

vcuarts | dance



inter9

November 15-16 & 23

FALL 2024 SENIOR CAPSTONE CONCERT

Part 1

November 15th & 16th @ 7:30pm

Grace Street Theater: 934 West Grace Street

Choreographers:

Imani Abney
Kailah Doles
Mars Dunston
Olivia Gwinner
Armony Santos
Eliza Seaton
Emma Wynkoop

Part 2

November 23rd @ 5pm & 7:30pm

The Dance Center: 10 N. Brunswick St.

Choreographers:

Chynia Harris
Amaya Weston

INTER9 INTER9 INTER9 INTER9

vcuarts | dance +
choreography
presents

INTER9

Fall 2024 Senior Project Concert

Friday + Saturday
November 15 + 16, 2024
Grace Street Theater

Friday, November 23, 2024
10 N. Brunswick

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WELCOME TO VCUarts DANCE!

Dear Dance Enthusiasts,

It is with great pleasure that I welcome you to inter9, the Fall 2024 Senior Project Concert. The Senior Project serves as a capstone experience for graduating Dance majors. Senior students must choreograph their own project and assist in the co-production of the concert series.

In the VCUarts Dance + Choreography curriculum, students have an opportunity to develop their creative potential as choreographers over a span of seven semesters: from improvisation in the first year, through music, composition, choreography, and the senior project process, students experience sources, diverse perspectives, and processes from which they develop their artistic voices.

The Senior Project class as a cohort assists in the production of the concert through marketing, budgeting, fundraising, scheduling, promotion, and assisting with writing the program. This semester, we are pleased to present a wide range of choreographic visions, both inside and outside the traditional proscenium stage space, including seven works at the Grace Street Theater, November 15-16, and two site-based works performed at the Dance Center on November 23, 2024. The faculty and I are delighted that you've joined us for tonight's performance, and I hope you enjoy this great work.

Thank you for your support,

Gaynell Sherrod

Dr. Gaynell Sherrod, Professor + Concert Director, and
The Faculty of VCU Dance + Choreography

FRI 11/15 & SAT 11/16

GRACE STREET THEATRE

In the Company Of...

Choreographer: Eliza Seaton

Cast: Henry Carroll, Luke Moen, Frances Baker, Nia Ricks, Ella Garcia,
Zoelle Bleazard, Toria Donaldson

Rehearsal Assistant: Olivia Gwinner

Music: "Gemini Syringes" by The Flaming Lips and "Claim It" by Klein
Music Mixed by: Josh Moise

Costumes: Mouse Schaub in collaboration with Eliza Seaton

Inner Rhythms

Choreographer: Imani Abney

Cast: Elizabeth Chicas-Delcid, Mia Correll, Kayden Conover, Cara
Cristaldi, Jazmine Foster, Aidan Rafa, and Sophia Pimentel
Yoder

Music: "Ancestral Plane" by Ludwig Goransson, "I Don't Just Dance" by
Black Chakra, and "Dragonfly" by Dana and Alden

Costumes: Lucas Tober in collaboration with Imani Abney

rushing for a wait, waiting for a rush

Choreographer: Mars Dunston

Cast: Abby Bass, Zoelle Bleazard, Hannah Devenie, Zoe Fischer, Ashley
Franklin, Laila Gaddist, Justine Hadley, Alannah O'Hern, and
Samantha White (superstudy)

Music: "Alabama", "Mine", "U-N-I", and "Wither" by Frank Ocean
Music Mixed by: Leila Gaddist

Costumes: Mouse Schaub in collaboration with Mars Dunston

End of the Hall, Straight Ahead

Choreographer: Olivia Gwinner

Cast: Kaileigh Archer-Wright, Josie Bennett, Adi Denenberg, T Eisenhart,
Ella Garcia, Aiyana Jenkins, Josh Moise, Kate Nichols, Audrey
Park, Maia Wagler

Rehearsal Assistant: Eliza Seaton

Music: "Cold Little Heart" by Michael Kiwanuka

Costumes: Sam French in collaboration with Olivia Gwinner

INTER

INTERMISSION

Ye Shall Know the Truth, and the Truth Shall Make You Free

Choreographer: Emma Wynkoop

Cast: Kaileigh Archer-Wright, Ma-Siya Dycus, Elle Hardesty, Aiyan
Jenkins, Luke Moen, Casey Morse, Alannah O'Hern

Rehearsal Assistant: Holly Trenbath

Music: "In the Cloud Forest" by Andy Summers and Robert Fripp and
"Nude" by Radiohead

Music Mixed By: Maximus Schmorrow and Simon Bhatia

Costumes: Stella Convertino and Melanie Garber in collaboration with
Emma Wynkoop

enough is enough...right?

