ARTISTIC DIRECTOR NOTE

Springdances: joyUS momentum, brings together new works by myself and fellow UWM Dance Alumna and filmmaker Kym McDaniel, as well as the introduction of guest artist Dawn Springer and LA-based dance activist Ana Maria Alvarez, founding Artistic Director of the acclaimed Contra-Tiempo Urban Latin Dance Theater. It is an honor to create work alongside these women, and assist as Artistic Director, in bringing their distinct voices and aesthetics to the Milwaukee community, embodied in our talented and tireless undergraduate students.

Although we are four choreographers inspired by unique and varied priorities, we all have one thing in common: a collaborative approach with the dancers in the room. The undergraduate students are not simply told what to do. They are engaged in the creation and discovery of the work. As choreographers, we want to know what their experience is as the process unfolds and are in dialogue with them every step of the way. They are not voiceless dancers. We listen to their opinions and leave space for their voices to have power. The dancers are the driving energy, joy, and momentum behind tonight’s concert.

Thank you for supporting UWM Dance and the Milwaukee arts community.

Sincerely,

Dani Kuepper
**PROGRAM**

*When I see you*
Choreography: Dawn Springer  
Music: Made of Oak  
Costumes: Leslie Vaglica  
Performers: Chelsey Becher, Chantée Kelly, Nekea Leon, Haley Moore, Annie Peterson, Abby Skowronski, Amy Sutheimer

*Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Reasonable, Time Bound*
Choreography: Dani Kuepper in collaboration with the dancers  
Music: *Easy* by Son Lux; 1/1 from *Music for Airports* by Brian Eno, Robert Wyatt and Rhett DAvies; *Everest* by Public Service Broadcasting  
Sound Editing: Andy Miller  
Costumes: Colby Breyfogle  
Performers: Hattie Cruz, Courtney Dorzok, Imogen Gillard, Kayla Gotto, Rose Horky, Victoria Isaac, Mackenzie Johnson, Alexandria Kaufmann, Molly Kiefer, Lauren Kummer, Amanda Laabs, Ida Lucchesi, Cassie Christine Mullen, Ariana Northway, Kortney Richardson, Brittany Rusch, Jordan Schaller, Jailyn Schroeder, Alex Seager, Marissa Seban, Halle Sivertson, Dylan Slamka, Hannah Stout, Jimmi Weyneth

~INTERMISSION~

*you don’t give me much*
Choreography: Kym McDaniel in collaboration with the dancers  
Costumes: Leslie Vaglica  
Performers: Katelyn Altmann, Claire Karr, Rosa Mohan

*joyUS justUS* (excerpt)
Choreography: Ana Maria Alvarez  
Reset by: Bianca Madina and Isis Avalos  
Rehearsal Director: Christal Wagner  
Music: Toro Mata Refix House Mix by d. sabela grimes, Bukom Mashie by Oscar Sulley & The Uhuru Dance Band  
Water creation story text written by Samad Raheem Guerra and recorded/spoken by Electra Weston  
Costumes: Leslie Vaglica  
Performers: Callie Gibbs, Chantée Kelly, Caelan King, Nekea Leon, Tisiphani Mayfield, Rosa Mohan, Blake Washington

THANK YOU: Jessica Berlin Krisvky, Mischa Premeau, Christal Wagner, Dan Schuchart
Ana Maria Alvarez is a skilled dancer, prolific choreographer and masterful teaching artist who has achieved multiple accolades for her dynamic works. Alvarez received a BA in Dance and Politics from Oberlin College and an MFA in Choreography from UCLA’s Department of World Arts and Cultures. There her thesis work explored the abstraction of “Latin Dance”, specifically Salsa, as a way to express social resistance within the US immigration battle and became the impetus for founding the CONTRA-TIEMPO Urban Latin Dance Theater in 2005. Alvarez is a two-time grantee of NEFA National Dance Project (2014, 2016), six time grantee of the National Association of Latino Arts and Cultures, five time grantee of the Center for Creative Innovation and the recipient of the 2015 Engaging Dance Audiences Grant administered by DanceUSA. She has been awarded and recognized for her work including the prestigious Mujeres Destacadas award in 2012 by LA Opinion, and most recently she earned a 2016 Los Angeles Women’s Theatre Festival Rainbow Award for her work “Agua Furiosa”. Alvarez and CONTRA TIEMPO were also invited to represent the best of American Contemporary Dance Abroad through DanceMotionUSA, a program of BAM and the US Department of State. Full bio: http://www.contra-tiempo.org/#contra-tiempo

