

DANCE NOW



FEBRUARY 15, 16 & 17 | 7:30 PM
GRACE STREET THEATER

934 WEST GRACE STREET, RICHMOND, VA

Featuring new works choreographed by Trebien Pollard, Scott Putman, MK Abadoo, Robbie Kinter, Autumn Proctor Waddell, Eric Rivera, and guest artists Stephanie Martinez and Norbert De La Cruz III.



TICKETS:

\$5 VCU STUDENTS | \$10 GENERAL ADMISSION



vcuarts | dance +
choreography
presents

Dance NOW 2024

Thursday + Friday + Saturday
February 15 + 16 + 17, 2023, 7:30pm
Grace Street Theater
934 West Grace Street
Richmond, Virginia

WELCOME TO VCUarts DANCE!

Letter from the Chair

Dear Dance Enthusiast,

VCUarts Dance + Choreography is delighted you are here joining us as we kick off our spring 2024 performance season. It is our honor to welcome you to this year's performance of VCU Dance Now showcasing a dynamic range of new works crafted by our esteemed faculty and world renowned guest artists.

It is a pleasure to share this evening with you in celebration of the wonderful work we do within the department while also highlighting the importance of a community coming together witnessing live performances and the sharing of so many varied movement stories.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Scott Putman". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Scott" and last name "Putman" clearly legible.

Scott Putman
Chair, VCUarts Dance + Choreography

PROGRAM

En el Vacío

Choreography by Eric Rivera

Music: *Una Palabra* by Carlos Varela, *Contraste* by Damian Verdun

Lighting Design: Gretta Daughtrey

Costume: Eric Rivera

Rehearsal Assistant: Sophia Berger

Dancers: Adi Denenberg, Zoelle Bleazard, Isabella Mansapit
Makayla Woolner

Program note: "En el Vacío" explores the intricate nuances of love and the excruciating agony of separation. The piece masterfully captures the essence of a lost connection, evoking a deep sense of longing and nostalgia. It challenges you to contemplate the profound impact that a single word can have on our lives.

Chromo-motion

Choreography by Robbie Kinter and the Dancers

Music By Robbie Kinter. Performed by Robbie Kinter

Lighting Design: Gretta Daughtrey

Costumes: Starrene Foster

Live Video and Coding: Dr. Kate Sicchio

Props designed by Robbie Kinter, constructed by Starrene Foster

Dancers: Imani Abney, Aidan Rafa, Eliza Seaton, Maia Wagler,
Brandi Wimpye

Hoptown: Playground Dandelions

Choreography: MK Abadoo with the Original Cast of Hoptown and VCU Cast

Rehearsal Direction: Christine Wyatt

Sound Design: "Amazing Grace," Vocals & Arrangement by Be Steadwell, Original Score by Asha Santee

Lighting Design: Gretta Daughtrey

Costume Design: Keith Walker

Dancers: Kat Casler, Mo Jackson, Trina Jeffer, Mildred Blakey,
Dr. Julinda Lewis, k. Russel, Jillian Sanders, Armony Santos, Holly Trenbath, Chloe Walker, Amaya Weston,
Brandi Wimpye

Old, New, Borrowed, & Blue

Choreography by Norbert De La Cruz III

Music by Jóhann Jóhannsson, Christopher Cerrone

Lighting Design: Gretta Daughtrey

Costumes: Norbert De La Cruz III

VCU Faculty Rehearsal Director: Eric Rivera

Dancers: Kailah Doles, Mars Dunston, Erin Dutton, Khiana Gilmer, Abby Hardy, Casey Morse, Solana Rios, Taylor Rolfe, Eliza Seaton, Holly Trenbath, Makayla Woolner, Emma Wynkoop

Program Note: "Old, New, Borrowed & Blue" is a restaged work for VCU. It is comprised of excerpts from different repertoires, a playground in which I add or subtract and adapt pieces from my own body of work from the past 10 years. It is an opportunity to look at my work from different angles. This is an invitation to revisit compositions written for the human body and create diverse materials from emotional embodiment and collaboration. This is a response to our reactive emotions; remixing different point of my creative journey, interrogating the vows we make with our bodies, looking creation with a fresh eye, and gaining a renewed sense of ourselves.

