

USCKaufman
Gloria Kaufman School of Dance

PRESENTS

FALL DANCE PERFORMANCE

NOVEMBER 17-19, 2022

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA
GLORIA KAUFMAN INTERNATIONAL DANCE CENTER



Repertory Faculty:
*Patrick Corbin, Ebony Haswell-Frazier,
Saleemah E. Knight, Jennifer McQuiston Lott*

BFA students (Class of 2025) perform Toyin Sogunro's "The Artist's Struggle for Integrity" | Photo by Rose Eichenbaum

A NOTE FROM PROGRAM LEADERSHIP

Welcome to USC Kaufman's Fall Dance Performance featuring choreography from internationally renowned faculty and guest artists. This performance highlights the diverse range of all four classes of BFA students, demonstrating their excellent training and capabilities as well as exemplifying the immense technical growth of these artist scholars over the course of the past semester.

The choreography our students will perform illustrates Kaufman's dedication to a hybridized curriculum that merges hip hop, ballet, jazz, classical Indian dance forms, Bollywood, and contemporary dance, and other areas of expertise. Training the dance artists of the future involves offering them creative challenges, such as those offered through premieres by faculty members Saleemah E. Knight and Jennifer McQuiston Lott, and guest artists Peter Chu, Max Pham, Dani Rowe and Yin Yue.

In addition to the amazing dancers you will witness on stage, the Fall Dance Performance represents the collaborative efforts of many talented behind-the-scenes individuals, including USC Kaufman faculty, staff, stage managers, lighting designers and technicians, sound engineers, costumers, box office personnel and stagehands. We extend our gratitude to all members of our community for their dedication to creating meaningful and exciting productions. And lastly, we thank you, as audience members, for gathering with us. Your presence completes the circle of sharing and discovery that is critical to live performance.

Finally, we hope you'll consider becoming a Friend of Kaufman, our annual giving membership program. To join today, text KAUFMAN to 41444. Your gift enriches the student experience through support of operating, curricular, and scholarship needs. Enjoy the performance and Dance On!



JULIA M. RITTER, PhD, MFA

Dean

OUR VISIONARY FOUNDER

The USC Glorvya Kaufman School of Dance was established in 2012 through a transformational gift by its visionary founder, Glorvya Kaufman.

USC Kaufman would like to thank Ms. Kaufman, whose support and love of dance have made this program possible.

THE PROGRAM

LEAVING (WORLD PREMIERE)

Choreography: Dani Rowe

Music: *Spartacus Ballet Suite No.2: I. Adagio of Spartacus and Phrygia* by Aram Khachaturian, Performed by Neeme Järvi & Royal Scottish National Opera

Lighting Design: Spencer Saccoman

Costume Design: Kathryn Poppen

Faculty Repetiteur: Ebony Haswell-Frazier

November 17 (7:30 pm) & November 18 (7:30 pm)

Timmy Blankenship, Valerie Chen, Emmy Cheung, Chelsea Correa, Catherine Cruise, Nicole Denney, Emily Fluker, Isaiah Franklin, Kayla Goldsberry, Colin Heino, Sam Ogunde, Nina Outlaw, Jasmine Robinson, Emma Sutherland, Alexander Thomas

November 18 (3:00 pm) & November 19 (7:30 pm)

Sam Amey, Maddy Falconer, Tamar Gabelev, Stefano Gallelli, Jau'mair Garland, Rob Hoffer, Eileen Kim, Lindsay Lykins, Amanda Peet, Ava Sine, Mia Snape, Onye Stevenson, Aidan Tyssee, Jessalyn Ward, Xavier Williams

ORIGINAL INSTRUCTIONS (WORLD PREMIERE)

Choreography: Jennifer McQuiston Lott, in Collaboration with the Dancers

Music: Ryan Lott

Text: *The Peace of Wild Things* by Wendell Berry, performed by the cast

Lighting Design: Spencer Saccoman

Costume Design: Kathryn Poppen

November 17 (7:30 pm) & November 18 (7:30 pm)

