

# WELLSPRING

CORI TERRY & DANCERS

THE 2023-24 SEASON



A STEP TO GREATNESS

49TH STULBERG  
*International*  
STRING COMPETITION

**2024 STULBERG COMPETITION**  
MAY 17 & 18, 2024 | KALAMAZOO, MICHIGAN

**2024 STULBERG  
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# WELLSPRING CORI TERRY & DANCERS

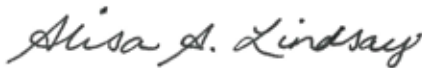
## Welcome!

Welcome to Wellspring's 2023-24 season, *Throughline*. Join us on an exquisite artistic journey, as Wellspring/Cori Terry & Dancers presents works by Artistic Director, Cori Terry, and Associate Artistic Director, Marisa Bianan. We celebrate our 43rd Season by continuing to restage memorable pieces from the past, while highlighting vibrant new dances. This coming together of old and new represents a throughline which honors our history, endeavors to make authentic modern movement accessible to all, provides a welcoming and safe environment for free artistic expression, and continues our legacy of being a vital part of Kalamazoo's colorful arts scene.

Our community is composed of individuals with their own stories that influence how each experiences the world around them. *Throughline* reflects the collaboration of self-expression, creativity, and each dancer's true movement coming together as distinct works of art. We invite you to immerse yourself in our performances, savor the moment, and know that your experience is uniquely your own.

We appreciate your continued support as we share our love of modern dance: as an art form, as a medium for communication and innovation, and as an avenue for mindfulness and connection. Thank you for making this possible now and into the future.

Be well,



Alisa Lindsay

*President, Wellspring Board of Directors*



# ENGAGING THE ARTS CULTURE COMMUNITY



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# RAD FEST

15<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL  
MIDWEST REGIONAL  
ALTERNATIVE DANCE

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# WELLSPRING

CORI TERRY & DANCERS

**SUPPORT GREAT  
DANCE. SUPPORT  
GREAT ART.**

Wellspring/Cori Terry & Dancers is a 501c3 nonprofit organization



## Scan here:



*Dance bypasses the intellect and goes straight to the gut.*  
— Cori Terry

For 40+ years Wellspring/Cori Terry & Dancers has been an integral part of Kalamazoo's rich cultural tapestry; a diverse collection of visual and performing arts organizations, unique for a community our size. Your contribution is an investment in Kalamazoo's amazing journey of growth, as an exciting, diverse, and artistically adventurous community; as a place to build a career, build a home, and nurture our highest cultural aspirations.

## Donate

Make a donation. Your gift will help us live out our mission to inspire, engage, and educate our community for years to come.

## Volunteer

Volunteer opportunities are available for our concerts, Academy programs, special events, and RAD Fest. We like to give back to our volunteers by offering them discounts on classes, concert tickets, and more.

## Share

Share your experience with us. We want to hear from you - after attending a concert, class, or interacting with us in any way! We strive to meet the needs of our community and your feedback through Google/Facebook reviews and posts on social media helps us reach even further.

## Attend

Bring your loved ones along. Join us for our 15th Annual RAD Fest February 29th - March 3rd, 2024. Attend our Spring Concert of Dance premiering May 17th-19th, 2024.

## GET IN TOUCH

2693424354

[wellspringdance.org](http://wellspringdance.org)

359 S. Kalamazoo Mall, Ste. 204 Kalamazoo, MI 49007



# “One of Kalamazoo’s Artistic Gems”

Kalamazoo holds the unique distinction of being home to one of the nation’s longest-standing, small professional modern dance companies. Celebrating its 43rd year in 2023, Wellspring/Cori Terry & Dancers, hails from a distinct lineage of pioneer modern dance companies. In the early years of her career, Wellspring’s founder, Cori Terry, studied and performed across the world with the Erick Hawkins Dance Company. This experience and the training she received firmly established her among an elite group of nationally acclaimed professional dancers. With the vision of one day starting her own company, Ms. Terry left the Hawkins company to serve as an artist in residence at Western Michigan University. A year later, in 1981, Wellspring/Cori Terry & Dancers was established and has since introduced thousands to the art of dance, enriched the Kalamazoo Arts community through collaborations with other professional artists and has become a platform for advancing postmodern dance choreography.

