

## WELCOME

We are delighted to welcome you to the Salem Dance Ensemble Spring 2024 Concert! You will experience original choreography created by faculty, students and our esteemed guest choreographer in residence, Matthew Cumbie, as well as a performance by the Salem Hip Hop Dance Ensemble, which features current students, alumni and community members, and is directed by dance faculty member Joanne Caidor.

In this concert, you'll experience dance works that represent a range of styles and choreographic approaches. As artists, we attempt to push our own boundaries: we investigate the edge of physical possibility, we search for original paradigms, and we sometimes delve into the depths of difficult emotion and memory. We invite you to come along with us on our journey.

Once again, this semester was full of deep learning, enriched by a number of guest artists who visited our campus and inspired the community. Our community enjoyed masterclasses in hip hop and modern dance, and a dance entrepreneurship panel with Boston-based movers and shakers DeAnna Pellecchia, Deborah Mason Dudley, and SSU dance alum Shatell Maddrey ('17). We welcomed back Katie Pustizzi (Spring 2021 Artist in Residence; SSU class of '15) and Lonnie Stanton (Fall 2023 Artist in Residence) for a discussion regarding the intersection of their artistic work with environmental activism, as part of the campus-wide Earth Days programming. Guest Artist Matthew Cumbie (Visiting Asst. Professor, Colby College) joined us for a week-long intensive in March, creating a new work with six dance majors, which you will have the opportunity to experience in this performance.

In March, dance students and faculty traveled to the American College Dance Association (ACDA) Northeast regional conference at University of Rochester, where we attended masterclasses, discussions, performances, and performance feedback sessions. Dance faculty Meghan McLyman's piece *re:arrangement*, a quartet performed by dance majors Magen Beaudet, Jack Caravello, Eliza Crook, and Austin Guin, was selected by a panel of internationally-renowned artist adjudicators for inclusion in the conference's Encore performance. Student choreographers Austin Guin and Eliza Crook also presented pieces in the conference.

Earlier this week, we celebrated student achievement in our informal concert *Dances in the Raw*, and in the Undergraduate Research Symposium, where senior dance majors presented their Capstone projects to the campus community. The celebration continues on May 8 with the Creativity Awards, where we will recognize the artistic accomplishments of dance majors Austin Guin ('25) and Kaija Schram ('24), among other outstanding individuals in the creative and performing arts, including art & design awardee and dance minor Caroline Canty, whose choreographic work you will see in today's program.

We thank you for joining us for this concert and welcome you to share your thoughts and experiences with us afterwards! If you enjoyed the evening, consider a monetary

donation to the CCPA dance program. More information can be found here:  
<https://www.salemstate.edu/campus-life/arts/support-arts>.

Thank you for experiencing and supporting the arts!

Betsy Miller, Dance Liaison to the Center for Creative and Performing Arts

### **Dance Program Faculty**

Meghan McLyman, Professor of Dance, Dance Program Coordinator  
Betsy Miller, Associate Professor of Dance, CCPA Dance Liaison  
Joanne Caidor, Visiting Lecturer in Dance, Director of Hip Hop Dance Ensemble  
Jeffrey A. Bird, Jr., Visiting Lecturer in Dance  
Gregory Coles, Visiting Lecturer in Dance  
Michelle Deane, Visiting Lecturer in Dance

Tremendous thanks to the collaborative energies of Stu Grieve, Ashley Preston O'Toole, and Karen Gahagan, without which this production would not be possible.

### **Technical and Front of House Crew**

Lighting Designer: Stephen Petrilli  
Dance Program Associates: Magen Beaudet, Eliza Crook, Aiden Jones, Kaija Schram

### ***A Look Back***

Choreography: Arianna Cavallaro  
Performance: Jaiana Ohannesian, Arianna Cavallaro, Sarah Soares, Abby Keefe, Morgan Doyle, Aiden Jones, Eliza Crook, Sessina Mele, Grace Goldberg  
Music: "One Hour of HQ Coffee Shop Background Noise" by Duff the Psych;  
"Strangers in the Night," by Ivo Robic, lyrics by Charles Singleton and Eddie Snyder, performed by Frank Sinatra  
*Working with individuals with dementia in a senior living home, I have observed that joyful memories resurface through dance and music. This senior capstone piece illustrates how the brain resurfaces memories and how a song can trigger happier times to reappear for the listener.*