Ryan Amato, Emily Berg, Emmy Cheung, Kyson Kai, John Ledwith, Rhaine Marquardt, Enzy Martin, Ella Melideo, Nina Outlaw, Ryann Smith, Mia Snape, Jayde Woodard, Irena Yin

November 18 (3:00 pm) & November 19 (7:30 pm)

Jaelin Born, Travon Carter, Carolina Centenera, Tyler Chang, Cardin Chung, Catherine Cruise, Emily Fluker, Bronwen Guy, Simone Peterson, Andrea Rodriguez, Kali Sayles, Lincoln Seymour, Avery Zerr

The Peace of Wild Things by Wendell Berry

From *The Peace of Wild Things And Other Poems* (Penguin, 2018)

Copyright 2012 by Wendell Berry, used with permission from Counterpoint

When despair for the world grows in me
and I wake in the night at the least sound
in fear of what my life and my children's lives may be,
I go and lie down where the wood drake
rests in his beauty on the water, and the great heron feeds.

I come into the peace of wild things
who do not tax their lives with forethought
of grief. I come into the presence of still water.

And I feel above me the day-blind stars
waiting with their light. For a time
I rest in the grace of the world, and am free.

IMPACT ON HORIZON (WORLD PREMIERE)**Choreography:** Saleemah E. Knight**Music:** *Last Home (Original)* & *Last Home (DJ Nature Remix)* by Typesun**Lighting Design:** Spencer Saccoman**Costume Design:** Kathryn Poppen**Student Rehearsal Assistant:** Ashton Benn**November 17 (7:30 pm) & November 18 (7:30 pm)**

Valerie Chen, Nicole Denney, Atticus Dobbie, Isaiah Franklin, Paige Litle, Amanda Peet, Louis Williams

November 18 (3:00 pm) & November 19 (7:30 pm)

Ashton Benn, Jau'mair Garland, Hope Patterson, Chase Peterson, Ava Sine, Jada Vaughan

****15-MINUTE INTERMISSION******A BRIEF VISIT II (WORLD PREMIERE)****Choreography:** Yin Yue**Assistant to the Choreographer:** Nat Wilson**Music:** Rutger Zuydervelt**Lighting Design:** Spencer Saccoman**Costume Design:** Kathryn Poppen**Faculty Repetiteur:** Patrick Corbin

Timmy Blankenship, Eugene Bois, Lauren Brophy, Maddy Falconer, Haily Foster, Stefano Gallelli, Kayla Goldsberry, Colin Heino, AJ Joehl, Eileen Kim, Charizma Lawrence, Findlay McConnell, Jenna Meilman, Sam Ogunde, Syera Plitt, Jai Robinson, Emma Sutherland, Aidan Tyssee, Ryan Vyskocil, Jada Walker, Jessalyn Ward, Brodie Wolf

CONSCIOUSLY SHIFTING (WORLD PREMIERE)**Choreography:** Peter Chu**Assistant to the Choreographer:** Jenni Gordon**Music:** Mike Gordon**Lighting Design:** Spencer Saccoman**Costume Design:** Kathryn Poppen**Faculty Repetiteur:** Ebony Haswell-Frazier**November 17 (7:30 pm) & November 18 (7:30 pm)**

Wyatt Florin, Rob Hoffer, Janae Holster, Arjun Kochhar, Lindsay Lykins, Jasmine Robinson, Lecann Ross, Esi Samuels, Chi Stevens, Onye Stevenson, Xavier Williams, Justice Wooden

November 18 (3:00 pm) & November 19 (7:30 pm)

Sam Amey, Chelsea Correa, Tamar Gabelev, Brennan Gonzalez, Shea Hancock, Leon Powell, Slaterose, Esi Samuels, Alexander Thomas, Jonah Tran, Summer Vu, Xavier Williams

