



UMD School of Theatre, Dance, and Performance Studies presents

SPRING M.F.A. DANCE THESIS CONCERT



SCHOOL OF
THEATRE, DANCE, &
PERFORMANCE STUDIES

Friday, February 16–Sunday, February 18, 2024

DANCE THEATRE

AT THE CLARICE SMITH PERFORMING ARTS CENTER

THEATRE DANCE

THE PROM

Book & Lyrics by Chad Beguelin

Book by Bob Martin

Music by Matthew Sklar

Based on an Original Concept by Jack Viertel

Directed by Nathaniel Claridad '04

Produced by Randall "Randy" W. Lord '77
and Stephen "Steve" Fessler

KAY THEATRE

SEPTEMBER 29–OCTOBER 7, 2023

A BICYCLE COUNTRY

By Nilo Cruz

Directed by Fatima Quander

KOGOD THEATRE

NOVEMBER 10–17, 2023

MEN ON BOATS

By Jacklyn Backhaus

Co-Directed by KenYatta Rogers and
Elena Velasco

KAY THEATRE

MARCH 1–9, 2024

ARE WE AT WAR YET

By Mikhail Durnenkov

Directed by Yury Urnov

KOGOD THEATER

APRIL 19–26, 2024

FALL M.F.A. THESIS DANCE CONCERT

Choreographed by Gerson Lanza
and Javier Padilla

KOGOD THEATRE

OCTOBER 12–15, 2023

FACULTY DANCE CONCERT

Directed by Alvin Mayes

Choreographed by Adriane Fang, Kate
Ladenheim, Ama Law, and Alvin Mayes

KAY THEATRE

DECEMBER 8–10, 2023

SPRING M.F.A. THESIS DANCE CONCERT

Choreographed by Brit Falcon, Mary
Kate Ford and Rebecca Steinberg

DANCE THEATRE

FEBRUARY 16–18, 2024

UMOVES: UNDERGRADUATE DANCE CONCERT

Directed by Ama Law

DANCE THEATRE

MAY 3-5, 2024

SCHOOL OF THEATRE, DANCE, AND PERFORMANCE STUDIES

SPRING M.F.A. DANCE THESIS CONCERT*Works by Brit Falcon, Mary Kate Ford and Rebecca Steinberg****Tonight, we, may win***

Choreographer Rebecca Steinberg in Collaboration
 Composer Ryan Alexander MacDonald
 Choreographic Consultant..... Emilia Bruno
 Dramaturg and text by Kris Pourzal
 Scenic Designer Shartoya Jn. Baptiste
 Costume Designer Bailey Hammett
 Lighting Designer Mike Riggs
 Projection Designer..... Leo Grierson
 Sound Designer Evan Thanicatt
 Stage Manager Sarah Chapin
 Performers..... Bree Breeden, Emilia Bruno, Brit Falcon
 Daniel Miramontes, Peter Pattengill, Zoe Walders

Music Credits

Original composition by Ryan Alexander MacDonald.

track

Choreographer Brit Falcon in collaboration with all performers
 Composer & Arranger..... Erik Spangler
 Scenic Designer Margarita Syrocheva
 Costume Designer Bailey Hammett
 Lighting Designer Mike Riggs
 Projection Designer..... Luis Garcia
 Sound Designer Evan Thanicatt
 Stage Manager Sarah Chapin
 Performers..... Emilia Bruno, Christina Collins
 Mary Kate “MK” Ford, Javier Padilla
 Zoe Cushman Walders (understudy)

Music Credits

Music composed and arranged by Erik Spangler with sounds contributed by the performers

Material Body 01 + pulse

Choreographer Mary Kate Ford in collaboration with the cast
 Scenic Designer Shartoya Jn. Baptiste
 Costume Designer Becca Janney
 Lighting Designer Mike Riggs
 Projection Designer Tim Kelly
 Sound Designer Evan Thanicatt
 Stage Manager Sarah Chapin
 Performers Bree Breeden, Emilia Bruno, Christina Collins,
 Brit Falcon, Mary Kate “MK” Ford, Kae Lawrence

Music Credits

Original compositions by Lily Gelfand and Peter Pattengill, arranged by MK Ford.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 2024–SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 2024

DANCE THEATRE

***The performance will last approximately 2 hours
 with two 10 minute intermissions.***

Please take this opportunity to silence your cell phones, and anything else that might beep or buzz. Photography and audio or video recording are prohibited. And finally, please take note of the nearest exit from the venue in case of emergency.