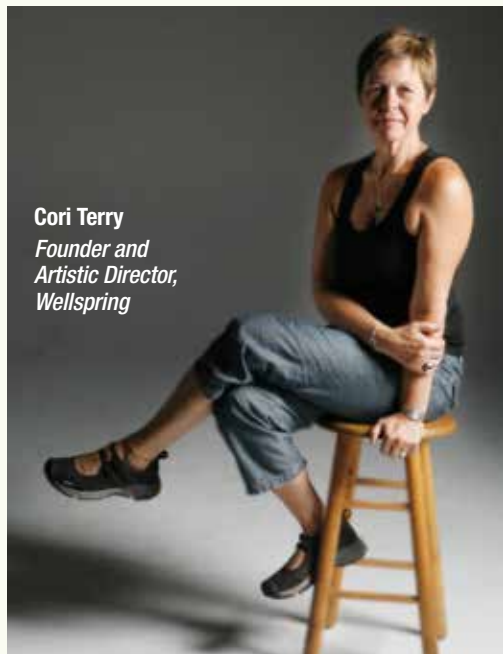
Today Wellspring continues this legacy as a modern dance producer, presenter, and educator.

- Its fall and spring concerts, featuring works choreographed by Ms. Terry, members of the company, and guest artists, see annual audiences of 300-500 individuals.
- Nationally acclaimed performers and master teachers travel to Kalamazoo to perform and participate in Wellspring’s annual Midwest Regional Alternative Dance Festival (RAD Fest), now celebrating its 12th year.
- Adult and youth dance classes are taught throughout the year and offer area

dance students one of the community’s only opportunities to study with working professional dancers.

- Educational outreach programs such as *ABCDance*, a prior partnership with KRESA’s HeadStart, and our new program *Ready Movers*, a partnership with KC Ready4s, offer unique programs that aid with early literacy development and stress management using movement, stories, and music.

The company and its members’ highly respected reputations are evidenced by regular invitations to perform at dance festivals and events around the country. Some of the most recent highlights include critically acclaimed performances and collaborations with the Kalamazoo Symphony Orchestra, the Red Sea Pedestrians, Bill Ryan and the GVSU New Music Ensemble, and Kalamazoo Institute of Arts.



**Cori Terry**  
*Founder and  
Artistic Director,  
Wellspring*

**The #1 source for  
things to do in  
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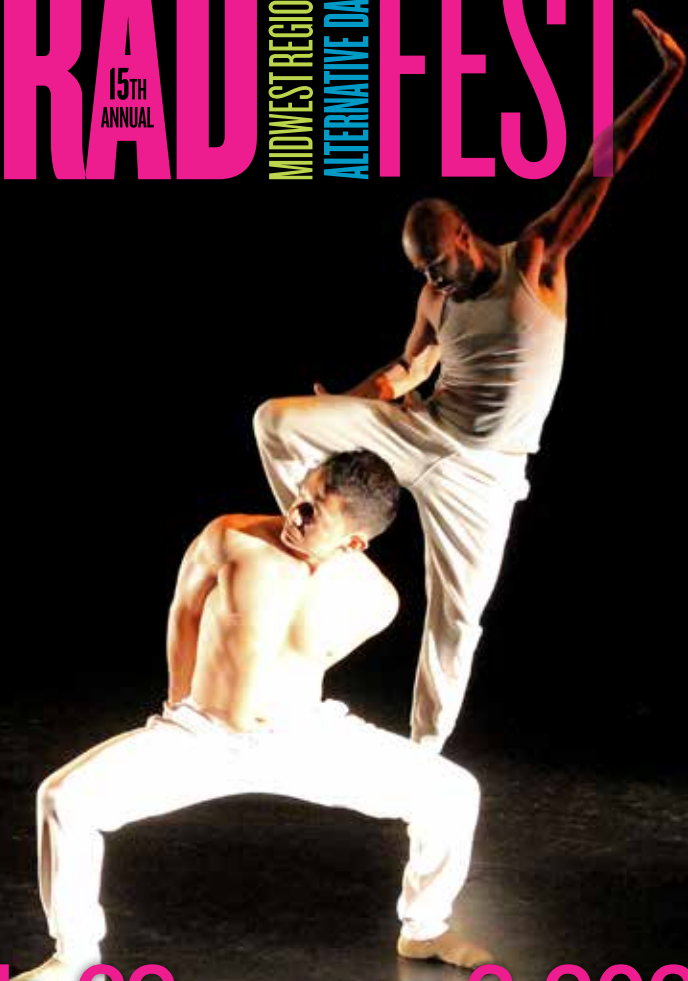
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WELLSPRING / CORI TERRY & DANCERS PRESENTS

