

November Dances 2022

FALL DANCE CONCERT

Fri–Sat, Nov 18–19, 2022
7:30pm / Page Auditorium



Program

**. . . it appears impossible to change,
but it's not. . .**

Choreographed by **Ava LaVonne Vinesett**

Music: **Beverly Botsford, Ayinde Hurrey, Chris Kannenberg,
Richard J. Vinesett** (Musical Director)

Dancers: **Dr. Janice Clark** (served as an understudy and assistant during the creation of this work), **Chanelle "C.C." Croxton** (T'12), **Helena Freire Haddad, Bonita Joyce, Lihua Mo-Hunter** (T'23), **Tria Smothers** (T'15)

. . . *it appears impossible to change, but it's not.* . . features the work of ninth Poet Laureate of North Carolina, Jaki Shelton Green; she honors us with her poetic, *Black Being*, danced by Duke alumna, C.C. Croxton.

Obsessed With You

Choreographed by **Avery Lythcott-Haims** (T'23)

Music: People Watching by **Air Traffic Controller**; Je Ne Sais Quoi by **Dust-**
Dancers: **Alexandria Edwards** (T'25), **Avery Lythcott-Haims,**
Helen Pertsemlidis (T'26), **Nicole Schwartz** (T'23)

Obsessed With You is a preliminary component of Dance Program senior Avery Lythcott-Haims' capstone project. In it, the dancers explore the choreography of watching and being watched; they choreograph the way in which we become collages of the people around us; and they embody the many emotions that accompany the experience of self-awareness. Directed by Avery Lythcott-Haims and choreographed in collaboration with the performers, this piece was developed through conversation, experimentation and play.

reclamation: processing (through) lament

Choreographed by **Lee Edwards** (Duke M.F.A. in Dance: Embodied Interdisciplinary Praxis '22)

Music: editing and original poem by Lee Edwards, original text (letters) by Alyah Baker, Kahlila Brown, Lee Edwards, Ayan Felix, and Amari Jones, Nina Simone "Why The King of Love is Dead" live quote, "This Bitter Earth" by Dinah Washington, Eriah Love - vocalist, beats by JVH Bless: "Questionmark IUH" & "Audio_3181", News Clips: No. 45 State of the Union Address 2020 - News Now TV, BLM protest in Hudson County - Hudson County View 2020, The Daily Show by Trevor Noah news compilation - America's Book Bans: The Latest Culture War Front 2022, PBS News Hour - anti transgender bills 2021, ABC News this week: Critical Race Theory - Ted Cruz, Professor Leah Wright Rigueur 2021, MSNBC: The Sunday show with Jonathan Capehart and guest Dr. Nii Quartelai Quartey 2022, Megan Thee Stallion set at Glatsonbury Festival in the UK 2022, ABC, Fox 5, and 4 News - Supreme Court overturns Roe v. Wade 2022, and PBS News and CBS News - inflation and housing crisis 2022.

Video Projection Design & Editing: *Mending in Space* by **Lee Edwards** in collaboration with **Amari Jones** and **Alyah Baker**

Dancers: **Alyah Baker** (Duke M.F.A. in Dance: Embodied Interdisciplinary Praxis '21), **Kahlila Brown**, **Lee Edwards**, **Ayan Felix** (Duke M.F.A. in Dance: Embodied Interdisciplinary Praxis '21), **Amari Jones** (Duke M.F.A. in Dance: Embodied Interdisciplinary Praxis '22)

"Lament itself is a form of hope. It's an innate awareness that what is should not be" - *This Here Flesh: Spirituality, Liberation, and The Stories That Make Us* by Cole Arthur Riley

we are still here, still being
retrieving ourselves from and within these present moments
moving inside and outside of space and time.

where are **you** now? where are **we**?

Intermission

NOT AT REST

Choreographed by **Kristin Taylor Duncan**

Music: **Mike Wall**, *sound for movement (soundformovement)*

Dancers: **Michela Arietti** (T'26), **Coral Lin** (T'25), **Aviv Yochai** (T'26)

NOT AT REST, is a work about the constant drum beating in our minds as we attempt to find moments of peace.

study for a copy (code surfing)

Choreographed & Danced by **Luna Beller-Tadiar**

Music: mixed sound by **Luna Beller-Tadiar**, with music samples from **Susie Ibarra and Robert J. Rodriguez**; the **Cordillera Youth Theater Group and Alex Madullawan Tumapang**; **Brittany Greene**; **Liv K.**; **Erik Satie** interpreted by **Michel Camilo and Tomatito**; **Tismé**; and **Big Rulez**.

study for a copy (code surfing) is an investigation of mimicry and the malleable body. What does it mean to occupy that colonial figure of the (mere) mimic, obliged to embody infinite forms, yet accused of being fickle and derivative? At once a colonial inheritance for a child of the imperial USA's "little brown brother," the Philippines, mimicry is here an ambivalent method for an available body, walking the line between dominated and dominator, identity and void, feeling and its semblance, subject and substrate.

