ARTISTIC DIRECTOR’S NOTE

Welcome to Winterdances: Transformation

We are thrilled you have braved the weather to join us. As I write this note three weeks before our concert, I cannot avoid thinking that the weather forecast will be unpredictable and we will, again, cope with it, no matter what happens. After all we are in Wisconsin, right?

Our biological sense of adaptability allows us to face adversities both as surprising elements or later on as habitual facts. What was once novelty, and perhaps a shocking reality, is now business that goes on as usual. Sometimes our beliefs in our own power masks our understanding of what is in front of our own eyes. However, if we look closely at what we do, and at our contributions to what is happening in our communities, our country and planet in terms of social and environmental justice, we hope that it might trigger a much deeper awareness of our individual responsibilities and the legacy we wish to leave this planet once we are no longer physically here.

In the spirit of these unavoidable environmental and individual transformations, I invite you experience our concert through the lens of an imaginary utopian scenario. Here five choreographers, dancers (current students and alumni), musicians, singers, composers, designers and crew members, work together towards the creation of a collective spirit where art is the microcosms of empathy and vision.

In this quest, we are eager to share with you the works of our guest artists starting with Bernard Brown, who visits us from Sacramento State University. In Things we carry… he
is inspired by the Orishas -- deities of Yoruba based religious practices across the African Diaspora. Here, he prioritizes Africanist aesthetics, uplifts the experiences of Black, Indigenous and People of Color as they relate to place, displacement, migration and borders.

Emma Draves (MFA’12) who is on the faculty at Columbia College of Chicago, brings us Steel Moon, an imagined tale of how the Great Warrior protected the Moon from the Sun. Here, the Warrior’s descendants find respite in the moonlight, gathering to recall their ancestral history and seek immortality in community. In Apart at the Seams Dani Kuepper (MFA’03), the artistic director of Danceworks Performance MKE, adheres to and then dismantles Schubert’s Gretchen am Spinnrade. Guest artists, soprano Alaina Carlson and pianist, Steve Swedish, appear courtesy of the Milwaukee Opera Theatre.

What Was/What Is by Maggi Dueker, chair of the Department of Dance at Webster University and current MFA student, examines the contrasting themes of independence and interconnection, isolation and proximity, resistance and surrender.

For my newest work, I collaborate with UWM Music professor John Climer and costume designer Leslie Vaglica (and many community members who provided me with raw material) on the creation of Rippled Tides. With music by UWM Music alumnus Joseph Koykkar, I embrace the concept of environmental justice by repurposing daily artifacts while bringing new perspectives on how we can reuse them and impact the vulnerable nature our precious planet.

Do not forget to recycle/repurpose this program once you have finished reading it. You will already doing your part. I hope you enjoy our performances. Most importantly, I wish to thank you for supporting this and any type of live concerts you attend. We are a small community and your participation is essential to the survival of our individual art forms.

Simone Ferro

We acknowledge in Milwaukee that we are on traditional Potawatomi, Ho-Chunk and Menominee homeland along the southwest shores of Michigami, North America’s largest system of freshwater lakes, where the Milwaukee, Menominee and Kinnickinnic rivers meet and the people of Wisconsin’s sovereign Anishinaabe, Ho-Chunk, Menominee, Oneida and Mohican nations remain present.

**ARTISTIC DIRECTOR’S NOTE CONT.**

**PROGRAM**

**Rippled Tides**  
Choreography: Simone Ferro with the participation of the performers  
Costumes: Leslie Vaglica with 100% recycling plastic from the Milwaukee (WI) and São Paulo (Brazil) communities  
Scenery: Simone Ferro with the help of Leslie Vaglica  
Performance: Ava Ferrier, Desirae Henry, Kira Klinkhardt, Ashley Oviedo, Shannon Stanczak, Qi Wei, Grace Winkel  
Conductor: Ross Venneberg  
Music: Expressed in Units by Joseph Koykkar  
Musicians: *Jeremiah Willson, flute; Amy Butler, clarinet; *Kristian Brusubardis, violin;
Grace Kim, violin; *Katherine Messer, viola; *Jing Yuan, cello; Amber Willson, piano; Kayla Aftahi, percussion

