

Wichita State University School of Performing Arts presents

Move on Litwin

Dance Up Close

Oct 26-28, 2023

@ 7:30pm

Litwin Theatre in
the Heskett Center



\$15

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DANCE WORKS

Hey! How are you today?

Choreography: Mina Estrada with contributions from the dancers

Music: "Blood Oath" by Philip Glass

Dancers: Sophie Achey, Kimmy Aguilar, Charisma Brown, Tabitha Buffalo, Andrae Carter, Audrey Jagodzinske, Cesar Garcia, Claire Gray, Cooper Green, Alaycea Kremeier, Abbey Littrell, Olivia Lockwood*, Nick Macias, Sydney Mason, Cassie McAllister, Alex Nickel, Piper Patterson, Cobie Reeves, Gavin Tanner, Lexi Tyler

How do we find comfort in the chaos of everyday living? In this piece, twenty dancers fill the stage to explore the mundane, sublime, simple, and extraordinary while also searching for time to breathe and for each other.

Variation No. 3 from the ballet Paquita ("King Candaule")

Choreography: after Marius Petipa, Coached by Denise A. Celestin

Music: Léon Minkus

Costumes: courtesy of Ballet Wichita and Newton Performing Arts Center

Dancers: Hannah Chandler (Friday/Saturday), Tabitha Buffalo (Thursday)

Understudy: Liberty Peterson

Variation No. 3 ("King Candaule") is a solo excerpt from the 19th century Classical ballet *Paquita*, after choreography by Marius Petipa with music by Léon Minkus. Coached by Denise A. Celestin, the piece exemplifies the delicacy and charm of Classical style.

Full-Throated and Unsparingly

Choreography: Sarah Knapp (Guest Artist)

Music: "Steep Hills of Vicodin Tears" by A Winged Victory for the Sullen and "Missa Brevis - II. Sanctus" by Cello Octet Amsterdam and Arvo Pärt

Dancers: Sophie Achey, Kimmy Aguilar, Charisma Brown, Tabitha Buffalo, Andrae Carter, Audrey Jagodzinske, Cesar Garcia, Claire Gray, Cooper Green, Alaycea Kremeier, Abbey Littrell, Olivia Lockwood*, Nick Macias, Sydney Mason, Cassie McAllister, Alex Nickel, Piper Patterson, Cobie Reeves, Gavin Tanner, Lexi Tyler

This piece is a work in progress, an idea being continually contemplated, researched, and explored through movement. It currently intertwines structured improvisation and choreography. The original inspiration is a verse from Isaiah 58:1, "Cry out full-throated and unsparingly, lift up your voice like a trumpet blast..."

**Not performing due to recent injury.*

DANCE WORKS

continued from previous page

this isn't the beginning

Choreography: Mina Estrada with contributions by Gavin Myers and the dancers

Music: "I Only Have Eyes for You" by The Flamingos, "Nocturne No. 20" by Frédéric Chopin

Dancers: Bailey Buchanan, Tabitha Buffalo, Hannah Chandler, Liberty Joy, Piper Patterson, Samantha Zimmerman

Costumes: Mina Estrada

This piece is a collection of duets that weave themselves into and out of partnership to address two main questions: What if the whole of the universe exists in the space between us? What if you are me?

Step by Step

Choreography: Sabrina Vasquez with the dancers

Music: *War Machines* - Michael Wall, *Don't Give up* - The Noisettes

Rehearsal Assistant: Samantha Zimmerman

Dancers: Bailey Buchanan, Cassidy McAllister, Claire Gray, Lucas Shroyer, Lillie Nightingale, Nicholas Macias, Olivia Lockwood*, Sydney Mason, Evelyn Chaisson

Understudies: Charisma Brown, Kaete Mokrynski

Step by Step explores themes of the student experience: being overwhelmed, rote movement, numb routine, emotional explosions, group dynamics, individual tenacity and never giving up on your passion in life.

**Not performing due to recent injury.*

Moments, Thoughts, & Relativity

Choreography: Cheyla Clawson

Music: Rachel's

Rehearsal Mistress: Aviance Battles

Rehearsal Assistant: Olivia Lockwood

Costumes: Dancers

Dancers: Kimmy Aguilar, Andrae Carter, Hannah Chandler, Alaycea Kremeier, Samantha Zimmerman

Understudies: Evelyn Chaisson, Lucas Shroyer

Moments, Thoughts, & Relativity was the first work created by Cheyla Clawson after her first husband's death in 2009. This contemporary group work is an abstracted exploration of unexpected community grief, trauma, healing, and resilience.