Giovanni's Room - Guillaume's Bar

Choreographed & Costuming by **Iyun Ashani Harrison**

Music & composition: **Aaron Brown**

Scenic design: **William Paul Thomas**

Giovanni: **Anthony Nelson, Jr.**

David: **Antonio Marrujo**

Guillaume: **Iyun Ashani Harrison**

Le Follies: **Leah Esemuede (T'24), Amélie Finn (T'26), Emily Gershowitz (T'24), Amarah Kendrick (T'26), Kayla Lihardo (T'25), Lihua Mo-Hunter (T'23), Alyssa Shi (T'23), Abigail Ullendorff (T'24)**

An excerpt from Harrison's forthcoming evening-length work is set to an original musical composition by Aaron Brown, *Giovanni's Room - Guillaume's Bar*. The protagonist, David, arrives at Guillaume's Bar for the first time, where he meets Giovanni. The two are taken with each other as they witness patrons' revelry and antics. The work also features an original scenic design by William Paul Thomas.

Biographies

Michela Arietti is a first-year student from Milan, Italy, majoring in Biology and Dance. She has danced since she was 7, and her favorite styles are ballet and contemporary. She thoroughly enjoyed the Modern Performance course, which pushed her out of her comfort zone. She is excited to explore new styles and grow as a dancer while at Duke!

Alyah Baker is a dancer and scholar working at the intersection of art and embodied activism. She has trained and performed professionally throughout the United States with features in classical and contemporary work as well as film. Alyah graduated from Duke University ('03) with B.A. in Sociology and a minor in Dance and was a member of the inaugural M.F.A. in Dance graduate class ('21). She currently teaches ballet at Duke University.

Luna Beller-Tadiar is a Manila-born, US-raised, queer, mixed-Filipinx multi-media artist, as well as a second-year Ph.D. student in Literature. In both her academic and movement-based work, she is interested in investigating socio-historical forces of gender, colonialism, diaspora and new media at the level of the moving body. Luna's movement training has been puzzled together from an ad hoc mix that includes capoeira, Argentine tango, and almost two decades of aikido, in which she holds a black belt.

Beverly Botsford is a cross-cultural percussionist and educator celebrating four decades of professional experience. Grammy nominated, she has played jazz in major venues around the world and shared with more than 40,000 students in schools. Dance experience includes work with the African American Dance Ensemble, ADF, Donald McKale, Ron Brown, Urban Bush Women and Duke Dance.

Aaron Brown is an audiovisual artist working out of Jamaica Plain, Massachusetts. He received a B.F.A. from the School of the Museum of Fine Arts and has focused his efforts toward his sound art project *Baron* and highlighting the work of his peers via his independent cassette label. Aaron has begun to push his compositional work into a more physical direction, mostly composing contemporary dance works.

Kahlila Brown is a dancer, choreographer and educator from Durham, North Carolina. She attended UNC-Greensboro where she earned her B.F.A. in Dance with a K-12 licensure. After graduating, she relocated back to her hometown where she has been performing/collaborating with various local artists and teaches dance at a high school in her community.

Chanelle 'C.C.' Croxton was born and raised in Washington, D.C. and has spent the last 14 years in Durham, NC. C.C. is a full-time labor organizer fighting to improve working conditions for Black workers in the South and dedicates much of her time working towards a more liberatory future for all Black people. Her main resilience practice over the years has been dance, which has profoundly shaped her life. She has studied an array of dance techniques including forms of the African diaspora and modern dance under the direction of Ava L. Vinesett, and has had the opportunity to perform numerous productions with both Ava and Andrea E. Woods.

Kristin Taylor Duncan is a Durham native with a B.F.A. from the UNC School of the Arts. She has trained at Jacob's Pillow, Lou Conte Dance Studios, Dance Arts Unlimited and Collage African Dance Company. Mrs. Duncan is a recipient of the Ella Fountain Pratt Emerging Artist Grant and the Artist Support Grant. Mrs. Duncan is the Dance Educator at Riverside High School as well as teaches at Ballet School of Chapel Hill and Duke University. Kristin is honored to receive a commission to create a new work from American Dance Festival for the 2023 season.

