



# pivot

ISSUE 36 • 2021

dance at illinois



# the new normal is **not** normal

Jacob Henss (MFA '22), Jordan Brookins (BFA '22), and Abby Chin (MFA '23) in Roxane D'Orleans Juste's *Delivrance*



By Jan Erkert, Professor and Head

As I reflect on the constant chaos bombarding us during this extraordinary year, I recall moving within a haunting installation called *The Garden of Exile*. Designed by the architect Daniel Libeskind, the garden sits outside the Jewish Museum in Berlin and is designed to give the present-day visitor a kinesthetic experience that might elicit the disorientation the Jews of Berlin experienced during the Holocaust. Forty-nine concrete pillars are laid out in a 7-meter by 7-meter square. The pillars are narrowly

spaced so you can only walk through the grid of pillars alone. What you don't know and can't see is that the ground below is not level. The slanting ground creates a constant state of unsteadiness as you stumble from one pillar to the next. At the top of each pillar, high above and purposefully out of reach, are olive trees—a symbol of hope. The experience is deeply unsettling as your body can't find the familiar that we have all come to call normal.

This year set everyone off balance. Our cells were being attacked by an unknown predator, our democracy was withering from an unprecedented embrace of lies, and black and brown bodies were being assaulted again and again, once again.

Dance artists intentionally practice being off balance . . . we fall, reach, and scramble as we hurtle our bodies through space. This practice might appear to be a simple skill of dancing,

but much more potently, it is a practice that interrupts the very idea that there is such a thing as *normal*. As dancers reach, twist, and roll in tandem with gravity, space, and the unique weights within their own bodies, there is a realization that normal is a figment of the imagination . . . each and every moment requires a unique response to the ever present now. This practice—physically, mentally, spiritually—was extraordinarily useful this year as we confronted the multiple crises.

We danced around the stately oak trees of the Illini Grove, which provided a symbol of stasis we could not accomplish for ourselves this year. We were determined to make dances and dance, so we embraced technology, not as a substitute for the ephemeral liveness of dance, but as a new, vibrant creative medium. Throughout this year's *Pivot*, you will see photos from the outpouring of screendances and special media that was designed for stage productions. We danced live for small audiences while we streamed our work to thousands—realizing we could reach our families, alums, and new communities who, too, were isolated and alone this year.

Having no normal, no stasis, no rest, even if perceived, takes its toll. Our student board and newly formed Black Advocacy Team sculpted opportunities to recharge, offering random acts of kindness in the shape of small gifts, or creating *Do It For Me Fridays* as an opportunity to unwind.

As we plan for next year, I wonder how we might scale the cement surfaces of those pillars and reach the olive trees, making hope something that feels normal again.

## LOOKING BACK

By Catherine MacMaster (MFA '22)

Throughout human history, dancing has been a mechanism for coping with the unknown, and therefore dancers are truly adept. Did this make 2020–21 an easy year for dancers? No. But it did not stop us. We have danced outside, trained and choreographed in masks and with social distance, adapted projects to film, and taken necessary time to rest and recover. As individuals and as a community, our perseverance assures me that we have not lost more than we have gained. We have tended deeply to the root of our craft: stepping just beyond what is known and dancing there.

By Jordyn Gibson (BFA '23)

The grit and determination it takes to continue your growth and development in dance is something that cannot possibly be measured. As someone who is involved in many aspects of the dance department, I saw what it takes to keep us going. While I worked through my own moments of Zoom fatigue and burnout, I was still responsible for being a leader and an advocate. Finding the balance between doing my best in my classes and putting forth my best effort in extracurriculars pushed me to mature in newer ways than before. As we continue to start thinking about the world post COVID, a major takeaway will be to not underestimate how strong-willed and resilient we truly are.