# RAD <sup>15TH ANNUAL</sup> MIDWEST REGIONAL ALTERNATIVE DANCE FEST



feb 29 – mar 3 2024

PERFORMANCES | MASTER CLASSES | SCREENDANCE FILMS

*RAD Festival Curator:* Rachel Miller

*Wellspring Executive Director:* Kate Yancho

*Technical Director:* Samantha Snow

*RAD Fest Curatorial Asst. Interns:* Claire Berndt, Grace Kitching

*RADicle Residency Partner:* The Croft—Artistic Director: Benjamin Cheney

*Detroit Dance City Festival Partner:* Joori Jung

*RAD Fest Adjudication Panel:* Marisa Bianan, Li Chiao-Ping, Rachel Miller,  
Alice Svetic, Nekeshia Wall

*Technical Crew:* Scott Day, Ava Moyle

MICHIGAN MADE PERFORMANCE  
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 29, 7 PM

## Opus of Vitalitas

Choreographer: **Lachan Niedbala**

Performers: **Movement Reservoir Dance Company Members — Dominique Ginn, Alisa Lindsay, Allyson Lewis, Amaya Mckenzie, & Andrew Niedbala**

Music/Sound Score: *5 115* by **Michael Wall**

## a cut path (how recent)

Choreographers: **Ashley Deran** and **Emily Loar**

Performers: **Wolfgang Goluska, Abby Marchesseault, Paige Mulick of CPR Dance: Inhale Movement**

Music: *The Wilson Ave. Bridge at the Chicago River, 1953*

## Connections (Excerpts)

Choreographer and Associate Artistic Director: **Lauren Mudry**

Artistic Director: **Lisa Whiting Dobson**

Performers/Sound: **Part One** *The Weaver: Poem Written And Read By Lauren Mudry*, Music *Migration* by **Goldmund**, Dancers: **Heather Clifton, August Doerr, Eva Farre,**

**Lauren Hutnik, Konner Whiting**, and Soloist **Bridget Vander Hoff** | Part

**Two** *Searching For...You (Dedicated To Thomas): Music Dandelions* by **Ruth B.**, Dancers:

**Heather Clifton, August Doerr, Eva Farre, Lauren Hutnik, Konner Whiting**

| **Part Three** *We Have Met Before: Music The Smallest Piece* by **Dan Romer** and Benh

Zeitlin, Dancers: **Bridget Vander Hoff, Konner Whiting**

## cirrostratus

Movement Score: **Amy Wilson**

Performers: **Members of Dance in the Annex (DITA)— Austin Panavong, Hannah Sullivan**

Music/Sound Score: *Silent Spirit, Pink Sky*, text by **Julian Wilson**

## Atypical Alterations

Choreographers: **Tracy Halloran** and **Jillian Hopper**

Performers: **Nicholas Gottron, Joella Fitzpatrick, Katelyn Mahaffey, Megan Stuart, Isabelle Royston, Kylie Vinitzki, Caroline Zajac**

Music/Sound Score: **Prosthetic Hands**

— INTERMISSION —

**When World's Collide**

Choreographers: **Joy Morris-Burton** and **Aerick Burton**

Performers: **Breakin' Ballet dancers: Joy Morris-Burton and Aerick Burton**

Music/Sound Score: **Iniko, Kid Cudi, and George Lovett**

Projection credits: **Soothing Meditations, Joseph Mourhess, and MARS**

**Prime Time**

Choreographer: **Jim McEwan**

Performers: **Happendance Velocity-, Rufus Chappell IV, Chloe Gonzales, Jennah Quinn Gray, Emily Scott, Jared Thompson, Bridget Vander Hoff**