Alexandria Edwards is a sophomore from Memphis, Tennessee, majoring in Economics with a finance concentration. Preparing for this performance has been a highlight of Alexandria's semester, and she hopes y'all enjoy the show!

Lee Edwards is an interdisciplinary movement artist and embodied storyteller, working in dance, sound, video and ethnography. Their layered corporeality shapes the lens through which they investigate, create and express their experiences. Lee's practice takes shape through the use of performance, installation, writing and improvisational and somatic techniques. Their work allows them to make sense of the present by examining it alongside the past in the hopes of creating otherwise possibilities in our nearest future.

Leah Esemuede is a junior from Frederick, Maryland, studying dance, psychology, and Spanish. She began dance at the age of four, training in ballet, contemporary and hip hop. At Duke, Leah has been involved in Street Medicine and Embodiment Contemporary Dance, as well as the Duke Dance Program in the Fall 2021 performance of *Lucid Dreams* by Professor Iyun Ashani Harrison.

Ayan Felix is a Gulf Coast-bred movement artist, dreamy storyteller and community organizer. Their meandering screendances and public performances have premiered at Barnstorm Dance Festival (HOU), Houston Fringe Festival, The Movement Lab ATL and freeskewl (NYC). They are among the first to graduate from the Duke Dance MFA program in 2021. They currently reside in Durham, NC.

Amélie Finn received training at the Royal Academy of Fine Arts and Feijoo Ballet School in primarily ballet and contemporary. She attended summer programs at American Ballet Theatre NYC and Next Generation Ballet. Currently, Amélie is taking ballet at Duke with Professor Iyun Harrison and is a member of the student-run company, Devils en Pointe.

Emily Gershowitz is a junior from Melville, New York, majoring in Neuroscience and Environmental Science and Policy. Dance has been an important part of her life since she was young, and she is grateful for the opportunities to continue learning and performing through the Duke Dance Program. Additionally, Emily is a member of Duke's student ballet company, Devils en Pointe.

Jaki Shelton Green, ninth Poet Laureate of North Carolina appointed in 2018, is the first African American and third woman to be appointed as the North Carolina Poet Laureate and reappointed in 2021 for a second term by Governor Roy Cooper. She is a 2019 Academy of American Poet Laureate Fellow, 2014 NC Literary Hall of Fame Inductee, 2009 NC Piedmont Laureate appointment and 2003 recipient of the North Carolina Award for Literature. Jaki Shelton Green teaches Documentary Poetry at Duke University Center for Documentary Studies and is the 2021 Frank B. Hanes Writer in Residence at UNC Chapel Hill. Additionally, she received the George School Outstanding Alumni Award in 2021. Her publications include: *Dead on Arrival*, *Masks*, *Dead on Arrival and New Poems*, *Conjure Blues*, *singing a tree into dance*, and *breath of the song*, published by Blair Publishers. *Feeding the Light*, *i want to undie you* published by Jacar Press, *i want to undie you English /Italian bilingual edition* published by Lebeg Publishers. In 2020, she released her first poetry album, *The River Speaks of Thirst* and a CD, *i want to undie you*. Additionally, Jaki Shelton Green serves as the 2022-2024 Poet Laureate in Residence at the North Carolina Museum of Art. She is listed on the Forbes distinguished 2022 list of Fifty Over Fifty Women.

Helena Freire Haddad is a Ph.D. student in Biomedical Engineering at Duke. She earned her undergraduate degree in BME and Dance at Northwestern University. She is trained in modern, contemporary and, more recently, African dance forms.

Iyun Ashani Harrison is the director of Ballet Ashani and an Associate Professor of the Practice of Dance at Duke University. A graduate of the Juilliard School and Hollins University (M.F.A.), his professional credits include Dance Theatre of Harlem, Ballet Hispanico, and Ailey II. His television appearances include PBS' *Setting the Stage* and *Who's Dancin' Now?*, NBC's 20th Hispanic Heritage Awards, and *The South Bank Show*, England. Choreographic commissions include the Juilliard School, Ailey School, Boston Conservatory, Collage Dance Collective, University of Florida, Jamaica School of Dance, and University of the West Indies, Barbados.

Amari Jones is a teacher, interdisciplinary artist and performer. In the spring of 2022, she graduated from Duke University with a Masters of Fine Arts in Dance: Embodied Interdisciplinary Praxis. Amari also has received her Bachelor of Arts in Dance Studies and a minor in Entrepreneurship from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro. As a dancer, Amari has performed in a number of repertory works including pieces choreographed by Mari Meade (2017), The Clarice Young Dance Project (2018, 2019), Kristin Taylor Duncan (2022) and Bill T. Jones/ Arnie Zane Dance Company -under the artistic direction of Andrea Woods Valdez (2021).