## MOVING FORWARD

By Jan Erkert, Professor and Head

This year we are excited to participate in an in-depth, exciting collaboration with Krannert Center for the Performing Arts as we host the extraordinary artist Donald Byrd (pictured right) and his company Spectrum Dance Theatre. Byrd is renowned for his work as a citizen artist. Thanks to a Miller Grant, Donald Byrd and his company

member Vincent Michael Lopez will be in residence in the fall, setting the spectacular dance *Love* on our students, which will be performed in *November Dance*. Spectrum Dance Theatre will also be featured at KCPA as a Marquee presentation in spring 2022. Dance/USA Fellow and Bessie Awardee Professor Tere O'Connor will

premiere a new work, *Future Cake*, for our students in *February Dance*. Silas Riener, a former dancer with Merce Cunningham and a longtime dancer for O'Connor, will be in residence in the fall to rehearse the new work. As we look out into the theater, we look forward to seeing your eyes and feeling the warmth of your applause.



*I'm Ally*, choreography by Rachel Rizzuto (MFA '21)



Annie Morgan (BFA '23) in Kayt MacMaster and Sarah Mininsohn's *Herd Tale*



## COLLABORATIONS/ LIVESTREAMING

**By John Boesche, Media Designer,  
Illinois Theatre**

Dance and media have a long and rich history together, particularly here at Dance at Illinois. Media has joined the design disciplines of costume, lighting, and sound as an element in the choreographer's toolbox as they created an aesthetic frame for their movement work. The 2020–21 season brought these collaborations more to the forefront as we sought to bring a rich visual setting to the stage in a socially distanced, “no touch” production process. Of the eight original choreographic works in the *November Dance* and *March Dance* productions, seven had projected scenery and effects.

The aesthetic challenge was to create a distinct look and character for every piece that reflected each choreographer's unique style and vision. Happily, all of these dancemakers brought their own very specific research, references, and in some cases their own photo and video works, to the collaborative conversations.



# screen dances

## FLATLANDS DANCE FILM FESTIVAL: A YEAR OF REFLECTION—LOOKING INTO THE FUTURE

By Laura Chiamonte, Curator and Director, Flatlands Dance Film Festival

Flatlands Dance Film Festival believes in the continued support of artists and the vital social impact dance has across the world. The festival will continue to expand the role of dance in our community by presenting dance films that focus on how choreography and film intertwine.

As we move forward, we aim to focus on programming that builds educational platforms, providing an environment where dialogue is encouraged between filmmakers, students, and community members. The festival looks toward a racially just and socially equitable environment. We will focus on accessibility through our programming to help provide a diverse landscape of films, including ethnicity, race, ability, age, gender, experience level, economic status, geography, dance forms, film techniques, and more. Flatlands Dance Film Festival looks forward to our continued growth and remembers that the moving image reflects the very nature of motion itself, the meeting point of filmmaking and dance.



Photos of various screendances from Senior Concerts and Flatlands Dance Film Festival





Jade O'Connor (BFA '23) in Endalyn Taylor's *Boxed*

## UNDOING RACISM IN OUR PRACTICES AND CURRICULUM

By Jan Erkert, Professor and Head

Dance at Illinois' (DAI) approach to diversity, equity, and inclusion is rooted in dancing, and in interrogating where, how, why, and what we are dancing as an expression of our identities and cultures.

In our ongoing work to undo racist practices, we have torn apart our curriculum and are actively reimagining a curriculum for the 21<sup>st</sup> century that better reflects our academic context as a leading land-grant, research one public university, a designation that requires us to prioritize inclusivity for all. In every aspect of the new curriculum, we champion the support of a wide spectrum of dance research that reflects a more global culture, a range of aesthetics and ensures an expansion of ideas

regarding dance/the body/choreography for the next generations. The faculty voted unanimously to implement this new curriculum, which will begin in the fall of 2022!

We applaud the courage and advocacy of our Black students for their commitment to building a better community. Bevara Anderson (MFA '22), Rachel Rizzuto (MFA '21), Jordyn Gibson (BFA '23), Faith Stanton (BFA '21), and Faith Brown (BFA '21) formed the DAI Black Advocacy Team with a mission to "... act as the liaison between the DAI black student body and DAI leadership and faculty, elevating racial sensitivity, and supporting anti-racist practices within the DAI community, with special emphasis on the African-American experience."



