE FROM OUR CONCERT DIRECTOR DANZEL THOMPSON-STOUT



On behalf of the CSULB Department of Dance, it is my pleasure to welcome you to the Martha B. Knoebel Dance Theater for **CSULB Dance in Concert**.

Tonight's program features four works by CSULB Dance faculty Rebecca Bryant, Rebecca Lemme, and Andrew Vaca. Across the evening, you will experience a wide range of artistic approaches that move through contemporary dance, multimedia performance, jazz, and dance theater while exploring themes of grief, visibility, memory, connection, reflection, and change. Together, these works highlight the breadth of creative research and artistry that continues to shape our department and the experiences of our students.

This concert is particularly meaningful as we celebrate Andrew Vaca and his 27 years of concert dance presentation at CSULB. Through the return of *General Education* and the premiere of *Pack It Up/Pack It In*, Andy reflects on a remarkable tenure filled with choreography, mentorship, collaboration, humor, artistry, and an immeasurable impact on generations of CSULB dancers. We are especially excited to honor Andy following our Saturday evening performance with a special reception celebrating his time and contributions to our community.

It has been a privilege to serve as Concert Director and to witness the tremendous work of our faculty choreographers, student performers, designers, production team, crew, and everyone who has contributed to bringing this concert to the stage.

Thank you for joining us and for continuing to support dance at CSULB. We hope tonight's performances invite you to reflect, connect, laugh, feel, and celebrate alongside us.

Enjoy the show!

Danzel Thompson-Stout, Concert Director

order of performance

La Reconnaissance

(premiere)

Reconnaissance (French feminine noun)
:recognition, acknowledgement, gratitude

Je ne demande qu'à vivre cent ans encore, pour me souvenir plus longtemps de toi!

I ask no more than to live 100 years longer, that I may have more time to dwell the longer on your memory.

— Jules Verne
Twenty Thousand Leagues Under the Sea

CHOREOGRAPHY & DIRECTION	Rebecca Lemme
ADDITIONAL MOVEMENT	The performers
MUSIC	Original composition by Lauren Elizabeth Baba
COSTUME DESIGN	Kelsey Vidic
PERFORMANCE	Anna Boyle, KingCaleb Chaney, Mary Dale, Isabella Fick, Lillian McFarren, Tlakatl Soberanis, Yushua Sattaur, Ava Threedy, Madeline Skalet
UNDERSTUDIES	Maelee Rose Acosta, Mads Irving

Special thanks to Dance in the Parks Chicago, and performers Reid Kostrum and Ben Moleta, who were instrumental in the development of the early stages of this concept. Continued research of this work, and its larger context, will be the subject matter of Acts of Matter's premiere work in Season 13 "se souvenir de (to remember)". Thank you to these incredible student collaborators for their contributions to this process.

ojo

(premiere)

DIRECTION/TEXT/ VOICE/PROPS/ VIDEO DESIGN	Rebecca Bryant
REHEARSAL ASST.	Bryanna Fisher
MUSIC	"Hockets for Two Voices: III & II" by Meara O'Reilly; "Für Fritz", "Chaconne in A Minor" by Moondog, Dominique Ponty, Stefan Lakatos; "Nocturne Suite Part 2" by Moondog; "Ballad of Accounting" by Ewan MacColl, Peggy Seeger
SOUND DESIGN	Don Nichols & Rebecca Bryant
VOICE	Tiffany Garcia & Rebecca Bryant
WEARABLE ART DESIGN	Jeanne Medina Le
JUMPSUIT DESIGN	Kelsey Vidic
COLLABORATORS /PERFORMERS	Anna Abrego, Sami Cady, Jordan Esquibel, Eva Galindo, Tiffany Garcia, Indigo Jacobs, Brittany Lopez, Malia Marchant, Taija Sandoval, Emily Schwartzfarb, Sonria Rheiglene Simanski, Karley Taylor, Elyse Turner

This work is a companion piece to hecho right in front of tú (2025).

