School of Theatre, Dance, and Performance Studies Presents:
Leigh Wilson Smiley, Producing Director

**UMoves: UNDERGRADUATE DANCE CONCERT**

Director
Christopher K. Morgan
Stage Manager
Cindy King

April 23 - 26, 2015
Dance Theatre

This performance will last approximately 90 minutes with one 15-minute intermission.

Video or audio recording of the production is strictly prohibited.
I’m thrilled to welcome you to UMoves 2015. Audience members, you are about to play an important role in the evolution of the undergraduate student choreography that has been in development for the last several weeks, and that will be onstage tonight. I encourage each of you to bring a thoughtful and critical eye to what you are about to see. The range of works reflects the varied interests of the students. In that variety you will likely find some works that immediately resonate with you. Others may bring up questions for you. I often encourage audiences to trust themselves as they look at modern dance. There is no mysterious language that only the dancers and choreographers speak. Each viewer’s own experiences and knowledge that he or she brings to viewing the dance are all that are needed. Trust that. And know that your viewing of these dances is a valuable part of the choreographic process.

Showing a dance to an audience is a huge learning moment for any choreographer. But that is especially true in the environment we are creating with UMoves, the mission of which is centered on process and development. UMoves is an important time for our undergraduates to explore the craft of creating a dance. And that word craft is critical. The hands-on making of choreography is challenging work that engages many skill sets, multiple parts of the brain, a dance maker’s intuition and their heart. A choreographer must balance his or her artistic vision with the artistic and personal needs of the dancers and collaborators, input from creative advisors, rehearsal schedules and the battle against time. These things often compete with each other and make it difficult to follow one’s inspiration. As Artistic Director of tonight’s program, my primary goal has been to encourage the choreographers to listen to themselves, while deepening their sense of craft.

I am thankful to each of tonight’s choreographers for their effort, work and trust. I look forward to the continued development of their pieces beyond this evening.

And collectively, we are thankful for you coming to support our work by attending this concert.

Enjoy the performance,
Christopher K. Morgan - Director, UMoves
TDPS Artist-in-Residence in Dance

**Director’s Note**

This concert is dedicated to the memory of Professor Meriam Rosen, who passed away on March 12. Meriam “Mim” Rosen helped establish the University of Maryland’s Department of Dance and taught here from 1954 until her retirement in 2009.

A choreographer, dancer and professor, Meriam Levine Rosen was an active participant in the Washington DC area performing arts community. She founded and directed Improvisations Unlimited, a university-based improvisational dance company, and she created commissioned works for artists and companies in the Washington DC area, New York, New Jersey, Maryland, Virginia and North Carolina. Programs of her work were presented at The John F. Kennedy Center.

Mim was well known and loved in the dance field nationally and was responsible for bringing important choreographers, as well as emerging artists, to UMD to teach, choreograph and perform. With her keen choreographic eye and her direct and generous feedback style, she became a tireless mentor to countless students, and a champion of unique artistic voices at the school and in the field at large.

Mim was the recipient of choreographic grants from the National Endowment for the Arts, The DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities, the Arts Division of the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission, the Prince George’s Arts Council and the University of Maryland Creative and Performing Arts Board.

The Meriam Rosen Scholarship for Excellence in Dance, which provides merit-based scholarships for undergraduate or graduate Dance students enrolled at the University, was established in February 2009 by John C. Ford ’64 and Sandra Poster ’64.

The Meriam Rosen Papers, a Special Collection housed in the Michelle Smith Performing Arts Library at the University of Maryland, consists of materials related to Rosen’s career as a dancer, choreographer and professor.
**Scaffolding**

Choreography: Christina O’Brien
Music: *Twins*, Gem Club
*Promise*, Ben Howard

Sound Design: Christina O’Brien with Paul Jackson
Lighting Design: Sean Patrick Forsythe
Costume Coordinator: Kelsey Hunt
Projection Design: Hannah Marsh
Performers: Christina O’Brien, Sanya Oluwafemi, John Paul Ouyang, Jasmine Watkins

*To love actively is a choice, and its inevitable risk is trust. When we take this risk, we might be rewarded when our capacity to experience joy grows. This work does not tell a literal story. But perhaps if we notice a stirring within, we might seek to identify it.*

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**Almost**

Choreography: Katharine Gundlach
Music: *Cavalier*, James Vincent McMorrow; *How Did I Get Here*, Odesza; *Love and Affection*, Matt White; *All We Need*, Odesza

Sound Design: Paul Jackson
Lighting Design: Daniel Smeriglio
Costume Coordinator: Kelsey Hunt
Performers: Emily Ames (understudy), Andre Artis, Ariel Fortiz, Katharine Gundlach, Jessica Plaskon, Jasmine Watkins

*My inspiration for this piece comes from the way memories can suddenly interrupt our daily lives and thoughts, for a brief moment becoming our present reality. Thank you to my wonderful dancers, mentor and designers for all your patience, creative input and support in making this vision come to life!*
Program (Continued)

Wanderlust of the Soul
Choreography
Music
Text
Sound Design
Lighting Design
Costume Coordinator
Projection Design
Performers
Celeste White
Spiegel im Spiegel, Arvo Part
C. S. Lewis
Paul Jackson
Sean Patrick Forsythe
Kelsey Hunt
Hannah Marsh
Emily Heller, Celeste White

“It was when I was happiest that I longed most...The sweetest thing in all my life has been the longing...to find the place where all the beauty came from.”