TONIGHT, WE, MAY WIN

Thank you to my family and friends who traveled near and far to be here. It is profoundly meaningful to share this time with each of you. Thank you to my collaborative team, I am deeply moved by you all individually and collectively. Thank you Maura and Kendra for your generous mentorship and support. Thank you Emilia, for everything.

—Rebecca Steinberg, Choreographer

I had the pleasure of witnessing Rebecca's thesis process from inside and out. I was involved in the physical research and movement generation in some early rehearsals, but by November 2023, I was watching and writing. I was experiencing some major shoulder pain at this time (unrelated to Rebecca's rehearsals), which made it uncomfortable to sit upright or stay still for long. From the side of the rehearsal room, I had to lay down, wriggle periodically and watch the dancing from the ground.

Seeing things horizontally was illuminating. I realized Rebecca's approach to running the room was horizontal, too. She engaged her collaborators as individuals, checking in often about their needs, and giving them space to determine how to show up in the work from moment to moment. Choreography, for her, is about ways of relating as much as it is about ways of moving. (To be part of her world is to realize these might be the same thing.)

As feminist theorist Sara Ahmed posits in her book *Queer Phenomenology*, one's body and therefore one's attention "gets directed in some ways more than others." Systems of power produce a hierarchical order that places only certain things in view. But what if we turn to see things an-other way, against habitual (vertical) hierarchies? "Depending on which way one turns, different worlds might even come into view."

An invitation, then, to view queerly, to direct your attention otherwise:

Notice the edges of this dancing, the space between dancers, between you and them. In this web (this us-ness), there is a provocation, a mutuality, a care-full declaration.

—Kristopher Pourzal, Dramaturg

TRACK

Special thanks to Emilia Bruno, Christina Collins, Mary Kate Ford, Javier Padilla and Zoe Cushman Walders for your collective care, support, drive and curiosity. It has been a true pleasure and honor working together and witnessing your craft unfold/grow/demand attention. Thank you Erik Spangler for your magical sounds and collaborative generosity. Thank you Rita Syrocheva, Luis Garcia, Bailey Hammett and Mike Riggs for helping me dream up a world that lives, breathes and grows in tandem. Thank you to my thesis chair Sam Crawford for your unwavering support and for listening to my endless rambling of ideas. And a thank you to my thesis committee of Maura Keefe, Kendra Portier and Patrik Widrig for your support both in and out of the studio.

—Brit Falcon, Choreographer

MATERIAL BODY 01 + PULSE

Special thanks to the cast, the designers, the musicians, and the crew - you are inspiring superstars.

Special thanks to my cohort and TDPS graduate students - you rock my socks.

Special thanks to all of my families - the lifelong, yet-to-be, and in-betweens - you amaze me.

Special thanks to my committee - yeehaw.

Special thanks to the artists, the daydreamers, the rioters, the parasites, the glitches, the cyborgs, the workers, the ghosts, the listeners - I love y'all.

Special thanks to dance, art, and conversations that make the world move.

—Mary Kate “MK” Ford, Choreographer

Emilia Bruno (Choreographic Consultant, Performer, *Tonight, we, may win, track* and *Material Body 01 + pulse*), originally from Lake Zurich, IL, Emilia Bruno is an Italian-American, queer movement artist currently based in College Park, MD. They received their B.F.A. in dance and BS in kinesiology from the University of Minnesota, Twin Cities. Through a long-standing relationship to the Bates Dance Festival, Emilia is deeply dedicated to working in non-competitive, supportive learning environments for aspiring artists. Being a collaborator with Falcon, Ford and Steinberg has been a rich and engaging challenge and they are excited to live inside of and perform each of these works.

Shartoya R. Jn.Baptiste (Scenic Designer, *Tonight, we, may win* and *Material Body 01 + pulse*): born and raised in the Caribbean, Shartoya was introduced to theatre through dance. Currently an M.F.A. candidate in scenic design, her UMD design credits include Fall M.F.A. Dance Concert, *The Book Club Play* and *By The Way, Meet Vera Stark*. Other credits include *Out of the Vineyard* at Joe's Movement Emporium, *P.Nokio* at Imagination Stage and assistant credit: *Beastgirl* at The Kennedy Centre. In her spare time, Shartoya enjoys creating art that merges choreography and set design.

Sarah Chapin (Stage Manager, *Tonight, we, may win, track* and *Material Body 01 + pulse*) fuses her technical expertise, dance training and passion for systems and organization with an expansive can-do attitude to support artists making a more just and joyful world. She works as an educator, stage manager, production manager, theatrical electrician, carpenter and all-around technician for dance artists and arts organizations. An avid social dancer, she helps run a Lindy Hop organization in her home city of DC.