Choreographer: Armony Santos

Cast: Megan Bond, Cara Cristaldi, Mahari Dow, Justine Hadley, Bella
Manaspit, Vonne Walker, Jordynn Wright, and Sophia Pimental
Yoder

Rehearsal Assistant: Amaya Weston

Music: "Brotísór" by Ólafur Arnalds and "Woven Song" – piano
reworks by Hania Rani & Ólafur Arnalds

Costumes: Erik Mayes in collaboration with Armony Santos

Forever Changing: SAOKO

Choreographer: Kailah Doles

Cast: Mia Correll, Toria Donaldson, T Eisenhart, Zoe Fisher, Ana Levi,
Josh Moise, Kate Nichols, Aidan Rafa, Veanna Rodriguez,
Dezmond Sam-Peal, and Yterniti Williams

Music: Introduction music by Tim Wes, Poetry by @j.scoop, and
"Live For Yourself" by Thee Sacred Souls

Costumes: Melanie Garber

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SAT 11/23

10 N. BRUNSWICK

C4N U D1G 1T?!?!?

Choreographer: Amaya Weston

Cast: Mackenzie Coles, Mahari Dow, Jazmine Foster, Laila Gaddist,
Madisyn Littlejohn, Shauna Paddyfote, Janelle Ragland,
Nia Ricks, Aniyah Scott, Brielle Wells, Laila Weems, and
Neylah Wilson

Rehearsal Assistant: Armony Santos

Music: "Can I Hold the Mic" by Solange, "Try N Follow" by Kaidi
Tatham, "The Witch" by Funkadelic, "War Ship Touchante" by
Brides of Funkenstein "Hey Hey" by Dennis Ferrer, "Astral
Traveling" by Pharoah Sanders, and "ATLiens" by Outkast
Music Mixed By: Arrick Wilson

Costumes: Stella Convertino, Mouse Schaub, and Lucas Tober in
collaboration with Amaya Weston

to discard, to repair

Choreographer: Chynia Harris

Cast: Megan Bond, Elizabeth Chicas-Delcid, Mackenzie Coles, Kayden
Conover, Mariella Defazio-Rio, Kailah Doles, Elle Hardesty,
Shauna Paddyfote, Taylor Rolfe, Vonne Walker, and
Yterniti Williams

Music: "Rich- Interlude" ft. Kodak Black, "XXX," "Count Me Out,"
"Savior- Interlude" ft. Baby Keem, and Mortal Man - all by
Kendrick Lamar

Costumes: Erik Mayes in collaboration with Chynia Harris

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GRACE STREET THEATRE PRODUCTION TEAM

Concert Director	Dr. E. Gaynell Sherrod
Technical Director	Leland Lew
Lighting Designer/Stage Manager	Emily James
Assistant Stage Manager	Quinn Gardiner
Light Board Operator	Taylor Rolfe
Sound Board Operator	Rio Broccolo
Guest Costume Designer	Maus Schaub
Costumes Assistant	Samantha White
Run Crew	Nailah Barnes, Nick Henderlite, Sophia Mishoe, Aniyah Scott
Box Office Assistants	Vivian Dao, Aiden Lazenby

10 N. Brunswick Production Team

Concert Director	Dr. E. Gaynell Sherrod
Lighting Designer/Stage Manager	Emily James
Assistant Stage Managers	Josie Bennett, Mars Dunston
Guest Costume Designer	Maus Schaub
Costumes Assistant	Samantha White
Music Assistant	Aiden Rafa
Technical Assistant	Imani Abney
Box Office Assistants	Vivian Dao

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Fall 2024 Senior Capstone cohort graciously acknowledges Le Lew of Grace Street Theater, Emily James, Kendra Rai, Assistant Professor/VCU Theatre and Student Costume Design team (Lucas Tober, Erik Mayes, Sam French, Melanie Garber, and Stella Convertino) led by Mouse Schaub, VCU Dance Faculty and Holly Alford, Acting Chair.