Jaymes Crowder-Acres (BFA '24) and Genesis Medious (BFA '24) in Bevara Anderson's *Stages of*



## IN TIMES OF TROUBLE THE BODY NEEDS A REST OR AT LEAST SOME FUN!

The Black Advocacy Team (BAT) rightfully understood that the first priority this year was health and wellness for the body and soul, so they organized *Do It For Me Fridays* (DIFMF) which allowed students to make choices that were best for them and their health. From meditative experiences to scavenger hunts, DIFMF brought joy and rejuvenation to the entire community!

"*Do It For Me Fridays* was about spending time doing things for yourself . . . whether that meant learning something new, just doing something to pass the time, or doing something you love but no longer have time for, *Do It For Me Fridays* was focused on just that. Within scheduled events, BAT planned options that were completely out of the norm of everyday school life as well as some opportunities that were still school-related for those who wanted to focus their momentum." — Bevara Anderson (MFA '22)



Guest Artist Omri Drumelvich zooms in for a Gaga class



Wanjiru Kamuyu led a virtual workshop with our students



Betty Allen and Kristen Whalen (BA '22) with children from the Child Development Laboratory, photo by Anna Sapozhnikov

## COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Creative Dance for Children Director Betty Allen and Kristen Whalen (BA '22) lead a creative movement class with children from the Child Development Laboratory in the College of ACES, an incredible collaboration that allowed our students and participants to dance together LIVE, following all university COVID-19 safety protocols.

Jordan Brookins (BFA '22) and Ibrahim Sabbi (BFA '21) in Danzel Thompson-Stout's *The Undying and Resilient*



Abby Chin (MFA '23), Kristen Whalen (BA '22), and Jordan Brookins (BFA '22) in Roxane D'Orleans Juste's *Delivrance*

# retirement



Cindy Masko and  
Linda Lehovec

## CINDY MASKO

By Michelle Burns (BFA '20)

Cindy Masko is a teacher, a mentor, a friend, and the glue that holds everything at DAI together! When I learned that Cindy would be retiring this year, I thought back to all the preparations for hosting ACDA in 2018, meeting Cindy in the office before ballet for my intern work, and all the times I would see Cindy at the DAB desk—it brightened my day. Cindy taught me about the value of asking questions

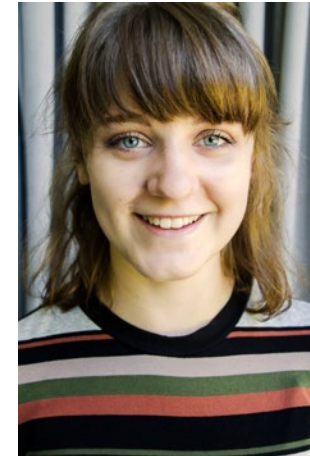
when you need help and being thoughtful and prepared for anything. Cindy, thank you for your amazing work in the department, for your constant patience in reminding us all that the information is in the weekly update, for your beautiful spirit and energy at the front desk each day, and for letting me dress up as 'you' for every faculty day during spirit week! WE LOVE YOU!

## LINDA LEHOVEC

By Luis Vazquez (BFA '14)

In looking back at my time as a dance major at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Linda Lehovec stands out as a pillar of expertise, resilience, and love. Linda's knowledge of the kinesthetic pathways and capabilities of the human body were evident from my very first audition for the dance department. Even though it was my first time in her technique class, she took the time to help fix a postural issue in my torso. That was the first time I witnessed Linda's expertise. Good professors support their students in triumph, but great professors support their students during the storm. For me and many of my peers, Linda was present to pick us up every time we fell; that was the first time I witnessed Linda's belief in resilience. The world is full of proud graduates accomplishing amazing things, but often overlooked are the years of rigorous work that professors put forth in order to shape these graduates' successes. This work is where I felt Linda's love, and I have felt Linda's love and guidance every day since then. Thank you, Linda.

