MFA THESIS DANCE CONCERT

February 7, 8, 9 2019   8PM
THEATRE 14 Mendenhall Center for the Performing Arts
122 Green Street, Northampton, MA

SmithArts  SMITH COLLEGE
We invite you to perceive participate think feel remember recall embrace let go

now here we.
The movement in this piece is entirely improvised. The collaborators have agreed upon a structure, and they decide how they will move through it and relate to their collaborators in each emerging moment. I would like to acknowledge and credit Emma, Rachel, Alice, Mariya, Hazel, Mayeline, Tim, and Sea for their significant contributions to this work. This piece is exactly what it is because of what they bring to it.

I am blessed to feel the support of family and friends who have held my place in their hearts through this time of transition and change. Matthew Jason, thank you for shining your attention and talent on this project, and for helping me to sense and understand what it, and I, could become. Thanks to Ronald K. Lewis and AS220 in Providence, RI, for providing a platform on which to build this research. Thanks to True Music Studios.

I recognize, with deep gratitude, the guiding insights and support of Angie Hauser, Danté Brown, Kathy Couch, Mike Vargas, Nancy Stark Smith, Chris Aiken, Rodger Blum, Lester Tomé, Michelle Erard, Lucille Jun, and Anna M. Maynard throughout the development of this work. Finally, thank you David Wiggall, for your relentless research and problem-solving to incorporate the particularly complicated elements of my vision into this production.
Choreography
Lucille Jun

Performers
Reem Ibrahim
Lucille Jun

Music
edited by Lucille Jun
Ryuichi Sakamoto, Solari (Jóhann Jóhannsson Rework)
Grim Delarosa, Codeine Dreams
Steven Stapleton, Optical Illusion Pad

Lighting Design
Kathy Couch

Costume Design
Emily Justice Dunn

“...the solidus at once instantiates a choice between two terms, their simultaneous and equal status, and an element of indecidability, that is, as it at once implies both exclusion and inclusion...”
- David Palumbo Liu

“The identity of a person is not a juxtaposition of autonomous aspects: it is not a “patchwork,” it is a drawing on a tight skin. If you touch one aspect, it is the whole person that vibrates.”
- Amin Malouf

First and foremost, thank you Reem Ibrahim for your presence, investment, and many many hours you’ve put into the making of this piece. You are an absolute gem. To my advisors, Lester Tomé, Leslie Frye-Maietta, and Floyd Cheung, thank you for your encouragement, guidance, and thought provoking questions. Thank you Kathy Couch for translating imagination to reality. Thank you to Chris Aiken, Rodger Blum, Angie Hauser, and Mike Vargas for inspiration and needed disorientation. To my cohort, I could not have survived grad school without you all. Period. Finally, thank you to my family, for all the sacrifices you have made so that I could be here.

Ten Minute Intermission
The structure and world of Mixed Matter allows the dancers to inhabit the known and unknown simultaneously, tuning inward and outward within momentum and precise timing. The piece requires the endurance of repetition, divided attentions, and attunement.

I extend heartfelt thanks to Hanna Bredvik, Catherine Davis, Chloe Ford, Fern Katz, Tim Shay, Sea Thomas and John White for your time, skills, creative decision-making, sense of humor and performance of this piece. Thank you, Marcus Dembinski, for committing your talents and skills of music composition and video making to this project. Rodger Blum, your insights, encouragement, support and generosity as my advisor has deeply and positively affected me. Katie Martin, thank you for your detailed, thorough communication as my second reader. Ellen Kaplan, thank you for your willingness to be my third reader. Thank you Angie Hauser, Kathy Couch, Mike Vargas, Chris Aiken, Lester Tomé and Melinda Buckwalter for the variety of ways in which you each have supported me. Thank you Lucille Jun, Nikki Lee and Anna M. Maynard for your eyes, ears, hearts and minds. Thank you to my family and friends for your support from near and far. Thank you, Kendra Williams for your understanding of this path and our continued friendship. Thank you, Matthew Seymour, for joining me and jumping in.
To whom shall I hire myself out?
What beast should I adore?
What holy image is attacked?
What hearts shall I break?
What lies should I uphold?
In what blood tread?
– Arthur Rimbaud

I want to extend my deepest gratitude to my Mother and Father. Thank you for your diligent belief in my journey and your limitless love—the work I do is in honor of you, my heritage, and my home. Thank you Nikki Lee for your honesty, Lucille Jun for your kind love, and Michelle Erard for your meticulous sight. Thank you to Sarah Lass for our countless fits of laughter and tears, and Toni Craige, my dear friend, for trotting by my side as we traverse this great learning adventure. To my dancers, I thank you from the bottom of my heart for creating with me, listening with me, and for stepping out on the edge for me. This work is of you, and of me. Anna Jacobs, thank you for your unwavering and joyous heart. Mr. Davis, for becoming a part of my world. Thank you to Kathy Couch, for illuminating my vision and to Fraser Stables and Lailye Weidman for being sounding boards in my early developments and seeing me through to the end. And lastly, my advisor and teacher, Chris Aiken, thank you for your generous mentorship and for teaching me the beautiful art of falling. To all those who have participated and supported me in this process, I simply say, I am deeply and truly touched.
Thank you Matthew Adelson, Kathryn Rother, Achaetey Kabal, Nikki Beck, Shelley Latham and Talia Preis, for your support throughout this process.

