through ‘dipping my toes in the water’ of something different, I’ve been affected.

ALISON RHOADES (BFA ‘13)
“Virtuoso begins with the ability to locate self—body, culture and aesthetic—within the artistic idea or form.”

BY JAN ERKERT, HEAD

Composer Richard Wagner said the virtuoso, “... is the intermediary of the artistic idea.” In dance, the virtuoso not only serves as an intermediary, but must also embody the artistic idea. Utilizing every aspect of the body, the dancer artistically connects to the moment—no matter what.

I think of Angie Haueter and Darrell Jones performing Bobbie Miller’s work on History at the Krannert Center for the Performing Arts. While there were no bow ties and grand pataches, the ownership and vulnerability of their presence, the willingness to take physical and performance risks, and their courageously committed to each other was unapologetically virtuosic. Or in the piece While We Were Holding It Together choreographer Dara Miller asks their performers to maintain a stillness for over an hour. As the performers eventually shake, perspire, and turn red from the task, you can ask, “Was that virtuosic?” I say overwhelmingly—yes.

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This year we welcome three new faculty members who each exhibit a diva-like sense of the virtuosic. While teaching a master class Español Nahir, a former principal dancer with Dance Theater of Harlem, got up from a chair and without a lot to R Michael Alex Gossen (BFA ‘17), Laina Carney (BFA ‘15), and Justin Yeung (BFA ‘15) in Elijah Gibson’s Psychosis.

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Laina Carney (BFA ‘15), and Justin Yeung discusses his identity as a hip-hop dancer, and his journey to reimagine self. Alumna Kama Begata Nihilum, Professor John Toenjes’ Visiting Lecturer Elijah Gibson and Guest Artist David Zambrano provided exciting fusions into fables of hip-hop, ballet and contemporary, experimenting with complex partnering and highly rhythmic athleticism. World-renowned artist Sonya Tayeh, Emmy Award nominee for choreography on So You Think You Can Dance, will create a signature dance project on the big screen and win a Loïe Award (in honor of Loïe Fuller).

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Abigail Zbikowski is a choreographer interested in interrogating dance aesthetics and culture through rigorous physical training and the discovery/invention of new techniques of the body. Abigail’s work with her company the New Utility has been presented at Dance New Amsterdam, Movement Research at Judson Church, the nEW Festival, COLLAGE Arts Festival, the Hear/Now series and the newMoves Festival presented by the Kelly Strayhorn Theater, among others. Her work has also been commissioned by The Ohio State University, where she has taught for the past two years. She has studied intensively at Germaine Acogny’s L’école de Sables in Senegal, and holds a BFA in Dance from Temple University and an MFA in Dance from The Ohio State University. As a performer, Abigail has worked with choreographers Charles O. Anderson/dance theater x, Megan Mazarick, Nora Gibson, Paige Phillips, Anne Neborak, and has performed nationally and internationally with the Baker & Tappan Dance Project.

Endalyn Taylor joined the Dance Theatre of Harlem in 1984 and became a principal dancer in 1993. She has performed for such dignitaries as Coretta Scott King, Colin Powell, President Bill Clinton, the late Princess Diana, former President of South Africa Nelson Mandela, and many others. In 1992, Ms. Taylor made her Broadway debut in the revival of “Carousel” and went on to perform in two other Tony Award-winning musicals, “The Lion King” and “Aida.” As an original cast member of all three shows, Ms. Taylor had the great pleasure of participating in the cast albums, two of which received Grammy nominations, as well as performing for the 1993 and 1997 Tony Awards. Ms. Taylor was Director of the Dance Theatre of Harlem School where she was recently invited to bring ten of her students to the White House to participate in a new arts initiative of the Obama’s. In 2012, Ms. Taylor received her MFA in Dance from Hollins University.

C. Kemal Nance will be joining our faculty as a Lecturer. He hails from Swarthmore College from where he not only earned a B.A. in Sociology/Anthropology with the concentration in Black Studies but also taught African dance for twenty years as an Associate in Performance in the Music and Dance Department. He holds a M.Ed. in Dance and a Ph.D. in Philosophy from Temple University. Currently, Nance co-directs the Berry & Nance Dance Project, a dance initiative dedicated to the production of dance works about African American men. For twenty years, Nance was a principal dancer in Kariamu & Company. Traditions in Folk Arts has received a grant to perform with “Chic’s” African American Dance Ensemble in NC, having performed with the company in both national and international venues. Nance is a first male master teacher of the Umfundalai African dance technique. Nance has shared African Dance throughout the United States and abroad.
I was drawn to UIUC in 1969 because Dance was not performing them. Nowadays I write, tango, and expose our bodies to as much movement as we can, but also to appreciate and cultivate our new personal aesthetic art form. To me, this is my own voice in the dance community.

Finding out more about Hruby Powell’s work with dance and storytelling at www.talesforallages.com.
dance at illinois

LOCATE CENTER. AND GO FROM THERE.

Angela Pittman (MFA ’15) and Hadley Smith (MFA ’16) in piece. by Johanna Meyer (MFA ’14)

L to R Gina Wojnar (BFA ’14), Brendan Behan (MFA ’16), and Sophia Levine (MFA ’16) in Big Tiny Little Dance

Bianca Hairston (BFA ’15) and Elby Brosch (BFA ’12) in Gone by Linda Lehovec and Francisca Silva-Zautzik (BFA ’02)

NewsFlash: Professor Tere O’Connor was accepted into the American Academy of the Arts & Sciences.

