

VARIANCE

BFA DANCE CONCERT
FALL 2024



Oct 10 at 8pm
Oct 11 at 8pm
Oct 12 at 2pm • 8pm

Martha B. Knoebel Dance Theater

CSULB
DANCE CSULB • College of the Arts
Dance

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CSULB DANCE

VARIANCE²⁰²⁴

bfa dance concert

presenting works by Dante Casarin
BFA choreographers Elaina Greenawalt
Sammy Macias
Michi
Eva Watson

and Dance Faculty Rebecca Bryant
Danzel Thompson-Stout

Concert Director Rebecca Lemme

Lighting Designer Stacy Fireheart **Technical Director** Stephanie Losleben

Music Director Don Nichols **Costume Technician** Erika Hansen

Costume Design Supervisor/Costume Shop Supervisor Kelsey Vidic

Oct 10 - 12, 2024
Martha B. Knoebel Dance Theater

COLLEGE OF
THE ARTS
 **CSULB**

This program made possible through CSULB's Instructionally Related Activities funds.

A MESSAGE FROM CONCERT DIRECTOR REBECCA LEMME



On behalf of the CSULB Department of Dance I am so excited to welcome you to the Martha B. Knoebel Dance Theater for our 9th Variance Concert. This year marks the start of my 11th year on faculty, and it has been a true highlight of my time in the department to be able to work with so many emerging choreographers, performers, and guest artists.

Tonight you will see five BFA student works, as well as choreography by faculty members Rebecca Bryant and Danzel Thompson-Stout. The evening is a diverse collection of choreography including collaborations with composers from the Bob Cole Conservatory of Music, a multimedia fiber collaboration with Visual Arts, and dances featuring contemporary movement, Vogue Femme, dance theater, and street and hop hop styles.

Following Friday's performance I will moderate a short Q+A session with the student choreographers. This is an opportunity for audience members to get more perspective on each of the artists' approach and process. Students especially are encouraged to stay and engage in this discussion. Saturday's matinee will be preceded by a community college engagement event; interested dance departments should email me at rebecca.lemme@csulb.edu for details.

Special thanks to my production assistant Malia Lyons for the time and care she spent promoting the show.

Thank you so much for joining us. Do stick around after the show to share some of your thoughts with our artists.

Now please enjoy, VARIANCE!

A handwritten signature in white ink that reads "RLemme". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Rebecca Lemme, Concert Director

program order

to make room for you

CHOREOGRAPHY

Eva Watson
in collaboration with dancers

MUSIC

"SFTLB5," "TB6," and "PP3" by Frakkur;
"Akkranen" by Squarepusher;
"It Was Only A Dream"
by Joey Quinones & Thee Sinseers

COSTUME DESIGN

Kelsey Vidic

PERFORMANCE

Alyssa Mena
Eva Anderson, Emily Boudreau,
Jayden Cardona, Anessa Davies,
Indigo Jacobs, Leah Leon,
Malia Marchant, Maya Sabbah,
Jordyn Sanchez

UNDERSTUDY

Talisa Solorzano

Thank you to Rebecca Bryant and Rebecca Lemme for their supportive and insightful mentorship. Thank you to my beautiful dancers for making this piece so incredibly special.

unfolding//desplegando

**DIRECTION/
PROJECTION**

Rebecca Bryant

**CHOREOGRAPHY/
IMPROVISATION**

The Cast & Rebecca Bryant

MUSIC

"Machinature Suite" by Don Nichols

COSTUME DESIGN

Jeanne Medina Le

PERFORMANCE

Cierra Bennette, Kiki Higashi,
Ashlyn Yoshikawa

A companion version of this piece, desplegando//unfolding, premiered in El Salvador as part of the Jornada de Danza in August 2024; special thanks to the Universidad Centroamericana José Simeón Cañas for including this collaboration in their programming. Additional thanks to ASI for travel funds to support the students on this research trip. Jeanne Medina Le's brilliant designs came to life through the expert hands/minds of Erika Hansen and Kelsey Vidic.