Senior Project Class GoFundMe Acknowledgements

Wynkoop Realty Group
Anonymous
Anonymous
Xiao Dan Jiang
Elizabeth Seaton

INTER9

And all donations were greatly appreciated.

We would like to thank you for your support!

BIOGRAPHIES

Imani Abney, from Baltimore, Maryland, Abney began her dance training when she was 5 years old. Since then, she has had a passion for dance in multiple genres, distinctively modern/contemporary and hip hop. In 2021, she came to VCU to pursue a Bachelor of Fine Arts (BFA) Dance and Choreography, with an expected graduation date of May 2025. During her study at VCU Dance, Imani has collaborated with various artists including VCU faculty Robbie Kinter, and VCU guest artists Kayla Farrish (premiere VCU Dance NOW 2025) and Paloma McGregor (premiere April 2025). In addition, she has performed in numerous dance concerts including VCU Dance Now, Pathfinders Student Concert, and Senior Capstone projects. After graduation, Imani Abney will pursue a career in the professional dance arena. You can follow her journey @_theimanimichelle_

Kailah Doles, born and raised in Arlington, VA began dancing at age five when she started training at Chris Collins Dance Studio in Alexandria, VA, where she spent 12 formative years. Her dedication led her to the studio's elite competition team, where she danced for seven years, earning numerous scholarships and awards. In 2021, she graduated from Wakefield High School and entered VCU Department of Dance + Choreography to pursue a Bachelor of Fine Arts (BFA). At VCU, Doles has continued to hone her skills as a dancer/performer and has performed in works by renowned choreographers such as Norbert De La Cruz III (2024) and (VCU faculty) Trebien Pollard. This year, she will perform in a work by guest artist Kayla Farrish, and (VCU faculty) Autumn Proctor Waddell in VCU Dance Now 2025. Kailah completed a certification in the Elemental Body Alignment System (EBAS) with Scott Putman in the summer of 2024, thus advancing her technical and somatic skills. Additionally, Doles' passion for music has enriched her dance artistry throughout her life, wherein she sang at prominent government events, including the 50th anniversary commemorating the signing of the Civil Rights Act, attended by President Barack Obama in 2011. She later directed her high school's Madrigals chorus and obtained key roles in regional productions of *The Lion King* and Shakespeare Theatre. Although dance has taken center stage, her lifelong journey in music continues to shape her artistry. Follow Kailah's journey on Instagram: @KailahDoles

Mars Dunston, originally from Suffolk, Virginia, is an emerging artist, dancer, and choreographer pursuing a Bachelor of Fine Arts (BFA) in Dance and Choreography. They began dancing at the age of three at Maureen's School of Dance training in various genres and styles. By the age of nine, Mars earned a spot on the competition team, and years later returned as both a teacher and choreographer postgrad. They have had the opportunity to be an active member of *Be the Change*, a

dancer-run fundraising campaign centered on supporting causes they are passionate about and to assist these organizations to better our community. Additionally, at 14 Mars began studying at the Governor's School for the Arts where they received pre-professional training in various codified modern and ballet techniques. During their time at VCU, they have had the honor of performing in countless student works, senior capstone projects, a faculty work by Autumn Proctor Waddell, and the works of guest artists Norbert de la Cruz III (2024) and Kayla Farrish (VCU Dance NOW 2025). In the spring of 2024, Mars debuted their first work in Pathfinders, a formal student showcase at VCU Dance, titled "*i want you to love me before death becomes us*". Mars' research yields recurring themes focused on destigmatizing mental health and calls attention to its effect on interpersonal and intrapersonal relationships. You can follow their artistic journey @mrcyswrl (personal) and @mrcysartsywrl (dance) on Instagram.