THE KAUF-SEASON (WORLD PREMIERE)

Choreography: Max Pham

Assistant to the Choreographer: Ardyn Flynt

Music: *X* by Chris Brown; *Bittersweet Goodbyes* by Joyce Wrice; *Nobody* by Neyo; *Can You Feel It* by The Jackson Five

Lighting Design: Spencer Saccoman

Costume Design: Kathryn Poppen

Faculty Repetiteurs: Patrick Corbin, Saleemah E. Knight

November 17 (7:30 pm) & November 18 (7:30 pm)

Ryan Amato, Emmy Berg, Eugene Bois, Jaelin Born, Lauren Brophy, Cardin Chung, Janae Holster, Paige Litle, Syera Plitt, Andrea Rodriguez, Leeann Ross, Lincoln Seymour, Slaterrose, Jonah Tran, Ryan Vyskocil, Jayde Woodard

November 18 (3:00 pm) & November 19 (7:30 pm)

Atticus Dobbie, Brenan Gonzalez, Shea Hancock, AJ Joehl, Kyson Kai, Charizma Lawrence, Ambar Matos Ortiz, Simone Peterson, Jai Robinson, Esi Samuels, Kali Sayles, Jada Vaughan, Summer Vu, Jada Walker, Brodie Wolf

USC Kaufman Artists in Residence are supported in part through generous funding from The Choi Family Artists in Residence Fund. Additional support for visiting artists provided by Katherine and James Lau.

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ABOUT THE CHOREOGRAPHERS

Peter Chu (Choreographer, *Consciously Shifting*)

Born in the Bronx, NY, & raised in Cocoa Beach, Florida, Peter began his training as a competitive gymnast, later nurturing his artistry at Dussich Dance Studio. Upon graduation from The Juilliard School, he performed with BJM Danse, EZdanza, Azure Barton & Artists, Kidd Pivot, & in Celine Dion's Vegas spectacular, *A New Day*. Peter can be seen as the lead in Christina Perri's *Jar of Hearts* music video.

In 2008, Peter formed a Las Vegas project based dance company, chuthis., which showcases the work of Chu & his collaborators. chuthis. also provides movement education programs which foster technical & artistic development.

Chu has been an honoured recipient of choreographic awards & commissions, including the Hector Zaraspe Prize, A.C.E. Capezio Award, & Hubbard Street Dance International Commission Project. He was also named a Blodgett Distinguished Artist by Harvard University for 2018. Additionally, Chu has served as the Rehearsal Director for Nederlands Dans Theater 2, and as a Guest Rehearsal Director for NDT1.

Chu has created works for Hubbard Street Dance Chicago, Charlotte Ballet, Staatstheater Augsburg, Germany, Orlando Ballet Theatre, Hubbard Street 2, Giordano Dance Chicago, Charlotte Ballet II, SYTYCD, Houston MET Dance, New Dialect, SALT Contemporary Dance, HSPRO, Harvard University, Point Park University, & The Juilliard School, among others.

Last season, Chu premiered works for Giordano Dance Chicago & Gibney Dance Company, and choreographed for Cirque du Soleil's *Vitòri* in Malta. He is currently commissioned to create for Paul Taylor Dance Company, and is developing a new work with his own company, chuthis.

Saleemah E. Knight (Choreographer, *Impact on Horizon*)

Saleemah E. Knight, BFA, MFA, is an internationally recognized interdisciplinary artist, choreographer, TV personality, lifestyle influencer and professional dancer. A former student of Dayton Contemporary Dance Company and trained in the Gus Giordano jazz dance technique, Knight graduated Magna cum Laude with a Bachelor of Fine Arts from The University of Arizona School of Dance and received her Master of Fine Arts as a graduate fellow at the University of California, Irvine Claire Trevor School of the Arts.