My Sole, Our Lite

CHOREOGRAPHY

Dante Casarin
with established movement from
house and litefeet technique

MUSIC

Original composition by Bryan Dang;
“Welcome to the Dark Warz” by Dsparkz,
with added composition by
Dante Casarin and Don Nichols
Text by E-Solo and
James “Cricket” Colter

COSTUME DESIGN

Kelsey Vidic

PERFORMANCE

Ayanna Dowell, Lauren Kay,
Annelise Licata, Dylan Shube,
Elyse Turner

Thank you to Andy Vaca, Rebecca Lemme, and Danzel Thompson-Stout for guidance as mentors throughout this process. Edgar Casarin for his continuous support and for the creation of the lobby display. Jackie Chen Long for the litefeet training, nitelite sessions, and for the continuous support of my journey through exploring litefeet. And of course, the dancers. I could not have done it without their incredible energy, talents, and willingness to dive into this process with me. Gratitude also for Jessica Sanchez Reyes for her contributions to the piece.

intermission

You Little Faker

CHOREOGRAPHY

Sammy Macias
in collaboration with dancers

MUSIC

"Lying Has To Stop" by Soft Hair,
LA Priest, and Connan Mockasin;
"You Can Do Anything," "Flipping Poles,"
"Jass Two," and "Momo's"
by Conan Mockasin

COSTUME DESIGN

Kelsey Vidic

PERFORMANCE

Jeffrey Bull, Brandon Emanuel (Fri/Sat Eve),
Trinity Massey (Thurs/Sat Mat), Laney Patton,
Sydney Robinson, Kacey Ura

UNDERSTUDIES

Amaya Rodriguez

Thank you to the dancers for their commitment and collaboration to this work, the faculty for their thoughts and feedback, and my family for their continuous support and encouragement throughout my life.

Callejera

CHOREOGRAPHY	Michi in collaboration with dancers
MUSIC	"Callejera" Original composition by Álvaro Cáceres-Muñoz
PROJECTION	Michi and Alvaro Cáceres-Muñoz
COSTUME DESIGN	Kelsey Vidic
PERFORMANCE	Gael Martinez-Castaneda
UNDERSTUDIES	Beau Esparza, John Levin Briones

Thank you to my cast Beau Esparza, John Levin Briones, and Gael Martinez-Castaneda for being open to my exploration in the ballroom culture scene. I want to also thank Manny Macias and Rebecca Lemme for mentoring me during this process. I also want to thank Kelsey Vidic and Erika Hansan for costuming production elements. Stacy Fireheart and Stephanie Losleben for beautiful lighting design and support with stage/rehearsal production. Álvaro Cáceres-Muñoz for creating the sound score and video projection through coding. I also want to thank my chosen family for always being there and making me feel heard, seen, known and loved. I also want to pay homage to the documentary "Paris Is Burning" for inspiring my dialogue for the sound score. I also want to acknowledge the trans community members Marsha P Johnson, Sylvia Rivera and Crystal LaBeija that paved the way for liberation and resistance towards oppressors. May their names echo through time and transcend to generations to come.

WIRED

CHOREOGRAPHY

Elaina Greenawalt

MUSIC

"Closed Loop" Original composition
by Joan LaMar

COSTUME DESIGN

Eva Anderson

PERFORMANCE

Amanda Campos, Julisa Carbajal,
Mia Katsaros, Mady Leier, Alana Lopez
Allison Matthews, Kylie Sanders,
Carly Harris*

Thank you to my wonderful cast for being with me throughout this incredible experience of growth. Thank you to the entire CSULB dance community for being such an abundant source of love and support. Thank you to Keith Johnson and Rebecca Lemme for being supportive and inspiring mentors. Most of all thank you to my hometown family and friends who help me remember where I come from and the places I can go. I wouldn't be here without you.

**not performing due to injury*

Can't You See?

CHOREOGRAPHY

Danzel Thompson-Stout
in collaboration with dancer

REHEARSAL DIRECTORS

Tashara Gavin-Moorehead,
Ricky Medina, Tsiambwom Akuchu

MUSIC

"Cinnanom" by Fatima and Floating Points;
"Can I Call You Rose" by Thee Sacred Souls;
Original composition by TPM

COSTUME DESIGN

Kelsey Vidic

PERFORMANCE

Evie Barakat, Elisa Murray, Shanti Topzand

Thank you to Rebecca Lemme, Colleen Dunagan, Tashara Gavin-Moorehead, Ricky Medina, and Tsiambwom Akuchu for supporting me and the cast while we pivoted to creating this work virtually in the beginning of the process. Thank you to my incredible cast including original dancer Fransheska Martinez for pouring so much of themselves into this process, remaining vulnerable, and staying flexible in all the shifts during this work's creation. Thank you to my friend K'niin, someone who I respect immensely as an artist, for collaborating and creating the second half of the sound score for this work. Lastly, thank you to the entire CSULB Dance Community for seeing me and valuing my work.