CREATIVE TEAM

PRODUCER

CHEYLA CLAWSON

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR
AND PRODUCTION
COORDINATOR

MINA ESTRADA

CHOREOGRAPHERS

DENISE CELESTIN
CHEYLA CLAWSON
MINA ESTRADA
SARAH KNAPP
SABRINA VASQUEZ

LIGHTING DESIGNER
SOUND BOARD OPERATOR
LIGHT BOARD OPERATOR

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CHOREOGRAPHERS



Denise Celestin (Choreographer) Professor of Ballet at Wichita State University, received her early ballet training in New Orleans and the BFA/MFA in Ballet from Texas Christian University. She performed with the New Orleans Ballet, Fort Worth Ballet and BalletMet Columbus. Ms. Celestin has participated as a coach in the USA International Ballet Competition, and she has choreographed a wide range of works for Ballet and Opera, many of which have been presented on tours throughout Europe, in Taiwan and Mexico. Awards received include the Kansas Arts Commission Individual Artist Fellowship for Choreography, the WSU College of Fine Arts Excellence in Creative Activity and Excellence in Teaching Awards, the WSU President's Award for Distinguished Service, and the Dorothy Johansen Hauck Faculty Fellowship in Dance. She has presented research at the International Conference on Arts and Humanities and for the Conseil International de la Danse. Her special interest in music and dance has led to presentations on historical dances with her colleague Dr. Sylvia Coats, at numerous national and international music conferences. Well versed in all styles of ballet, she has a particular love for Russian style and aesthetics, and has studied teaching methods at the International Vaganova Method Conference in St. Petersburg, Russia, in addition to studies with Russian teachers in the U.S.



Cheyra Clawson Chandler (*Director of SPA and Choreographer; MA Sociology/Wichita State University and MFA Modern Dance/University of Oklahoma*) is an Associate Professor of Dance and the Director of the School of Performing Arts at Wichita State University. Chandler's modern dance research is focused on Horton Technique, and she attended the Horton Dance Technique Certificate Program 2013-2020 at The Ailey School in NYC. Her two duets, *Anam Chara* (2014) and *nosuchSymbiosis* (2016) were invited to The American College Dance Association National Festival at The Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C. Cheyla presented her latest research focused on community integration curriculum in dance performance degrees at The International Arts in Society conference in June 2022 (Australia), gave a workshop on Dance and Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion for the American College Dance Association online National Workshop series in March of 2021 as well as community-based intergenerational research at The American Dance Symposium in NYC in January of 2023. At WSU, Cheyla is a member of the Student Success and Persistence Coalition, the President's Diversity Council, and the University Assessment Committee. She coordinates the College of Fine Arts Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, Access, and Belonging Committee and is a doctoral candidate in the Educational Leadership Program. Beyond WSU, Cheyla is a Policy Board Member for the National Dance Education Organization.

CHOREOGRAPHERS



Mina Estrada (*Production Coordinator and Choreographer*) commits a substantial amount of time to teaching, creating, and facilitating some kind of dance experience for herself and those who care to join. She received her MFA in Dance at Temple University, and her choreography and workshops, which are rooted in contemporary movement concepts and improvisation, have been commissioned by several college, high school and studio dance programs, and professional companies including Spelman College, Grand Valley State University, Baton Rouge Ballet Theatre, and Todd Rosenlieb Dance. Mina has served as faculty for the dance programs at Temple University, Old Dominion University, Christopher Newport University, and Drexel University, among others. While teaching and choreographing at Drexel, Mina also served as the Dance Departments concert producer and assistant director of the FreshDance Ensemble. She is often producing shows in collaboration with other artists and contributing dance works in festivals around the country. While in Philadelphia, she performed in the Live Arts Festival, Philly Fringe Festival, and Collage Festival, received the New Edge Residency at the CEC, worked with notable artists Jumatu Poe, Silvana Cardell, Shavon Norris, and Leah Stein Dance Company. Transitioning to the South, Mina served as Director of Artist Resources for the Arts Council of Greater Baton Rouge, served as faculty at Louisiana State University, produced shows and other dance experiences with CoCo Loupe via their company CKA: currently known as, and began creating intergenerational dances and movement workshops for folks living with dementia and Alzheimer's. For the past 5 years Mina has been traveling to Austin, TX to study intensively with postmodern maven Deborah Hay to fortify her experimental performance practice. Currently, she is teaching at Wichita State University, serves as co-creator of Benevolent Instruction (creative modality and podcast), and is Managing Director of Harvester Arts. Mina continues to make community building a priority with Smack Dab Dance Lab, which creates opportunities for local choreographers and dancers to experiment, play, commune, and share their work. When she is not busy making dance stuffs, Mina continues to be in hot pursuit of great storytellers, generous muses, equilibrium, and more time to pet her cats, smile at her husband, and hang out with Mother Nature.



