

CSULB DEPARTMENT OF DANCE PRESENTS

The MFA Spring Informal

Featuring works by MFA candidates Santiago Rivera, AJ Sharp,
Katie Summers, and Azuki Umeda
And also featuring new work by Tsiambwom Akuchu and Danzel Thompson-Stout

May 6, 2022 at 4:00 PM
Beginning at the "Green Entrance" to the Walter Pyramid,
culminating in the Martha B. Knoebel Dance Theater

From the choreographers:

While art inspires and regenerates us, at times artistic performances can affect us physically, emotionally, or spiritually to the point of discomfort. Participants are empowered to remove themselves from the show as needed.

Due to COVID protocols, only invited guests and CSULB Dance majors, faculty, and staff will be allowed to view works in the Martha B. Knoebel Dance Theater. Audience members planning to view the dances in the theater will need to check-in showing a CSULB prescreen confirmation (green checkmark) to receive a wristband. The wristband will be your ticket to enter the theater. Thank you!

The choreographers invite you to join them in the Dance Center Courtyard directly following the Showing to share your impressions and/or feedback regarding their work. You will find information regarding feedback each is interested in receiving in the notes following their dance credits.

buckets

Choreography

AJ Sharp in collaboration with the performers

Music

Original composition by Craig Martinson; "Pump Up the Jam" by Technotronic; "Drumline Cadences" by LSU Tiger Marching Band

Sound Design

Craig Martinson and AJ Sharp

Performers

Kian Bucup-Menjivar, Mary Leopo, Eliza Loran, Saori Maeda, Isabella Mendoza, Odessa Newman, Yukiko Nimura, Joanne Olivo, Valeria Resendiz, Araceli Rosales, Julia Russell, Elizabeth Sanchez-Reyes, AJ Sharp, Carmen Thumm

Featuring Special Guests from
the Long Beach State Spirit Team

Kat Giannini, Chloe McClure, Aleialanee Ponce de Leon, Kendall Steen, Sara Zizzo

From AJ:

Please refer to your paper survey! At the end of the piece, the referee will signal for you to crumple up your survey and toss it into the team bucket that corresponds to the color foam finger you have chosen. GO TEAM!

the rosewater.

Choreography

Santiago Rivera

Music

“Las Mañanitas”, “El Rey”, “Que Nos Entierren Juntos”, “Fija Tus Ojos En Cristo”, “Más Allá Del Sol”; compositions by Alfonso Esparza Oteo, José Alfredo Jiménez Sandoval, Juana Alvarez Cruz, Helen Howarth Lemmel, Emiliano Ponce

Sound Design

Teresa Flores-Segura and Andres Ramirez

Performers

Narradores (Narrators)

Teresa Flores Segura (Vocals),
Andres Ramirez (Trumpeter)

Trio

Madre (Mother)
Abuela (Grandmother)
Amiga/Consejera (Friend/Mentor)

Kenzie Butts
Victoria Gallegos
Baylee Ferrera

Ensemble

Padre (Father)
Feminidad y Masculinidad
(Femininity & Masculinity)
Hermanos (Brothers)

Jesus Gallardo

Daylen McWhorter & Matteo Torres
Antoine Armstrong, Brandon Garcia Michel,
Deven Griffith, Damien Sanchez-
Hernandez, Dylon Spahr

Solo

Limbo Rivera

Santiago Rivera

From Santiago:

Content Warning: Strong sexual images, depictions of physical violence, and fake blood that some may find offensive, disturbing, and/or inappropriate. Any feedback is welcomed.

Following the completion of Santiago’s work, Katie Summers invites audience members to enter the Martha B. Knoebel Dance Theater lobby (if you have a wristband), move safely around the space, and observe the piece from wherever they are moved to observe.

Linger

Choreography

Katie Summers, in collaboration with the dancers

Music

“Wide Open” by Ólafur Arnalds and Nils Frahm,
“Tenderness” by Tony Anderson and Chris Coleman, “Still
Blue” by Olivia and Ernico Belli

Sound Design

Katie Summers

Performers

David Bernal, Kevin Holland, Samantha Kayombo

Poetry

“Fern,” by Katie Summers

From Katie:

What did this piece cause you to think about? What did you feel? Were there any moments in which you noticed yourself experiencing a sense of timelessness?