PRODUCTION CREW

TECHNICAL DIRECTOR - Stephanie Losleben

ASSISTANT TECHNICAL DIRECTOR - Adrien Padilla

STAGE MANAGER - Erin Longhofer

RES. HOUSE MANAGER - Sylvia Rodriguez-Scholz

HOUSE MANAGER - Sierra Tanji

BFA CHOREOGRAPHIC MENTORS

Tsiambwom Akuchu, Rebecca Bryant, Manuel Macias, Keith Johnson, Andrew Vaca

PHOTOGRAPHY/VIDEOGRAPHY - Gregory R.R. Crosby

CAMERA OPERATOR - Artur Lago-V., Guadalupe Vazquez-Sebastian

PRODUCTION ASSISTANT - Malia Lyons

STAGE CREW

Samantha Comley, Djaeda Hall, Meilin Jokela, Madeline Malak, Matthew Manuel, Ariana Mariscal, Kaiya Rodriguez, Madeline Skalet, Xene Sommers, Ramona Vancea, Maddie Youmans

HOUSE/PUBLIC RELATIONS CREW

Sami Cady, Erick Tapia Escalera, Salvador Gutierrez, Isabela Muguira, Vivian Vo

CONSTRUCTION CREW - Julia Camacho, Beau Esparza, Jadyn Hoostal, Reinity Juarez

COSTUME ARCHIVE CREW - Timneat Daniel, Brynn Gagne, Mia Katsaros

WARDROBE SUPERVISOR - Kelsey Vidic

WARDROBE CREW - Gabriella Parks, Michelle Delgado Perez, Tatum Tuin

LAUNDRY/LABEL CREW - Zoe Miller, Kenya Smith

PROGRAM DESIGN - Gregory R.R. Crosby

BFA CHOREOGRAPHERS

DANTE CASARIN (he/him/his) is currently a BFA Candidate in Dance at California State University, Long Beach. He specializes in Hip-Hop forms with a current focus in house and litedance, while also having experience in isolations, contemporary, umfundalai, and modern dance. He has worked with notable groups such as the Sacramento Kings 916 Dance Crew, and Au.thenticity, and has collaborated with dancers such as Aiden Carberry, Ruthie Fantaye, Azuki Umeda, Danzel Thompson, MJ Wolff, and Jackie Chen Long (Off Meta). He has taught in various studios, including Epicenter Arts + Entertainment, DanceLova Academy, and LMNL Space. Dante has been teaching hip hop choreography and freestyle concepts with the intention of textural exploration and intentional movement to develop an understanding of movement quality, musical intuition, and rhythmic nuances. He strives to respect the forms and cultures to find individuality through them, and he aspires to define his freestyle techniques and build his own curriculum developed as he furthers his experience, training, and research.

ELAINA GREENAWALT is a BFA Candidate in Dance at California State University, Long Beach. An avid performer, she has danced in faculty works by Andrew Vaca and Lorin Johnson, along with student works by Jayde Spiegel, Kendall Chatham, and Julia Russell. Elaina has also been inspired and mentored by faculty members Keith Johnson, Rebecca Lemme, and Danzel Thompson-Stout. Enjoying Screendance as well as live performance, she acted and danced in the film *Hope Dances*, created by Andrew Dillon alongside dancers Avarose Dillon and Sasha Desola. Elaina has been professionally teaching and choreographing dance for five years now and is excited to premiere her first piece "WIRED" in CSULB's Variance. Her dance training has been based largely on contemporary, jazz, and modern dance, along with a strong foundation in ballet. She is curious about styles that require a high amount of athleticism while following momentum to carry the movement forwards. Elaina enjoys playing with rigidity, fluidity, and repetition how they can exist together to create a spiraling orchestra of angst. She creates otherworldly pieces that submerge the audience into a playful narrative and encourage viewers to consider different perspectives about the human condition. Elaina taps into her personal life experiences to communicate through her dances, and invites herself, the dancers, and the audience to heal together.