Christina Collins (Performer, *track* and *Material Body 01 + pulse*) is a M.F.A. dance candidate at the University of Maryland, College Park. Her current research includes Afrofuturism and reimagining the Black future in different eras and points of view. She is very excited to be a part of the Spring M.F.A. Thesis Concert this year and has loved every moment working and collaborating with her colleagues.

Brit Falcon (Choreographer, *track*; Performer, *Tonight, we, may win* and *Material Body 01 + pulse*) is a performer, choreographer, educator and artistic director of Falcon Dance. She has been the 2023 Gibney Presents AIR, The Floor's Winter/Spring 2019 artist-in-residence, The Brockport Summer Dance 2018 guest artist, the New Dance Collective 2018 guest artist and the Bates Dance Festival 2017 Emerging Choreographer. Brit has had the pleasure of performing with William Evans, Oliver Steele/Steeledance, André Zachary/Renegade Performance Group, Keith Johnson & Adriane Fang, Kendra Portier/BANDportier, Keith Thompson/Dance Exchange and David Dorfman Dance. She has been a guest artist at Colorado Mesa University, The University of Hartford, Oregon University, Idaho State, Nazareth College, Brockport College, New York University, Bates College, Gibney Dance Center, Mark Morris Dance Center, Freeskewl and Performática (Mexico). Additionally, Brit is a licensed massage therapist and personal trainer and is currently an M.F.A. candidate in dance at the University of Maryland, College Park.

Mary Kate "MK" Ford (Choreographer and Performer, *Material Body 01 + pulse*; Performer, *track*) is an interdisciplinary artist currently pursuing a M.F.A. in dance from the University of Maryland, College Park. Ford holds a B.F.A. in dance from the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign where they focused in performance, choreography and screendance. Their work features elements from dance, film/media studies, queer theory and visual arts. Ford's choreographic research focuses on the tense relationship of a cyborg—as in, a machine + organic entity. This metaphor amasses relational studies of systemic and bodily processes. A leading inquiry of Ford's research is into the social and political strategies of subversion, distortion, grief and reorganization that are highlighted in legacies of non-normativity, futurity and queer D.I.Y. multimodal organizations.

Luis Garcia (Projection Designer, *track*) is a Peruvian-American lighting and media designer. Luis is in his third and final year as an M.F.A. lighting and media candidate at the University of Maryland, College Park. Some of his selected media works include: *It Happened in Key West* at Fulton Theatre, *A Bicycle Country* at UMD, *Espejos: Clean* at Studio Theatre, *Out of the Vineyard* at Joe's Movement Emporium, *The Book Club Play* at UMD. Luis would like to thank his loving wife Kerry and their cute chiweenie dog Ruby for supporting him on his final show at UMD!

Leo Grierson (Projection Designer, *Tonight, we, may win*) is a second-year M.F.A. media design candidate. Their past works at the University of Maryland include Faculty Dance Concert and *Proving Up*. They have also written and directed several of their own theater pieces. They are thrilled to be part of the M.F.A. Dance Thesis projects, and are immensely proud of their talented colleagues.

Gracie Guzman (Assistant Stage Manager), senior theatre and dance major. Creative and Performing Arts Scholar, College Park Arts Scholar. UMD: Costume Technician, *A Bicycle Country* (Ines), *The Book Club Play* (Ana Smith). Outside: *The Addams Family* (Producer).

Bailey Hammett (Costume Designer, *Tonight, we, may win* and *track*) is a second-year M.F.A. costume design candidate. Her past works at the University of Maryland include *The Late Wedding* and *The Prom*. She has also worked with many theaters in the DC area. She is grateful for the opportunity to work closely with some of the brilliant M.F.A. dance students.

Ryan Alexander MacDonald (Composer, *Tonight, we, may win*) is a multimedia artist and author. He was a 2017 Bessie Award Nominee in "Outstanding Composition and Sound Design" for his work in Vanessa Anspaugh's *The End of Men*. He is the author of the story collection *The Observable Characteristics of Organisms* (FC2) and the winner of the 2012 American Short(er) Fiction Award. He works with long-time collaborator and choreographer Aretha Aoki and has designed sound for choreographers such as Vanessa Anspaugh, Devynn Emory and Tristan Koepke. He lives in Maine where he teaches courses on sound design and digital art.