*member of the Leonard Sorkin Institute of Chamber Music Research

Poem: Remember by Joy Harjo

This project is fully supported by the recycling efforts of ALL members of the creative team, friends and families. Our commitment to environmental justice has propelled us to recycle more than 1100 bags of 13 gallons each since September 2019. Special Thanks to Keep Greater Milwaukee Beautiful and Zoe Jump for helping us with the visit to the City of Milwaukee Recycling Plant. Leslie Vaglica for one more inspiring partnership and Music Professor John Climer for making this collaboration possible.

Apart at the Seams
Performance: Chase Gilbertson, Amanda Laabs, Breannah Palubiski, Jasmine Uras, Megan Veléz
Music: Gretchen am Spinnrade by Franz Schubert, Piano adaptation by Andy Miller
Music direction: Andy Miller, Jill Anna Ponasik
Vocalist: Alaina Carlson
Pianist: Stephen Swedish

Special thanks to Claire Karr and Erica Meier for their contributions to the choreographic process; Milwaukee Opera Theatre for the collaborative efforts in bringing the work to life. And thanks, and love to my daughter, Louiza, who inspired it.

10 minutes Intermission

Steel Moon
Choreography: Emma Draves
Costumes: Amelia Strahan
Performance: Cuauhtli Ramirez Castro, Zoe Glise, Jessica Lueck, Kaitlyn Moore, Emily Olson, Faith Roe, Alex Seager, Halle Sivertson
Composition: Bob Garett

Description: ‘Steel Moon’ unwinds an imagined tale of how the Great Warrior protected the Moon from the Sun, so that its coolness could forever continue to balance out the heat of the day - benefitting all life on earth. Here, the Warrior’s descendants find respite in the moonlight, gathering to recall their ancestral history and seek immortality in community.

What Was/What Is
Choreography: Maggi Dueker
Performance: Winter Bosanko, Natalie Dellutri, Kaley Pruitt
Music: You and the Space Between by Brandon Wolcott and Emil Abramyan
“Things we carry…”

Choreography: Bernard Brown
Costumes: Lisa Quinn
Performance: Courtney Dorzok, Desirae Henry, Rose Horky, Victoria Isaac, Ariana Northway, Cuauhtli Ramirez Castro, Jailyn Schroeder, Gabrielle Sustache
Music: *Face ID* by DeFacto X
Text: Bernard Brown
Research Poem: **Things We Carry on the Sea**

Wang Ping (b. 1957)

> We carry tears in our eyes: good-bye father, good-bye mother
> We carry soil in small bags: may home never fade in our hearts
> We carry names, stories, memories of our villages, fields, boats
> We carry scars from proxy wars of greed
> We carry carnage of mining, droughts, floods, genocides
> We carry dust of our families and neighbors incinerated in mushroom clouds
> We carry our islands sinking under the sea
> We carry our hands, feet, bones, hearts and best minds for a new life
> We carry diplomas: medicine, engineer, nurse, education, math, poetry, even if they mean nothing to the other shore
> We carry railroads, plantations, laundromats, bodegas, taco trucks, farms, factories, nursing homes, hospitals, schools, temples…built on our ancestors’ backs

We carry old homes along the spine, new dreams in our chests
We carry yesterday, today and tomorrow
We’re orphans of the wars forced upon us
We’re refugees of the sea rising from industrial wastes

And we carry our mother tongues 爱 (ai), حب (hubb), liebe, amor, love
平安 (ping’an), السلام (salaam), shalom, paz, peace
希望 (xi’wang), ‘امال (’amal), hofnung, esperanza, hope, hope, hope

