

PERFORMING ARTS AT IOWA PRESENTS

DANCE GALA 2023



Friday & Saturday
November 10 & 11, 2023
7:30 p.m.

Photo: Tim Schoon

IOWA

Dance

UI DANCE

UPCOMING EVENTS

GRADUATE EVENT

Friday & Saturday, December 1 & 2
8:00 p.m.
Space Place Theater

GRAD/UNDERGRAD CONCERT

Thursday–Saturday, December 7–9
8:00 p.m.
Space Place Theater

UI DANCE COMPANY CONCERT: *DANCES DESCRIBED*

Thursday–Saturday, February 22–24
7:30 p.m.
Space Place Theater

THESIS II CONCERT

Thursday–Saturday, March 7–9
8:00 p.m.
Space Place Theater

FACULTY CONCERT

Thursday–Saturday, April 4–6
8:00 p.m.
Space Place Theater

Photo: Justin Turner

IOWA

Department of Dance



IOWA

Dance

DANCE GALA 2023

Friday & Saturday, November 10 & 11, 2023, at 7:30 p.m.
Hancher Auditorium, the University of Iowa

Co-produced by UI Department of Dance,
Performing Arts Production Unit, and Hancher Auditorium

DIRECTOR

George de la Peña

STAGE MANAGER

KatyBeth Schmid*

ASSISTANT STAGE MANAGER

Jordan "J.J." Jones

*This production contains haze, strobe lights, and loud sounds
that may be jarring to some audience members.
Portions of A tiny swallow includes artistic representation of violence.*

*Photography, videography, and audio recording of this production is strictly prohibited.
If you will be using a personal device for accessibility purposes, please inform a
Hancher usher. We are committed to providing accessible experiences for all.*

Please silence all cell phones, pagers, and other electronic devices.



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PRODUCTION AND DEPARTMENT OF DANCE STAFF

DEPARTMENT OF DANCE

Department of Dance Chair.....Rebekah Kowal
Department of Dance Production Director.....Eloy Barragán
Dance Faculty.....Jim Albert, Eloy Barragán, Zena Bibler, George de la Peña,
Armando Duarte, Daniel Fine, Jennifer Kayle, Rebekah Kowal,
Kristin Marrs, Christopher-Rasheem McMillan, Stephanie Miracle,
Melinda Jean Myers, Tony Orrico, Jenn Pray
Academic Coordinator.....Molly Dahlberg
Marketing.....Jen Knights, Kayla Schindler

PRODUCTION STAFF

Production Manager.....Briana Maxwell*
Production Stage Manager/Stage Manager.....KatyBeth Schmid*
Assistant Stage Manager.....Jordan Jones
Associate Company Manager.....Jason Millsap

SCENIC AND PROPS STAFF

Technical Director.....Don Schneider
Scenery Shop Manager.....Mike Nolte
Scenic Charge Artist Manager.....Joan Newhouse
Props Artisan.....Gina Smothers
Scenery Construction Crew.....Adam Engelbrecht, Nicholas Feingold, Delia Hallett,
Allison Kruzich, Priscilla Ludvicek, Ava O'Neil, Zoe Olson, Mike Spielbauer,
Scenic Artists.....Leslie Delavan
Scenic Painters.....Thomas Moberg, Nick Vogt

COSTUME STAFF

Costume Shop Manager.....Cindy Kubu
Dance Costume Assistant.....Juliana Waechter
Costume Construction/Run Crew.....Joyce McKinley, Juliana Waechter, Andrea Wright

ELECTRICS STAFF

Lighting Supervisor.....Joshua Nathanson
Electrics Crew.....Nicole Blodig, La Della Gallagher,
Vi Kasych, Jared Kiebel, Colin Kiernan
Light Board Operator.....Sydney Williams

