TERNATE
MFA THESIS DANCE CONCERT

February 8, 9, 10 • 2018 • 8:00 PM

Theatre 14
Mendenhall Center for the Performing Arts
122 Green Street
Northampton, MA

SmithArts • Smith College
To the dancers, I want to acknowledge your significant contributions to the choreography and thank you for your dedication to this work. Thank you Nathan Seder for creating such richly nuanced music and for your unwavering support and encouragement. Thank you Amanda Huntleigh for your inspiring musical direction. You made my vision come to life. To the choir, thank you for your commitment to this piece. Thank you to the theater department and production staff for your diligent work and beautiful designs. To my advisors, Rodger Blum, Terese Freedman, and Lester Tomé, thank you for your advice and counsel throughout my research and creative process. To Chris Aiken, Angie Hauser, and Mike Vargas and to all who came to watch rehearsals, thank you for your thoughtful feedback. To Sarah Lass and Shayla-Vie Jenkins, I am grateful to be walking alongside you both on this journey. Finally, I would like to dedicate this dance to my grandmother, Erna, who recently left this world, and to my daughter, Ana who recently entered it.

Images: Kazuya Iwaki + Tokyo Denki University Iwaki laboratoryphoto, LACHIKU, photo by Osamu Nakamura

Ten Minute Intermission
Thank you to Samuel Crawford and Ryan Hartley for helping realize my vision. Thank you to Kayla, Johari, and Aunt Shirley for lending your voices. Thank you to Andrea Olsen for helping to set my course early on in our rehearsal together. Thank you to Peter Schmitz for guiding me in the most empowering way possible to understand my choices. Thank you to the Department of Dance Faculty, each of you in your own masterful ways impacted this work and my process. Thank you to the Theatre Department and Production staff for your tireless support. A very special thank you to my thesis advisors, Angie Hauser and Paul Dennis, for your encouragement and feedback. And a thousand thank you’s to my parents, to my Paul, and to my Myles. You make this life possible!

This is for my ancestors that live on within me. In my every cell, I honor you and will never forget. Ase.
To my cast, thank you for your intellect, passion, dedication, and delightful individuality. To my parents and grandma, thank you for your unwavering love and support. To my brothers, thank you for your levity and humor. To my friend-family, near and far, thank you for the joy and wisdom you offer daily. To my thesis advisors, Chris Aiken and Jim Coleman, a very special thank you for your insightful feedback and enduring encouragement—you have empowered me in my ideas and choice-making. To Angie Hauser and Mike Vargas, thank you for your countless hours of counsel and conversation, for sharing your insights and passions. Lester and Rodger, you helped me to see my work, choices, and materials more clearly—thank you. To the department staff, thank you for all you do to keep the wheels turning here. Thank you to the theatre department and production staff. Marcus Dembinski and Nathan Seder, thank you for your enthusiastic assistance with my sound score. Thank you to all those who watched rehearsals and offered feedback. Thank you to the first-years for your infectious energy and your steadfast support. Thank you to Nalini Bhushan for so enthusiastically diving into this process. To Sarah and Shayla, when my belief faltered yours held fast and always brought me back. It’s been a true privilege to work alongside you both. Thank you for your friendship and support.
Artistic Directors ......................................................... Shayla-Vie Jenkins, Sarah Lass, Sarah Seder
Artistic Advisor ............................................................. Lester Tomé
FCDD Production Manager .......................................... Matthew Adelson
FCDD Production Assistant ........................................ Kat Rother
Concert Administrator .................................................... Melinda Buckwalter
Technical Director ......................................................... Daniel D. Rist
Assistant Technical Director ......................................... Alan Schneider
Lighting and Sound Supervisor ...................................... David Wiggall
Lighting Designer ........................................................ Ayumi Mizuno Cordeiro
Publicity Manager ........................................................ Nikkie Beck
Publicity Assistant ........................................................ Kelsey Conti
Box Office and House Manager Supervisor .................... Alicia Guidotti
Production Intern ........................................................ Claire Lane
FCDD Production Office Assistant ................................ Jordan Towsley
Technical Intern ............................................................ Serena Yau
Stage Manager ............................................................... Nikki Carrara
Assistant Stage Manager .............................................. Grace Privett-Mendoza
Light Board Operator .................................................... Alexandra Belcher
Sound Board Operator ................................................... Em Papineau
Stage Crew ................................................................. Ella Carlson, Catherine Davis, Maya Hamilton, Molly McGehee, Ellie Noble
Costume Shop Supervisor .............................................. Emily Dunn
Costumer/Cutter ........................................................... Nancy Horn
Costume Intern .............................................................. Cora Grant
Costume Assistants ...................................................... Jesse Azevedo, Chi Chinwuko, Nancy Gregory, Sarah Gruber, Theresa Miles, Kate Rich, Rosalie Silliman
Master Electrician ......................................................... Serena Yau
Electricians ................................................................. Alexandra Belcher, Bri Burr, Emma Claire Cook, Rachel Huggett, Cathy Kennedy, Zoe Rose Kriegler-Wenk, Lisa Mena, Theresa Miles, Kate Niemiec, Rebecca Warholic, Yichen Zhou
Shop Intern ................................................................. Sam Goss
Shop Assistants ............................................................ Brianna McCall, Sarah Morin, Abby Weaver, Serena Yau
Publicity Intern ............................................................. Brittany Rodriguez
Box Office/House Managers ......................................... Tucker Barker, Sonja Imhoof
Box Office Assistants ................................................... Freddie Baldonado, Steph Dinsae, Genel McLean, Katherine Mercado, Asha Reed-Jones
Photography ................................................................. Derek Fowles
The choreographers express their heartfelt gratitude to the following individuals:

Thank you to Matthew Adelson, Nikki Beck, Melinda Buckwalter, Kelsey Conti, and Kathryn Rother for their support throughout this process.

Thank you, Emily Justice Dunn, Nancy Horn, Daniel David Rist, David Wiggall, Alan Schneider, and Serena Yau, for your commitment to actualizing our vision for this production. Thank you to Claire Lane for being such a dedicated intern, and a huge thank you to Nikki Carrara and the rest of the crew!

Thank you to Janet Spongberg and Marlene Wong at the Josten Library for aiding us in our research.

Thank you to Mike Vargas and Lester Tome for sharing your valued insight and advice, for your belief in our work and the deep impact you have had on our experience in this program.

Thank you to Nikki Carrara, Lucille Jun, Michelle Kassmann, and Anna Maynard for learning and working and questioning alongside us this year. Thank you to Nicole DeWolfe, Rowan Salem, Stephanie Turner and Whitney Wilson for your friendship and mentorship alike.

Finally, thank you to our creative advisory committee: Chris Aiken, Rodger Blum, Jim Coleman, Paul Dennis, Teresa Freedman, and Angie Hauser. Your investment in these works and their development is truly felt and appreciated.
**ABOUT THE ARTISTS**

**Shayla-Vie Jenkins** (Choreographer, *a hieroglyphics of the flesh*) is a New York City based performer, teacher, and dance maker. Shayla-Vie spent a decade performing extensively with the Bill T. Jones/Arnie Zane Dance Company. During her tenure, she taught numerous master classes and workshops for the company. She also serves as a repetiteur, restaging some of Bill’s most notable works. Shayla-Vie is a founding member of Yaa Samar Dance Theater, and has also enjoyed working collaboratively in projects with Francesca Harper, Alicia Hall-Moran, Grisha Coleman, The A.O. Movement Collective, Emily Manzo, Rebecca Lazier, Yanira Castro, and Yara Travieso. She has shown work at Movement Research at Judson Church, NYU’s Tisch Theater, Joe’s Pub, Harlem Stage, and The American Dance Festival.

**Sarah Lass** (Choreographer, *a condition of we*), originally from Denver, Colorado, is a performer, choreographer, improviser, teacher, and writer who sees dance as a generative and reflective force in the reimagining and reconstruction of the world. Her creative and scholarly research cuts across disciplines, including physiology, somatics, philosophy, feminist theory, landscape studies, and creative writing. Her work springs from an interest in the intersections between these disciplines and dance making as a means for interrogating understandings of identity, agency, ecosystem, and consciousness. Before arriving at Smith, Lass worked as a freelance performer and arts administrator in New York City and presented her own choreography in the city and surrounding boroughs. As a performer, she has appeared in works by Chris Aiken, Dante Brown/Warehouse Dance, Shannon Gillen, Angie Hauser, Shayla-Vie Jenkins, Bill T. Jones/Arnie Zane Company, Bebe Miller, Donnell Oakley, and Kora Radella, among others. She holds a BA in Russian from Kenyon College (summa cum laude and member Phi Beta Kappa, 2013). In October 2017, Lass presented her paper “Gender in High Definition: Bringing The Co(te)lette Film Into Focus” at the annual Dance Studies Association conference. Additional written work can be found online at sarahelizabethllass.wordpress.com.
Sarah Seder’s (Choreographer, *A Way Out*) interests lie within the cross disciplinary fields of dance, music, psychology, somatics, and anatomy. Her work as a GYROTONIC Expansion System® instructor informs her pedagogy, choreography, and dancing. She has ten years of experience teaching contemporary, ballet, and jazz. In her teaching, Seder aims to cultivate her students’ awareness of self and others, encourage them to notice habitual movement patterns, and empower them to make their own choices. Seder co-founded Seattle-based Sapience Dance Collective in 2008 and co-directed the company until 2016. With SDC she choreographed numerous original contemporary works, co-produced annual evening length performances, performed extensively throughout the Pacific Northwest, toured to New York, Martha’s Vineyard, and Vancouver, and received multiple grants from 4Culture, a cultural funding agency in the Seattle area. Seder works with composers and incorporates live music whenever possible. She initiated interdisciplinary collaborations between the departments of dance and music at Smith College (2018) and the University of Washington (2013). In 2015 she was commissioned by the Everett Chorale to make a new work. Her choreography has been seen at On The Boards (Seattle), and Meany Hall (Seattle) to name a few. She has performed in the work of Pat Graney, Chris Aiken, Wade Madsen, Karin Stevens, Aiko Kinoshita, Marlo Martin, Jody Kuehner, and Cyrus Khambatta, among others. Seder is currently an MFA Candidate, Gretchen Moran Scholar, and Teaching Fellow at Smith College. She is a graduate of Bard College, where she double majored in Dance and Psychology.
SMITH COLLEGE DANCE FACULTY