### ***Until the Last Petal Falls***

Choreography and Performance: Eliza Crook  
Music: "Autumn Rain Rework" by Vivian Roost; edited by Eliza Crook

### ***Avian Tune: The Flock***

Choreography: Caroline Canty  
Performance: Caroline Canty, Jack Newton, Sarah Soares,  
Music: "Birthday Suit," "Bittern," "Cuckoo," "Cuckoo Song" and "Owl Song" by Cosmo Shel Drake; edited by Caroline Canty

### ***I'll be yours if you'll be mine, please be mine.***

Choreography and Performance: Mackenzie Trainor

Music: "Be My Baby" written by Jeff Barry, Ellie Greenwich and Phil Spector, and performed by The Ronettes; "Be My Baby" performed by Tomas George ft. Peter Darling and Lizzy Joyce

Costume Design: Eliza Crook

### ***a collection of whimsical people***

Choreography: Aiden Jones

Performance: Arianna Cavallaro, Eliza Crook, Michaiiah Fernandes, Austin Guin, VedaRuth Harvey Ahmai, Aiden Jones, Lili Rataj, Caroline Sciaratta, Sarah Soares, Mackenzie Trainor

Music: Paul Simon, "Call Me Al" (Demo)

### ***"Just a Tap Dance"***

Choreography and Performance: Kaija Schram

Music: "Razzle Dazzle" by Richard Gere; edited by Kaija Schram

*Tap dance holds a heavy history of cultural importance in the US, but is often left out of the conversation and curriculum in Higher Education. Academic dance programs have often blurred the line between the representation and tokenization of dance forms of the African Diaspora. As a participant in a collegiate dance program, I have found myself frustrated at the lack of access to tap. From these frustrations, I have created a piece to showcase three of the Africanist aesthetics that tap dance offers: polyrhythm, improvisation, and what historian Brenda Dixon Gottschild terms "embracing the conflict."*

### **-10 Minute Intermission-**

### ***a volume of pages***

Choreography: Matthew Cumbie, in collaboration with the performers

Performance: Magen Beudet, Eliza Crook, Austin Guin, Aiden Jones, Kaija Schram, Mackenzie Trainor

Music: Michael Wall, "4 120 Vary Vary 2018," and "Columns"

Text: Developed by the performers

*This work grows out of research around the relationship between writers Nathaniel Hawthorne (born and raised in Salem) and Herman Melville. The title for this work is inspired by text from Hawthorne's Twice-Told Tales (published 1851).*

### ***rock, paper, RESIST; THE GAME?***

Choreography: Sarah Soares

Performance: Evan Bernstein, Caroline Canty, Gio Corbett, Michaiiah Fernandes, VedaRuth Harvey Ahmai, Jaiana Ohannesian, Lili Rataj, Kayleigh Sheehan, Sarah Soares, Julia Walsh, Melanie Zimmermann

Music: Ashnikko, "Possession of a Weapon," "Worms," "WEEDKILLER;" edited by David Gargan

*please be advised that this music contains gunshot noises*

### ***five thirty-two***

Choreography: Kaija Schram and Austin Guin

Performance: Magen Beaudet, Eliza Crook, Michaiiah Fernandes, Aiden Jones, Austin Guin, VedaRuth Harvey Ahmai, Sessina Mele, Kaija Schram, Caroline Sciarratta, Kayleigh Sheehan, Mackenzie Trainor

Music: Jasmine Hearn and Lily Gelfand, "Interlude" and Zoë Keating, "We Insist;" edited by Kaija Schram

### ***Prowess of the Spinner***

Choreography: Michelle Deane

Performance: Magan Beaudet, Valerie Caya, Eliza Crook, Jeana DelloRusso, Victoria Deyoung, Paige Marshall, Grace O'Connor, Sarah Soares, Karen Velasco Duffy, Taylor Willis