I wish to acknowledge and thank the exquisite dancers who created seed material for this piece 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 my Summer 2025 research team—especially intrepid alums Sarah Culotta and Allie Miks—who workshopped much of 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.

maps.deflock.org is a crowdsourced map identifying locations of ALPR surveillance cameras; it includes a navigation feature for avoiding known cameras.

intermission

Note from Andrew Vaca: *The two pieces of choreography that I share with you in this concert can be presented separately but have been connected for this show in order to exist as one experience (so, use the restroom during intermission!). General Education (2014) features music by my favorite eclectic band, Pink Martini, and includes a newly added Section 5 featuring my musical muse of 36 years, the incomparable Lisbeth Scott. Lisbeth takes us directly to a new work, Pack It Up/Pack It In, that features several sections created by me for CSULB dance concerts over the past 27 years, encompassed as a new "whole." This work reflects my past intentions but even more than that it weaves a vividly hued, slightly acerbic, and ultimately grateful and hopeful farewell to a home I have lived in longer than any other place in my life. Thank you to the 26 students who have endured my scatter-brained creativity this semester and the (and this is a real number because I looked it up) 142 student dancers who contributed their energy to the pieces that birthed parts of this work. The past dances would also not have had the same impact without the collaboration of performers Pat Finot, Francesca Jandasek, Rachel Kann, and Susan McLain and designers Liz Carpenter, Gregory R.R. Crosby, Andrew N. Milhan, Eric Ruskin, and Steve Stettler. I hope you enjoy my final presentation as a CSULB Professor, and thank you for letting me share myself with you through this magical art form for 27 years.*

I dedicate these performances to the memory of Tomella Vaca (1935-2026), the woman who embodied "the art of being attractive" and who, along with my loving father David, attended almost every performance I ever presented here at CSULB.

With love, Andy

General Education

(2014)

Section 1—The Foundation
Section 2—Explorations
Section 3—Integrative Learning
Section 4—Advanced Skills
Section 5—Lifelong Learning (Premiere)

CHOREOGRAPHY

Andrew Vaca, with creative input from the 2014 and current cast

MUSIC

"Let's Never Stop Falling in Love" by China Forbes, Thomas Lauderdale; "Ohayoo Ohio" by Daniel Faehnle; "Heliotrope Bouquet" by Scott Joplin, Louis Chauvin; "Zundoko Bushi" by Hideo Mizumori, arranged by Makoto Kawaguchi; "Alleluia" by Lisbeth Scott, Section 1-4 performed by Pink Martini (pinkmartini.com), Section 5 performed by Lisbeth Scott (lisbethscott.com)

SOUND DESIGN

Don Nichols, Andrew Vaca

ORIGINAL COSTUME DESIGN

Liz Carpenter

ADAPTED COSTUME DESIGN

Kelsey Vidic

PERFORMERS

Melodee Aguilera (11/18, 11/19, 11/21), Gemma Caudillo, Kharissa Darden, Michelle Delgado Perez, Carina Ford, Grace Hager, Kellan McArthur, Alexis Meza (11/20), Roberto Morales, Juan Preciado, Kylie Sanders, Xene Sommers, Tatum Tuin, Andrew Vaca

Pack It Up/Pack It In

(Premiere)

Featuring material from Unfrozen Arrythmia (2001), Gimme Lip (2003), Swoon, Croon, & Swing (2004), Celebration (2007), and Humnos (2013)

CHOREOGRAPHY	Andrew Vaca, with immeasurable input by this cast and performers past
REHEARSAL ASST.	Amy Ernst
MUSIC	"16 Red Even" by Boris Brejcha; "Geronimo" by J. Bovino, A. Sheppard, G. Sheppard; "Fever" by O. Blackwell, E. Cooley; "I Think He's Gay" by Pussy Tourette; "What Makes a Man a Man" by C. Aznavour, English lyrics by B. Craig; "Testosterone" by B. Kluger; "Music" by Madonna, M. Amadzaï; "Danceteria" by Madonna, J. P. Lordan, S. Price, L. Reed, A. Watt, H. Walter; "Un'aura Amorosa" by W.A. Mozart
SOUND DESIGN	Gregory R.R. Crosby, Don Nichols, Andrew Vaca
ORIGINAL COSTUME DESIGN	Liz Carpenter
ADAPTED COSTUME DESIGN	Kelsey Vidic
VIDEO	Gregory R.R. Crosby
SYNCHRONICITY VON TRAPP	Victoria Ferrigno
VOICE OF SYNCHRONICITY	Pat Finot

SYNCHRONICITY TEXT	Andrew Vaca
VOICE OF "ANDY VACA"	Keith Johnson
"ANDY VACA" TEXT	Keith Johnson

"Andy Vaca" doll courtesy of Sylvia Rodriguez-Scholz

PERFORMERS

Niko Black, Elise Conlay, Mateo Esparza, Alexis Gutierrez, Summer Koetters, Isabela Muguira, Gabriella Parks, Signe Rodrigues, Claire Rosetti, Maya Sabbah, Dylan Tillman, Andrew Vaca, Kyra Wescom; with guest performances by the cast of *General Education*