Daniel Miramontes (Performer, *Tonight, we, may win*) is a bright, whimsical force from Los Angeles, who engages in performance, improvisation, dance creation and teaching. He is currently in his second year of grad school pursuing an M.F.A. in dance at the University of Maryland, College Park. His research includes materials, fabric manipulation and costume design, and the ways in which they inform the dancing body. Recently, he has performed in works by Kendra Portier, Abby Zbikowski and Momar Ndiaye, Carlo Villanueva, Javier Padilla, and his longtime friend and collaborator Alexx Shilling. He's also a capricorn, a cat dad, and likes the color green.

Erik Spangler (Composer & Arranger, *track*) is a Baltimore-based composer and electronic musician bridging ensemble improvisation, live electronics and notated music. Spangler's compositions have been performed by ensembles including Baltimore Symphony Orchestra, Atlantic Brass Quintet, Boston Modern Orchestra Project and International Contemporary Ensemble. Co-curator of Baltimore Boom Bap Society improvised hip hop series (2011–present). He has taught at Maryland Institute College of Art, Towson University, Ithaca College and K-12 schools in Baltimore. Dance accompanist at Baltimore School for the Arts, Carver Center for the Arts, Towson University, Goucher College and the University of Maryland. Harvard University (Ph.D., Music Composition, 2004).

Rebecca Steinberg (Choreographer, *Tonight, we, may win*) is a choreographer, director, dancer, educator and arts advocate. Her work has been presented by Park Avenue Armory Avant-Garde, Metropolitan Opera Club, Soho House New York, Los Angeles Chamber Orchestra, OZ Arts Nashville, And Artists, Room to Room, New Dialect and Nashville Ballet. Rebecca is a 2021 Tennessee Individual Artists Fellow and a 2019 Jacob's Pillow Choreography Fellow. Currently, she is a creative collaborator, thinking partner and/or performer with Falcon Dance, Tristan Koepeke and Kendra Portier.

Margarita Syrocheva (Scenic Designer, *track*), M.F.A. in design candidate, is a young Russian designer who strives to be a multidisciplinary artist pursuing the expression of emotions in her work. Her credentials include theatre and film work in Moscow, Saint-Petersburg and international theatre projects for the European Union of Theater Academies. Her recent work was on the world premiere of *My Mama & The Full-Scale Invasion* at Woolly Mammoth Theater as an Assistant Scenic Designer.

Amelia Talbot (Assistant Media Designer), junior computer science and theatre major. Banneker/Key Scholar. UMD: *Are We At War Yet?* (Assistant Media Designer), *A Bicycle Country* (Light Board Programmer), *The Prom* (Mrs. Greene, Fight Captain). CSPAC Venue Technician.

Evan Thanicatt (Sound Designer, *Tonight, we, may win, track* and *Material Body 01 + pulse*): Recent credits include: *KUMANANA!*, Gala Hispanic Theatre (Associate Sound Designer); *Heathers the Musical*, 32 Bars UMD (Sound Designer); *Dust*, Round House Theatre (Audio Engineer); *Meteor Shower*, Maryland Ensemble Theatre (Assistant Sound Designer). Current Head of Audio for George Washington University events/venues.

Zoe Walders (Understudy, *Tonight, we, may win* and *track*) is a first-year M.F.A. dance candidate. From Rochester, NY, she received her B.A. in dance from SUNY Potsdam. She has performed works by Adriane Fang, Mariah Maloney, Frazee Feet Dance, Create A Space NOW and PUSH Physical Theater.

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR, DESIGNERS AND STAGE MANAGERS

Assistant Stage Manager Gracie Guzman
 Assistant Media DesignerAmelia Talbot

PRODUCTION MANAGEMENT

Assistant Director of Production and OperationsJennifer Schwartz
 Production and Operations Coordinator Devin Kohn
 Production and Events Coordinator Kate Wander

PRODUCTION

SCENIC

Technical Director Michael Driggers
 Scene Shop Coordinator Reuven Goren
 Lead Carpenter Earl Browne
 CarpentersElla Gammel, Sarah Mack, Maura Martin,
 Terence Ngwafor, Harsh Senjaliya, Sophia Tiedt
 Carpenter Graduate StudentsTrey Pope, David Wilson
 Student Carpenter Amberley Kuo

