



THE WOLF PACK

Joy Davis, Ellie Grace, Stephanie Maher, Annie Rudnik

MFA THESIS DANCE CONCERT

Smith College Department of Dance

February 5, 6, 7, 2015 at 8:00 PM

Theatre 14, Mendenhall Center for the Performing Arts

Pre-show event at 7:00 PM in T207A

Hierarchy of Comfort

Choreography

Stephanie Maher

Music

Jimmy Giuffre, Kruder & Dorfmeister,
Bonobo and live Clarinet with Jake Wise

Texts

Stephanie Maher, Joseph Beuys

Concept, Set Design, & Costumes

Stephanie Maher

Dancers and Choreographic Collaborators:

Barbie Diewald, Stephanie Maher,
Jen Polins, Peter Schmitz,
Kate Seethaler, Jake Wise

Advisor

Chris Aiken

This event pursues the difficulty and accessibility of translation and shares the body as our source of intelligence, knowledge, and comfort by actively extending and participating in the context of how we witness performance.

I would also like to acknowledge that this piece is only possible with performers who understand how to work in a very unconventional setting and feel comfort in the delicate skill of improvisation. An incredible thank you goes out to the performers for their contribution and to Mike Vargas for providing a situation of immense creativity and allowance in how to view art making and composition during his seminar. AND an absolute thank you to my grad fellows who create an angelic environment and make everything possible! Thank you to Chris Aiken for all his encouragement in finding the right place for this work to be shared and a place for myself to be rejuvenated as an artist inside the Smith MFA program.

Oscillations

Choreography and Performance

Annie Rudnik

Lighting Design

Michael Wonson

Costume Design

Emily Justice Dunn

Music

Crazy in Love

Beyoncé

Performed by Annie Rudnik (2007)

The Slant/The Diner (Live)

Ani DiFranco

Video

Slanted to the 6th

Annie Rudnik (2003)

Advisor

Candice Salyers

I would like to thank my thesis adviser Candice Salyers, my second reader Tom Vacanti, and the faculty members of the Smith College Dance Department for their guidance and encouragement during this creative process. Thanks to the other members of the Wolf Pack: Joy Davis, Ellie Grace, and Steph Maher, for their teamwork, hugs, and high-fives throughout the MFA experience. Thank you to Madison Palffy and Koko Tetsuka for their immeasurable contributions to this creative process. Thanks especially to my parents for their everlasting love and support. And to my fiancé Dan for holding all the exuberance and despair that joins any creative journey.

protean

[ˈprōtēən, prōˈtēən] adj.
tending or able to change frequently or easily.

Choreography

Joy Davis

Music

Bach, John Cage for Joan LaBarbara, Molly Drake, DJ Spooky,
Nils Frahm, Jacaszek, Pamela Kurstin, Mike Vargas, Jana Winderen
Edited by Joy Davis

Lighting Design

Michael Wonson

Set Design

Alan Schneider and Dan Rist
with Joy Davis

Costume Design

Emily Justice Dunn and Nancy Horn with Joy Davis

Performing Collaborators

Katie Aylward Brady, Shaina Cantino,
Jessie Owens, Molly McBride,
Ali Naranjo, Addison Reine,
Kate Seethaler, Sabina Smith-Moreland,
Danielle Tekut

Advisor

Angie Hauser

Dramaturg

Robyn Coady

The art of making dance is deeply collaborative. Even when I create in the studio alone, I bring with me all teachers, colleagues, memories, and experiences of others. Therefore, to say I am the 'choreographer' for this piece is only part of the story. It is true that I created an environment from which this work of art was to emerge. And it is true that I made important decisions and set intentions along the way. Yet, it is the consciousness of each performer, and designer, each crew member, and mentor that manifests the art in all phases of its creation. Thank you. Each of you. Thank you for investing yourselves so diligently and generously in this project. To Angie, Mike, Daphne, Chris, Rodger, Candice: my teachers. To Shaina, Robyn, Kate, Katie, Jessie, Molly, Danielle, Ali, Sabina, Addie, and Niki: my collaborators. To Michael, Emily D, Nancy, Alan, Jean, David, Emily L, Dan, Nikki, Gwen, and each crew member: my designers and production team. To my dearest family, friends, and first year cohort. To my beloved Wolf Pack: Annie, Ellie, and Steph. My cup runneth over, y'all.