Olivia Gwinner, from Winchester, Virginia trained at Shenandoah Conservatory Arts Academy (SCAA) until 2021. She entered VCU Dance + Choreography in the fall of 2021 to pursue a Bachelor of Fine Arts. During her time at VCU, she has performed in faculty works, Autumn Proctor Waddell and Scott Putman (VCU Dance Now 2024), and in numerous senior capstone projects. In 2023, Olivia choreographed and danced in the Half Past Dead "Show me the Way" official music video. Later that year, she danced in The Steel Wheels' "Hero" music video. More recently, Gwinner is in the work of guest artist, Kayla Farrish, which will premiere in VCU Dance NOW February 2025. After graduating with her BFA (expected May 2025), Olivia Gwinner plans to follow her passion by pursuing a professional career as a performer and choreographer. You can follow her on Instagram: @olivia_gwinner.

Chynia (shu-nye-yuh) Ariana Harris began training at Ann Catherine Cross School of Dance, studying multiple genres from pointe to hip-hop and competitive dance at convention circuits. Chynia is in her last year at Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU) seeking a Bachelor of Fine Arts (BFA) in Dance & Choreography and a minor in Media Studies. Since attending VCU, she has had the opportunity to dance in works by guest artists Christian von Howard and Stephanie Martinez, and in the work of faculty Autumn Proctor Waddell. In 2023, Harris was selected to present her solo work *Light the match, Release the weight* at the American College Dance Association (ACDA) and in the VCU Student Dance Concert Pathfinders (March 2024). She was selected as a Luminous Dance Convention Tour Ambassador for their 2022-23 season, where she supported the work of fostering a more nurturing and socially aware dance community. On campus, she is the Programming Chair of the student organization Black Art Student Empowerment (B.A.S.E), and a member of VCU students' NAACP and

Heels Incorporated Dance Performance Team. She crafted and presented a live art installation show titled *Tabula Rasa* in Fall 2023 at the Anderson Gallery alongside two other VCU students with the VCU Arts Collaborative Research Grant. Harris is interested in incorporating the combination of dance and media into her career and has created and performed in numerous dance films while at VCU. Three of her films have been accepted and shown in Rough Cuts, the annual VCU Dance student film show. She was also selected to do a dance photoshoot to represent VCU Dance and grace the cover of the 2023-24 university overview book sent out to potential students worldwide. This image was also featured on billboards and posted on walls around campus. Harris was honored to receive the Dean's Scholarship in Dance her sophomore year (2023) and is a two-time recipient of the Carpenter Foundation Scholarship (2023 and 2024). You can keep up with her journey on Instagram @ChyniaTheCreator

Armony Santos, from Boston, Massachusetts, began her dance training at the age of 10 taking classes at 4 Star Dance Studio, which led to the Jo-Mé Dance Company; all the while she attended Boston Arts Academy High School. During that time, she trained under dance masters Licia Pitts McLean, Maylisa Chandler, Joe Gonzáles, Diaman Wood, William B. McLaughlin, and many more. Santos received her Associates of the Arts (AA) degree from Dean College in May 2022, and entered Virginia Commonwealth University to pursue a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Dance and Choreography (expected May 2025). Since attending VCU, she has had the opportunity to perform in a work by faculty M.K Bowden, and in works by guest artists Kaylah Farrish and Paloma McGregor – with performance dates in spring in 2025. Santos is passionate about dance study and performance, which garnered her the 2023 VCU Dance "Double Take" Award. After graduating with her BFA in Dance + Choreography, Armony Santos plans to pursue a professional dance as a performer and choreographer. Please, follow her dance journey on Instagram @asantos.dances.

Eliza Seaton is originally from Raleigh, NC. She is an emerging artist, dancer, and choreographer. She has danced from a very young age but found her love for modern dance and choreography at Arts Together in Raleigh, North Carolina. There she studied under Katherine Auman, Michelle Pearson, and Glenda Mackie from 2016-2021. In the fall of 2021, Seaton entered VCU to pursue a Bachelor of Fine Arts (BFA) in Dance and Choreography. Since then, she has had the opportunity to work with many different artists; she has performed in student works, senior capstone projects and faculty works by Judith Steel and Robbie Kinter. Additionally, she has worked with VCU Dance guest artists Norbert De Le Cruz (2024) and Kayla Farrish (VCU Dance NOW 2025). In 2023 she was a part of a music video with the song Hero produced by The Steel Wheels, an American folk band based in

Virginia. Of note, Seaton received the Carpenter scholarship (VCUarts) in 2022. Seaton is a certified Elemental Body Alignment Systems (EBAS) instructor and currently a dance instructor at Relevé RVA. Seaton is working toward completing her BFA in May 2025, after which she plans to dance professionally and travel to different countries to experience dance in other cultures.