# a fond farewell



Endalyn Taylor, Mary Kate  
Ford; photos by Elliot  
Reza Emadian

## ENDALYN TAYLOR

By Jan Erkert, Professor and Head

Endalyn Taylor has accepted a position as the Dean for the School of Dance at the University of North Carolina School of the Arts. She leaves a legacy of her presence with DAI through her dances, teaching, and most importantly through our bodies and spirits—these are gifts that will last a lifetime. We are deeply appreciative of her work not only within DAI but as a community member and Dean's Fellow, having initiated such projects as "We Got Next" and "Kwanza 365." I know we will all miss her wise and loving presence.

## MARY KATE FORD

Mary Kate Ford (BFA '20) will be attending the University of Maryland as an MFA candidate in Dance and Media. She is attending as an inaugural Maya Brin Graduate Assistant for her interdisciplinary work in dance, media, and visual arts. Mary Kate was a lecturer and an integral part of our Video Crew this year.



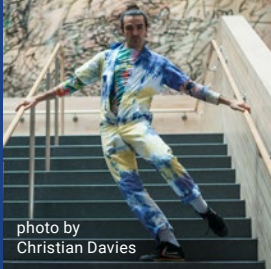


photo by  
Christian Davies

# welcome

Special welcome to our new faculty who will be joining us during the 2021–22 school year:

**ROXANE D'ORLEANS JUSTE**  
Teaching Assistant Professor

**LAURA CHIARAMONTE**  
Teaching Assistant Professor

**RACHEL RIZZUTO**  
Teaching Assistant Professor

**SILAS RIENER**  
Guest Artist, teaching physical practice and setting and rehearsing Tere O'Connor's work *Future Cake* on our students

**VINCENT MICHAEL LOPEZ**  
Guest Artist, teaching physical practice and setting and rehearsing Donald Byrd's work *Love* on our students

# in memory



**MARGARET ROSE PORTER-WRIGHT**  
1939–2020

Margaret Rose Porter-Wright was an avid pianist since she was a child. She studied musicology at Roosevelt University in Chicago and the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Margaret was one of DAI's brilliant musicians and a long-time member of the Celebration Company at the Station Theatre, where she served as musical director for many shows.



photo by Valerie Oliveira

**KATHLEEN HERMESDORF**  
1967–2020

By Tere O'Connor, Professor

Kathleen Hermesdorf's (MFA '91) dancing was fire. She was a virtuoso, doling out exquisite physical explosions, dancing on an edge that was just thrilling to experience. She taught people to dance with ferocity and joy and exactitude and musicality and a critical eye on life. But she was just as importantly a role model; someone who lived outside of convention and shaped an image of what that might be like and how valuable it is in society. There is no template for living a viable alternative life. Choosing a life in dance is already a step outside mainstream human activity and young people may not have

an example for that. I used to see her every summer, years ago, between the Colorado Summer festivals and Bates and ADF and all the places we perform. Students flocked around her and adored her, not exclusively for the excellence of her dance information, but for the confidence she instilled in them; I think young women in particular. She touched immeasurable lives and there is an enormous piece missing now. We need to keep her memory alive as a singular presence in the weave of American Dance History. Thank you so much for your incredible contribution, Kathleen.





Margaret Daniels (BFA '24), Landon Allender (BFA '24), and Jenna Dike (BFA '24) in Bevara Anderson's *Stages of*, photo by Danzel Thompson-Stout





Faith Brown (BFA '21) in Endalyn Taylor's *Boxed*



Melanie Dubois (BFA '23),  
Cassie Zins (BFA '21),  
Mya McClellan (BFA '21), and  
Rachel Rizzuto (MFA '21) in  
Sara Hook's *Cedar Closet*



Faith Stanton (BFA '21), Angel Anderson (BFA '21), and Ibrahim Sabbi (BFA '21) in Danzel Thompson-Stout's *The Undying and Resilient*