— C.S. Lewis, Till We Have Faces

So much gratitude goes to Emily Heller, my oh-so lovely duet partner — it has been such an honor undertaking this journey with you! A special thanks to Anne Warren, my mentor for this project, who helped me to see movement and space in ways I had never even imagined I could. To my design team who helped me realize my artistic vision. Lastly, I would like to thank my parents, my four siblings, and my many, many extended family members for their undying support and prayers as I determinedly pursue my passion and calling. Love and prayers to all.

Everyday
Choreography
Music
Text
Sound Design
Lighting Design
Costume Coordinator
Performer
Devin Seldon
Sigh, Meredith Monk
The Moan, Marion Williams
Assorted clips from CNN, ABC News, and The Alex Jones Show
Devin Seldon
Rachel Spires
Kelsey Hunt
Devin Seldon

This is dedicated to all of the young black souls who have been treated as less than in this country. We matter and will continue to matter.

- Intermission -

Rooted
Choreography
Text
Sound Design
Lighting Design
Sydney Parker
From an interview with the choreographer’s mother
Sydney Parker with Paul Jackson
Rachel Spires
I would like to thank my mother, Lonnae O’Neal, for the infinite amount of love and tenderness she put into doing my hair, and my sister’s hair, no matter how tired or busy she may have been. I would like to thank my parents for all of those Saturday morning Lauryn Hill jam sessions in the family room, followed by a trip to the Children’s Museum. Lastly, I would like to thank all of the black women who make time in their busy schedules to detangle the kinks, and grease the scalps of their children, reassuring their beauty, value and worth. This piece is dedicated to the hardships and beauty of growing up within the uniqueness of the black experience.

O Pato
Choreography: Ariel Fortiz
Music: O Pato by Esteban Matuke
Text: Dialogue from Portuguese short film ANA
Sound Design: Paul Jackson
Lighting Design: Aidan Walsh
Costume Coordinator: Kelsey Hunt
Performers: Ariel Fortiz, Jonathan Hsu

12:02 p.m.
Choreography: Sanya Oluwafemi
Spoken Word: Mandla ‘Kosi’ Dunn
Sound Design: Paul Jackson
Lighting Design: Christopher Wong
Costume Coordinator: Kelsey Hunt
Performers: Christina O’Brien, Sanya Oluwafemi, Monique Robinson, Jasmine Watkins, Monique Watson

Teetering
Choreography: Christopher K. Morgan
Music:
   II. First breath, Draw Breath by Ezio Bosso,
   Eleven Guitars by Scott Horcroft
Sound Design: Paul Jackson
Lighting Design: Kelsey Hunt
Costume Coordinator: Chelsea Brown, Katharine Gundlach,
Performers: Emily Heller, Jonathan Hsu, Jessica Plaskon,
               Devin Seldon, Nicole Turchi

Considerably reworked for this cast, Teetering was originally commissioned by Lane Community College (Eugene, OR). Through gestures, movement and imagery that reflect hesitation, aggression, facing one’s self and the edge of a precipice, the piece explores embracing fear. The ensemble reflects multiple facets of the same person, fearful of him/herself.
About the Artists

Andre Artis (performer), senior dance education major. UMD productions: for colored folks (assistant stage manager), Fall 2014 Dance Thesis Concert (assistant stage manager), Fall 2012 and Fall 2013 New Dances (choreographer). Member of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity Inc.

Chelsea Brown (performer), senior dance and psychology major, Creative and Performing Arts Scholar. Assistant choreographer for The Lost World, PEARSONWIDRIG DANCETHEATER apprentice, Delta Chi Xi Honorary Dance Fraternity Inc. president. Co-choreographed If only I knew, which was performed at the National American College Dance Festival.

Mandla ‘Kosi’ Dunn (recorded vocals), second-year poet and prospective individual studies major. A writer’s house resident with a keen interest in transmedia and storytelling, he is honored to have hosted and performed on campus and in the greater Washington area.


Ariel Fortiz (choreographer/performer), second-year dance major. UMD productions: Wake Up!

Katharine Gundlach (choreographer/performer), senior dance major. Previous UMD performances: I wake up dreaming (Fall 2011), Stratum (Spring 2012), Gravity (Fall 2012), Visible Seams (Fall 2013), Kincerto (Fall 2013) and Souls Concealed (Spring 2014).