Knight's performance credits include the concert works of renowned choreographers Bill T. Jones, Donald Byrd, Bebe Miller and Jawole Willa Jo Zollar. She has also performed commercially on/with The Daytime Emmys, ABC's *Dancing with the Stars*, The Billboard Music Awards, Country Music Television's "MADE" TV Series, Disney's *The Lion King Broadway Musical*, Beyoncé, Chris Brown, Tyrese and Jillian Michaels, as well as provided choreography for Daddy Yankee, Wiz Khalifa and many more.

She has taught contemporary jazz master classes globally for conservatory programs such as Complexions Contemporary Ballet Academy and was an invited guest master teacher for St. Petersburg Russia's DAR Jazz Festival. She is also a special guest instructor for Tremaine Dance Conventions and has been an invited presenter, red carpet guest and judge for the World Choreography Awards. Saleemah is currently featured as a dance expert on the HBO Max award winning documentary/film *UPROOTED: The Journey of Jazz Dance*, which offers insight on the history of jazz dance by giving credit to African traditions and Black dance practices as the primary source of jazz movement vocabulary. Saleemah E. Knight is a

full-time professor and an original founding faculty at the USC Glorlya Kaufman School of Dance. Simultaneous to her career, Knight began building the curricular foundations of the school in 2014.

Jennifer Lott (Choreographer, *Original Instructions*)

Jennifer McQuiston Lott (BS Indiana University, MFA UC Irvine) teaches contemporary dance, partnering and composition. She is a certified teacher of the international contemporary dance practice Countertechnique, and a licensed Gyrotonic and Gyrokinesis trainer. She is the co-founder and co-Artistic Director of the Traverse City Dance Project, a professional seasonal dance company based in Traverse City, MI, now celebrating its 11th season.

Performance credits include Gibney Dance Company, Groundworks Dancetheater, Armitage Gone! Dance, Inlet Dance Theatre, Collective Body Dance Lab, Eglevsky Ballet, and the Son Lux music videos *Undone* and *You Don't Know Me*. Her works for stage and film have been presented by Cal Performances, National Sawdust, Baryshnikov Arts Center, Cleveland Public Theater, The Southern Theater, The Cleveland Ingenuity Festival, Celebrate Brooklyn!, Gibney Dance Center, Chen Dance Center, and Baldwin Wallace College, among others. In 2018 and 2019, she directed two unique USC Visions and Voices events alongside esteemed colleagues from the Kaufman & Thornton Schools and featuring student works; *Caught in the Chamber* and *Activated Chambers*. In 2020, she developed & curated the Traverse City Dance Project's No-Distance Festival, a 5-month series of virtual collaborations & online events involving and raising funds to support over 35 professional music, video and dance artists worldwide. She currently directs the Traverse City Dance Project's NewVo Fellowship, a residency program supporting the creation of new works by emerging professional choreographers and composers. She is a regular collaborator with Parallel 45 Theatre Festival, and the proud mama of an amazing 5-year-old boy named Remy. She is delighted to share this work with the KSOD Class of '26 and her longtime creative and life partner, composer Ryan Lott.

Max Pham (Choreographer, *The Kauf-Season*)

Max Pham is a professional dancer/choreographer born in Texas with strong influence from his upbringing in Boise, Idaho. Max has been touring and performing live shows for most of his professional career, working with artists from the likes of Justin Timberlake, Ariana Grande, Rosalia and more. He has also performed on such prestigious stages as the Super Bowl LII, AMA's, Billboard Music Awards, and The Grammys. Currently, Max is transitioning into a choreographic career, working with a handful of up-and-coming musical talents such as Thailand's very own rapper/singer Milli, Disney actress/singer Meg Donnelly, and young Palestinian superstar Elyanna.

Dani Rowe (Choreographer, *Leaving*)

Choreographer Dani Rowe was born in Shepparton, Australia and trained at the Australian Ballet School.