AUDIO/VIDEO STAFF

Audio/Video Specialist.....Rachel Duncan
Audio Engineer.....Audrey Frett, Chris Jensen
Audio/Video Crew.....Erika Chagdes, David Gaunt
Digital Media Specialist.....Emily Berkheimer
Video Operators.....Molly Costello, Tyler Salow

PRODUCTION CREW

Deck Carpenters.....Evelyn Becker, Mike Nolte

HANCHER RUN CREW

Joshua Crawford, Jamie Duster, David Gaunt, Charlotte Hagen, Noah Hanov,
Brynna Hash, Adi Haviland, Alex Hodal, Taylor Hurley, Emma Merkes, Kimberly Moore,
Taryn Neal, Kollin Osterhaus, Matthew Schulze, Jaylee Sena, Amber Taggart,
Evjen Walters, Sophie Young

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2023-2024

THE PROGRAM

All in response to another time is now

CHOREOGRAPHER: Tony Orrico in collaboration with the performers

COMPOSER: Barry Phipps

SET DESIGN AND VIDEO PROJECTIONS: Barry Phipps

LIGHTING DESIGNER: Laurel Shoemaker

COSTUME DESIGNER: Margaret Wenk-Kuchlbauer

DANCERS: Maddie Bulman, Garin Clinton-Nelson, Cearra Crosser, Jackie Fuentes, Enza Handzel, Hayden Jensen, Anna Kalmar, Tori Lefler, Amya Lopez, Kendra McDaniel, Audrey Michaels, Morgan Powers, Lexi Timmerman, Maya Villanueva

Of High Seas and Feverish Heights (a tragedy of the humours)

CHOREOGRAPHER: Jennifer Kayle, with thanks to the 2005 and 2023 cast members for their contribution and creative adaptation

TEXT: Monologues by Jennifer Kayle; quotations from Robert Browning's sonnet, *Any Wife to Any Husband*; and from the lyrics of *Die Vögel* by Friedrich von Schlegel

MUSIC: Franz Schubert, "Die Vögel," "Auflösung" "Am See," and "Nacht Und Träume," performed by Cheryl Studer and Irwin Gage, courtesy of Deutsche Grammophon Baarn Records under license from Universal Music Enterprises; and a "reverse re-mix" created by original cast member Tom Truss

LIGHTING DESIGNER: Laurel Shoemaker

COSTUME DESIGNER: Margaret Wenk-Kuchlbauer

PERFORMERS: Mackenzie Albert, Ellie Daley, Veronica Patterson, Katie Scuderi, Jaruam Xavier; Understudy: Claudia Jacobson

This piece was originally staged in 2005 under the title Dissolution.

All my respect to the cast members (past and present) for their talents, contribution, good "humour," and for their faith in the work.

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THE PROGRAM

A tiny swallow

Dancing in the debts of an endless swallow

At 14:14 he found me kneeling in a corridor

"I want to know more about fear" said someone who went out to find out about fear. it's brutal, it's controversial, it's unfair, it's hurting me—what is the difference between fear and worry? I fear that I worry too much about things that I cannot control, that you are trying to control me with fear. It's brutal, it's controversial, it's unfair, it's hurting me

Advisory: *This piece contains loud noises*

CHOREOGRAPHER: Aaron Samuel Davis in collaboration with the performers

MUSIC: Composed by Ábris Gryllus, Felix Florian Tödloff, and Sam Shepherd (Floating Points); field recording of folk music by Alan Lomax

LIGHTING DESIGNER: Laurel Shoemaker

COSTUME DESIGNER: Margaret Wenk-Kuchlbauer

SOUND DESIGNER: Felix Florian Tödloff

CHOREOGRAPHIC ASSISTANTS: Annalise Van Even, Francesca Pavesio

REHEARSAL DIRECTOR: Zoe Miller

FACULTY ADVISOR: George De La Peña

PERFORMERS: Jaki Bass, Maddison Bulman, Soraya Cohen, Ellie Daley, Jack Delaney, Hayden Jensen, Isabella Kees, Victoria Lefler, Ashley McKim, Zoe Miller, Lindsey Wildman

Special Thanks: Professors Stephanie Miracle, George De La Peña, Rebekah Kowal for your invitation and patience and Professor David Berkey for your presence and legacy carries on through the halls from Grey Studio to the Dancers Garden. To all my teachers past, present, and future who've guided me to where I am today and to my family and friends.