There will be a ten-minute intermission.

Blue Ridge to the Bronx

Choreography

Ellie Grace in collaboration with the cast
Hip Hop Duet choreographed by Cecelia Lim and Alessandra Garcia

Music

Where The Stars Collide by Ellie Grace and Brian Claflin
Traditional fiddle tunes
Sail Away Ladies Traditional
Rock the Cradle Joe Traditional
In Our Sounds by Olivia McClendon
No Time To Tarry Here Traditional

Lighting Design

Jen Graessle

Costume Design

Emily Justice Dunn

Cast

Jane Ellen Anderson, Ana Ruffino Darrow,
Abbie Duquette, Miles Firkins,
Alessandra Garcia, Kyle Anne Gouchoe-Hanas,
Jess Goudreault, Ellie Grace,
Amalyah Leader, Cecelia Lim,
Twyla Marr, Olivia McClendon

Musician

Eden MacAdam-Somer

Advisor

Rodger Blum

This work is dedicated with great love to the memory of my grandmother and teacher, Dr. Winifred Bryan Homer. To my wild and creative family: Thank you for a lifetime of encouragement. To my cohort: You have stolen my heart, and I never want it back. To my thesis adviser, Rodger Blum: I am grateful for your humor and support throughout this journey. To Peter Jones (my second reader), the Smith dance faculty, and my students: Thank you for great inspiration. To my community of friends near and far: You lift me up. And most of all to my cast: I am in complete awe of your huge hearts, humor, musicality, insight, generosity, bravery, and virtuosity. I do not think they have yet invented words that could express my gratitude and love.

ABOUT THE CHOREOGRAPHERS

Joy Davis (Choreographer, *protean*) is a dance maker, performer, and teacher. Originally from Nashville, Joy has spent the last fifteen years between her beloved Tennessee, Chicago, and Amsterdam creating, performing, and studying contemporary dance and improvisation. Joy is (obviously) an MFA Candidate and Teaching Fellow at Smith College in the Department of Dance, Northampton, MA and has taught at Smith College, Hampshire College, UMass Amherst, and Marlboro College. Joy holds a BA in Performing Arts through the College Scholars Program at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville. Joy continues to train and study the Countertechnique with originator, Anouk van Dijk, Artistic Director of Chunky Move. In 2012, Joy was certified to teach Countertechnique and is one of four American instructors teaching classes and workshops all over the United States. Joy was a recipient of the Chicago Dancemakers Forum (CDF) Greenhouse Grant for Emerging Choreographers produced by Links Hall and received a choreographic residency at Sandra Hirth's Workspace for Choreographers in Virginia. Her solo work has been presented by The San Diego Dance Theatre, the H-O-T series at Mascher Space Co-op in Philadelphia, Mountain Empire's TDP Salons in Northampton and Philadelphia, and Company Rose's ONE in Nashville. Joy is currently collaborating with choreographers, Shaina Cantino, Katie Martin, and Banning Bouldin's *New Dialect* in Nashville. Joy is honored to be teaching and performing at the Seattle Festival of Dance Improvisation (SFDI) this coming summer.

Ellie Grace (Choreographer, *Blue Ridge to the Bronx*) was born into a deep musical tradition and began her life-long love affair with dance at the ripe old age of five when she slipped on her first pair of tiny clogging shoes. Ellie has spent her life touring internationally as a dancer, singer, multi-instrumentalist, and songwriter. She has had the honor of performing at venues ranging from the Winnipeg Folk Festival to the Lincoln Center to the New England Conservatory of Music as a solo artist and as a member, guest, and/or director of many celebrated bands and dance companies. Having continually honed her teaching skills in order to make the art forms that she loves accessible to others, Ellie is now highly respected as a dynamic and passionate teacher at universities, camps, festivals, and schools across the continent. Ellie is one of the preeminent proponents and practitioners in her generation of traditional and groundbreaking percussive dance. Whether she is performing for an audience of thousands or teaching one on one, it is apparent the joy she takes in sharing her love of music and dance with people of all ages! www.leelaandelliegrace.com

