

Salem Dance Ensemble presents:

***Dances in the Raw* and Student Recognition Ceremony**

Multipurpose Gymnasium, O'Keefe Center– April 27, 2025

Icarus was right, it was worth it

Choreography: Angelina Benitez (SSU '18) in collaboration with the cast

Performance: Frankie Amster, Alivia Gendron, Aiden Jones, Isabelle Keller, Maya Luna, Fenrir Marcin, Bella Rocha, Nevaeh Scott, Mackenzie Trainor

Music: "Can't Stop Staring At The Sun," Patrick Watson, Attaca Quartet, "Flying," Garth Stevenson, "Hope," Caleb Arredondo; edited by Angelina Benitez

Xeno

Choreography: Ziran Lin

Performance: Ziran Lin, Jack Newton

Music: Ziran Lin "Xeno"

Lilac Fairy Variation from The Sleeping Beauty

Choreography: adapted from Marius Petipa and Lev Ivanov, restaged by Betsy Miller

Performance by members of Ballet III class: Eliza Crook, Jaiana Ohannesian, Mackenzie Trainor

Music: *The Sleeping Beauty*, Op. 66 No. 3: Var. 6, Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky, performed by Orchestra Victoria

Cherished Friendships

Choreography: Amanda Sawai

Performance: Amada Sawai and Emily Donahue

Music: "Die with a Smile" by Lady Gaga and Bruno Mars, edited by Amanda Sawai

let us reason together

Choreography and Performance: Nevaeh Scott

Music: "O Come To The Altar" by Elevation Worship

the space that held you / the shape of what's missing

Choreography and Performance: Jack Newton

Music: Mykola Leontovych, "Carol of the Bells" (arr. Kimberley Henson), performed by Tinton Falls Middle School Tone Chime Choir; original soundscape by Jack Newton; edited by Jack Newton

Broken Love

Choreography: Han Schmider

Performance: Fenrir Marcin, and Emily Donahue

Music: Olivia Rodrigo x Billie Eilish- "Betrayal" Sad Emotional Piano Ballad

Lilac Fairy Variation from The Sleeping Beauty

Performance by members of Ballet III class: Jeana DelloRusso, Alivia Gendron, Aiden Jones, Maya Luna

Lighten Up

Choreography and Performance: Amanda Sawai

Music: "Lighten Up" by Shaina Taub, edited by Amanda Sawai

March & Swing (a work in progress)

Choreography: Jack Newton

Performance: Isabelle Keller, Jack Newton

Music: Queen, "Bohemian Rhapsody" (arr. Paul Murtha); Louis Prima, "Sing, Sing, Sing" (arr. Victor López); edited by Jack Newton

Barbie World

Choreography: Joanne(Jojo) Caidor

Performance: Frankie Amster, Evan Bernstein, Aurora Billante, Sydney Collazo Michaiiah Fernandes, Alivia Gendron, VedaRuth HarveyAhmai, Julie Maguire, Jaiana Ohannesian, Molly Porter-Crean, Lili Rataj, Caroline Sciarratta, Nevaeh Scott, Kayleigh Sheehan, Jingwen Zhou

Music: "Tobey" by Eminem, "Oops" by Tweet, "Last Resort" by Papa Roach, "TGIF" by GloRilla, "Barbie Girl Remix," edited by Joanne (Jojo) Caidor

Performances will be followed by Student Recognition Ceremony and Reception

CHOREOGRAPHER BIOGRAPHIES

Angelina Benitez (Guest Artist in Residence) also known as *she moves + makes*, is inspired by play, poetry, queerness, engaging the senses, and her nonbinary, biracial life experience. They are a dedicated teaching artist to movers of all ages and experiences in the Greater Boston area, from toddlers to families, professionals, and seniors. This *2025 Next Steps for Boston Dance* grantee graduated from Salem State University in 2018 with a BA in Dance. She is a company member of Human Movement Project, vital team member at High Street Studios in Ipswich, and a co-founding member of a contemporary dance collective, The Click. She has shared her work at VERSE / VISUAL, Human Movement Lab, Dancing Queerly, Salem Arts Festival, 24 Hour ChoreoFest, Roots and Routes and more. Stay in touch with their work or find ways to get involved @shemovesandmakes on Instagram.

Joanne Caidor (Faculty) studied Dance and Business Management at Dean College and the University of Massachusetts Boston. Throughout life, Joanne has been a part of cabarets, musicals, step teams, and more. Her credits involve Jean Appolon Expressions (a Haitian contemporary), and Street Hype (a hip hop company). Currently, she is the director of Afmohip, a hip hop, African, and modern company. She is also the lead in a Haitian folklore dance troupe known as Arc-en-ciel, focusing in Afro Haitian/West African, hip hop, modern, tap and jazz. Joanne has been featured in movies and has performed for 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 in Boston, World of Dance, French Festival, Prelude Dance, Boston University Theater, Annual Haitian Fund Conference, *Hairspray* the musical, and many more.

Ziran Lin is a senior student studying at Salem State University, majoring in music and minoring in dance. Her dance journey began at the age of four with Chinese dance, and she later explored various styles including jazz, K-pop, contemporary, hip-hop, and ballet. At SSU, she has participated in several dance performances. To complement her academic training, Ziran has taken part in occasional professional dance workshops beyond the classroom. She is currently focused on creating original works in both dance and music.

Jack Newton is originally from Lowell, MA. He is currently pursuing triple majors in Theatre (Musical Theatre Performance), Dance (Modern/Contemporary), and Music (Voice), with a minor in Coaching. His choreography has been featured in Salem Dance Ensemble's Fall Concert (2024). Jack has also performed in a variety of musical theatre productions and figure skating exhibitions. He is an EMACT DASH Award nominee, a Marijane Godin Memorial Figure Skating Scholarship recipient, and a recipient of the SSU Presidential Arts Scholarship.

Amanda Saiwai is a mother of five and grandmother of two from Lawrence, MA. She is originally from Liberia, West Africa, and has been living in New England for over 20 years. Growing up, she participated and won many talent shows and pageants and was recruited to participate in commercials. After moving to the US, she settled down with her family and left the performance world. In 2022, Amanda decided to return to her first love of dance and enroll at Salem State University. Here, she is pursuing a BA degree in Dance in hopes to eventually open her own dance studio for the underserved and elderly.

Han Schmider is a senior at Salem State University, with a major in Early Childhood Education. Han has been dancing since she was ten years old, doing ballet, contemporary, and competition dance until she graduated high school. After college, she is hoping to become a 2nd-grade teacher and an author.

Nevaeh Scott from Boston, MA. She began dancing at the Roxbury Center for the Performing Arts in Boston at the age of three, and Stajez Cultural Arts Center in Randolph, MA. She is working on her BA in dance, and is aspiring to have a career in Dance Movement Therapy. This is her second time choreographing for *Dances in the Raw*; she helps choreograph for the dance ministry at Morning Star Baptist Church and is a member of the Hip Hop Dance Ensemble at Salem State University.