INTERMISSION

There will be one 15-minute intermission.

THE PROGRAM

call the rains, call the reigns

CHOREOGRAPHER: Melinda Jean Myers in collaboration with the performers

COMPOSER: Mathanki Kalapathy

SET DESIGN AND COSTUME DESIGN: Margaret Wenk-Kuchlbauer

LIGHTING DESIGNER: Laurel Shoemaker

PERFORMERS: Madison Burkhart, Garianna Clinton-Nelson, Soraya Cohen, Mathanki Kalapathy, Megan Meyer, Zoe Miller, Mia Nagl, Katelyn Perez, Emily Pyburn, Cameron Rezabek

Thanks to the cast of She is Seeing (2019) for their artistic contributions to this work's original iteration.

Cempasúchil

*I was born in México City.
The places in between barrios
They are like little pueblos.
with their own holidays
Childhood is a beautiful place.
A place that's far from me now,
A place I'd like to go back.
I come from a family of people,
of names, real names,
with proud colors.
Consuelo, Sergio, Maria,
Pedro, Margarito.
Names of saints, real ones.
That's what my family thought.
The relationship with saints was strong.
In this space and time,
That's my family's belief.*

—Eloy Barragán

CEMPASUCHIL

This artistic metaphor of the migratory journey shared by Monarch butterflies and human beings, as well as the connection that the monarchs have with the Mexican tradition of Día de Muertos, offers a thought-provoking perspective of the intrinsic connections between natural cycles, human culture, and the celebration of dead.

THE PROGRAM

Yet, the most significant aspect of this work is that it brings to a main stage, the intimate story of the resilience and adaptability of humans and butterflies alike, in the face of adversity, as well as a unique approach to dead and life rituals.

The connection between the dancers and the audience serves as the essential catalyst to spark meaningful conversation and reflection.

—Eloy Barragán y Mariana Tejada

CHOREOGRAPHERS: Eloy Barragán and Mariana Tejada

COMPOSERS: Douglas Baker, Michael Wall

SOUND DESIGN: Mariana Tejada and Eloy Barragán with music by Michael Wall: "Heaven's Dust 1," "Heaven's Dust 3," "Wings 3," "Wings 5," and Sampled Royalty Free music and sounds

VIDEO DESIGNER: Sergio López Viguera

SET AND COSTUME DESIGNER: Margaret Wenk-Kuchlbauer

LIGHTING DESIGNER: Laurel Shoemaker

PROPS: Gina Smothers

DANCERS: Cassidy Banwart, Madison Burkhart, Garin Clinton-Nelson, Cearra Crosser, Jack Delaney, Jemma Hoffman, Claudia Jacobson, Amya Lopez, Kendra McDaniel, Ashley McKim, Veronica Patterson, Morgan Powers, Katie Scuderi, Lindsey Urbanski, Dionna VanGorkom, MJ Van Ostrand, Andrew Wade

A special thank you to Ana Merino, Maria Bruno, Renee Urbanski, Lídice Núñez, Alexis Zanety, Zachary Mansche, and the group of dancers participating in the Summer Intensive 2023, to the University of Iowa Production Unit. Special thanks to the dancers for their openness when embracing this work.