SCENIC PAINTING

Scenic Charge Coordinator Ann Chismar
 Graduate Students Thea Luo, Margarita Syrocheva
 Scenic Artists Tifani T. Carnes, Bobbie Carter Dewhurst,
 Sherri Howells, Nicole Panebianco
 Student Scenic Artists Mars Burggraf, Kayla Harvey-Ali,
 Layla Nordrum, Guinivere Roberts, Hudson White

PROPS

Prop Shop Manager Timothy Jones
 Prop Shop Artisan Tyra Bell
 Props Graduate Student Jonas Rimkunas
 Prop Shop Student Artisans Adam Hawley, Chris Lee,
 Charlotte "C" Macko, Seth Mohan, Robert Pang

VENUE OPERATIONS

Stage Crew LeadsSteven Bronocco, Alexix Hayes, Cole Owens

TECHNOLOGY

Technology Shop Manager Jeffery Reckeweg

LIGHTING

Lighting Coordinator Carrie Barton
 Technology Shop Technician Cameron Smith
 Lead Electricians Max Abramovitz, Eli Bendel-Simso,
 Alex Bryan-Taff, Buruk Daniel, Isaac DeMarchi,
 Malory Hartman, James Newman,
 Liza Raney, Trey Wise
 Student Electricians Briana Bush, Mariah Faulkner,
 Jadyn Fine, Ella Gammel, Alana Isaac,
 Jerran Kowalski, Mel Mader, Royal Miller,
 Drew Okoye, Emily Pan, Erin Sanders, Ronak Shah,
 Pranav Shinde, Dylan Speiser, Amelia Talbot

PROJECTIONS

Projections Coordinator Zachary Rupp
 Projections Technician Cassandra Saulski

AUDIO

Assistant Manager of Audio James O'Connell

COSTUMES

Costume Shop Manager and Crafts Jen Daszczyszak
 Assistant Costume Shop Manager and Crafts Lisa Burgess
 Costume Tailor and Draper Tessa Lew
 Costume Drapers MJ Hromek, Steven Simon
 First Hand Dennis Kitmore
 Costume Graduate Assistant Olivia O'Brien
 Costume Technicians Brooke Baney, Mackenzie Gardiner,
 Grace Guzman, Ilana Mongilio, Jasmine Voon
 Costume Student Crew Rachel Henry, Wendy Saltsburg, Morgan Smiley

SHOW CREW

Light Board Operator Emily Sheridan
 Sound Board Operator Alondra Torres Negron
 Projection Board Operator Julianne Garnett
 Dresser Alex Booth
 Dresser Cassidy Henning
 Dresser Katherine Quigley
 Deck Genevieve Fernandez
 Deck Charlotte Macko

FACULTY

Jennifer Barclay
Amith Chandrashaker
Andrew Cissna
Dan Conway
Sam Crawford
Crystal Davis
Carla Della Gatta
Adriane Fang
Leslie Felbain
Frank Hildy
Helen Huang
James Harding
Misha Kachman
Kate Keeney
Kate Ladenheim
Ama Law
Maura Keefe
Alvin Mayes
Jared Mezzocchi
Lisa Nathans
Sara Pearson
Kendra Portier
Fatima Quander
Scot Reese
KenYatta Rogers
Van Tran Nguyen
Patrik Widrig

STAFF

Gabrielle Ching
Crystal Gaston
Isiah Johnson
Devin Kohn
Renee Nyack
Jenn Schwartz
Susan Miller
Catalina Toala
Kate Wander
Teri Zillmer

GRADUATE STUDENTS

Ronya Lee Anderson
Bailey Hammett
Breeanah Breeden
Christina Collins
Britney Falcon
Colin Franz
Mary Kate Ford
Marissa Kennedy
Mher Kandoyan
Kevin Clark
Luis Garcia
Christian Henriquez
Mariah Faulkner
Leo Grierson
Tim Kelly
Jerran Kowalski
Gerson Lanza Ruiz
Rashonda Lazar
Kaela Lawrence

Margaret Lapinski
Gianinia Lockely
Thea Luo
Sofia Olivar
Brandon Roak
Jalen Rose
Mike Riggs
Javier Padilla
Peter Pattengill
Doni Rotunno
James Sivert
Christina Smith
Rebecca Steinberg
Melissa Sturges
Patrik Saunders
Margarita Syrocheva
Sophia Tepermeister
Caitlin Woods
Zoe Walders
Cody Von Ruden
Rebecca Janney
Amanda Henney
Shartoya Jn.Baptiste
Gavin Mosier
Scott Monnin
Matre Grant
Mina Kawahara
Eran Eads
Yasmin Eubanks
Kristopher Pourzal
Atiya Dorsey