Dani Kuepper is the Artistic Director of Danceworks Performance Company (DPC), the resident contemporary dance company of Danceworks Inc. She joined DPC in 1998 and has since choreographed more than 30 dances for the company, as well as several evening-length works. Dani received both her BFA and MFA from UW-Milwaukee, where she has been a faculty member of the UWM dance department since 1999. As an undergraduate at UWM, Dani choreographed and was selected to performed the solo, Mrs. Schultz, at the national American College Dance Festival at the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C. Dani has choreographed extensively in the Milwaukee community and has enjoyed interdisciplinary collaborations with Milwaukee Opera Theatre, Florentine Opera Company, Present Music, First Stage Children’s Theater, Chant Claire Chamber Choir, UWM’s Institute of Chamber Music, The Tontine Ensemble, Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra as well as a variety of independent artists. Dani was honored in 2009 as a “Forty Under 40” recipient by the Business Journal of Milwaukee, received the UWM Alumni Association Teaching Excellence Award for non-tenure track in instructors in 2010 and has recently been selected for the 2018 Performance & Choreography Award by the Wisconsin Dance Council. Full bio: http://danceworksmke.org/performance/danceworks-performance-company/about/

Kym McDaniel is a filmmaker, choreographer, performer, and educator currently based in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Her work explores themes of vulnerability, resistance, and trauma recovery. Originally from Chicago, she has a BFA in Contemporary Performance & Choreography, and a BA in Psychology. In 2015, she became certified as an AmSAT Alexander Technique teacher. She is the creator of Milwaukee’s Summer Series, an annual curated concert with artists and performers from Illinois, Wisconsin, Minnesota, and Iowa. Her films have screened at the American Dance Festival’s Movies by Movers, Chicago Underground Film Festival, Slamdance, and the Milwaukee Underground Film Festival. She is currently an associate lecturer within the Department of Dance and the Department of Film, Video, Animation & New Genres at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. She will graduate with her MFA in Film, Video,
Animation, and New Genres from the UW-Milwaukee in May. Full bio: https://www.kymmcDaniel.com/hello/

Andy Miller is a percussionist, composer, dance musician, and sound designer based in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Currently the Music Director in the Dance Department at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, he teaches courses in music, sound design, and digital media in addition to creative work as a dance musician and composer. His collaborations as a composer-performer and sound designer with contemporary choreographers include Maria, by Angelica Angulo (New York City: Gibney Dance Center and Movement Research at the Judson Church), A dance for my daughter by Daniel Burkholder (Milwaukee: Winterdances 2018), Piece. piece by Johanna Meyer (Illinois: Krannert Center) and Fracture, by Angie Pittman, Angelica Angulo, Rhea Speights, and Johanna Meyer (Bucaramanga, Colombia: IX Festival Santander en Escena). Originally from Dayton, Ohio, Andy holds degrees in percussion performance from Wright State University, the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, and is a doctoral candidate at Indiana University. His research on Afro-Colombian traditional music and pedagogy has been funded through a Fulbright Grant (2011-2012) and the Graduate Presser Award (2014).

Dawn Springer is an independent choreographer and performer who grew up in the Midwest. She was based in the New York City area from 2002-2012. In 2013, she moved to Milwaukee, WI to create her artistic home base. Her choreography has been presented throughout New York City and beyond, including Danspace Project’s Out of Space, Mt. Tremper Arts, The Chocolate Factory, Movement Research at the Judson Church, Body Blend at Dixon Place, The Philly Fringe, The Clarice Smith Performing Arts Center, The Kennedy Center’s Millennium Stage, Progressive Arts Network, Aunts Is Dance, University Settlement, Ur’s former dance palace in Brooklyn, the 2012 Pop Up Performance Series at One Arm Red in Brooklyn, and the 2011 Performance Mix Festival at Dixon Place. She was a member of the first graduating class of the Hollins University/American Dance Festival MFA Program under the direction of Donna Faye Burchfield. Prior to earning her MFA, Dawn studied on scholarship at the University of the North Carolina School of the Arts. She has given guest lectures and classes at the American Dance Festival, The Ailey School, Dance New Amsterdam, University of the Arts, UNCSA, Beloit College, MIT, and Muhlenberg College (ADCF), among others. She has performed internationally with a variety of choreographers, most recently with Helen Simonneau Danse. Full bio: http://dawnspringer.com/home.html