As we drift…in our rubber boats…from shore…to shore…to shore…
BIOGRAPHIES

Bernard Brown is a choreographer, performer, educator, scholar and activist. His work focuses on the intersections of race, gender, and sexuality. Brown’s choreography has been presented in theatrical and non-traditional spaces across the US including Los Angeles, San Francisco, Chicago, Dallas, Minneapolis, Phoenix, and New York City. He has choreographed Scott Joplin’s opera, “Treemonisha” for Skylark Opera. He has created original dance works for Sacramento State University, El Camino College, Lula Washington Dance Theatre School, Pasadena Dance Theatre School, and South Chicago Dance Theatre. Performance credits include: Lula Washington Dance Theatre, David Rousseve/REALITY, Kamasi Washington, Mikhail Baryshnikov, Jazz Antiqua, TU Dance, Shapiro & Smith Dance, Doug Elkins Dance Company, Donald McKayle, Rennie Harris, Vincent Patterson, Rudy Perez, Nike, among others. Brown is an Assistant Professor of Dance at California State University, Sacramento. Brown was published in the inaugural edition of Dancer-Citizen, peer-reviewed dance journal with a forthcoming publication in The Activist History Review. His scholarship on queerness, blackness, post-modern dance and arts activism has been presented at conferences across the US. His work on eviction rights, “Champion,” was presented at the launch of the Institute on Inequality and Democracy at UCLA Luskin. His activism has been documented by the New York and Los Angeles Times. He is also recipient of the Westfield Emerging Artist Award, and the Lester Horton Award. He is Executive Artistic Director of Bernard Brown/bbmoves, social justice dance theatre company. The LA Times has called him “…the incomparable Bernard Brown…”

Alaina Carlson performance highlights include Milwaukee Opera Theatre’s production of Carmina Burana, ‘Nada’ (SVADBA-Wedding, Milwaukee Opera Theatre) ‘Dritte Dame’ (Die Zauberflöte, Lyric Opera Studio Weimar), ‘Dr. Dulcamara’ (The Elixir of Love, Opera for the Young), ‘Tessa’ (The Gondoliers, Madison Savoyards), ‘Stephanie Necrophorous’ (Nine, Music Theatre of Madison), ‘Cherubino’ (Le nozze di Figaro, UW Madison Opera), ‘Nancy’ (Albert Herring, UW Madison Opera), and a season with the Chicago Symphony Chorus. Alaina will be joining MOT again this coming March as ‘Natalya’in Preludes. She holds a B.A. from Lake Forest College and a M.M. from UW – Madison.

Emma Draves is a dance-artist and educator navigating intertextual spaces of identity. Interested in balancing the idiosyncrasies of the individual with the survivalist need of community, Emma creates dances of kinesthetic narrative informed by trainings in modern, ballet, bharatanatyam, sociology, and Bartenieff/Laban Movement Analysis. Her work has been commissioned by Danceworks Performance Company (WI), and performed at NYU, Edinburgh Fringe Festival, and in concerts and festivals across Chicago. As an educator, Emma has served on faculty at Columbia College Chicago, College of DuPage, Northwestern University, and UW-Milwaukee.
Maggi Dueker is a Visiting Assistant Professor and the Chair for the Department of Dance at Webster University. She also founded and remains the Director of Webster’s Summer Dance Intensives. Her choreography has been performed by the Webster University Dance Ensemble, Convergence, and at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, American College Dance Festival, Dancing in the Streets, and National Dance Day among others. Maggi is an MFA Candidate in Dance at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee and received her BFA in Dance from Webster (Summa cum laude). She performed professionally with Giordano Dance Chicago II, Royal Caribbean International, the MUNY and as a freelance performer with Melissa Thodos and Dancers and Chicago Arts Project. She has previously taught at Northwestern University, Giordano Dance Center and currently teaches for the Big Muddy Dance Company. For her work at Webster, Maggi has been nominated for the Kemper Excellence in Teaching Award.