Professor
Rodger Blum, M.F.A., Five College Department of Dance Chair

Associate Professors
Chris Aiken, M.F.A.
Angie Hauser, M.F.A., Department Chair

Assistant Professor
Lester Tomé, Ph.D., Director of M.F.A. in Dance

Professors Emerita
Yvonne Payne Daniel, Ph.D.
Susan Kay Waltner, M.S.

Five-College Lecturer in Dance
Marilyn Middleton-Sylla

Lecturer/Musician in Dance Technique and Performance
Mike Vargas, B.A.

Lecturers
Shakia Johnson
Bronwen MacArthur, M.F.A.
Katie Martin, M.F.A.

Bebe Miller
Kelly Silliman, M.F.A.
Daniel Trenner, M.Ed.

Teaching Fellows in Dance
Shayla-Vie Jenkins
Sarah Lass
Sarah Seder

Nikki Carrara
Lucille Jun
Michelle Kassmann
Anna Maynard

The Smith College MFA Thesis Dance Concert is made possible in part by the Sharonjean Moser Leeds Endowment, a generous fund created by Sharonjean (SC ’67) and Richard Leeds for the Smith College Department of Dance.

FIVE COLLEGE DANCE DEPARTMENT

Smith College is part of the Five College Dance Department, which was formed for the mutual benefit of all member institutions (Amherst, Hampshire, Smith, Mount Holyoke and the University of Massachusetts at Amherst). The faculty operates as one department unifying its educational mission to include a well-balanced curriculum emphasizing a broad integration of technical, creative, historical and analytical aspects of dance and a wide variety of philosophical approaches to teaching. The FCDD is a nationally recognized model for excellence in dance in higher education.
UPCOMING SMITH COLLEGE DANCE EVENTS

April 12, 13, 14, 8:00 PM

Senior Dance Concert

Hallie Flanagan Studio Theatre
$10 general admission, $5 students and seniors

Friday, April 27, 4:30 PM

UNDER|STAND
A public dialogue on racism hosted by Dana Caspersen, conflict mediator and choreographer. No dancing or dance experience required or expected. The event is a social action that brings people together to engage in physical and spoken conversations about race.

Davis Ballroom
Free and open to the public

Thursday, May 3, 8:00 PM

Spring Grad Event
The annual performance showcasing new solo work by first year MFA dance candidates: Nikki Carrara, Lucille Jun, Michelle Kassmann, and Anna Maynard.

Scott Dance Studio
$1.00 at the door, no reservations, general admission

For more details about upcoming events, see www.smith.edu/smitharts or visit the Smith College Department of Dance on Facebook.

UPCOMING FIVE COLLEGE DANCE EVENTS

February 28, March 1, 2, 3, 8:00pm

Five College Dance Department Faculty Concert
The Five College Dance Department, in collaboration with the Hampshire College Dance Program, presents an evening of dance from across all five campuses, with contributions from Rodger Blum, Dante Brown, Jim Coleman, Barbie Diewald, Deborah Goffe, Angie Hauser, and Marilyn Sylla.

Main Studio Theatre, Music and Dance Building, Hampshire College
$10 general admission, $5 students and seniors

Reserve tickets: HampDanceReservations@gmail.com or 413-559-5889
BOX OFFICE INFORMATION

The box office ticket window is open from 12-5 PM Monday-Friday, 2-5 PM Saturday during the week of a show and beginning one hour before show time. The box office only sells tickets for Theatre and Dance productions in Mendenhall Center for the Performing Arts.

All shows in Theatre 14 are reserved seating. All shows in Hallie Flanagan Studio Theatre and all other venues are general admission. Please note the box office does not take any unpaid reservations. The box office accepts cash, check, and all major credit cards. There will be no refunds for any reasons on purchased tickets.

The box office is located on 122 Green Street, Northampton, on the upper level of the Mendenhall Center for the Performing Arts just outside Theatre 14.

Dance Concerts
$10 general, $5 students and seniors

Theatre Productions
$10 general, $5 students/seniors
FREE Smith students (with Smith ID at the box office)

Music Concerts
Most music events are free.
See concert listings for any admission charges.

For ticketed dance and theatre events you may also purchase tickets by calling the Box Office: 413-585-3220. You can also contact the Box Office by emailing boxoffice@smith.edu.

For a complete list of Performing Arts events (Dance, Music, Theatre) please visit our website:
www.smith.edu/smitharts
Sign up on our mailing list to receive event updates.
413-585-ARTS (2787)