Bonita Joyce has had the opportunity to learn from teachers deeply rooted in African dance, music and history. She has performed with the Duke African Repertory Ensemble with Professor Ava L. Vinesett and SUAH African Dance Theater with Wesley Williams. There will always be heart-space for her teachers at the Hayti Community Center and the CAARE Healing Center who invested energy into her growth as a dancer... before performance was even thought of. She sends continuous love and appreciation for the dancers and drummers who continue to strengthen her understanding of the rhythms and connection to the movement-physically and spiritually. IYG has created space for personal and collective healing whether one is organizing, performing or applauding. It is a beautiful experience.

After a brief musical experience playing the trombone as a teenager, it wasn't until midlife as an adult that **Chris Kannenberg** found and nurtured his percussive passion. He's grateful to his teachers Mamady Keita, Bolokada Conde, Khalid Saleem, Fode Lavia Camara, Beverly Botsford and Richard Vinesett for their patience and willingness to share their gifts.

Amarah Kendrick is a first-year student from North Carolina and began dancing at the age of 11. She has a passion for the art of dance and performing. It is an abundance of who she is as an individual and has shaped who she is as a person.

Kayla Lihardo is a sophomore from California who is pursuing interdisciplinary studies in neuroscience. She has studied ballet all her life and continues to explore this passion as the co-artistic director of Devils en Pointe and as a member of Embodiment Contemporary Dance.

Coral Lin is a sophomore from Newton, Massachusetts, majoring in Public Policy and Economics and minoring in Environmental Policy. She has been dancing since age 2 in ballet, tap, jazz and her favorite styles: contemporary and modern. Continuing to take modern class and working on repertoire with the Dance Program has been the highlight of her semester, and Coral hopes you enjoy the November Dances performances!

Avery Lythcott-Haims is a senior from Palo Alto, California, majoring in Dance and Cultural Anthropology. Tonight, she is proud to be presenting initial choreography for her capstone project. Avery has been a performer all their life and is currently a member of A Cappella and Hoof 'n' Horn, as well as being deeply engaged with the Dance Program. She thanks you for joining us!

Antonio Marrujo started dancing at the age of 16. Primarily training in jazz, ballet, modern and hip-hop, Antonio continues to enhance his technique at Duke, receiving mentorship from Professor Iyun Harrison and other faculty. Currently, Antonio is a proud member of Duke Defining Movement (Defmo) and Duke Street Medicine (Streetmed).

Lihua Mo-Hunter is a senior majoring in Neuroscience with double minors in Dance and Linguistics on the pre-medicine track. She has been dancing since she was 4 years old, with a dance background in classical ballet training. She has studied both Vaganova and American Ballet Theater (ABT) styles and finished her pre-college training at CityDance conservatory in Rockville, MD. Since then, she has explored other styles including contemporary ballet, hip hop, and, most recently, African Dance Technique from her research in Uganda this past semester. She is a member of StreetMedicine, a student-led hip-hop style dance team, and was thrilled to explore and further these styles within the Duke Dance Program under the tutelage of Professor Vinesett and Professor Harrison.

Anthony Nelson Jr. is a Durham, NC-native performer, dance educator, arts-activists and organizer of healing and “self-work” spaces. Dancing in earnest from 15 years on, Nelson’s career has led him to seek training in a variety of styles, building his repertoire in contemporary, ballet, modern, hip-hop and jazz, and refining his focus in a personal style that blends these traditions. With over a decade of dance theatre experience, Nelson has performed with renowned choreographers in the Triangle and beyond, has been an artist-in-residence for Carolina Performing Arts, a featured UNC-Wilmington Fellowship Artist, has taken stage at Jazz at Lincoln Theatre and Dixon Place in NY, and has been awarded the North Carolina Arts Councils’ Artist Support Grant Award, in support of his work. He embodies the freedom of expression by trade and a facilitator by process and execution. He currently works as an independent and collaborative performer, making socially conscious work.

Helen Pertsemliadis is a first-year student at Duke who has been dancing for 13 years. Helen was trained in ballet, jazz and modern at Studio Allegro in Madison, New Jersey, and is now continuing training at Duke as well as performing with Duke Swing Dance.

Nicole Schwartz is a Dance major, practicing spirituality through dance. They play with various art mediums and experiment in a range of choreographic projects, interested in how movement crosses dimensions and enables healing/connection. They are so grateful to be able to work/perform alongside such special dancers this year.