More choreographer's notes: *I could not have done this without Greg, Stephanie, Liz, Kelsey, Erika, Stacy, Don, Sylvia, Keith, and my beautiful show collaborators, Rebecca B, Rebecca L, and Danzel. Thank you to all of my past teachers (especially Dale Scholl, Sharon Kinney, Pat Catterson, Lan-Lan Wang, Angelia Leung, Terri Best, Cindera Che, Dan Wagoner, Keith Johnson, Joan Woodbury, and Shirley Ririe) for your patience, support, and guidance, and to my current teacher Nathan Kim for your inspiration and punching contributions to "Andyrobics." Thank you to Lisbeth Scott and Rachel Kann for always inspiring me. Thank you to Judy Allen for giving me my first opportunity to choreograph in a CSULB show (and hiring me!). Lastly, thank you to all of the student dancers who worked with me over 27 years of dance creation at CSULB—I couldn't have done it without you!*

ARTIST BIOS



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 is twofold: partnering with Astronomy professor Dr. Joel Zinn on teaching Galactic Dynamics through dance, and the Las Americas Project, which forges intercultural exchanges between CSULB students and dance artists in Mexico/Central America/South America.



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 and is in her 13th year at CSULB, now as a Professor of Dance. 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. 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



Professor **ANDREW VACA** has served CSULB for 27 years as an instructor of jazz and modern dance, creator of 28 concert dances, faculty Production Coordinator, and Department Chair (2011-2018). He was a 2023 recipient of the CSULB President's Award for Outstanding Faculty Achievement. Andrew began dancing at Sacramento State University with Professor Dale Scholl and soon danced in her concert dance company, Jazzworks. Soon after, Andrew completed an MFA in Dance at UCLA. As an Angeleno, Andrew has studied with Terri Best, Janis Brenner, Ronald E. Brown, Pat Catterson, Cindera Che, MaDonna Grimes, Nathan Kim, Sharon Kinney, Douglas Neilsen, Risa Steinberg, Dan Wagoner, and many others. He has additionally danced in the Ririe-Woodbury Dance Company, Keith Johnson/Dancers, and was Assistant Project Coordinator for Twyla Tharp's, *THARP!* Having worked nearly 40 years in the sports entertainment industry, Andrew's choreography has been performed by almost every NFL and NBA dance team and dance teams from around the world. He has choreographed televised halftime shows, choreographed for 20+ years for the Pro Bowl Cheerleaders, and is the Director Workshop facilitator and a former choreographer for Pro Action Dance. Andrew has dedicated thousands of hours to service in the dance industry including serving as President/CEO of the American College Dance Association, creating/directing CSULB Dance's annual Masters Pro Dance Workshop (which has raised over $81,000 for CSULB Dance scholarships), and teaching "disco night" for the LA Music Center's Dance DTLA program (22nd year) and Dance Marina del Rey. After retiring next summer, Andrew plans to be seen dancing in commercials for geriatric pharmaceuticals, judging international dance competitions, and riding his bike around Long Beach.

PRODUCTION STAFF

GREGORY R.R. CROSBY is the resident photographer and video director for CSULB Dance. His work has been featured in print and screened at film festivals locally and internationally. He teaches a Film Production for Dance course and collaborates with BFA students to develop professional artist portfolios, including 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.

lostheartproductions.com @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 designing lights for the majority of CSULB's dance concerts since 2017.

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.

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.

kelseyvidic.com

CONCERT DIRECTOR



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.

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

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For more information on CSULB Dance visit
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STAGE MANAGER Erin Longhofer

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STAGE CONSTRUCTION CREW Yushua Sattaur

COSTUME SHOP/WARDROBE SUPERVISOR Kelsey Vidic

COSTUME CONSTRUCTION CREW
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WARDROBE ASSISTANT Carina Covarrbias

WARDROBE CREW
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PHOTOGRAPHY/PROGRAM DESIGN Gregory R.R. Crosby

CAMERA OPERATORS Artur Lago-V., Erick Tapia Escalera

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CSULB COLLEGE OF THE ARTS

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CSULB DANCE FALL 2026

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Culminating choreographic works from our talented MFA students

2027 Contemporary Dance Concert | *APRIL 22-24*

Presenting works by our undergraduate dance students.

CSULB DANCE

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