Amaya Weston, is pursuing a Bachelor of Fine Arts (BFA) in Dance and Choreography with a minor in African American Studies. She began training at 11 years old, at Expressions Dance Company in Annapolis, MD. Some of Weston's VCU Dance performance credits include VCU Theater's *For Colored Girls Who Have Considered Suicide/ When the Rainbow Is Enuf* (2024), in *VCU Dance NOW* (2024) and in the work of VCU Dance guest artist Kaylah Farrish (VCU Dance NOW 2025 premiere). Weston has performed in the works of VCU Dance faculty MK Bowden, Trebien Pollard and several senior project student works. Additionally, she has had her work showcased in the 2023 Student Concert *Pathfinders*. Outside of VCU, Weston has performed in the regional production of *The Wiz* with Artscentric in Baltimore, MD. You can follow her journey, and continue to support her work through instagram! @mayaaa.movesss

Emma Wynkoop, originally from Virginia Beach, is pursuing her Bachelor of Fine Arts (BFA) in Dance and Choreography at Virginia Commonwealth University. Emma began dancing at the age of two and graduated from the Governor's School for the Arts dance department in 2021. Prior to graduating, Wynkoop earned her E-RYT 200 Yoga Certification and NASM Personal Training Certification (2021). Wynkoop is a certified Elemental Body Alignment Systems (EBAS) instructor, as well as a certified stretch therapist. In her time at VCU, she has participated in works by faculty Autumn Proctor Waddell, Scott Putman, and guest artist Norbert De La Cruz (2024). In 2023, she performed in the Hero music video, produced by the Steel Wheels, an American Folk band. Wynkoop has traveled to Fuiggi, Italy as an assistant teacher with Dance Italia (2018) and attended the Parsons Dance Summer Intensive in New York City in 2023. She is currently the director of Rising Choreographers workshop in Virginia Beach and is a dance instructor at Relevé RVA. Emma Wynkoop is looking forward to pursuing her passions in dance performance and body conditioning in New York City after graduation (May 2025). Feel free to follow her journey on social media @Emma.Wynkoop.

DEPARTMENT OF DANCE AND CHOREOGRAPHY

Interim Department Chair	Holly Alford
Assistant Professor, iCubed	MK Abadoo
Assistant Professor, iCubed	Dr. Julian Kevon Glover
Assistant Professor	Trebien Pollard
Associate Professor	Eric Rivera
Professor	Dr. E. Gaynell Sherrod
Assistant Professor/Dance-Kinetic Imaging	Dr. Kate Sicchio
Associate Professor	Judith Steel
Assistant Professor	Autumn Proctor Waddell
Academic Advisor	Janel Knipple
Academic Affairs Coordinator	Shaun McCracken
Administrative Affairs Coordinator	Jessica Casey
Box Office Manager	Jamie King
Marketing & PR Coordinator	Natalie Hale
Lighting Designer & Stage Manager	Emily James

VCU DANCE ADJUNCT FACULTY FALL 2024

Bravita Brown	Dr. Julina Lewis
Angelica Burgos	Morgan Osina
Gretta Daughtrey	Denise Purvis
Tori Duhaime	Melanie Richards
Kristina Edwards	Blake Roeder
Starrene Foster	Joe Seaton
Talita Jackson	Miranda Young

VCU DANCE GRACE STREET THEATER

Technical Director	Leland F. Lew
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Audition for VCUarts Dance

For admission to the 2025-2026 Academic Year pre-registration required. Auditionees should be prepared to participate in a ballet barre, modern center, 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

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VCUarts DANCE SPRING 2025 SEASON

Rough Cut Film Screening
January 31, 7:30 p.m.

VCUarts Dance NOW*
February 20 + 21 + 22, 7:30 p.m.

First Year Repertory Concert
May 2, 7:30 p.m.

*All of the above events will take place in the Grace Street Theatre.
* indicates a ticketed event. Tickets may be purchased on our website,
arts.vcu.edu/dance*

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