SAMUEL MACIAS is a BFA Candidate in Dance and a COTA scholarship recipient at CSU Long Beach. His training consists of various movement styles including ballet and umfundalai, and has found his passion in contemporary, modern, and hip hop. During his academic career, he has performed in works choreographed by Jade Charon, Dorcas Roman, Colin Harabedian, Tsiambwom Akuchu, and Danzel Thompson-Stout. He has been honored to learn from faculty such as Rebecca Lemme, Andrew Vaca, Lorin Johnson, and Keith Johnson. Sammy graduated with honors and an AA in Dance from Cerritos College and is currently on the Dean's List for academic excellence at CSULB.

His largest passion is his hard work and dedication to his craft, and the ability movement has to depict emotion through a physical form. He is interested in the mind-body connection through dance and the space that the process creates for self-awareness and reflection.

MICHI (she/her/ella) is an innovative choreographer and dancer known for doing works about queer identities in public spaces. She is excited about premiering *Callejera*, a work about her trans experience. She is working on her BFA in Dance at California State University, Long Beach. She continues to dance and choreograph throughout the West Coast and is always curious about expanding her movement vocabulary. Michi has premiered work at Southern California Dance Theater, Mix Match Dance Festival, and CSULB Department of Dance. She has also showcased work at ACDA hosted by Cal State LA and UCI under the mentorship of Rebekah Hathaway and Christine Gregory chair and co-chair of the Cerritos College Dance Department. She has danced with the Southern California Dance Theater under the direction of Paula Vreulink. She has been a member of Vicious Circle Dance Company under the direction of Valerie Cabag. Michi is certified to share Umfundalai, a contemporary African dance form and has gone through the M'singha Wuti training. Michi is currently exploring the ballroom culture scene and different aesthetics of Vouging.

EVA WATSON, a dancer hailing from Grass Valley, California, is a current BFA Candidate in Dance at California State University, Long Beach, and is a recipient of the Donald W. Leonard Endowed Scholarship from the CSULB College of the Arts. Eva was a guest instructor at the Collegiate Conference of Movement Artists at UCI and taught at Spotlight School of Music. Eva has performed works from esteemed choreographers Andrew Vaca and AJ Sharp. She has showcased her craft in various student productions, including *Pockets* choreographed by Tori Cone and *SMUSH* choreographed by Jayde Spiegel. Eva is developing a passionate choreographic voice, producing multiple stage works throughout her collegiate endeavors. Eva's first piece, in collaboration with composer Deanna Watkins, *I Sit Before the Spinning Wheel*, premiered in the CSULB Contemporary Dance Festival. Beyond stage production, Eva works in various creative formats collaborating on multimedia projects including *Until Our Next Turn Together*, a screen dance developed by local artists Baylee Ferrera and Sierra Tanji. As she continues to evolve as an artist, Eva plans to expand her choreographic repertoire through visual art, sound design, and vocal performance.

FACULTY CHOREOGRAPHERS

Dancemaker **REBECCA BRYANT** is known for a “wonderful insistence on making art about complex ideas” (SanDiego.com). Bryant’s work combines movement, text, video, and objects to address contemporary phenomenon, employing improvisational states and interdisciplinary collaboration. Bryant has shown work in 26 US states and 14 countries, working extensively for thirteen years with Lower Left Performance Collective and collaborating with over two-hundred visual and performing artists. As an Associate Professor at CSULB specializing in improvisation, composition, and somatic approaches, Bryant has taught guest workshops here and abroad, including NYC, LA, Stockholm, Oslo, Berlin, Cluj-Napoca, Budapest, Buenos Aires, Bogota, Guatemala City, San Salvador, and at over twenty US universities.

DANZEL THOMPSON-STOUT, an Assistant Professor of Dance at California State University, Long Beach, specializes in street, club, and afro diasporic dances, using dance as a means of reclaiming blackness through play and highlighting the resiliency of marginalized people and their cultures. He values kinesthetic imagination and play in his teaching, choreography, and performance, emphasizing footwork, floorwork, polyrhythmic, polycentric, and holistic movement. Danzel is a strong advocate for promoting and preserving the vibrancy of street, club, and afro diasporic dance cultures, dedicating himself to being an active agent in their continued growth while also unveiling untold underground stories and forming his own imagined world of liberation for the self and collective through dance.