To Emily Dunn, Nancy Horn, Daniel Rist, David Wiggall, Alan Schneider, and Lilian Buchangroff, we thank you for realizing theatrical elements we could have only dreamed of.

Thank you Toni Craige and the rest of the crew for running this show.

To Chris Aiken, Lester Tomé, Angie Hauser, and Rodger Blum, thank you for guiding our cohort, directing the Smith College Dance Department, and leading the Five College Department of Dance.

Thank you Mike Vargas for the many Mike Moments, the clarion lessons that have inspired our hearts and minds. Thank you for fine-tuning our capacities to sense and respond.

Thank you Melinda Buckwalter, for the countless times you indulged our interruptions. Do you have a minute?

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

Thank you Xan Burley, Toni Craige, Shayla-Vie Jenkins, Sarah Lass, Sarah Seder, and Alex Springer for sharing this journey with us.

Finally, thanks to our creative advisory committee: Chris Aiken, Rodger Blum, Danté Brown, Leslie Frye-Maietta, Angie Hauser, Katie Martin, Lester Tomé, and Lailye Weidman. Your interest and inquiry throughout our processes have challenged and inspired us to make this work.
**ABOUT THE ARTISTS**

**Nikki Lee** is working at the intersections of improvisation and multimedia performance, with a particular interest in sharing the sensual experience of the dancer in performance. Nikki has collaborated and performed in the works of Kellie Ann Lynch with Elm City Dance Collective, New Haven, Connecticut since 2012. She has been a creative collaborator and performer in works by Angie Hauser, Marilyn Sylla, Melody Ruffin Ward, Deb Meunier, Vincent Mantsoe, Daniel McCusker, Nathan Andary, and Timothy Rubel, and performed repertory works by Bebe Miller, Dr. Henry LeTang, and Donna Jewel. She has created dances for Andary Dance, DoubleShift Dance Theatre, Island Moving Company, AS220, Modern Jazz Dance Company, Frazier Festival, Perishable Theatre, Providence College, Ziterion Theatre, and The Dance Complex. Certified in Basic Move by the Spiraldynamik® Institute of Zürich, Nikki develops anatomically considerate technologies in her teaching practices. She arrived at Smith College via Pawtucket, Rhode Island, where she was deeply invested in designing and implementing dance education programming in public schools since 2007. She has received awards, grants and fellowships from the RI State Council for the Arts, the Murdock-Thompson Center for Teachers, the RI Association for Physical Education Health Recreation and Dance, the Bates Dance Festival and Rhode Island College Alumni Association.

**Lucille Jun** was introduced to dance and dance making her first year of college, which completely changed her path from aspiring physicist to that of choreographer. Since 2011, she delved into traditional Korean dance and has performed with Yeon, a Korean dance company in Seoul. She also has collaborated and performed with Some Dance Company at the Busan International Dance Festival and Seoul Fringe Festival. In 2015, she had the opportunity to co-choreograph a piece for 150 dancers with little to no contemporary dance experience for the Youth Peace Festival held at the Seoul Olympic Park Arena. Lucille’s most recent work was produced by the Hudson Guild Theater for the Pangaea Series. She has also performed in pieces by Angie Hauser, Wendy Woodson, Bebe Miller, Kristin Hapke, Ellie Sandstrom, and Candice Salyers. Her work as an artist is to translate the multitude of histories and lived experiences of the body onto the stage, asking the audience to reevaluate their assumptions, provoking the question of what it means to actively co-exist. She is currently an MFA Candidate and Teaching Fellow at Smith College. She graduated with honors from Amherst College with a major in Theater and Dance.
Michelle Erard is currently exploring attunement, transformation and memory through overlapping layers of timing, repetition and attention. She has been influenced by African diasporic forms, flamenco, improvisation, and by Ruth Zaporah, Stephanie Skura, Tomaz Simatovic and Bill Walters. Her work has been presented at the University of New Mexico, Tricklock Company’s Reptilian Lounge during the Revolutions International Theatre Festival and several St. Louis venues. Michelle has performed as an independent artist in St. Louis, as a member of Afriky Lolo, Los Flamencos Alma Flamenca, and in works by Angie Hauser, Marilyn Sylla, Barbie Diewald, Rujeko Dumbutshena, Bill Walters, Tomaz Simatovic, Alejandro Granados, Sonia Olla, the Encinias family, and Diadie Bathily. She earned a BA in Dance with an emphasis in flamenco and contemporary dance, graduating summa cum laude with departmental honors from the University of New Mexico. Michelle also completed the Conservatory of Flamenco Arts program and holds a BA in English Literature and Psychology with a History minor from Saint Louis University. She is completing a certification in Open Source Forms somatic practice and is currently an MFA Candidate and Teaching Fellow in the Smith College Department of Dance.