Short break to allow audience members to enter the Theater.

FORWARD, Always

Choreography Tsiambwom Akuchu
Music "Sinnerman" arranged by Nina Simone, composed by Les Baxter and Will Holt
Sound Design Tsiambwom Akuchu
Performers Bianca Ramirez, Jesus Gallardo, Fabian Zuniga

From Tsiambwom:

This piece is a work-in-progress centered around how resilience and resistance have manifested themselves historically in black communities and communities of color. I would love to know what your impression of the work is, if a sense of narrative is established and/or if you found a narrative in the work. What images/moments stand out, what connections are you making (historically, socially, politically, personally etc.) with the movement and what your personal take is? Thank you!

a gift to you all...

Choreography Azuki Umeda
Music "Newspaper" by Anne James-Chaton and Andy Moor, "The Miraculous Journey" by Xumantra, "Exercise in Colour" by CoH and Ann Demeulemeester
Sound Design Azuki Umeda
Performers Jordyn Apostolache, Dante Casarin, Mia Clark, Colin Harbedian, Kylie Kaneshiro, Tate Nighswonger, Rachel Stanfield, Jennifer Vieweg, Azuki Umeda

From Azuki:

What did you feel while watching this piece? What would you predict after the blackout?

l o s s

Choreography Danzel Thompson-Stout
Music "Goodbye" by Hidden Spheres
Sound Design Danzel Thompon-Stout
Performers Nathan Acido-Macaraeg, Jackie Escamilla, Teresa Flores Segura, Christina Grace-Morales, Natasaha Gyulnazaryan, Malani Harrell, Samantha Kayombo, Cindy Lopez, Malia Lyons

From Danzel:

This presentation is a truncated version of longer choreographic exploration about the resonance of loss that exists in one's body and between others. I am open to any and all feedback especially around phrasing, use of space, composition, and when things can shift/fall out of the driving rhythm of the sound score. Thanks in advance :)

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

Tsiambwom M. Akuchu is a hip-hop and theatre artist whose work has been presented on stages like the Kennedy Center and Joe's Pub at The Public. He has been working for the past several years as a solo artist creating and performing new and established work, as well as performing in stage plays for festivals and shows like the DANCE NOW New York Festival, TEDx Providence, Big Sky Summer Theatre Festival, and the Atlanta Spring for Spring Festival. As an artist, his work fuses street dance forms and physical theatre leaning on his training with H+ Hip-Hop Dance Conservatory in New York as well as the D'Eil Arte International School of Physical Theatre and with Anne Bogart and SITI Comapny. Tsiambwom received his BA in Acting from Georgia Southern University and his MFA in Acting from the University of Montana. He is currently an Assistant Professor of Dance at CSULB.

Craig Martinson (composer, *buckets*) is a composer, producer, and multi-instrumentalist. His body of work includes 8 full length albums, 4 eps, a rock opera, commercial scores, podcast themes, and more. Before relocating to Long Beach, CA, he fronted the avant-garde garage glam band, Def.GRLS in Brooklyn, NY.

Santiago Rivera is a dance educator and choreographer in the Southern California area and is currently pursuing a MFA in Dance at California State University, Long Beach. He started dancing and training in the competitive world when he was in eighth grade. In 2016, he received his BA in Drama and minor in Educational Studies from the University of California, Irvine. In 2021, he received his Certification in Dance Instruction from Orange Coast College and completed the 2020/2021 José Limón Technique Certification Training Program. His works focus on equal opportunity for the Latinx and BIPOC Queer communities in “safe” dance spaces.