Jennifer Sherrod holds a B.F.A. in Scenic and Lighting Design from Shenandoah University. She is thrilled to be on board and working with the Duke Dance Program for her first year. Jennifer has been lighting shows in the Triangle for 14 years. Her work includes a variety of events such as dance, corporate events, musicals and awards shows.

Alyssa Shi is a senior from Portland, Oregon, studying Statistics, Chemistry and Science & Society. At Duke, she performs with Embodiment Contemporary Dance, Devils en Pointe and the Dance Program, notably through the Spring 2022 performance of *The Proposal* by Professor Iyun Harrison.

Tria Smothers is a Duke Dance Program graduate and continues to dance with the Duke African Repertory Ensemble and Indigo Yard Gals. She uses movement to help others with getting in touch with their bodies and help their healing process.

William Paul Thomas is a Durham-based visual artist and is currently the Visiting Assistant Professor of Painting Foundations at Guilford College in Greensboro, NC. His creative practice is centered on highlighting the individuals and moments that are often overlooked in the mainstream projections of Black life. Through collaborative projects such as serving as guest curator for the 2019 MFA Exhibition at the Ackland Museum at UNC-Chapel Hill, he serves as an arts advocate around the Research Triangle.

Abigail Ullendorff is a junior studying Economics and German. She started training in classical ballet in Los Angeles at 11 years old and became a trainee at the Boston Ballet her senior year of high school. At Duke, she enjoys being a part of Devils en Pointe, Runway of Dreams and the non-profit Ballet & Books.

Ava LaVonne Vinesett began a professional dance career as one of the founding members, and later assistant director, of the Chuck Davis African-American Dance Ensemble. Vinesett is a performance scholar, full Professor of the Practice in Dance/Faculty Director of the Alice M. Baldwin Scholars at Duke University and a founding member of the Collegium for African Diaspora Dance (CADD). With Almy-Pagán, Vinesett is the co-founder of Indigo Yard Gals, a collaborative of performance artists exploring the intersections of social justice, environmental activism, ritual and identity as a danced concept.

Richard Vinesett has studied African percussion, specifically the instrumentation of the jembe orchestration, under the guidance of Khalid Saleem. He was a performing artist with the Chuck Davis African-American Dance Ensemble, Rhythms of Life under the direction of Khalid Saleem, Cultural Journey under the direction of Bradley Simmons, and Kambankafo Dance & Drum Ensemble under the direction of Mohammad Da Costa. Under the tutelage of Bira Santos, Richard added Candomblé drumming to his performance roster, and with David Font-Navarrette and Eluaye, Lucumí batá. Richard is a musical accompanist for the Duke Dance Program and Musical Director of the Duke African Repertory Ensemble.

Aviv Yochai is a first-year from Israel and Hong Kong. He intends to major in Psychology and Dance and has been dancing since the age of 6. Aviv began his dance discipline with ballroom and Latin, continuing on with contemporary, jazz, hip-hop and ballet. He enjoys participating in the modern repertoire and is very excited to perform this fall!

Duke University Dance Program

Faculty

Andrea E. Woods Valdés – Director of the Dance Program; Associate Professor of the Practice of Dance

Iyun Ashani Harrison – Director of Undergraduate Studies; Associate Professor of the Practice of Dance

Sarah Wilbur – Director of Graduate Studies; Assistant Professor of the Practice of Dance

Michael Kliën – Professor of the Practice of Dance

Purnima Shah – Associate Professor of the Practice of Dance

Ava LaVonne Vinesett – Professor of the Practice of Dance

Emeritus

Barbara Dickinson – Professor of the Practice Emerita of Dance

M'Liss Dorrance – Associate Professor of the Practice Emerita of Dance

Keval Kaur Khalsa – Professor of the Practice Emerita of Dance

Clay Taliaferro – Professor of the Practice Emeritus of Dance

Julie Janus Walters – Assistant Professor of the Practice Emerita of Dance

Tyler Walters – Associate Professor of the Practice Emeritus of Dance

Instructional Faculty

Alyah Baker

Kristin Clotfelter

Kristin Tayler Duncan

Ife Michelle Presswood

Nina Wheeler

Musicians

John Hanks – Supervisor of Musicians

Beverly Botsford

Natalie Gilbert

Westin Portillo

Richard J. Vinesett

Staff

Jenise Taylor – Program Coordinator Senior

Adrienne Brandon – Assistant to the Director of Undergraduate Studies;
Staff Assistant

Dierdre Shipman – Assistant to the Director of Graduate Studies

Production staff

Audio Engineer: **Paul Chapman**

Master Electrician / Lighting Programmer: **Austin Powers**

Lighting Designer: **Jennifer Sherrod**

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Cover Photo: **Alec Himwich**

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