Music/Sound Score: *Prime Time* by **Count Bassie**

**ONE ...in the spirit of connectivity of all things...**

Choreographer: **Barbara Selinger**

Performers: **Detroit Dance Collective — Lauren Bobo, Emma Davis, Grace Kitching, Andrew Pankiewicz, Elliott Vargas**

Music/Sound Score: From "Sun Rings" and "Sunrise of the Planetary Dream Collector" by **Terry Riley**

Projection credits: Visuals: Designed by **Barbara Selinger**; Photography by **John Sobczak**

**dance will be the Death of me**

Choreographer: **Erika 'RED' Stowall**

Performer: **Erika 'RED' Stowall** — Artistic Director of Big Red Wall Dance Company

Music/Sound Score: *Death to the Arts*, Poem by **Erika Stowall**; *Bewitched, Bothered, And Bewildered* by **Ella Fitzgerald**; *Higher* by **Rihanna**

**Yodel (or The Long Dark Yodel of the Soul)**

Choreographer: **Aimee McDonald**

Performers: **Members of Terpsichore Collective — Kari Becker, Stephanie Harvey, S. Jean Lee, Mackenzie Kalinowski**

Music/Sound Score: **Stimmhorn**

SHORT WORKS LIVE PERFORMANCE SERIES I  
FRIDAY, MARCH 1, 7 PM

**The Center Of...** (excerpt)

Choreographer: **Cori Terry**

Performers: **Marisa Bianan, Emily McKee, Andrew Niedbala, Lachan Niedbala, Emma Shansky, Alexis Smith, Angel Sutton**

Music/Sound Score: "Bowsprit" by **Balmorra**

Projection Credits: **Sam Snow**

**This Thing That We're Doing/Sorry About All Of The Music/Sorry About All Of The Words**

Choreographers: **Anna Bauer & Jairus Carr**

Performers: **Anna Bauer & Jairus Carr**

Music/Sound Score: "Still Space" by **Satoshi Ashikawa**; "Meditation Outtakes," "Millions of Millions," "Of the Word God," and "Be Good To Them Always" by **The Books**

**Kissing the Earth** (excerpt, in-progress)

Choreographer: **Kinnari Vora**

Performer: **Kinnari Vora**

Music/Sound Score: *Shivaratri* by **Benjy Wertheimer, John De kad**

**slipstream**

Choreographer: **Corinne Imberski**

Performer: **Corinne Imberski**

Music/Sound Score: **Wilson Tanner Smith**

**Nuestra Tierra** (2023/2024 RADicle Residency Project)

Director/ Choreographer/ Performer: **Amanda Ramirez**

Musical Direction / Performer: **Lawrence E Brown III**

Choreographer/ Performer: **Jensen Springer**

Choreographer/ Performer: **Rebeca Chavez**

*Additional Program Notes: This piece is supported & funded by The Craft Residency, RAD Fest, and Meredith Kennedy*

**SHORT WORKS LIVE PERFORMANCE SERIES II**  
**FRIDAY, MARCH 1, 9 PM**

*\*Contains Mature Content*

**Things that aren't there**

Choreographers: **TINATA / Elizabeth Corbett, Brynne Billingsley, Penelope Freeh**

Performers: **Members of dance collective TINATA — Penelope Freeh, Brynne Billingsley, Elizabeth Corbett**

Music: **The Bad Plus**, text by **TINATA**, edited by **Elizabeth Corbett** and **Chanda Murphy**

**A Long Way Away**

Choreographer: **Jennifer Meckley**

Performers: **Katie Cole, Audrey Harrison, Lisa Meissner, Kiana Piercy Caelan Smith, Keith Smith Jr., Lani Spratt, Juliana Stanger, Lauren Taylor, Caroline Wilson, Ashlyn Works**

Music/Sound Score: "Long Way Away (Intro)", "The Breach", and "All Black" by **clipping**