INTERMISSION

Streaming Into Being

Choreography by Scott Putman

Music: *The Ridge* (Kid Koala Remix), Sarah Neufeld, *Stream6* by sonicport

Sound and Video Editing: Robbie Kinter

Lighting Design: Gretta Daughtrey

Costume Design: Kasey Brown

Dancers: Zoelle Bleazard, Mariella DeFazio-Rio, Toria Donaldson, Olivia Gwinner, Kate Lingo, Shauna Paddyfote, Vonne Walker, Emma Wynkoop

"You be safe now, ya hear"

Choreography by Autumn Proctor Waddell

Music: Sound Compilation Edited by Blake Roeder, Voice Spoken by Gladys Irene Bowles, *Smile* Performed by Judy Garland, *Ut* Performed by Nadia Sirota, *Unaccompanied Cello Suite No.1 in G Major, BWV 1007:*

Prelude Performed by Yo-Yo Ma, Excerpt from
Meeting You Seemed Easy Performed by Mira Calix,
Jingle Bells Performed by Ellie Irene Waddell, *Number*
2 Performed by Anne Muller

Lighting Design: Gretta Daughtrey

Costume: Autumn I. Proctor Waddell

Prop Credit: Autumn I. Proctor Waddell

Dancers: Josie Bennet, Jayden Bidle, Katiana (Kat) Casler, Mari
Delano-Rio, Mars Dunston, Olivia Gwinner, Jillian
Sanders, Maia Wagler

Patchwork: the parable of a person presented as parts and pieces

Choreography by Trebien Pollard

Music: Michael Wall album *Quiet* track *Quiet 2*, *Quiet 4*

Lighting Design by Gretta Daughtrey

Costume: Trebien Pollard

Dancers: Kailah Doles, Erin Dutton, Elle Hardesty, Sydney
Goldston, Casey Morse, Marissa Schroeder, Solana
Rios, Taylor Rolfe, Amaya Weston

Gentle, Into That Good Night

Choreography by Stephanie Martinez

Music: *Softly, As I Leave You* Performed by Frank Sinatra;
Partita No. 2 in C Minor, BWV 826: V. Rondeau written by
Johann Sebastian Bach, performed by Vladimir
Feltsman; *Prelude in D Minor, BWV 926*, written by
Johann Sebastian Bach, performed by Janos
Sebestyen; *Albinoni: Adagio For Strings And Organ In G*
Minor - Adagio, written by Tomaso Albinoni, performed
by Edward Brewer, Eriko Sato, Orpheus Chamber
Orchestra; *April Come She Will*, performed by Simon &
Garfunkel, written by Paul Simon.

Lighting Design by Gretta Daughtrey

Costumes: Stephanie Martinez

VCU Faculty Rehearsal Director: Autumn Proctor

Dancers: Josie Bennet, Sophia Berger, Jayden Bidle, Toria
Donaldson, Sydney Goldston, Chynia Harris, Moriah (Mo)
Jackson, Isabella Mansapit, Josh Moise, Aidan Raffa,
Marissa Schroeder, Chloe Walker

ARTIST BIOGRAPHIES

MK ABADOO (they/she) is artistic director of MKArts. Abadoo devises intergenerational and immersive dance performances that combine Africanist and touch-rich movement vocabularies with place honoring community building. Moving from a spirit of joy and ease, their work amplifies the lives, stories, and wisdom of gender expansive, queer, Black cultures. MK's work has been commissioned by The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, The Clarice Smith Performing Arts Center, the University of Richmond, Dance Place, the Pennyroyal Arts Council Alhambra Theatre, and the Dance Exchange. She was a 2017 U.S. Fulbright Fellow and a 40 Under 40 awardee from Prince George's County Social Innovation Fund. MK was included as a "rising star" in Dance Magazine's 2018 25 to Watch and in 2019 was awarded by Richmond, VA Dance Awards for their choreography in a commemorative justice site-specific work performed at Richmond's African burial grounds. They are a 2022 Dance/USA Artist Fellow and an assistant professor in the Department of Dance + Choreography at Virginia Commonwealth University, where they chair the Racial Equity, Arts and Culture Core in the Institute of Inclusion, Inquiry and Innovation.

NORBERT DE LA CRUZ, III was born in Bayombong Nueva Vizcaya, Philippines and raised in Los Angeles, CA Norbert De La Cruz III is recognized for his versatility in performance and choreography. He is a collaborative artist with roots in classical and contemporary dance. After moving to New York in 2006, he received a BFA in Dance from the Juilliard School followed by an MFA in Dance from Hollins University. He is a New York and Los Angeles based freelance dance artist.