Rowe has created works for San Francisco Ballet, Royal New Zealand Ballet, Co.Lab Dance (featuring dancers from American Ballet Theater) and Oregon Ballet Theatre, to name a few. During the COVID-19 pandemic, Rowe pivoted to film making. Her creations include *Wooden Dimes* for San Francisco Ballet, *The Animals* for Ballet Idaho and *The Misfits* for Louisville Ballet. She also collaborated with film makers Garen Scribner and Alexander Reneff-Olson on *Shelter*, *I Am Spartacus* and *Wilis in Corps-en-tine* for The Australian Ballet, which was voted "one of the best things to come out of quarantine" by Vogue. Rowe has been dubbed a "choreographic storyteller" (Toba Singer, *Culture Vulture*) and "impressing with the clarity of its intentions and the easy use of a multilingual vocabulary" (Rita Felciano, *Danceview Times*).

From 2001-2015 Rowe was a Principal Dancer with the Australian Ballet and Houston Ballet, and also danced with the prestigious Nederlands Dans Theater 1. She originated roles in

creations by Paul Lightfoot/Sol Leon, Christopher Wheeldon, Wayne McGregor, Alexander Ekman, Crystal Pite, Marco Goecke and Medhi Walerski and worked with choreographers Mats Ek, Jiri Kylián, Hans van Manen, Alexei Ratmansky and Christopher Bruce. Rowe has also performed in works by Kenneth McMillan, Jerome Robbins, George Balanchine, Mark Morris and Nacho Duato as well as the title roles in *Giselle*, *Cinderella*, *Sleeping Beauty*, Kitri in *Don Quixote* and Sugar Plum Fairy in *The Nutcracker*. She is the former Associate Artistic Director of SFDanceworks.

Rowe lives in San Francisco, California with her two daughters and husband.

Yin Yue (Choreographer, A Brief Visit II)

Yin Yue is an internationally recognized performer, choreographer and the founder and artistic director of YY Dance Company (YYDC). Yin studied at the prestigious Shanghai Dance Academy and NYU's Tisch School of the Arts where she received her MFA in 2008.

In 2018, Yin founded YYDC, a NYC-based, non-profit contemporary dance company dedicated to the teaching, production and performance of original choreographic works by Yin. The company incorporates Yin's signature FoCo Technique™ which represents a dynamic fusion of Chinese dance, folk and contemporary movement language into live performances and choreographic commissions as well as educational endeavors.

Under Yin's direction, the company has presented its work to live audiences on U.S. and international stages. The company boasts international touring credits, including Schrittmacher Festival (Germany), SummerStage in New York City, Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival, New York International Fringe Festival, The Open Door Dance Festival in Iowa City, Iowa, DancenowNYC at Joe's pub and many more. In addition, YYDC has performed at venues such as International Choreographic Competition Hanover, BAM Fisher, Joyce SoHo Theater, Peridance Center, Lincoln Center Rose Hall, New York Live Arts and many others. In addition to performance, the company also re-staged repertoires at universities, companies and dance studios around the world.

Yin Yue was the recipient of the 2021 Harkness Promise Award. This prestigious award recognizes her innovation in choreography and education. She was the winner of Hubbard Street Dance Chicago 2015 International Commissioning Project, winner of the 2015 BalletX Choreographic Fellowship, and winner of Northwest Dance Project's 5th Annual Pretty Creatives International Choreographic Competition in 2013. Through these high-profile successes, Yin has received commissions from all three widely-recognized companies as well as other companies and organizations namely Martha Graham Dance Company, Boston Ballet, Philadelphia Ballet, Aspen Santa Fe Ballet, Limon Dance Company, Alberta Ballet, Balletto Teatro di Torino, Gibney Dance Company, Peridance Contemporary Dance Company, Whim Whim, Tisch School of The Arts, George Mason University, Rutgers University, Point Park University, West Michigan University and Juilliard School for Dance.

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Photo by Rose Eichenbaum

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