**Sentenced to Sentences**

Choreography/Text: **Claire Porter**

Performers: **Claire Porter**

Music/Sound Score: **Camille Saint-Saëns** ("The Swan" performed on a Theramin by **Nadia Reisenberg, Clara Rockmore** on Gravichords)

**Loneliness in Numbers**

Choreographer: **Madison Hicks**

Performers: **Fiona Dorr, Elissa Fonseca, Jordan Hooks, Khen Kurulkar, Maddie Medina, Joshua Ponton, Coltin Snyder, Aidan Wolf**

Music/Sound Score: **Sylvain Chauveau, Olafur Arnalds**, and **Olafur Arnalds & Alice Sara Ott**

**BLIND SPOT**

Choreographed, directed, and performed by: **Lisa Kusanagi & Osmani Tellez**

Music/Sound Score: Music & sound collage

*Additional Program Notes: Sponsored by Pola Art Foundation (Japan)*

**throughspace: excerpt** (performed in the Judy Jolliffe Theatre)

Choreographers: **Jo Whitmyer & Chloe Misner**

Performers: **Jo Whitmyer & Abby Marchesseault**

Music/Sound Score: **Patrick Misner**

*Additional program notes: This duet was created during a residency with the South Bend Museum of Art in South Bend, IN in 2022.*

**Enough**

By **Amanda Browning** with **Eizabeth Roskopf**

**Bardo**

By **Dmitri Peskov**

**Devouring Stones Up Close**

By **Zap McConnell, Cat Rider, Mizuho Kappa, Jasmine Fitch, Katie Schetlick**

*\*Contains mature content*

**Nexus**

By **Isabelle Nelson**

**How to Outline Grief**

By **Kym McDaniel** and **Elisabeth O'Keefe Roskopf**

**Maelstrom**

By **James Wallace**

**Be Still My Beating Heart**

By **Peter Sparling**

**Death and Other Disguises**

By **Marta Renzi** with **Yvonne Rainer, David Thompsan, Arthur Aviles**

**Resurrection Under the Ocean**

By **Serkan Aktas**

**Deleite**

By **Rosely Conz & Patrizia Herminjard**

**All of Us**

By **Charlotte Griffin** with **Gus Solomons Jr.**

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MIDWEST REGIONAL  
ALTERNATIVE DANCE  
FESTIVAL  
2024

SHORT WORKS LIVE PERFORMANCE SERIES III  
SATURDAY, MARCH 2, 7 PM

**Motion of Seeing** (2023/2024 Detroit Dance City Festival RAD Fest Award)

Choreographer: **YY Dance + Media** (Choreographer: **Yukina Sato**, Media Designer: **Yujie Chen**)

Performers: **Yujie Chen, Yukina Sato**

Music/Sound Score: *Jasho no Kanata* by **Hikaru Sawai**

Camera: **Tian Qiu** from Skipper Vision

**The Scouts**

Choreographers: **Braeden Barnes & Michelle Meltzer**

Performers: Members of **Symbiosis Arts** — **Braeden Barnes & Michelle Meltzer**

Music/Sound Score: *L'Arean* by **Ennio Morrison**

**Long Memories** (excerpt)

Choreographer: **Tamara Williams**

Performers: Members of **Moving Spirits, Inc** (**Suzi Alila, Monique LeFlore, Tamara Williams**)

Music/Sound Score: A collaboration with Music Director, **Luciano**

*Additional Program Notes: This work has made possible from support by The City of Charlotte's Arts and Culture Advisory Board's Opportunity Fund, the Black Spatial Relics Artist-In-Residence commission, an Alternate Roots Assistance Project Development Grant, and support through The Craft Residency.*

**Interaction**

Choreographer: **Kyung Hwa Hong, Kwang Min Kim**

Movement: **Kyung Hwa Hong, Kwang Min Kim**

Performers: Members of **Seed Dance Project Group** — **Kyung Hwa Hong, Kwang Min Kim**