NewsFlash: Professor Jennifer Monson received the Doris Duke Impact Award.
Our three graduating Masters of Fine Arts Candidates—Nico, Niall and Johanna—have all landed safely in NYC where they will continue to make, work, teach, engage and shape the NYC contemporary dance community. Nico will be continuing an on-going collaboration with American Ballet Theatre dancer David Hallberg as he also pursues additional choreographic and administrative opportunities in the dance community. Niall will be creating new work with Jennifer Monson and performing with Tere O’Connor in the fall as well as developing new work of his own. Johanna will start new projects of short solos while pursuing a place to perform pieces in NYC. We know these artists will have a profound impact on the field and we look forward to seeing their work evolve. We miss them all already.

While the BFA Class of 2014 may be small in number, they were a group of hard-working and dedicated students who in total performed in more than 50 department dance works in addition to performing with campus student groups, teaching at local dance studios, and producing their Senior Thesis Concert: FREE. These students were a solid group of teachers teaching yoga, tai chi, along with many forms of dance, including modern, ballet, and jazz. These plans will take them to Chicago, Seattle, and New York City to perform and teach. One will travel as far as South Korea and one will stay in Champaign-Urbana. Wherever they go the group will continue spreading the joys of movement to their respective community.

CATRINA CHOATE-HERETOIU, VISITING LECTURER and former dancer with Miami City Ballet, provided distinctive teaching to our program for the last 4 years. Catrina carefully strategized methodologies to bring students toward a deeper understanding of themselves through the forms of ballet and Feldenkrais. Catrina will be developing a ballet program for Art In Motion and building her own Feldenkrais practice in the Champaign area.

ELIJAH GIBSON, VISITING LECTURER graced our program this past year with his upbeat energy. A dedicated teacher, he brought great rigor and challenge to the technique classroom and came passionately about his students. Elijah will be moving to Texas, where he has a position as Assistant Professor at Sam Houston State University.

JACQUELINE KINSMAN, ASSISTANT TO THE HEAD has been our rock, our know-it-all, our keep-us-all-on-track, our go-to... for the last six years. Jackie received the 2014 FAA Academic Professional Award for Excellence for her service in the Department of Dance. Jackie is returning to the east coast to be closer to family.

We wish you the best in your new adventures. We will miss you all!
2014–2015 performance calendar

Dance Film Festival at the Art
September 2, 9 & 16, 2014

February Dance
February 7–10, 2015

StudioDance: March 24–26, 2014

StudioDance Site-Specific
April 24–25, 2015

Senior Concert
April 30, May 1 & 2, 2015

audition dates

BFA Program: November 6, February 7, March 2

MFA Program: February 11 & 12

Dance Faculty
Susan Becker, Visiting Lecturer
Joe Eckert, Professor, Department Head
Dionne D’Oliveira, Visiting Lecturer
Carrie Dye-Rieman, Visiting Lecturer
Julie DiBona, Visiting Lecturer
Sara Hook, Professor
Kate Kagay, Visiting Lecturers
Community Engagement Liaison
Anita Leonard, Visiting Lecturer
Richard Martin, Associate Professor
BFA Co-Director
Lauren Mader, Visiting Lecturer
Jennifer Monson, Professor, MFA Co-Director
Rebecca Moll, Visiting Professor
BFA Co-Director
Tom D’Orsini, Professor
BFA Co-Director
MFA Co-Director
MHA Coordinator
Andrew M. Molos, Site-Specific Fellow
Kerri Simon, Assistant Professor
John Tinsley, Associate Professor
Roderick Wurl, Professor
Max Waddell, Visiting Lecturer
Guest Artists
Jennifer Archibald
Katie Arroyo
Elly Bronik
Rosanna Carson-Kordski
Jessica Corrall
Jon Lax

Most Morris Dance Group
Alexej Nanovskiy
Katie Parla
David Zimbardo
Sara Hook

Staff
Sarah Ahe, Space Coordinator/GM Manager
Ali Bey, Special Events Coordinator
Nicole Brown, Office Graduate Hourly
Andrew Clarke
Natalie Fiol, Photographer
Marchi Taylor Healy, Faculty Therapist
Sara Hook, Professor
Elena Lopera, Office Support Specialist
Angelica Patino, Graduate Video/Media Coordinator
Grace Wise, Intern

Teaching Assistants
Angélica Angela Sicheli
Jennifer Archibald
Katie Arroyo
Elly Bronik
Rosanna Carson-Kordski
Jessica Corrall
Jon Lax

Accompanists
Brian Behrns
Seoin Chang
Kent Conrad
Andy Diliberto
Kathleen Conlin
Cindy Masko

2013–2014 faculty/staff list and magazine credits

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Kent Conrad
Andy Diliberto
Kathleen Conlin
Cindy Masko

Magazine Credits
Jacqueline Kramer, Editor
All photography by Natalie Fiol
unless otherwise noted.

SURFACE Design: www.surface51.com
Cover Image: Elinor Fujimoto (BFA ’16)
in Big Tiny Little Dance

Back Cover: Abigail Kaesberg (BFA ’14)
in Big Tiny Little Dance

NewsFlash: Professor Renée Wadleigh performed at Lincoln Center (NYC) with the Paul Taylor Company.

NewsFlash: Cindy Masko received the FAA Civil Service Award for Excellence.