A native of São Paulo, Brazil, Simone Ferro is a choreographer, educator and researcher. She joined the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee in 2001 where she served as M.F.A. program director and, since 2017, as department chair. After a professional career as soloist with dance companies in São Paulo, Rio de Janeiro and Geneva, Switzerland, she completed her graduate work in dance at the University of Iowa. She received certification in Laban Movement Analysis from Columbia College of Chicago. Simone is a strong advocate for the Milwaukee and the Midwestern artistic community where she collaborates with visual artists, writers, musicians, filmmakers, and architects on a wide range of thematic approaches from social justice, civic and community engagement and ecology. Simone is recipient of several awards, including a 2013 University of Iowa Alumni Fellowship. For the past 14 years, she has traveled to Brazil with her husband and research partner, Meredith W. Watts, to research popular culture and the traditional Bumba-meu-boi folk festivities in the Northeastern state of Maranhão. Currently, they are writing on the Leadership of Women in the Popular Culture of Maranhão. Simone is in her second term as the president of the Wisconsin Dance Council.

Bob Garett is a musician/composer currently working as a sub for the Chicago version of ‘HAMILTON’; composed and performed the percussion book for the world premiere of Sting’s ‘LAST SHIP’; toured with the national tour of ‘THE LION KING’ for 4 years; performed in house band for Alan Parsons studio lecture series; a sub for Chicago Shakespeare’s ‘Macbeth’; co-created (with Ronnie Malley) score for A Disappearing Number- a Timeline Theatre Production. Garett toured/ and or performed with: Glen Hansard at Lollapalooza, Chicago Shakespeare Theatre and Victory Garden with director Gary Griffin; S. V. Balakrishna, Trinity Irish Dancers, John Elmquist and Hard Art Group, Redmoon Theatre, produced and performed for Anne Harris, Surabhi, Las Guitarras de España, Chris Siebold & Psycles, AfroCuban folkloric group-Toque Chicago, plus accompanied and or composed for dance companies/ choreographers including The Seldoms / Carrie Hanson, Randy Duncan, Alvin Ailey Dance, Urban Bush Woman, Joe Goode, Bill T Jones, Hubbard Street dance co, and Ishti dance company. Bob is also co-founder
(with Nadine Lollino) of Posterchild Art, a multi-disciplinary art company based in Chicago’s art district. They’ve shown their work throughout the U.S. as well as Canada, Mexico and Costa Rica. Recently Bob is focusing on co-created ESCP, an electronic music duo, with violinist/composer Chihsuan Yang and writing for film and commercial (garrettsoundart.com).

Joseph Koykkar is a musician at home in a variety of music from classical to avant-garde to rock and blues. A native of Milwaukee, he has had his music performed nationally and internationally for over 35 years, including performances and commissions by many of the leading new music ensembles in the nation including the Relache Ensemble, Present Music, Zeitgeist, New York New Music Ensemble, North/South Consonance, Synchronia, and the California Ear Unit. His music can be heard on 11 CDs, including an all-Koykkar CD released on Ravello Records in 2016 (Double Takes and Triple Plays) and on Northeastern Records in 1992. He has had three recently recorded compositions nominated to be in contention for a Grammy in the “Best Contemporary Classical Composition” category in 2006, 2008 and 2015. He has composed in a variety of media including chamber music, orchestral scores, music for dance, film/video scores, and electronic/computer music. He holds degrees from the University of Miami (DMA), Indiana University (M.Mus.), and the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee (BFA). He has received grants and awards from such sources as the Pew Charitable Trust for Music, the NEA, Meet the Composer, ASCAP (27 consecutive awards), the American Music Center, the Wisconsin Arts Board and the American Composers Forum. As a professor at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, he taught courses in electroacoustic music/sound design and serves as Music Director for the UW’s Dance Department. He is now Professor Emeritus since his retirement in May 2019. He had been on the UW-Madison faculty since 1987. He has been a past president of the statewide composer’s organization, the Wisconsin Alliance for Composers (1990–93).