Anna M. Maynard is a dancer and image maker. With the soft and poignant eye of a portrait photographer, she crafts choreographic work that plays with time, place, and the armors of the skin. As a maker and a teacher, Maynard is interested in constructing environments that provide individuals with tools to amplify their personal power, generate well-being, and participate in the evolution of self and community. Maynard draws upon her training in classical ballet in addition to her expansive study of modern and post-modern movement and aesthetic practices in all aspects of her work. She is currently studying Improvisation under the influence of Chris Aiken and Angie Hauser and perusing a somatic understanding of health and well-being through the teachings of Frey Faust, Kira Kirsch and many other contributors to the Axis Syllabus Research Network. She attributes much of the dancer she is today to her teachers Amanda K. Miller, Ishmael-Houston Jones, Nancy Stark Smith and myriad others. With a Bachelors of Science in Technical Photography, Anna is working towards the completion of her MFA at Smith College in Choreography and Performance.
Artistic Advisor ................................................................. Chris Aiken
FCDD Production Manager .............................................. Matthew Adelson
FCDD Interim Assistant Production Manager ................. Achaetey Kabal
Concert Administrator .................................................. Melinda Buckwalter
Technical Director ......................................................... Daniel D. Rist
Assistant Technical Director ........................................... Alan Schneider
Lighting Designer ............................................................ Kathy Couch
Assistant Lighting Designer ............................................. Sasha Belcher
Lighting and Sound Supervisor ....................................... David Wiggall
Costume Designer and Costume Shop Supervisor ............. Emily Dunn
Assistant Costumer Supervisor ........................................ Nancy Horn
Publicity Manager .......................................................... Shelley Latham
Box Office and House Manager Supervisor ..................... Alicia Guidotti
Photography ................................................................. Derek Fowles
FCDD Production Office Assistant ................................. Sophia Pan
Technical Intern and Master Electrician .......................... Lilian Buchangroff
Stage Manager ................................................................... Antonia Craige
Assistant Stage Manager ................................................ Melissa Lauson
Light Board Operator ..................................................... Elizabeth Brison
Sound Board Operator ................................................... Helen Danielson
Stage Crew........................................................................ Ashley Aviles, Nicky Consales, Fanghui He, Brianna Peters, Sierra Steinwert
Costume Crew ................................................................... Rachel Wein
Electricians.............Sasha Belcher, Selah Finkelstein, Rachel Huggett, Cathy Kennedy, Dylan McBride, Lisa Mena, Georgia Pharris, Sophia Pichanick, Eva Shannon-Dabek, Becca Soifer, Robin Xinyue Zou, Priscilla Zhou
Shop Intern ................................................................. Abigail Weaver
Shop Assistants............................................. Addie Bacon, Paige Bosler, Cora Grant, Brianna McCall, Sarah Morin
Publicity Intern .............................................................. Sarah Gruber
Box Office/House Managers .............................................. Genel McLean
Box Office Assistant...........Steph Dinsae, Sara Elmourabit, Selina Housain, Sofia Nikolaidou, Asha Reed-Jones, Lauren Tinglin

FOR MORE SMITHARTS EVENTS

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Find us on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram or email us artsinfo@Smith.edu
**UPCOMING SMITH COLLEGE DANCE EVENTS**

**Home Away: Training Beyond Academia**  
*Friday, March 1, 4:30 – 6:00 PM – The Crew House*  
A panel discussion with teachers and representatives from dance festivals, schools, and performance venues.  
Free and open to the public.

**Senior Dance Concert**  
*April 11, 12, 13 8:00 PM – Hallie Flanagan Studio Theatre*  
Works by graduating seniors Noli Rosen, Sofia Engelman, and Hanna Bredvik, as well as new choreography by Xan Burley and Alex Springer in collaboration with the cast, featuring Smith undergraduate dancers.  
$10 General Admission/$5 Students and Seniors (65+)

**Spring Grad Event**  
*Thursday, May 2, 8:00 PM – Scott Dance Studio*  
The annual performance showcasing new solo work by first year MFA dance candidates: Xan Burley, Alex Springer, and Toni Craige.  
$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**

**Regardless, Senior Project by Destani O’Brien**  
*February 14 and 15 7:30 PM*  
Totman Gym, UMass

**American Ballet Theatre Studio Company**  
*February 15 at 8pm and February 16 at 3pm and 8pm*  
Studio Theatre, Kendall Hall, Mount Holyoke College

**Five College Faculty Dance Concert**  
*February 21, 22, 23 8pm*  
Kirby Theatre, Amherst College

**Senior Project by Kattye Soares**  
*February 28th and March 1 7:30pm*  
Totman Gym, UMass
SMITH COLLEGE DANCE FACULTY

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

Associate Professors
Chris Aiken, M.F.A., Director of M.F.A. in Dance
Angie Hauser, M.F.A., Department Chair
Lester Tomé, Ph.D.

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
Onalie Arts
Shakia Johnson
Katie Martin, M.F.A.

Teaching Fellows in Dance
Xan Burley
Nikki Lee
Toni Craige
Lucille Jun
Michelle Kassmann Erard
Anna Maynard
Alex Springer

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.

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