Stephanie Maher (Choreographer, *Hierarchy of Comfort*) is originally based in New York and then landed in San Francisco for 15 years. She is known for her breathtaking physicality and for creating works that express a unique blend of intimacy, sensitivity, and wild humor. She has been teaching performance making, Release-based techniques and Contact Improvisation in an International setting since 1992. In 1998 Maher relocated to Berlin, Germany where she continued to perform, organize, develop and teach in the community-based settings of K77 Studios in Berlin and founded the Ponderosa Tanz/Land Festival and P.O.R.C.H. in Stolzenhagen, Germany. On all levels in life, Maher has been a communal collaborator embracing Relational Aesthetics, (which names what she does, lives and performs). She has had ongoing collaborations and made work with Kathleen Hermesdorf, Jen Polins, Sten Rudstrom, Keith Hennessy, Jess Curtis, Maria Francesca Scaroni, Peter Pleyer and Meg Stuart.

Annie Rudnik (Choreographer, *Oscillations*) is a choreographer and Guild Certified Feldenkrais Practitioner (Chicago, 2013). She has performed on stages, nightclubs, and streets nationally and internationally. Annie was awarded 2012-2013 LinkUp Artist in Residence at Links Hall. Through this residency she created an intergenerational dance work with performers ages 17-93, many of whom resided at Norwood Crossing Senior Living. This piece toured across the Chicago area to theaters and senior homes. Critics described the work as "...unlike anything you've seen" and "...tremendously tender, authentic, and humane." She also received grants from the Puffin Foundation, ArtMill CZ, and Meredith F. Russell Fieldwork Fellowship. Annie taught dance and performance at Beloit College, School of the Art Institute of Chicago, Smith College, and Mt. Holyoke College. Her work *Paramount Theatre*, 1932 was commissioned by Beloit College and is now part of their repertory. She is the biographer of former Vaudevillian Harold "Stumpy" Cromer. She graduated with her BA from Sarah Lawrence College (2007) and she is currently an MFA teaching fellow at Smith College.

PERFORMING ARTISTS

Jane Ellen Anderson has been dancing at inappropriate times and places since the age of four. She is a senior majoring in Environmental Science and Policy. Jane has had the pleasure of performing in several student and faculty works, as well as choreographing for Celebrations Dance Company. She would like to thank Ellie for making this whole experience so incredibly joyful.

Katie Aylward-Brady is currently dancing for Michael Bodell and teaching at Franklin Pierce University. She has performed and choreographed throughout New England and she received her MFA in dance at Ohio State University.

Shaina Cantino graduated from Smith with her MFA in 2014. She is currently teaching Contact Improvisation at Wesleyan University and contemporary through SCDT in Northampton. Shaina is overjoyed to be roommates and a co-founding member of Duoco Dance Theater with Ms. Joy Davis.

Robyn Coady is 50% mom, 50% wife, 100% artist, 25% maid, & 75% real-estate investor. She is a recent transplant from Brooklyn where she worked in dance, theater, film, and playwrighting for over 15yrs. Getting to know and working with Joy Davis has been one of the greatest gifts since relocating to Northampton. Robyn is grateful and proud to have been a part of the process of making protean.

Ana Ruffino Darrow is a Smith senior majoring in American Studies and causing a ruckus. When not performing with the silly, wonderful Ellie + co, or acting as reigning prince of the sound board, Ana may be found talking about disability, social justice, and space-time, or dancing around in mismatched socks.

Originally from Chicago, **Barbie Diewald** currently a teaching fellow and MFA candidate in Dance at Smith College. She spent several years dancing in NYC, where her choreography most recently presented at BAM (Brooklyn Academy of Music). She holds a BFA in Theatre and Minor in Dance from Millikin University.

Abbie Duquette is a senior at Smith majoring in Music and multi-tasking. She works as a production assistant at Signature Sounds Recordings, a local record label in Northampton. In her free time (ha.), she enjoys making films and singing a cappella with the Smiffenpoofs. Abbie aspires to be in One Direction when she grows up.

Miles Firkins is a mover, a teacher, and a lover of bodies. Miles has worked with many student and guest artists over the past three years. In college, Miles has mostly learned that New England, while strange and endearing, is a silly place for desert creatures to live. Miles enjoys green chile, social dancing, and discussing gender in dance contexts.

PERFORMING ARTISTS (Continued)

Alessandra Garcia has been dancing tap and hip hop for many years. She was a student Hip-Hop assistant in high school, but truly developed her performative abilities by belting "Welcome to Hollywood" by Beyoncé at her closet mirror. She wants to thank Ellie for her support throughout this process, and for giving her the opportunity to perform with such fun-loving people.