BFA/BA (pictured from left to right): Angel Anderson, Faith Stanton, Mya McClellan, Ibrahim Sabbi, Jessica Ziegler, Allie Green, Faith Brown, Stephanie Shaw, Cassidy Zins, Sydney Hagerman, and Rachel Maramba; photo by Fred Zwicky

## UNDERGRAD NEWS

By John Toenjes, Professor

This year's class of BFA and BA students have exhibited extraordinary resilience and creativity this past year as well as strong leadership qualities. They learned new skills in collaboration and created dances for video in order to mount their very successful Senior Thesis show. They made dances with social distancing in order to work within the restrictions imposed by the COVID pandemic. These skills will certainly serve them well as they help shape the art world of the future. Many of our graduates also led our diversity efforts, as well as taking leadership positions

in Greek and other organizations. All of our graduates intend to pursue professional dance careers, either in their hometowns or in other major urban areas. Many of our graduates have prepared themselves for professional work by earning teaching certificates in Yoga and the Umfundalai dance form. Several earned two undergraduate degrees, preparing for a career that melds two disciplines—the projected outcomes of our BA program! Congratulations to the graduates of the class of 2021. We are looking forward to following them as their careers unfold and they change the world!



MFA (pictured from left to right): Rachel Rizzuto, Danzel Thompson-Stout, and Roxane D'Orleans Juste; photo by Tere O'Connor  
MFA Minor (not pictured): Emmilea O'Toole

## GRAD NEWS

By Jennifer Monson, Professor

This outstanding trio of students in our Master of Fine Arts in Dance program will be taking the world by storm as they head out on their new adventures! Watch out for belly-aching laughter; exuberant, on-fire dancing; and innovative choreographic inventions.

Danzel Thompson-Stout will spend the summer in Mexico creating a new work with Renata Sheppard and Professor Sara Hook, enjoying time on the East Coast teaching and collaborating, and then starting the next phase of his academic career as an Assistant Professor in Dance at California State University, Long Beach.

Rachel Rizzuto will also be in Mexico and will then be performing in Sara Hook's *Salad Days* at

the Richmond Dance Festival. She will direct a new film at the Experimental Film Festival in Virginia. This fall we are extremely fortunate that she will remain in the Champaign-Urbana area as she applies to dance residencies, performs with Tere O'Connor, and continues to inspire us as she keeps us laughing.

Roxane D'Orleans Juste will be returning to Dance at Illinois as an Assistant Teaching Professor. We are thrilled that she will continue to grace our classrooms and stages. She will be developing new choreographic works, developing her choreographic research, and applying to dance residencies.

We love these grads and know they will stay deeply interwoven in our community.



## CONVOCATION 2021

Quote from our guest alumni speaker,  
nibia pastrana santiago (MFA '12)

"There's a slogan that says . . .

**If I can't dance, I  
don't want to  
be part of your  
revolution.**

But to revolt is already a visceral,  
urgent manifestation of non-organized  
implosion explosion of a multidirectional  
movement, hot ancestral magma,  
volcanic saliva, grandiose expression  
of sweat: a revolution is a dance . . . an  
unknown and perhaps violent dance,  
a much-needed dance, which frees—  
even if momentarily—all that has been  
repressed.

So, I say: revolt, move, dance and enjoy  
this moment.

NO MORE EFFORTS, video-still, 2020; photo by nibia  
pastrana santiago; commissioned by de Appel for  
*This may or may not be a true story or a lesson in  
resistance*





## STUDENT AWARDS & SCHOLARSHIPS

**Vannie L. Sheiry Memorial Scholarship** (est. 1994) Given to a dance major who has demonstrated exceptional performance by a graduate student.

Bevara Anderson (MFA '22)  
Jacob Henss (MFA '22)

**Moe Family Dance Award** (est. 1996) Awarded to a dance major with potential for unique contributions to the profession, which may lie outside the realm of performance in the traditional sense.