Music/Sound Score: **Christopher Lenmertz, Needleleaf**

**Self-Betrayal**

Choreographer: **Christa Smutek**

Performer: Soloist: **Andres Jimenez**

Music/Sound Score: *Prelude in C-Sharp Minor*, **Sergei Rachmaninoff**

**Elytra** (performed in the Judy Jolliffe Theatre)

Choreographer/Costume: **Melissa Younker**

Performer: **Melissa Younker**

Music/Sound Score: Original Music by **Insurgent Beat Machine**

SHORT WORKS LIVE PERFORMANCE SERIES IV  
SATURDAY, MARCH 2, 9 PM

**Tomorrow Never Came**

Choreographers: **Joori Jung, Kyung Hwa Hong, Kwang Min Kim**

Performers: **Elizabeth Kalesavich, Rebecca Otmanowski, Tyler Korff, J.A. Kirk,  
Lilly Menendez**

Music/Sound Score: **Joo Won Park**

**Your Applause Please**

Choreographers: **Elijah Motley** in collaboration with **James Morrow** and **Megan Thompson**

Performers: **James Morrow** and **Megan Thompson**

Music/Sound Score: **Alain Romains** and **Nina Simone**

**Her Geometry**

Choreography/Direction: **Carrie Hanson**

Performers: Member of **The Seldoms, Haley Marcin**

Music/Sound Score: *Emunah*, composed by **Julia Wolfe**, performed by **Maya Beiser**

*Additional Program Notes: This project is partially supported by a CityArts Grant from the City of Chicago  
Department of Cultural Affairs & Special Events, and a grant from the Illinois Arts Council Agency.*

**words for Touch**

Choreographer: **Hannah Seidel** in collaboration with the dancers

Performers: **Clara Crossley, Madeline DuHadway, O'Malley Ferguson, Emily  
McKenzie, Kaye Suarez**

Music/Sound Score: "Brown Deepsea Flight" by Kiyō, "Cometa 1958" by Matematic1, "Energetic  
Percussions" by Joystick, "Parabolic" by Kiyō

**I am alive, I am alive, I am alive**

Choreographers: **Eva Green, Dmitri Peskov and dancers**; Text by **Eva Green, Dmitri Peskov**

Performers: Members of **Snow College Dance Company** — **Eva Green** (soloist) with  
**Amanda Banks, Breann Burningham, Haylee Cheshire, Tylee Coates, Ivy  
Davis, Cadence Hansen, GriffinaMae Peterlin, Zahidu Peralta, Maren  
Rodgers, Taya Wescott, Isabella Williamson**

Music/Sound Score: "Red Rock Woman" by **Young Spirit**

*Additional Program Notes: This work is partially supported by the Snow College Student Engagement  
Travel Fund*



SHORT WORKS LIVE PERFORMANCE SERIES IV  
SATURDAY, MARCH 2, 9 PM

**When Life Gives You Lemons** (performed in the Judy Jolliffe Theatre)

Choreographer: **Sophie Minouche Allen**

Performance and Set Design: **Sophie Minouche Allen**

Music/Sound Score: Sound and Music by **Steve Klingbiel** and **Bradley Gurwin**; **Jacques**

**Brel**, "Ne Me Quitte Pas," Les 100 plus belles chansons de Jacques Brel, (Barclay, A Division of Universal Music Group 2006)

**WELLSPRING**  
CORI TERRY & DANCERS

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**SPRING 2024**

WELLSPRING THEATER

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**YOUTH LIVE PERFORMANCE**  
**SUNDAY, MARCH 3, 3 PM**

**La Fleur**

Choreographer: **Kelsey Paschich**

Performers: **Young Dancers Initiative Company Members — Hannah Anderson, Addison Bushart, Jaidin Craig, Olivia Cramer-Erbes, Holly Hoeksema, Carly Messenger, Kaianne Sayen, Amina Walters**

Music/Sound Score: *The Arena* by **Michael Wall**

**To**

Choreographer: **Payton Beckering**

Performers: **Louis Millard, Leif VanHorn**

Music/Sound Score: *Instrumental 3* by **Florist**

**Shifted Pathways**

Choreographer: **Stacy Andrew**

Performers: **Members of Michiana Dance Ensemble — Daniela Bolster, Tess Boruff, Elizabeth Chaloner, Rachel Emerick, Edie Hehn, Julia Kinney, Zoe Klawitter, Fiona Kramer, Yavara Loungo, Anna Pagliarini, Annamarie Whitmer**