Christal Wagner has her Bachelor of Fine Arts in Dance from the University of Wisconsin Milwaukee. Professionally she gained her start with Milwaukee based company Your Mother Dances in 2006, performing Nut Cracked by David Parker, Bolero by Heinz Poll and numerous works by the Artistic Director, Elizabeth Johnson. Christal currently performs with Danceworks Performance Company and is in her tenth season with DPC. While with DPC She has performed work by Sean Curran (NY), Emma Draves (Chicago), Amii Legendre (NY), Janet Lilly (Bill T. Jones/Arnie Zane), and Simone Ferro (UWM Chair). Her featured work includes solo performance in DPC’s Maria de Buenos Aires (2011), Solo Performance in MFA Graduates Amii LeGendre and Carrey Foster’s Museum of Narrow Places (2011) and a featured performance in Present Music’s Around 30 Concert (2012), celebrating Milwaukee artists around the age of 30. Currently she choreographs
for Danceworks Performance Company, Cadance Collective, and Community Theatre Works. Christal has worked performed for Milwaukee director, Tate Bunker in his independent film, Studies in Space, which premiered at the 2012 Milwaukee Film Festival. Christal also choreographed and performed for the 2013 Dance Your Ph.D film competition in collaboration with engineer, Dr. Tim Hunter. Full bio: http://www.cadancecollective.com/about/

Isis Avalos was born in Mexico and raised in South Texas. Isis has traveled throughout the U.S. to choreograph for music videos and has been invited to teach hip hop and modern dance technique workshops in Mexico. Growing up, Isis classically trained in Ballet, Jazz and Flamenco. Her movement can be best described as dynamic and fusion based with influences of Hip Hop, Mexican Regional (folk dance), Jazz, House, Modern and more recently, Salsa/Afro-Cuban dance. Isis was a company member of award-winning choreographer, Jose Zamoro’s CholoRock Dance theatre where she performed various Mexican Folklorico/Modern infused movement that led her to rediscover her identity as a Mexican-American Dancer. Her choreography credits include: George W. Bush Keynote Speech introduction, Hilton Anatole (2010); MTV Latin America; Volemen X “Te Amo” music video (2011). Her performance credits include: Maná, “La Prision” music video (2015); Nick Cave’s “Heard” (2012); Cast of Anna Sokolow’s “Rooms” adaptation (2011). In 2013, Isis was the Winner of the National Latino ad campaign for Schick “XTREME 3” Razor contest. Isis joined CONTRA-TIEMPO Urban Latin Dance Theatre as a U.S. dance ambassador on the 2014 DanceMotionUSA Tour to South America. She holds a BFA in Dance from the University of North Texas. Full bio: http://www.contra-tiempo.org/#contra-tiempo

Bianca Medina is a MexiRican Chicago native and holds a BFA in Dance with a Modern emphasis from the University of Iowa. Her training in Chicago extends heavily at Lou Conte Dance Studio while on Work Study, Legere Dance Center & at festivals like Bates & Interlochen. http://www.contra-tiempo.org/#contra-tiempo
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Every year, the Department of Dance commits between $15-20,000 in scholarships to our most talented and deserving undergraduate students. Below are 22 of our BA’s and BFA’s, most of whom, you will be able to witness in action, in tonight’s performance.
If you wish to contribute to our mission, please visit: http://uwm.edu/give/arts/

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- Chelsey Becher
- Courtney Dorzok
- Lindsey Kelly
- Molly Kiefer
- Caelan King
- Kelsey Lee
- Tisiphani Mayfield
- Annie Peterson
- Amy Sutheimer

ED BURGESS LEGACY SCHOLARSHIP
- Katelyn Altmann

INCOMING STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP AWARD
- Liam Fleming
- Imogen Gillard
- Kayla Gotto
- Olivia Honeck
- Victoria Issac
- Lauren Kummer
- Ida Lucchesi
- Emily Olson
- Breannah Palubiski
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