Kyle Anne Gouchoe-Hanas is a double major in Studio Art and Education. Her greatest accomplishments at Smith so far include playing on as many sports teams as possible, sneaking her pet rat George into her room for an entire year and being cast in Ellie's thesis piece.

Jessica Goudreault is a double major studying dance and sociology. She has brought her two majors together in a research project surrounding body image in the FCDD. Jessica is the Co-Artistic Director of Celebrations Dance Company. Sometimes she wishes she were just a few inches taller, but hey—dynamite comes in small packages.

Amalyah Leader is trained in flamenco dance in NYC and Spain. She has danced as a company member in Omayra Amaya's dance company, Andanza, as well as performed solo throughout the Pioneer Valley and Boston. Most of all she is deeply thankful to Ellie and her awe-inspiring cast, who have brought joy, connection, and absolute craziness into her life.

Cecelia Lim is a sophomore swag major who has been dancing ballet and hip hop for about ten years. She has choreographed for the Bollywood dance team, SC Masti. Cecelia dreams of starting a dance company that participates only in flash mobs wedding proposals.

Eden MacAdam-Somer is one of the most exciting and versatile musicians performing today. Hailed by the New York Times as reflecting "astonishing virtuosity and raw expression," her music transcends genre through soaring violin, sweet vocals, and percussive dance. Eden currently teaches at New England Conservatory, where she also serves as Assistant Chair of the Department of Contemporary Improvisation, and at the Afghanistan National Institute of Music in Kabul. Outside of the classroom, she maintains an active international performance and recording career.

Twyla Marr is a dance major/landscape studies minor. She is the Co-Artistic Director of Celebrations Dance Company. Twyla is often seen in ridiculous outfits, sleeping in odd locations, spilling coffee, falling into manholes, and/or laughing at inappropriate times. She is so grateful for the chance to work with the amazing dancers/choreographers of the FCDD.

Molly McBride is a Mount Holyoke alum who is interested in movement and the construction of landscapes. She likes moving and being moved, and riding along the course of an artistic process

Olivia McClendon also known as Billy Dean is a born musician and artistically creative entrepreneur. Her style and tastes of music range from Rick Ross to Mozart. Although music is at the forefront she is also a filmmaker, aspiring clothing designer and loves to engage in any project that needs creative input or direction.

Alli Naranjo is a junior dance major at Smith College, where she performs, collaborates, and studies with her supportive community of mentors and peers. She is grateful for the opportunity to perform in this concert and that she gets to wear a big, yellow, princess dress. It's her dream.

Jessie Owens has been many different people over the course of her 35 years. Currently, when she is not studying dance and German at Smith College, she resides at her solar-powered homestead in the mountains of Vermont. She is looking forward to getting to know the woman she will become.

Jennifer Polins, MFA Hollins/ADF, has been living-dancing-making between Northampton and Berlin for the past 15 years. She is the artistic director of several endeavors: The School for Contemporary Dance and Thought, scdl2014.weebly.com, and The Catalyst Dancers of PVPA. Jen is a guest lecturer for the Five College Dance Department and is a 2014 MCC choreographic fellow. Most recently Jen has been working with Stephanie Maher, Paul Matteson and Peter Schmitz.

Addie Reine is a senior biology major at Smith College who lives her life by the almost-renown teachings of the Prancercise discipline. When she isn't prancing, Addie is busy falling through ice into rivers and dreaming about her future goat farm. She also likes to dance and is terrified of the audience right now.

Peter B. Schmitz has been working in the creative and performing arts for over 30 years. As a professional modern dancer, an equity actor, and teacher/choreographer Peter has worked through out the US, Europe, New Zealand, Australia and Turkey. He now lives in a snow bound house in N. Amherst- bring shovels.

Kate Seethaler is a first-year MFA Candidate and Teaching Fellow in the Smith College Department of Dance. She currently resides in Northampton with her beloved husband and their imaginary pets. Amongst other interests, Kate truly enjoys philosophy, Pilates, and The Wolf Pack.

Sabina Smith-Moreland is a last semester Div III student with a focus in dance production, choreography, and performance. She is overJOYed to be a part of this production and is peeing her pants back stage right now. Hi Mom.