Music: "Dawn" by OTR Ford, "Nitelite" by Bonobo Bajka; edited by Shawn Deane

Costume Support: Sarah Soares

### ***Purge Hour***

Choreography: Joanne Caidor

Performed by the members of Hip Hop Dance Ensemble: Makayla Brito, Jerelys Canales, Sydney Collazo, Michaiiah Fernandes, Naomi Hall, VedaRuth Harvey Ahmai, Abri McCollim, Sessina Mele, Rebecka Monta, Remani Lizana, Jaiana Ohannesian, Caroline Sciarratta, Nevaeh Scott, Kaija Schram, Kayleigh Sheehan, Mackenzie Trainor

Music: "Pandemonium" by NF, "Big Bank" by YG, "El Chapo" by The Game, "New Charlotte" by DuRu Tha King, "Uyaph We Jwana Ebsuku by Ngozi" SA; edited by Joanne Caidor

## **STUDENT CHOREOGRAPHERS**

**Caroline Canty** from Billerica, MA, is a senior graduating in May with a major in Graphic Design. She is a member of four honor societies and has received the Presidential Arts Scholarship from 2021-2023. Currently serving as the President of the SSU AIGA Chapter, Caroline has been awarded the Creativity Award in Art & Design and the Certificate of Excellence in Graphic Design. With 16 years of dance experience, she is a member of the Salem Dance Ensemble and eagerly looks forward to showcasing her work from the semester!

**Arianna Cavallaro**, from Merrimac, Massachusetts, is a senior studying Geological Science and Dance. While at Salem State, Arianna has trained with Meghan McLyman and Betsy Miller, and participated in Salem Dance Ensemble (SDE) and Repertory Dance Theatre (RDT). In 2022 and 2023 Arianna attended American College Dance Association (ACDA) regional conferences in Vermont and New Jersey as well as the national conference at UC Long Beach, California. Arianna is the recipient of a Presidential Arts Scholarship, Viking Grant, and recognized on the Art and Science Dean's List. After graduation, Arianna plans on becoming an Engagement Director in a senior living home as well as a dance educator.

**Eliza Crook** is from Colchester, CT. She is currently a sophomore dance major with a minor in education. Her choreography has been performed in both Repertory Dance Theatre and in Salem Dance Ensemble's Fall Concert (2023).

**Austin Guin** is a junior at Salem State University working to receive a degree in both dance and visual art. While at Salem State, he has choreographed numerous works, one of which was performed at the Salem Arts Festival in 2022, as well as a solo at the American College of Dance Association Northeast conference in 2024. Later this spring he will accept a University Creativity Award in dance. He has attended dance intensives including David Dorfman Dance (2023, 2024), the Staib Dance Italy Program (2023), and Bates Dance Festival (2022). Outside of school, he is currently dancing in Simon Montalvo's work, *A House with No Walls*, to be performed at Boston Center for the Arts in June of 2024.

**Aiden Jones** is a junior, double majoring in Elementary Education and Dance. They are a 2024 recipient of the Summer Student Artistic Development Grant, and have had their choreography presented in The Salem Dance Ensemble's *Spring Concert* (2023), *Dances in the Raw* (Fall 2023), and the American College Dance Association's informal showcase (2023). Aiden plans on attending the Professional Training Program at Bates Dance Festival this summer to continue growing as a dancer and choreographer!

Boston-based dance artist **Kaija Schram** will complete her senior year at Salem State University where she will receive a BA in dance with a concentration in modern. She has performed in pieces by guest artists such as Victoria Awkward, Maree ReMalia, Matthew Cumbie, and DeAnna Pellecchia, and she regularly studies under Betsy Miller. Kaija has spent the last two summers enrolled in the professional training program at Bates Dance Festival where she was able to work with artists such as Angie Hauser, Bebe Miller, and Jenny Oliver. She is also a two-time recipient of the 2023 Summer Artistic Development Grant and has served the Music and Dance Department as a Dance Program Associate. Kaija has performed in three American College Dance Association Conference formal concerts.