Norbert's movement practice has brought nationwide attention to dance companies and educational programs. His physicality is shaped by his training experiences from the Gabriella Foundation, LA County High School for the Arts, Marat Daukayev School of Ballet, The Juilliard School, and through his performance career as a professional dancer. He started training in classical dance at age 11 (Cecchetti and Vaganova) with ballet masters Vera Ninkovic and Marat Daukayev. Professionally, Norbert has performed as a soloist with the Metropolitan Opera's production of Aida, Aszure Barton & Artists

in Germany & Austria (Blue Soup & Busk), Balletto Teatro di Torino (Italy), Joe Goode Performance Group, Sydney Skybetter & Associates, Aspen Santa Fe Ballet, and Complexions Contemporary Ballet. As a pre-professional, he was honored the Music Center's 17th annual Spotlight Award, the Emerging Young Artist Award, Youth America Grand Prix 2nd place in non-classical, and represented the Juilliard School at Kodak Theatre's first annual Dizzy Feet Foundation Gala in Hollywood, CA. Norbert recently been casted in Warner Brothers Pictures film adaptation of Tony-winning musical In The Heights. Additionally, Norbert has performed works by choreographers José Limón, David Parker, Adam Houghland, Johannes Wieland, Ohad Naharin, Aszure Barton, Jerome Robbins, Larry Keigwin, Jiri Pikorny, Hernando Fernando Magedan, Spenser Theberge, Jeremy McQueen, Camille A. Browne, Dwight Rhoden, Desmond Richardson, Lightfoot & Leon, Crystal Pite, Alonzo King, Zachary Tang, Gregory Dawson, and Jirí Kylián.

ROBBIE KINTER discovered his love of dance and music while earning his BFA in Sculpture at VCU. Robbie has created over 50 original scores for dance, film, and theatre including works for Amaranth Contemporary Dance, Robert Battle, Clancy Works, and Starr Foster Dance. Robbie's love of contact improvisation can be seen in the many dances he's choreographed over the past four decades. Two of his collaborations; Deconstructed Dialogues, with Martha Curtis, and Them, with VCU Dance founder Frances Wessells, were selected for the Choreographers Showcase at the Clarice Smith Performing Arts Center, University of Maryland. His video dance tantrum was selected for the 18th Annual International Screendance Festival and is in the collection of The American Dance Festival. Robbie created sound design for An Oak Tree at Firehouse Theatre; Medea Myth at VCU Theatre; and with Ryan Jones; Equus and John for Cadence Theatre. Robbie plays drums for the music ensemble Rattlemouth and is the Music Director for VCUart's Department of Dance and Choreography.

STEPHANIE MARTINEZ Chicago-based choreographer, Stephanie Martinez, moves her audiences along a journey guided by the kinetic momentum of her award-winning works spanning over 15 years. With original creations for Joffrey

Ballet, Ballet Hispanico, Luna Negra Dance Theater, Charlotte Ballet, Sacramento Ballet, Bruce Wood Dance, Nashville Ballet, Tulsa Ballet, Kansas City Ballet, BalletX, and Milwaukee Ballet, among others. Theatre credits include Chicago Shakespeare Theatre and the Lyric Opera of Chicago. Martinez's versatility expands the boundaries of contemporary ballet movement. Martinez has created over 70 ballets on companies and collegiate programs across the country. Martinez has received numerous grants for her work and is continually recognized for her work as a female artist of color. Dubbed "a chameleon" of choreography by the Chicago Tribune, Martinez's psychologically revelatory works challenge the viewer's notion of what's possible.

Martinez is the founder and artistic director of PARA.MAR Dance Theatre in Chicago, IL established in July 2020.

TREBIEN POLLARD is an assistant professor of Dance + Choreography. He received training at the Alvin Ailey American Dance Center, Florida A&M University, Florida State University, Martha Graham School of Contemporary Dance, and from a number of gifted teachers and choreographers. Pollard has performed with many dance companies, including RIOULT, Pearl Lang Dance Theatre, Erick Hawkins Dance Company, the Metropolitan Opera Ballet, Ronald K. Brown/Evidence, Bebe Miller Company, Urban Bush Women and Pilobolus. He appeared in the jazz musical opera, "The Hang" by Taylor Mac and Matt Ray. As a choreographer, Pollard has choreographed and toured with RASA recording artist "Nomad" and choreographed for director William "Electric" Black's "The Hamlet Project," "The Damned: A Rock Musical" and "Frankenstein: The Rock Musical." Recently, Trebien premiered his solo project, entitled "Vegan Chitlins and the Artist Formerly Known as the N-word." He co-choreographed with Jawole Willa Jo Zollar and performed in the opera, "The Ritual of Breath is the Rite to Resist" by Jonathan Berger and Vievee Francis. Pollard appeared in the feature film "Ghostlight," starring Richard Move as "Martha Graham." As well as appearing in several photography books; In My Stairwell (Mark Seliger), Twisted Yoga (Pilobolus), Body Knots and Passion & Lines (Howard Schatz). Trebien has been on faculty at the American Dance Festival, Queens College, Adelphi University, the University of Southern Mississippi, Goucher College,