AJ Sharp is a dancer, choreographer, and dance educator with a BFA in dance from Oakland University who is currently pursuing her MFA in dance at CSULB. While living in NYC, AJ worked with artists such as Alexandra Beller, The Creators Collective, Cora Dance, The Equus Projects, The Physical Plant, Tamika Daniels, and The Median Movement. She was chosen for Doug Varone's Choreography Intensive, where she was mentored by Varone and premiered a new piece at 92Y. AJ founded SHARP dance collective in 2014 and presented works at Triskelion Arts, TADA Youth Theater, Bogart Gallery, LIC Arts, Spoke the Hub, Mark Morris Dance Theater, as well as flea markets, art galleries, and local pubs. AJ was the Guest Artist in Residence at Oakland University in 2019, where her dance was selected for the American College Dance Association. AJ is excited to continue teaching, performing, and creating at CSULB.

Katie Summers received her BFA in Dance Performance from the University of California, Irvine in 2017. Her undergraduate summers were spent with the American Dance Festival, San Francisco Conservatory of Dance, New Dialect, and Northwest Dance Project. Additionally, she received the Undergraduate Research Opportunities Program grant to research site-specific improvisation in Italy under the guidance of Lisa Naugle, Ph.D. She has since danced with Redding City Dance Company, interned at Bethel Conservatory of the Arts, and attended Countertechnique workshops led by Charles Slender-White of Fact SF. Katie completed Studio du Corps' 450 Hour Pilates Teacher Training Program in 2019 under the guidance of Ron Fletcher Master Teacher, Diane Diefenderfer. Her research interests pertain to the correlation between her poetry-writing and her dance-making practices as well as her passion for the overall health of the dancing person and dance community: mind, body, and spirit.

Danzel Thompson-Stout, a native of Allentown, PA is a performer, choreographer, and educator of Afro-American dance forms. With an embodied cultural history in street and club dance forms, Thompson-Stout commits to being an agent who brings authentic representation of these forms into the academy and broader dance field through his work. As an educator, he is currently an Assistant Professor of Dance at California State University, Long Beach, specializing in street, club, and African dance forms. As a performer, he has worked with several street dance artists such as Vince Johnson, Kyle Clark and Rennie Harris. Thompson-Stout is a principal dancer for Rennie Harris Puremovement, The Nance Dance Collective, and a guest performer for the Stella Maris Dance Ensemble of Kingston, JA. He is also one of the last generation of performers who has worked under Dr. Kariamuwelsh and holds a teaching certification in her contemporary African technique, "Umfundalai". Thompson-Stout holds a BFA in Dance from Temple University and an MFA in Dance from University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign.

Azuki Umeda is a Chapman University graduate, receiving her BFA in Dance Performance and BA in Integrated Educational Studies. She is currently attending CSU Long Beach to receive her MFA in Dance in 2023. She has worked both in the commercial and concert world of dance — recently she has worked with Paul Kirkland and Jason Young for Twenty-One Pilots' virtual concert as a dancer. In addition, she will be traveling to Italy this summer to work closely with Juliano Nunes for his upcoming intensive, Orsolina28. Azuki is the founder of her dance company, AU.THENTICITY. The company aims to create a collaborative environment for artistic exploration. Azuki is thrilled to present the first half of her larger thesis work tonight, as it will be fully premiered in spring 2023.

Thank you to the staff, faculty, students, and collaborators who made this performance possible.

Please join us next season for the following CSULB Dance performances (subject to change):

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| October 13-15, 2022 | <i>Variance</i> , featuring dances by BFA candidates Kendall Chatham, Tori Cone, Eliza Loran, Julia Russell, plus works by Keith Johnson and guest artist Dolly Sfeir |
| November 16-19, 2022 | <i>CSULB Dance in Concert</i> , featuring dances by CSULB Dance Faculty and guest artist Donna Uchizono |
| March 16-18, 2023 | <i>MFA Thesis Concert</i> , featuring work by MFA candidates Santiago Rivera, AJ Sharp, Katie Summers, and Azuki Umeda |
| April 19-22, 2023 | <i>Contemporary Dance Concert</i> , featuring work by undergraduate choreographers |

To learn more about CSULB Dance performances and events, visit www.csulb.edu/dance