Rachel Rizzuto (MFA '21)

**Patricia Knowles Graduate Travel Award** (est. 2006)

Kayt MacMaster (MFA '22)

**Wanda M. Nettl Prize for Student Choreography** (est. 2002) This annual award is designated for the best choreography by an undergraduate or graduate student.

Roxane D'Orleans Juste (MFA '21)

**Lisa Carducci Memorial Award** For an overall outstanding student. Established in honor of Lisa Carducci by her family.

Jessica Ziegler (BFA '21)  
Faith Brown (BFA '21)

**Mary Elizabeth Hamstrom Award for Graduate Summer Study**

Sarah Mininsohn (MFA '22)

**Senior Magnolia Award** For the most development throughout their four years.

Stephanie Shaw (BFA '21)  
Faith Stanton (BFA '21)

**Dance Partner Undergraduate Project Awards** (est. 2010) Targeted for summer study by undergraduates.

Jasmine Chavez (BFA '23)  
Jaden Monroe (BFA '23)  
Cassidy Zins (BFA '21)  
Alex Kinard (BFA '22)

**Leadership Award** (est. 2018)

Danzel Thompson-Stout (MFA '21)

**Courtney B. Kellogg Memorial Scholarship** (est. 2015) For an outstanding sophomore undergraduate student. Established in honor of Courtney B. Kellogg Wojcik (BFA '00).

Kate Henderson (BFA '23)

**William McClellan Memorial Scholarship** (est. 2017) In honor of William McClellan (BFA '00) for outstanding achievement in choreography and performance.

Angel Anderson (BFA '21)

**A. Raheim White Scholarship** Merit-based award for an underrepresented/minority first-year student. This award is named in honor of alumnus A. Raheim White (BFA '11), who has cultivated an imaginative, innovative, and sustainable artistic life.

Nawal Assougdam (BFA '25)

**Ahmad D. and Dulce G. Issa Dance Scholarship** For overall outstanding achievements.

Jordyn Gibson (BFA '23)  
Kennedy Cowan (BFA '22)  
Tessa Olson (BFA '25)

**Fernadina Chan Scholarship** (est. 2019) Given by alumna Fernadina Chan to help make education more affordable at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

Joe Bowie (MFA '24)

**Outstanding Undergraduate Performance Award**

Mya McClellan (BFA '21)

**Larry Scholarship**

Given to an outstanding, incoming first-year student.

Hailey Elle Brown (BFA '25)

Cynthia Oliver; photo by LaTosha Pointer





Angel Anderson (BFA '21) in Kemal Nance's film *Bootstraps*

## FACULTY AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

Professor Cynthia Oliver received a 2021 United States Artists Fellowship. Oliver is one of 60 USA Fellows for 2021, the largest class in the foundation's history, and one of five fellows in the field of dance. The competitive fellowships are awarded to artists in 10 creative disciplines in recognition of their accomplishments and to support their ongoing artistic and professional development. Each fellow receives an unrestricted \$50,000 cash award.

Assistant Professor Kemal Nance received the College of Fine and Applied Arts Excellence in Service Award. Nance's film *Bootstraps* has also been screened all over the US and abroad. Nance received a 2021 Artists Fellowship in Choreography from the Illinois Arts Council.

Professor John Toenjes and Professor Tere O'Connor received a UIUC Campus Research Board grant.