CONCERT DIRECTOR

REBECCA LEMME is a choreographer, performer, educator, and visual artist, as well as Artistic Director of the performance group Acts of Matter. Currently an Associate Professor of Dance in her 11th year at CSULB, Rebecca has been commissioned and presented by LA Contemporary Dance Company, Visceral Dance Chicago, Santa Barbara Dance Theater, River North Dance Chicago, Thodos’ New Dances, California Institute of the Arts, Loyola Marymount University, Columbia College Chicago, Loyola University Chicago, among others. Additionally, she has toured nationally with contemporary repertory companies Luna Negra Dance Theater and River North Dance Chicago. Lemme was formerly a full-time faculty member at CalArts and has additionally been on faculty at Columbia College Chicago, Roosevelt University, Hubbard Street’s Lou Conte Dance Studio, Visceral Dance Center, and Joffrey Ballet Chicago. Rebecca holds a BA in English and Theater from Princeton University and an MFA in Choreography from California Institute of the Arts.

@actsofmatter actsofmatter.com

Give to Dance

The CSULB Dance faculty and staff are committed to creating an inclusive, student-centered community where students will discover educational pathways that reflect and expand upon their creative potential, intellectual curiosity, and career aspirations.

While state support and student tuition fund basic operations of the university, gifts from donors like you make this Department and institution truly exceptional. Can you help support our next generation of dance artists and practitioners?

Visit our donation page:

[Giving for CSULB Dance](#)

Gifts may be directed to Dance scholarships, the Department, or you can create a scholarship in your name or the name of a loved one.

For more information, contact Department Chair Colleen Dunagan at **Colleen.Dunagan@csulb.edu**

**CSULB
DANCE**

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Dance

photo by Gregory R.R. Crosby
featuring BFA Candidate Malia Lyons



2024-2025 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

CSULB DANCE AWARDS

Celeste Kennedy Scholarship - Kennedy Berthiaume,
Tamsin Carlson, Ricky Medina, Maggie Ogle

Department of Dance Scholarship - Ava Battle,
Jacqueline Escamilla, Laney Patton, Brandon Garcia Michel

Lillian Newman Komaroff Memorial Scholarship -
Eberlyn Hernandez

Joan Schlaich Award - Jayden Cardona

COTA COMPETITIVE AWARDS

Carolyn Campagna Kleefeld COTA Endowed Scholarship -
Samuel Macias, Bhargavi Sardesai

COTA Student Travel Endowment Scholarship - Eva Anderson

COTA AWARDS

Donald W. Leonard Endowed Scholarship-
Sydney Robinson, Eva Watson

Jamiesson-Pechstein COTA Endowed Award -
Mady Leier, Leah Leon, Vivian Mulvihill, Rosita Rico

Richard Baker Award - MJ Wolff

Lana Alper Award - Evie Barakat, Maya Sabbah

Dramatic Allied Arts Guild Award - Trinity Massey

Martin Figoten Award - Samuel Macias

Fine Arts Affiliates Award - Beau Esparza, Fabián Zuñiga

Carolyn R. Cunningham Award - Ashley Temeyer

For more information on CSULB Dance visit

www.csulb.edu/dance

CSULB COLLEGE OF THE ARTS

Royce W. Smith, PhD, **Dean**

Chiara Ferrari, Ph.D, **Associate Dean**

CSULB DANCE FALL 2024

Colleen Dunagan, **Chair**

FACULTY

Tsiambwom M. Akuchu, Zakiya Atkinson, Rebecca Bryant,
Amy Champion, Tamsin Carlson, Gregory R.R. Crosby,
Liz Curtis, Stacy Fireheart, Erika Hansen,
Tashara Gavin-Moorehead, Francesca Jandasek,
Teresa Jankovic, Keith Johnson, Lisa Johnson, Lorin Johnson,
Rebecca Lemme, Stephanie Losleben, Manuel Macias,
Brenna Monroe-Cook, Shyamala Moorty, Don Nichols,
Danzel Thompson-Stout, Andrew Vaca, Kelsey Vidic,
Lora Wilson, Brooke Winder, Aimée Wodobodé, Steve Zee

STAFF

Gregory R.R. Crosby, Erika Hansen, Stephanie Losleben,
Lillian McKenzie, Don Nichols, Sylvia Rodriguez-Scholz,
Kirsten Sumpter, Kelsey Vidic

DANCE CLINIC

John Siegel - Head Athletic Trainer

GRADUATE ASSISTANTS

Kennedy Berthiaume, Tamsin Carlson, Ricky Medina,
Maggie Ogle, Bhargavi Sardesai, MJ Wolff

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