Emily Heller (performer), senior dance major with a focus in education. UMD productions: New Dances; RIP the Floor: 32nd Annual Choreographer’s Showcase. Member of Dynamic Dance Team.


Kelsey Hunt (costume coordinator), Woolly Mammoth Theatre Company: Cherokee; Studio Theatre: Bad Jews, Carrie: The Musical, Edgar & Annabel, Skintight; Theatre J: Life Sucks, Body Awareness; Chesapeake Shakespeare: As You Like It, Pride and Prejudice; Maryland Opera Studio: Die Fledermaus; Georgetown University: Slow Falling Bird, In the Red & Brown Water; Elsewhere Artist’s Collaborative: One Flea Spare; Triad Stage: Dirty Blonde, Glass Menagerie, Tobacco Road, Brother Wolf and more than 40 productions as resident costume designer. Hunt is co-author of Elizabethan Costume: Design and Construction, focal press. Upcoming projects include The Price at Olney Theatre and Occupied Territories with Mollye Maxner. www.Kelseyhuntdesign.com

Cindy King (stage manager), senior theatre and communications dual degree. UMD productions: The Me Nobody Knows (stage manager), Twilight: Los Angeles, 1992 (assistant stage manager) and others. King is extremely excited to be stage managing her first dance piece. Thank you to all those participating and attending!

Hannah Marsh (projection designer), senior economics major. UMD credits: The Lost World, The Me Nobody Knows, props artisan since 2011.
Regional: *Soon* (Signature Theatre), *The Ashes Under Gait City* and *Uncanny Valley* (Contemporary American Theater Festival), *Saving Kitty* (New Jersey Repertory Company).

**Christopher K. Morgan** (concert director/choreographer), TDPS Artist-in-Residence. Artistic Director of contemporary dance company Christopher K. Morgan & Artists, Director of the Dance Omi International Dance Collective, a collaborative choreography residency in New York. Said to be “direct, transcendent and entrancing” by the *Washington Post*, his choreography has been presented in 18 countries on five continents. In April 2011 *Dance Magazine* profiled him as one of six breakout choreographers. Recent awards: 2013 Native Arts & Cultures Foundation Fellowship, 2014 NPN Creation Fund, 2014 Maryland State Arts Council Individual Artist Award, 2014 NEFA National Dance Project Grant. www.christopherkmorgan.com

**Christina O’Brien** (choreographer/performer), second-year dual degree in dance and neurobiology/physiology. Creative and Performing Arts Scholar and member of Delta Chi Xi Honorary Dance Fraternity. O’Brien is an AFAA and Zumba trained fitness instructor, and she recently presented her original Cardiobox Dance Fusion class at the 2015 Southeast Collegiate Fitness Expo. UMD performances: *Way In* (performer), *My Tempest* (performer), *Bench Quartet* (performer), *For and In Behalf Of* (performer), *Macbeth* (performer), *Heighten, Fortify* (choreographer, performer).

**Sanya Oluwafemi** (choreographer/performer), second-year psychology and dance double major. Phunktions Hip Hop Dance Company member. Cast in works by dance MFA candidates Sinclair Emoghene and Curtis Stedge.

**John Paul Ouyang** (performer), second-year cell biology and genetics major. He wishes to pursue a PhD in a field related to plant molecular genetics. This is his first performance in a UMD show.


**Monique Robinson** (performer), second-year double major in broadcast journalism and atmospheric & oceanic science. Robinson is currently a member of Prima Dolls, W.E.B. Du Bois Honor Society, Honors Ambassadors, Maryland Association of Black Journalists and the Black Engineering Society.

**Devin Seldon** (choreographer/sound design/performer), Creative and Performing Arts Scholar. Productions: *Take Me with You, Heaven Index, Let’s Build a House, If You Only Knew* as well as his own work, *Bald Cry*. Last year Seldon
Jasmine Watkins (performer), third-year dance major. She has worked with artists such as Marc Bamuthi Joseph in *Here They Stood*, MFA Sinclair Emoghene in *Boxes* and Jared Mezzocchi in *The Lost World* in her time at UMD.

Monique Watson (performer), second-year anthropology major. Phunktions Hip Hop Dance Company marketing executive and member.

Celeste White (choreographer/performer), senior dance performance and choreography major. Recipient of the Berman Masters Scholarship for Entrepreneurship in the Performing Arts. She holds an associate's degree in dance from Anne Arundel Community College. She is a member of Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society and Tau Sigma National Honors Society, and is currently the treasurer of Delta Chi Xi Honorary Dance Fraternity Inc, Gamma Chapter. Recent performances include MFA Dance theses *Visible Seams* and *Projects for the Living, Here They Stood*: a site-specific spoken word opera and *The Lost World* as Stegabutt.