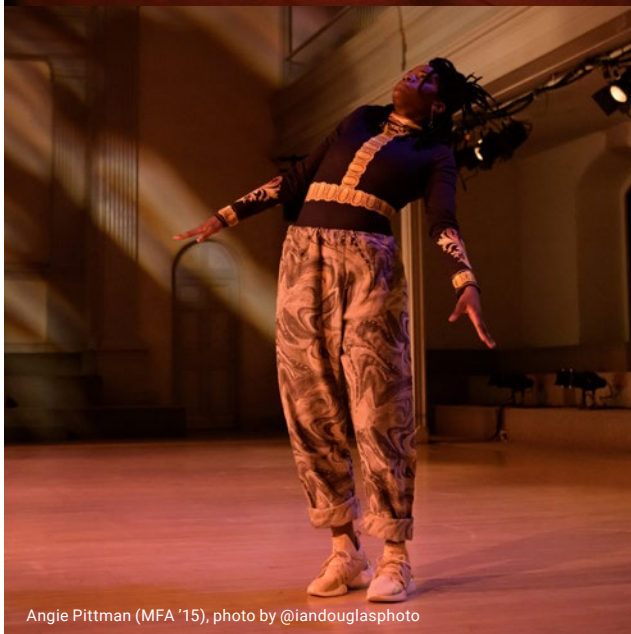
During this past year, Associate Professor Endalyn Taylor was the Black Arts Dean's Fellow in the College of Fine and Applied Arts.

## ALUMNI GUESTS

During our spring semester, Dance at Illinois brought back four of our distinguished alumni as the recipients of the Beverly Blossom/Carey Erickson Alumni Dance Award. This award enables alumni to return to the campus to teach, perform, choreograph, and otherwise enhance the department. Jess Pretty (MFA '16), Katherine Roarty (BFA '11), Angie Pittman (MFA '15), and Jessie Young (MFA '16) engaged with our community through Zoom, leading illuminating discussions and wonderful physical practice classes.



Jess Pretty (MFA '16), photo by Kelly Marshall



Angie Pittman (MFA '15), photo by @iandouglasphoto



Jessie Young (MFA '16),  
photo by Whitney Browne  
Photography



Katherine Roarty (BFA '11),  
photo by Justin Patterson  
Photography



## DANCE PARTNERS

Dance at Illinois would like to extend a very special thanks to all of our Dance Partners for contributing during this difficult COVID year. Your gifts helped support and sustain our performances and programs. Listed below are the donors from July 1, 2020–June 30, 2021.

- Mary Abbott
- James Anderson
- Fran & Marc Ansel
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- Sally Shepherd
- Nia Stephens

- Jacinta Story
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- Basia Yakaitis
- Jennifer Zins
- Brightroad2Success
- KPMG LLP

### Dance Partner Advancement Committee (DPAC)

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- Jerry Carden
- Fabiola Elias
- Tim Hutchison
- Michael Lambert
- Dirk Mol
- Sally Shepherd
- Rosalyn Schwartz
- Tim Temple
- Skylee Trimble
- Alicia Trezise

Noa Greenfeld (BFA '23) and Kristen Whalen (BA '22) in Sara Hook's Cedar Closet



Ibrahim Sabbi (BFA '21) dancing at the Illini Grove, photo by Fred Zwicky

## BE A PIVOTAL FORCE—DONATE NOW

Donors play a pivotal role in the realization of the department's ambitions to become a national center for the development of dance artists and leaders. The collaborative work generated in our program has been spreading across campus and out into the world, and we can do even more to share what dance can contribute to our society. Dance Partners—our generous donors—provide the core strength for our students, our creative work, and our vision for advancing the art of dance.

Our Dance Partners Advancement Committee (DPAC), made up of a small group of dedicated Dance Partners, act as a bridge between Dance at Illinois and the community. Current President Michael Lambert states, "We applaud the Dance at Illinois administration, faculty, and students for their resilience and creativity over the past year. Their passion for the arts has led them to find ways to adapt and continue to offer the exceptional quality of education and performance for which they are known and recognized."



DPAC members (from left to right): Michael Lambert, Kelly Bradham, Jerry Wray, and Jerry Carden at the Illini Grove; photo by Anna Sapozhnikov

# We hope you will join us in our mission to cultivate imaginative, innovative, and sustainable artistic lives.

*For information on how to donate online:*

**[dance.illinois.edu/support/donate](https://dance.illinois.edu/support/donate)**

*To make a gift by check:*

- **Designate the desired fund**  
("Scholarships" or "Production & Enrichment")
- **Make payable to** the University of Illinois Foundation/  
Department of Dance
- **Mail to** University of Illinois Foundation  
PO Box 734500, Chicago, IL 60673-4500