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BIOGRAPHIES

ELOY BARRAGÁN

Faculty Choreographer, Composer, and Music Performer

Eloy Barragán has a MFA degree from Hollins University. He is a professor at the University of Iowa. He is the director and founder of the International Iowa ScreenDanceFestival, co-director of Iowa Dance Festival, a fellowship recipient from the National Endowment for the Arts and Boise Arts Council, as well as a Lifetime Career Fellowship by the Idaho Commission of the Arts. His choreography has been presented in New York City, Russia, Finland, France, Panama, Costa Rica, and México. His films have been invited to festivals in Mexico, USA, Stockholm, and Cuba. He trained at La Escuela Nacional de Danza in México, Royal Academy of Dance UK, Boston Ballet, and the Joffrey Ballet in New York. He performed with Joffrey II, Washington Ballet, Compañía Nacional de Danza México, Ballet Royal de Wallonie, Mainz Stattheater, Hagen Stattheater, Ballet de Monterey, Eugene Ballet, and Ballet Idaho.



AARON SAMUEL DAVIS

Guest Choreographer

Aaron Samuel Davis is a human who choreographs. His research includes the intersection between Afro-Diasporic dance and tourism, as well as, cinematic approaches to concert dance. Davis is currently a resident performer in the immersive off-Broadway hit *Sleep No More* by Punchdrunk and a collaborator with dance company Unusual Symptoms at Theater Bremen.



JENNIFER KAYLE

Faculty Choreographer

With over 60 works shown nationally and internationally, Jennifer Kayle's work has been referred to as having "muscular presence" (*Dance Source Houston*), "provocative, tight, with wit and stage craft...serious chops" (*Vox Fringe*), "distinct...affecting scenes" (*Hampshire Gazette*), "memorable...shockingly poignant," (*City Revealed*). Kayle's work has been curated by the Dumbo Dance Festival, in Brooklyn, NY, The American Dance Guild Festival at the Ailey Center, NYC, Harvest Chicago Contemporary Dance Festival, Links Hall (Chicago, IL), Joyce Soho (New York, NY), Symphony Space-International New Music Festival (New York, NY), and Jacob's Pillow's *Inside Out* (Becket, MA). Kayle is a professor and director of the MFA dance program.



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BIOGRAPHIES

MELINDA JEAN MYERS Faculty Choreographer

Melinda Jean Myers is a multidisciplinary artist who creates in the areas of dance and choreography, theater and storytelling, and music composition. Her research includes solo choreography and performance, and collaborations with theater artists, filmmakers, writers, music composers, media designers, and dance artists. At University of Iowa, she is an assistant professor of contemporary dance and choreography. Myers earned a MFA degree from University of Iowa (2012) where she received a Stanley Graduate Award for International Research and Iowa Arts Fellowship. She earned a BFA degree from NYU's Tisch School of the Arts (2005). She was honored to perform internationally with the Trisha Brown Dance Company for four years (2006–2010), and has been privileged to re-stage repertory works. As a member of The Cambrians (Chicago, IL) her collaborative work *Clover* (2015) was named one of *Chicago Tribune's* Top 10 Dances of 2015. She also created three new works as a devising ensemble member of Lucky Plush Productions (Chicago, IL) and toured nationally with the company for ten years (2012–2022).



TONY ORRICO Faculty Choreographer

Tony Orrico is an artist whose record of performances and exhibitions spans five continents. His visual work is in the private collections of Muzeum Susch (Switzerland), Kablanc/Fundación Otazu (Spain), Bergmeier/Kunstsaele (Germany), Colección Ca.Sa (Chile), The National Academy of Sciences (DC), and Museo Universitario de Arte Contemporáneo (Mexico). He has presented solo work at the Centre de Cultura Contemporània in Barcelona, Centre Pompidou-Metz, The New Museum, and Poptech 2011: The World Rebalancing. Orrico was one of a select group of artists to re-perform the work of Marina Abramović during her retrospective at MoMA. A former member of the Trisha Brown Dance Company and Shen Wei Dance Arts, Orrico has graced such stages as the Sydney Opera House, Teatro La Fenice, New York State Theater, and Théâtre du Palais-Royal.