**Sarah Soares** is a senior graduating with degrees in dance and psychology this spring. They have participated both as a performer and a choreographer in Salem State's productions since 2019 and received a University Creativity Award in Dance in 2023. In 2023, their solo work, *Petri Dish*, was performed at the American College Dance Association (ACDA) regional conference in Montclair, NJ, where it was selected by a panel of adjudicators for performance at the national ACDA conference in Long Beach, California. Alongside performing in Salem Arts Festival and Wandering Stage in Salem, Sarah frequently volunteers to teach dance at North Shore Alliance of GLBTQ Youth (NAGLY). After college, they plan to continue their choreographic and performance experience as they pursue their passion for queer artistry.

**Mackenzie Trainor** is a Dance major with a Psychology minor at Salem State University and was born and raised in Methuen, Massachusetts. Her work was performed in Salem Dance Ensemble's *Dances In The Raw* in Fall of 2023. She is excited to present her work in the Spring Concert this semester.

## **FACULTY AND GUEST ARTISTS BIOGRAPHIES**

**Joanne Caidor** (Faculty) focuses on making you feel good while doing good. Her education and training comes from Dean College and the University of Massachusetts Boston, where she studied Dance and Business Management. Throughout life, Joanne has been a part of cabarets, musicals, step teams, and more. Her credits involve performance in Jean Appolon Expressions (a Haitian contemporary), and Street Hype (a hip hop company). She is the director of Afmohip: a hip hop, African, and modern company. She is also the lead in Haitian folklore

dance troupe Arc-en-ciel. Joanne has been featured in movies and has performed in major venues such as the Embassy in Washington, DC, Annual Independence Gala in Boston, José Mateo Ballet Theatre Annual Dance for World Community Festival, Haitian Movie Awards, Boston City Hall, The Boston Contemporary Dance Festival at the Paramount Center, World of Dance, French Festival, Prelude Dance, Performing Arts Festival, Boston University Theater, Annual Haitian Fund Conference, and *Hairspray* the musical.

**Matthew Cumbie** (Guest Artist) is a collaborative dancemaker, writer, and artist educator. His choreography and dancemaking- considered “a blend of risk-taking with reliability, [and] a combination of uncertainty and wisdom,”- weaves together a physical vocabulary of momentum and clarity, moving imagery, and a commitment to relationship-building and community participation. His work has been commissioned and supported by places like Dance Place, the Kennedy Center, Herman Melville’s Arrowhead, and Harvard University, and by the National Endowment for the Arts, the DC Commission for the Arts and Humanities, HumanitiesDC, the Arcus Foundation, the New England Foundation for the Arts, and the Maine Arts Commission. Matthew has an MFA in dance from Texas Woman’s University and is currently a Visiting Assistant Professor at Colby College.

**Michelle Deane** (Faculty) started her dance training in Southern California. She graduated with a BFA in Dance from the UMass Amherst, and continued her education at Cambridge College, receiving her M.Ed. Since 2002, Michelle has been training, teaching and performing all over New England. She has been a company member for Adrienne T. Hawkins Day Job Dancers in addition to teaching for Adrienne at Impulse Dance Studio in Boston. She was also a member of many companies, including BeanTown Lockers, Six One Seven Dance Collective, Rainbow Tribe Dance Company, Triiiple Threat Entertainment, Synergy Dance Company. As co-founder of Amara Dance Company, she performed and choreographed for many summer dance festivals including *Built on Stilts* on Martha’s Vineyard. This is Michelle’s seventh year teaching in the Music and Dance Department at Salem State University.

**Stephen Petrilli** (Lighting Designer) has designed the lighting for Salem State Dance many times. He has also designed for Newport Contemporary Ballet, Anikaya Dance Theatre, Kun-Yang Lin/Dancers, Prometheus Dance, Pilobolus Dance Theatre and Ailey II. In the theatre world, he has worked with Theatre Workshop of Nantucket, Provincetown Theater, Bridge Rep of Boson, Arlekin Players’ Theatre, New York’s Pearl Theatre Company and The Three Rivers Shakespeare Festival in his hometown of Pittsburgh. He has a twenty-one year old son, Liam. [stephen-petrilli-lighting.com](http://stephen-petrilli-lighting.com)