Middlebury College, Montclair State University, Marymount Manhattan College, University at Buffalo and Dartmouth College, as well as a licensed certified GYROTONIC® and GYROKINESIS® trainer. He earned his MFA in dance from New York University's Tisch School of the Arts, and his BS in mathematics education from Florida A&M University.

AUTUMN PROCTOR WADDELL was born and raised in Virginia, where she started her early years of training with her mother through the Ann Catherine Cross School of Dance, where she is currently the Artistic Director. Some of her most valued dance experiences include working extensively with Milton Myers, studying and demonstrating the Horton technique at Steps on Broadway, the Alvin Ailey School, and Impulztanz, Austria, as well as attending Jacob's Pillow as a scholarship student two summers in the Contemporary Program performing works by Angelin Preljocaj, Pina Bausch, Merce Cunningham, Jose Limón, Jiří Kylián, Maguy Marin, and Azure Barton. She holds a Masters of Fine Arts (MFA) in dance performance and choreography from New York University, Tisch School of the Arts and her Bachelor of Fine Arts (BFA) in Dance with a concentration in Modern from Marymount Manhattan College, NYC. She spent time studying abroad at Danceworks Berlin and has performed under the direction of and in collaboration with Bill T. Jones, Kyle Abraham, Bill Young, Cheryl Therion, Rodger Belman, Bridget L. Moore, and Christian von Howard. She has served on faculty at East Carolina University, University of Virginia, and currently at Virginia Commonwealth University since 2009.

SCOTT PUTMAN is an Associate Professor of Dance + Choreography at Virginia Commonwealth University where he teaches contemporary movement practices in both ballet and modern in addition to the creative coursework for making dances. Putman brings a unique perspective to the work he shares within the curriculum through his work as the creator of the Elemental Body Alignment System© (EBAS). This re-education and structural integration technique informs all of the technical information he presents, as well as a focused exploration throughout the freshmen year for efficiency in functional mechanics. EBAS is shared nationally and internationally, through Putman's workshops in addition to the teacher certification workshops worldwide. Scott is also the

Artistic Director of Amaranth Arts creating special projects and collaborations to create sustainability through the art of dance. He has received awards for his work, including the distinguished Theresa Pollack Excellence in the Arts Award in Dance for his work with Amaranth, and the National Choreography Plan Award for exceptional choreography from RDA, Pacific. Putman received his MFA from the University of California at Irvine, where he was a Chancellor's Fellow and William Gillespie Scholar, and his BA from Columbia College, Chicago.

ERIC RIVERA is a native of Puerto Rico, earned his MFA in Choreography from SUNY Purchase College. During his performing career, he danced with Ballet Hispanico of New York for 13 seasons, where he helped create over 20 original works. He performed with Minnesota Ballet as a principal dancer, Ballet Theater of Pennsylvania, Ballet Teatro Municipal de San Juan P.R., Danza Jazz de San Juan, and West Side Story's European tour. He has appeared as a guest artist in companies such as Connecticut Ballet, Thomas Ortiz Dance, Ballet Concierto de Puerto Rico, Bradley Shelver Contemporary Dance Theater, Westchester Ballet, and Brooklyn Ballet. Eric had the pleasure of performing choreographies of Ann Reinking, Mark Morris, José Limon, Kenneth McMillan, Margot Sappington, Graciela Daniel, Kevin Wynn, Vicente Nebrada, Talley Beatty, and George Balanchine.