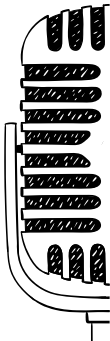
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BIOGRAPHIES

MARIANA TEJEDA

Additional Choreography

Mariana Tejada is a multidisciplinary artist with two MFA degrees from the University of Iowa, one in stage management and one in Spanish creative writing. Mariana is a second-year candidate in the MFA program in choreography. In 2021, she was awarded the University of Iowa MFA Summer Fellowship to create *The Laphin MirRoooar*, a poetry exhibition where she invited artists from diverse backgrounds and disciplines to reinterpret her poems. Mariana has 20 years of experience working in theater and opera productions in Mexico and the U.S. and international touring.



DOUGLAS BAKER

Composer

Douglas Baker is a professional dance accompanist whose hobbies include composition, dance, video games, languages, and various modes of art and craft. He received a BA degree in piano and Japanese at the University of Iowa and was a Fulbright scholarship recipient in 2015. Douglas is currently employed at the university's Department of Dance as well as the Youth Ballet and Community Dance School.



MATHANKI KALAPATHY

Composer and Music Performer

Mathanki Kalapathy is an architect and multidisciplinary artist based in New York. She graduated from the architecture program at Cornell University and studied at the Accademia di Architettura di Mendrisio, Switzerland. She is also trained in classical piano and studied at the Suzuki Music School. In 2022 she opened her own architecture practice. She works across the disciplines of architecture, music, clothing design, and visual arts. She has taught at Michael Graves College, School for Public Architecture, and has served as a guest critic at the Oslo School for Architecture and Design, Barnard and Columbia Colleges, and the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee Architecture and Urban Planning. She composes and performs her music that creates immersive and spatial atmospheres by combining electronic productions with field recordings. She has performed in venues in New York including the Old American Can Factory



BIOGRAPHIES

and Brooklyn Community Radio. Her music has also been incorporated in previous dance performances choreographed by Melinda Myers at the University of Iowa. Her projects in various media are linked by her interest in creating visceral experiences that evoke all the senses to reflect the world around us while also opening up our imagination to exist in a realm that transcends our immediate reality.

BARRY PHIPPS

Composer, Set and Video Projection Designer

Since graduating from the Kansas City Art Institute in 1990, Iowa City-based artist Barry Phipps has worked for over three decades in music and visual arts. He is the author of two photography books published by the University of Iowa Press. In 2023, he earned an MFA degree in art from the University of Iowa.



Barry Phipps is a recent MFA graduate in photography from the UI School of Art and Art History. The work keeps all 14 dancers on stage at all times and responds to Phipps' video and sound environment. We discussed how the photo documentation has inundated our lives, and how what we capture become the stories we retell; despite how random and incidental most circumstances are. Counter to ideas that choice and design build the still frames of our lives, we ruminated on nature of responding to serial conditions and landing in time and place.

SERGIO FELIPE LOPEZ VIGUERAS

Video designer

Since 2007, Sergio Felipe Lopez Viguera has worked on over forty productions. His work as a scenic designer was presented at the Prague Quadriennial of Performance Design and Space 2019, within the Mexico pavilion. Sergio has presented his work in international festivals such as Kunstenfestivaldesarts, Santiago a Mil, Zürcher Theater Spektakel, Theaterformen, Festival International der Neue Dramatik, Festival Internacional de Buenos Aires, Temporada Alta, Heidelberger Stückemarkt, Cena Contemporânea, Festival de Artes Escénicas de Lima, among others. Sergio is the author and the set and light designer of *Tártaro*, which was awarded Best Mexican Monologue in 2022 by the ACPT. In 2017 he received the Gerardo Mancebo del Castillo National Young Dramaturgy Award for his work *La Bala*, directed by himself with two seasons in Mexico City. Sergio is a cofounder of the Mexican School of Scenic Design and is part of its Board of Directors.