Danielle Tekut is a senior at Smith College. She studies dance and religion. She is very happy you are here.

Jake Wise is an improviser drawing from experience in "jazz" and "classical/contemporary" music improvisation and many other music and dance contexts, and also from contact improvisation. Jake currently lives and works at Earthdance, where he manages website and IT, and also works as a freelance web developer, believing that these seemingly disparate disciplines can all serve to help grow a community centered model in the world.

UPCOMING DANCE EVENTS

February 19, 20, 21, 8:00 p.m.

Five College Faculty Dance Concert

Theatre 14

\$10 general admission, \$5 students and seniors

April 2, 3, 4, 8:00 p.m.

Senior Dance Concert

Hallie Flanagan Studio Theatre

\$10 general admission, \$5 students and seniors

Friday, May 1, 8:00 p.m.

Spring Grad Event

Scott Dance Studio

\$1.00 at the door, no reservations, general admission

PRODUCTION

Artistic Directors	Joy Davis, Ellie Grace, Stephanie Maher, Annie Rudnik
Faculty Advisor	Chris Aiken
Production Manager for Dance	Jean Baxter
Assistant Production Manager for Dance	Gwen Niven
Concert Administrator	Kim Logan
Technical Director	Daniel D. Rist
Technical Director for Dance	Alan Schneider
Lighting Designer	Michael Wonson
Assistant Lighting Designer	Jen Graessle
Lighting and Sound Supervisor	David Wiggall
Costume Designer	Emily Dunn
Publicity Manager	Sam Rush
Publicity Assistant	Nikki Beck
Production Intern	Cathy Hwang
Technical Intern and Master Electrician	Elena Karlsen-Ayala
Stage Manager	Emily Lukasewski
Assistant Stage Managers	Molly Tupper, Alison Marsh
Lightboard Operator	Rebecca Davidson
Sound and Video Operator	Michelle Migliaccio
Costume Shop Supervisor	Emily Dunn
Costumer/Cutter	Nancy Horn
Costume Intern	Amelia Fitch
Costume Assistants	Kelsey Christensen, Whitney Jimenez
Lighting Intern	Jen Graessle
Electricians	Ellen Gallos, Yoshi Makishima Elissa Na, Julia McCarthy, Kitty Lin, Lucy Saunders-Pappentick
Shop Intern	Camilla Skalski
Shop Assistants	Alex Bryan, Cathy Hwang, Kristyn Klarner, Cindy Li, Nancy McCarthy
Stage Crew	Sophia Arnall, Julia Antinozzi, Taina Bey, Eleanor Igwe
Publicity Intern	Yoshi Makishima
Publicity Assistant	Amelia Fitch
Box Office/House Manager	Kelsey Conti
Box Office Assistants	Carolyn Polis, Sarena Shafner Elizabeth Shaw, Alex Symeonides-Tsatsos
Photography	Derek Fowles

SMITH COLLEGE DANCE FACULTY

Professor

Rodger Blum, M.F.A., *Department Chair*

Assistant Professors

Lester Tome, Ph.D.

Chris Aiken, M.F.A., *Director of M.F.A. in Dance*

Angie Hauser, M.F.A.

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

Candice Salyers, M.F.A., Ph.D.

Katie Martin, M.F.A.

Daniel Trenner, M.Ed.

Teaching Fellows in Dance

Joy Davis

Ellie Grace

Stephanie Maher

Anne Rudnik

Barbie Diewald

Emily Lukasewski

Bronwen MacArthur

Kate Seethaler

Thank you to the Smith College Provost Office and Danielle Ramdath, Associate Dean of the Faculty, for providing funding support for the production of this concert.

The Smith College MFA 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.

BOX OFFICE INFORMATION

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\$10 general, \$5 students and seniors

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\$10 general, \$5 students/seniors

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The Box Office ticket window is open from 12-6 PM Monday-Friday, 2-5 PM Saturday during the week of a show and beginning one hour before show time.

For theatre and dance performances,
we accept cash, check, MasterCard and Visa.

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. Tickets must be paid for at the time of reservation of by 5 PM on the day of a show or tickets will be released. Please pick up your paid tickets at the box office no later than one half hour before a show.

All shows in Theatre 14 are reserved seating. All shows in Hallie Flanagan Studio Theatre and all other venues are general admission.

There will be no refunds for any reasons on purchased tickets.

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