Dani Kuepper received both her BFA and MFA from UW-Milwaukee, where she has been a faculty member of the UWM dance department since 1999. She 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 lengths works. As an undergraduate at UWM, Dani 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 as the Artistic Director of DPC, has enjoyed the opportunity to collaborate with Milwaukee Opera Theatre, Milwaukee Chamber Orchestra, Florentine Opera Company, Present Music, First Stage Children’s Theater, Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra and Milwaukee Youth Symphony Orchestra. Dani was honored in 2009 as a “Forty Under 40” recipient by the Business Journal of Milwaukee and also received the UWM Alumni Association Teaching Excellence Award for non-tenure track in instructors in 2010.
Kyle Norris is excited to be working with UWM’s Peck School of the Arts Dance Department for his fourth year in a row. He is a local stage manager and the UWM Peck School of the Arts’ Box Office Manager. He has had the pleasure of working not only with local theater/arts organizations but many other companies across the country throughout his 13-year career. Some of those companies are: Kohl’s Wild Theater, the Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra, Cape Fear Regional Theatre, Tulsa Repertory Musicals, Arizona Opera, Sarasota Opera, Nashville Opera, Dallas’ Theater Three and Dallas’ Uptown Players. He also had the pleasure of working six summers with The Santa Fe Opera in the orchestra/production services department. He is also a card carrying Local 18 Stagehand member. “No matter what happens in your life, take it as a learning experience and build upon it.”

Ellie Rabinowitz enjoys a multiplicity of lighting applications: from theater (Souvenir at Milwaukee Rep, Camino Real at LA’s Boston Court, multi-national collaboration Timboctou), art (Emily Mast at LACMA), stop-motion (Robot Chicken & Lizzy Klein’s Dust), & music (Indradevi, LA Grand Ensemble), as well as teaching lighting design. Dance is a favorite artform of hers, though, and she is grateful to get to work with UWM’s dance department.

Stephen Swedish has built an international reputation as soloist, collaborator and one of the world’s premier chamber music pianists. He has appeared in concert with some of the world’s greatest artists including violinist Henryk Szeryng, violist William Primrose, and cellists Janos Starker, Wolfgang Laufer, Raphael Wallfisch, and many others. He has also accompanied opera stars such as Eileen Farrell, Marilyn Horne, and many others. He has served on the artist-faculties of the Oberlin Conservatory of Music, the University of Maryland School of Music, Texas Christian University, and, in Europe, at the Conservatorio dall’Abaco in Verona, Italy. In 1996, he was appointed Artistic Ambassador for the U.S. State Department and has traveled around the world in that capacity. He has given concerts and master classes in over 40 countries around the globe, and has recorded on the RCA Red Seal, the Mercury, and the Gasparo labels.

Ross Venneberg is an active trumpeter, conductor, and educator based in Milwaukee. He is currently pursuing graduate studies in conducting at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, where he serves as a graduate conducting associate with the Wind Ensemble, Symphony Band, and University Community Band, as well as Assistant Director of the Panther Basketball Band. He studies conducting with Dr. John Climer and trumpet with Professor Kevin Hartman. Ross has performed with a variety of professional ensembles, including the Philharmonia Orchestra, Lake Washington Symphony, Seattle Metropolitan Chamber Orchestra, Symphony Napa Valley, St. James Cathedral Brass (Seattle), and The Bay Brass, among others. During the summers, he has performed at the Aspen Music Festival, Marrowstone Music Festival, Miami Music Festival, and Spoleto Festival USA.

Born and raised in Sitka, Alaska, Ross earned a Bachelor of Arts degree from
Saint Mary’s College of California, a Master of Music degree from Manhattan School of Music, and is in the final stages of completing his Doctor of Musical Arts degree from the University of Washington. At UW, he served as Co-Director of the Campus Band, Founder and Artistic Director of UW Brass, and conducted the UW Wind Ensemble Chamber Winds on tour in China. He has previously studied conducting with Timothy Salzman and trumpet with David Gordon, Mark Gould, Adam Luftman, and Roger Schmidt.