BIOGRAPHIES

LAUREL SHOEMAKER **Lighting Designer**

Laurel has been working in the performing arts as a lighting designer and theater artist for 30 years. Credits include productions with Hubbard Street Dance Chicago, Hubbard Street 2, the Chicago Dancing Festival, the Joyce Soho (with Charlotte Adams), the University of Iowa, and the University of Nebraska. Specific design credits include: *The Seen*, world premiere, Choreographer Jermaine Spivey, Hubbard Street Dance Chicago; *Peter and the Starcatcher*, Mesa College, Arizona; The Chicago Dancing Festival (lighting director); *Flipside: The Patti Page Story*, 59 E. 59th Street Theatre, NYC, NY; *The Marriage of Figaro* (lighting), winner of the 2002 National Opera Association Award for Best Production, produced by the Martha Ellen Tye Opera Theatre at the University of Iowa; *Dead Man Walking* (scenic designer), winner of the 2008 National Opera Association Award for Best Production; and *Street Scene* (scenic designer), winner of the 2001 National Opera Association Award for best production.



A native of California, Laurel has trained at the University of Nebraska and Florida State University, and early in her career she was mentored by Pat Simmons. She is a proud member of United Scenic Artists 829. She holds an MFA degree in lighting design from Florida State University and a BFA degree in theatrical design from University of Nebraska.

MARGARET WENK-KUCHLBAUER **Set and Costume Designer**

Margaret Wenk-Kuchlbauer is the costume and scenery designer for the University of Iowa Performing Arts Production Unit, collaborating with many UI faculty and guests on productions for the Department of Dance and the School of Music. Recent costume and scenery designs for dance include UIDC 2023, *IN MOTION Dance Gala 2022*, UIDC 2022, and *Dance Gala 2021*. *L'amico Fritz*, *La Traviata*, *Il Matrimonio Segreto*, and *HMS Pinafore* are her latest designs for UI Opera Theatre.



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BIOGRAPHIES

JULIANA WAECHTER **Costume Designer**

Juliana Waechter is a graduate of the University of Iowa with degrees in both anthropology and art. In 2004, she was hired by the University of Iowa Department of Dance to oversee wardrobe inventory and maintenance at Halsey Hall, providing costume design support to students and faculty. In addition to dance, Juliana provided costume support to Cheech Marin and Tommy Chong in 2016 at Riverside Casino and Golf resort. Most recently, Juliana coordinated costumes for UI Department of Dance collaboration with Quixotic Dance Company for *Hancher Illuminated* in 2020 and 2021 productions.



KATYBETH SCHMID **Stage Manager**

KatyBeth Schmid is the Production Stage Manager for the Department of Dance and the Martha-Ellen Tye Opera Theatre at the University of Iowa. She received her MFA in Stage Management from Iowa in 2013 and spent the following years working for Cirque du Soleil in Las Vegas (*KÀ*, *Criss Angel Believe*, and *Criss Angel Mindfreak LIVE!*) and internationally (*Ovo Arena Tour*). Other recent work includes *L'amico Fritz* and *La Traviata, Dance Gala 2022*, Crossroads Rep at Indiana State University and a variety of commercial, corporate, and live events in the Las Vegas area. KatyBeth is a proud member of the Actors' Equity Association.



JORDAN JONES **Assistant Stage Manager**

Jordan "J.J." Jones is a third-year MFA stage management student from Clarksville, Tennessee. She has previously worked on *Ugly Lies the Bone*, *Braided Sorrow*, *Media Clown*, *IT'S LIKE RIDING A BIKE*, *Gwenevere*, and *Smile Medicine* at Iowa's Department of Theatre Arts. Before joining the graduate program at the University of Iowa, she worked in Alabama, Tennessee, Minnesota, Nebraska, Massachusetts, and Virginia. She has been greatly impacted by the efforts of this cast and crew to tell this very important story, and she hopes that you enjoy and learn from our production. Thank you!



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HEALTH CONCERNS

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