His works have been presented by Ballet Contemporáneo de Camagüey in Cuba, EDANCO Dance Festival in the Dominican Republic, Ciudad Interior in Mexico, Dance Iquail, Ashani Dance, Convergence Ballet, Owensboro Dance Company, CSU Fullerton, University of Mississippi, Western Kentucky University, University of Richmond, Orange County College, Purchase College, Goucher College, W&L University, Jacksonville University, Virginia Commonwealth University, the University of Louisiana at Lafayette, L2 Dance Theater, New England Dance Theater, ACDA South, ACDA Baja Region, ACDFA Gala at Little Rock, AR, NY Summer Stage, and the show They Called it Rock. His television appearances include PBS' Setting the Stage, NBC's 20th Hispanic Heritage Awards, Hispanic Day Parade with Brenda Blackmon, Puerto Rican Day Parade with Ernie Anastos, and the documentary "Pedro Ruiz Home Coming," among others.

DANCE NOW 2024 PRODUCTION STAFF

VCU Dance Artistic Director	Eric Rivera
Concert Director	Eric Rivera
Lighting Designer	Gretta Daughtrey
Stage Manager	Gretta Daughtrey
Technical Director	Leland Lew
Sound Board Operator	Ana Levi
Light Board Operator	Sage Craver
Backstage Crew	Mia Correll, Kate Nichols, Elizabeth Delcid, Quinn Gardiner
Front of House 2/15	Kenna Pizzano, Justine Halley
Front of House 2/16	Jazmine Foster, Ryann Smith
Front of House 2/17	Sophia Mishoe, Rio Broccolo

VCUarts DANCE ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

VCUarts Dance graciously thanks the E. Rhodes and Leona B. Carpenter Foundation for providing significant support to VCUarts Dance majors in the pursuit of careers in dance. Many thanks also to Steve Rula and the Kip Kephart Foundation, and Ms. Joanne Draucker for support of VCU arts Dance programming and scholarship funding. During the 2023-2024 VCU Dance Season, the choreographic residencies with Stephanie Martinez and Norbert De la Cruz, made possible in part by a grant from the E. Rhodes and Leona B. Carpenter Foundation.

DEPARTMENT OF DANCE AND CHOREOGRAPHY

Department Chair and Associate Professor	Scott Putman
Professor	Dr. E. Gaynell Sherrod
Assistant Professor, iCubed	MK Abadoo
Assistant Professor	Sinclair Emoghene
Assistant Professor, iCubed	Dr. Julian Kevon Glover
Assistant Professor	Trebien Pollard
Associate Professor	Eric Rivera
Associate Professor/Dance-Kinetic Imaging	Dr. Kate Sicchio
Associate Professor	Judith Steel
Assistant Professor	Autumn Proctor Waddell
Music Director	Robbie Kinter
Administrative Affairs Coordinator	Jessica Casey
Box Office Manager	Jamie King

VCU DANCE PART-TIME FACULTY SPRING 2024

Angelica Burgos
Starrene Foster
Talita Jackson
Denise Purvis
Blake Roeder

Kristina Edwards
Dr. Julinda Lewis
Morgan Osina
Melanie Richards

VCU DANCE GRACE STREET THEATER

Technical Director

Leland Lew

ABOUT VCU DANCE

Recognized by professional dancers and choreographers as “a place where things are happening,” Virginia Commonwealth University’s Department of Dance and Choreography offers a vibrant and stimulating atmosphere where students prepare for careers in dance. The VCUarts Dance community of highly motivated, disciplined, and creative dancers seeks to shape the future of the field. We are a vital, energetic department with an established reputation, diverse guest artist program, and professionally active faculty dedicated to working with students. VCUarts Dance is a pre-professional program that provides students with numerous opportunities for individual artistic growth in a community setting that cultivates innovation, collaboration, and professionalism. VCUarts Dance seeks to create a diverse and invigorating educational environment designed to prepare students for the challenges and possibilities of a professional career as informed and engaged artists in the field of dance. Virginia Commonwealth University is an accredited member of the National Associations of the Schools of Dance.

VCU DANCE AUDITIONS

For admission to the 2024-2025 Academic Year

Pre-registration required. Auditionees should be prepared to participate in a ballet barre, modern center and improvisation, and an interview with VCU Dance faculty. Virtual auditions accepted on a rolling basis. For information on applications and auditions, visit: arts.vcu.edu/admissions/how-to-apply

UPCOMING EVENTS



"Pathfinders" Dance Student Concert

MARCH 29 & 30, 2024 | 7:30 PM
GRACE STREET THEATER



TWO TRUTHS: Truth Two Spring Senior Project Concert

APRIL 26 & 27, 2024 | 7:30 PM
GRACE STREET THEATER



First Year Repertory Concert

MAY 3, 2024 | 7:30 PM
GRACE STREET THEATER