Sarah Knapp (Choreographer) grew up in Wichita, KS, dancing for 15 years at Kansas Dance Academy and attending various summer ballet intensives. Sarah received a BFA in Dance from the University of Missouri-Kansas City. At the end of her freshman year, she was honored to perform at the Beijing Modern Music Festival in Beijing, China and at the Kennedy Center in Washington, DC for the 2014 American College Dance Festival Gala. During her sophomore year, she took temporary leave to star in the indie feature film, "Lift Me Up." In Kansas City, she performed with local companies, most notably Wylliams-Henry Contemporary Dance Company. After graduating, Sarah moved to New York City. During her time there, she attended the Gaga Intensive at Jacob's Pillow, where she studied under Brett Easterling and Ohad Naharin. That same summer, she performed with Wylliams Henry at the Jacob's Pillow Summer Dance Festival on the Inside Out Stage. Sarah returned to Wichita and began producing her own work, most notably, "Expectation," an evening length solo work performed in Kansas City's Fringe Festival, summer 2019. She performed with Regina Klenjoski Dance Company for 2 seasons and danced in Cheyla Clawson's film "She Moved the Prairie," Fall, 2020. She has taught for the dance program at WSU and is on faculty at KDA. She was married to Patrick Knapp in 2021 and they have one daughter, Cora. She is so blessed to be a stay at home mommy, with dance still very much a part of her life.

CHOREOGRAPHERS



Sabrina Vasquez (Choreographer) is proud to be a part of the *Move on Litwin: Dance Up Close* team. She is currently a senior educator in dance at Wichita State University, celebrating 21 years of service at WSU. Her previous professional work includes *Arizona Dance Theatre*, *Hubbard Street Dance Chicago*, *James Kellet Choreography Project*, *Alithea Mime Theatre*, and *The Ruth Page Foundation's* production of the *Nutcracker* under the direction of Larry Long. Sabrina is grateful for her partner Nick Johnson, daughter Zoe Johnson and their house zoo of 3 dogs and 4 cats! Life is good!



DANCE COMPANY



Sophie Achey

Kimmy Aguilar

Charisma Brown

Bailey Buchanan

Tabitha Buffalo

Andrea Carter



Evelyn Chaisson

Hannah Chandler

Cesar Garcia

Clair Gray

Cooper Green



Audrey Jagodzinske

Liberty Joy

Alaycea Kremeier

Abbey Littrell

Olivia Lockwood

Nick Macias



Sydney Mason

Cassie McAllister

Kaete Mokrynski

Alex Nickel

Lille Nightingale

Piper Patterson



Liberty Peterson

Cobie Reeves

Lucas Shroyer

Gavin Tanner

Lexi Tyler

Sam Zimmerman

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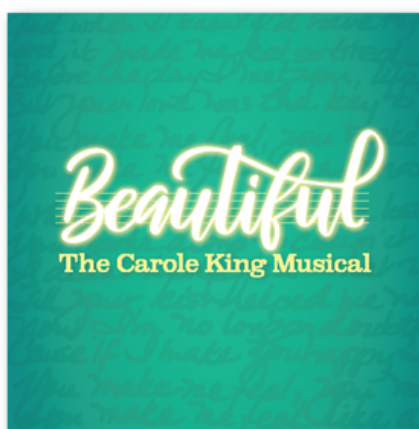
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We apologize in advance for any omission or errors in this list. Please bring corrections to the attention of Matt Fisher at matthew.fisher@wichita.edu or 316-978-3078. Listings may shift from one program to another depending on the timing and receipt of gifts.

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