Christal Wagner has her BFA in Dance from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. This is her third opportunity serving as Rehearsal Director at UWM, previously for Keely Garfield in 2014 and Ana Maria Alvarez in 2017. Professionally she has performed with Skylight Music Theatre, Your Mother Dances, Gina Laurenzi Dance Project, and currently with Danceworks Performance MKE. While with DPMKE She has danced works by guest choreographers Sarah Wilbur, Sean Curran, and Janet Lilly. She has been a featured dancer in choreography by Emma Draves, Daniel Burkholder, Dawn Springer and Simone Ferro. Her favorite roles have been with Dawn Springer Dance Projects at the 2016 Eaux Claires Music Festival, and as Papagena in Milwaukee Opera Theatre’s Zie Magic Flute. She has choreographed for DPMKE, Milwaukee Ballet II, MHSA, and Skylight Music Theatre. Chrstal is a founding member of the music and dance trio Cadance Collective, co-creating and performing their original works since 2012.

Phil Cruise Warren, is excited to be joining Peck School of the Arts and stepping into the role of Production Manager for UWM-Dance Department. Phil has served as the Master Electrician for Skylight Music Theatre and the Broadway Theatre Center, as well as having worked for Long Wharf Theatre in New Haven, CT; Signature Theatre in New York City; and was the Lighting Director for Big Top Chautauqua in Bayfield, WI. Phil has designed lighting for a number of Wild Space Dance Company productions, including Acts of Discovery and Into the Garden. He holds a BFA in Theatrical Production and Design from Minnesota State University, Mankato.

SPECIAL THANKS

Milwaukee Opera Theatre, Phil Warren, Mischa Premeau, UWM’s Departments of Dance and Music, the Leonard Sorkin Institute of Chamber Music, Jessica Berlin
**PRODUCTION PERSONNEL**

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<th>Name</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Simone Ferro</td>
<td>Artistic Director</td>
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<tr>
<td>Phil Cruise Warren</td>
<td>Production Manager/Master Electrician</td>
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<td>Ellie Rabinowitz</td>
<td>Lighting Designer</td>
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<td>Andy Miller</td>
<td>Music Director</td>
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<td>Kyle Norris</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nicole Weber</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mischa Premeau</td>
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<td>Maddie Prokop</td>
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<td>Cor Christophe</td>
<td>Light Board Operator</td>
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<td>Tyalor Godden</td>
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**DANCE FACULTY**

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chair, Professor</td>
<td>Simone Ferro</td>
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<tr>
<td>Associate Professor</td>
<td>Daniel Burkholder, Maria Gillespie</td>
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<td>Visiting Assistant Professor</td>
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<td>Ferne Caulker-Bronson, Marcia Parsons, Darci Brown Wutz</td>
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<td>Andy Miller</td>
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<td>Outreach Coordinator</td>
<td>Posy Knight</td>
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<td>Recruitment Coordinator</td>
<td>Caitlyn Grubich</td>
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2019-2020 Guest Artists:

*Support provided by Differential Tuition funds, administered by the Peck School of the Arts Black and Gold Committee

** Supported in part by the National Endowment for the Arts, Differential Tuition funds and UWM Foundation - Guest Choreography Fund
ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

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Robert Grame, Associate Dean
Jim Burmeister, Assistant Dean
Rebecca Christman, Assistant to the Dean

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Simone Ferro, Professor, Dance
Kevin Hartman, Professor, Music
Robin Mello, Professor, Theatre
Steve Wetzel, Associate Professor, Film, Video, Animation & New Genres

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Barb Garncarz, Programs Assistant, Performing Arts
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Philbert Cruise Warren, Production Manager
Kyle Norris, Box Office Manager

Marketing
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Justin Kunesh, Art Director & Web Specialist
DEPARTMENT OF DANCE UPCOMING EVENTS

FEB 14 | 9AM
Department of Dance Entrance Audition

MAR 14-17
ACDA, North-Central Region – Ames, IA

MAR 28
Department of Dance Entrance Audition

APR 16-19 | 7:30PM
Springdances

MAY 5 | 4:30PM
Improvisation for Dancemaking Showing

MAY 6 | 7:00PM
Africa & the Diaspora, Salsa/Merengue Showing

MAY 7 | 7:00PM
Hip-Hop Showing

JUN 14 – 28
Camping, Paris, France

JULY 24-25 | 7:30PM
Dancemakers

JULY 27-31
High School Summer Intensive