# 2021-22

## PERFORMANCE CALENDAR

### Flatlands Dance Film Festival

August 28 (Feature Film)

January 22 (Short Film Competition)

### Studiodance II

October 21-23

### November Dance

November 11-13

### February Dance

February 3-5

### Studiodance I

March 3-5

### Senior Concert

April 29-30

## AUDITION DATES

### Undergraduate Program

November 12-13 Open House & Audition

January 22 Chicago (Dovetail)

February 4-5 Open House & Audition

### Graduate Program

February 9-10

dates subject to change

## NEW DUAL DEGREES

- BA in Dance/BS in Kinesiology with an option for Teacher Licensure K-12 in PE
- BA in Dance/BS in Psychology

### Additional options

- Yoga Certification
- Musical Theatre Minor



Bevara Anderson (MFA '22) in Danzel Thompson-Stout's *The Undying and Resilient*

## CREDITS

### Faculty

Betty Allen, *Lecturer, Creative Dance for Children Director*  
Maria Cynthia Anderson, *Lecturer*  
Laura Chiaramonte, *Lecturer and Media Coordinator*  
Jan Erkert, *Department Head and Professor*  
Mary Kate Ford, *Lecturer*  
Sara Hook, *Professor*  
Patricia Knowles, *Professor Emerita*  
Linda Lehovec, *Associate Professor*  
Jennifer Monson, *Professor and Graduate Program Director*  
C. Kemal Nance, *Assistant Professor*  
Rebecca Nettl-Fiol, *Professor and Undergraduate Codirector*  
Tere O'Connor, *Professor*  
Cynthia Oliver, *Professor*  
Anna Sapozhnikov, *Lecturer and Assistant Head of Program Administration*  
Endalyn Taylor, *Associate Professor*  
John Toenjes, *Professor and Undergraduate Codirector*  
Renée Wadleigh, *Professor Emerita*  
Abby Zbikowski, *Associate Professor*

### Staff

Ken Beck, *Specialist in Music*  
Natalie Fiol, *Photographer*  
Kimberly Hardin, *Physical Therapist*  
Jacob Henss, *Space Coordinator/DRK Manager*  
Cindy Masko, *Office Manager*  
Anna Sapozhnikov, *Assistant Head of Program Administration and Engagement*

### Accompanists

Ken Beck  
Tyler Carpenter  
Jason Finkelman  
Beverly Hillmer  
Cody Jensen  
Aaron Wilson

### Interns

Angel Anderson  
Jordyn Gibson  
Nia Khan  
Alex Kinard  
Rachel Maramba  
Stephanie Shaw  
Cassie Zins  
Jessica Ziegler

### Guest Artists (Virtual)

Charles Anderson  
Omri Drumlevich  
Wanjiru Kamuyu  
Nia Love  
Onye Ozuzu  
Angie Pittman  
Jess Pretty  
Katherine Roarty  
Jessie Young

### Teaching Assistants

Bevara Anderson  
Abby Chin  
Jaylen Clay  
Ricky De Jesus Valentin  
Roxane D'Orleans Juste  
Jacob Henss  
Helen Kalogridis  
Ty'asha Lewis  
Catherine MacMaster  
Sarah Mininsohn  
Rachel Rizzuto  
Danzel Thompson-Stout

### Special thanks to the Dance Partners Advancement Committee

Kelly Bradham  
Jerry Carden  
Fabiola Elias  
Tim Hutchison  
Michael Lambert  
Dirk Mol  
Sally Shepherd  
Rosalyn Schwartz  
Tim Temple  
Alicia Tresize  
Skylee Trimble

### Magazine Credits

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Rachel Rizzuto (MFA '21) and Nia Khan (BFA '22) in Rizzuto's *I'm Ally*







Mya McClellan  
(BFA '21) dancing at  
the Illini Grove; photo  
by Fred Zwicky



## College of Fine & Applied Arts

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

### Department of Dance

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