Music/Sound Score: **Helen Jane Long**

**CHOREOMANIA**

Choreographer: **Emily McKenzie**

Performers: **Members of Lake Michigan Dance Company — Molly Bylsma, Melanie Harris, Alyssa Howell, Halie Joswick, Kaeda Roberts, Kacey Schaller, Sophie Silvis, Malena Witte**

Music/Sound Score: "Choreomania" by **Florence + the Machine**

**The Grey**

Choreographer: **Heather Mitchell**

Performers: **Members of Rooted Youth Drum and Dance Ensemble — Angelee Hooper, TiYanna Haines-Ward,, Charlii Thomas, Kenise Meeks, Elliot Barnhart, Sage Herrera, Maya Fonseca-Jersild, Chaneayl Savage, Drayanna Oday, Janiah Davis, Jayda Poplar, Nevaeh Warren, Alexa Moore, Gabrielle Mays-Vanloo, Kaylee Dupay**

Drummers: **Omeara Timmons, Joaquin Fisher, Ne'caryous Lewis, Leevonna Fitzpatrick, Manny Waller, Sonny Waller, Amarah Waller**

Original Music Composition: **Nate Waller**

YOUTH LIVE PERFORMANCE  
SUNDAY, MARCH 3, 3 PM

**dualité** (Screendance)

Choreographer, Concept: **Leif VanHorn**

Performer: **Leif VanHorn**

Music/Sound Score: *Lujan* by **Henry Mancini**

**lasciato solo: left alone**

Choreographer: **Robin Pettersen**

Performer: **Colette McLeod, Louis Millard**

Composer: **Fernando Otero**

**UnMasked**

Choreographer: **Sierra Schlehuber**

Performers: **Students of Crooked Tree Arts Center School Of Ballet — Chloe Bos, Elsie Dawson, Ella Galle, Amelie Hanson, and Ailinn Mullaney**

Music/Sound Score: **Trex Beatmaker**

**Isolada**

Choreographer: **Claire Little**

Performers: **Ella Alfaro, Emma Blue, Madison Drake, Allison Gilbert, Lina Haviland, Ella Huggins, Addie Latimer, Payton Schmit, Stella Tamborra, Mia Teelander, Kathleen Turner**

Music/Sound Score: 'and so I come to isolation' & 'before you go' by **Moses Summey** & 'Another Friday Night' by **Ben Howard**

— INTERMISSION —

**Joint Movement**

Choreographer: **Lachan Niedbala** in collaboration with **YPE Dancers**

Performers: **Wellspring Youth Performing Ensemble Members — Kaianne Sayen, Adela Marsh-Prelesnik, Vivienne Ludtke, Campbell Weiler**

Music/Sound Score: *Once Again* by **Hang Massive**

**In Place of Hope**

Choreographer: **Ari L Mokdad**

Performers: **Members of Embodied Arts Collective — Berkleigh Carol, Elsie Gibson, Crystal Fuller, Sara Primeau**

Music/Sound Score: *Beirut* by **Varieties of Exile**

*(continued on next page)*

**YOUTH LIVE PERFORMANCE**  
**SUNDAY, MARCH 3, 3 PM**

## **Glósóli**

Choreographer: **Leah Markee**

Performers: **Members of Lake Michigan Dance Company — Aria Briones, Kenzie Bustraan, Molly Bylsma, Ellie Hanson, Melanie Harris, Alyssa Howell, Halie Joswick, Carli Merrifield, Kaeda Roberts, Kacey Schaller, Sophie Silvis, Malena Witte**

Music/Sound Score: "Glósóli" by **Sigur Rós**

## **This is life**

Choreographer: **Karin Li**

Performers: **Kalamazoo Chinese Academy Performing Arts**

Music/Sound Score: *Sam Bai Hong Chen Liang* by **Yin xi mian**

*Additional Program Notes: Funding source: arts council of greater kalamazoo*

## **Finding Mi Chispa** (Screendance)

Screendance story and choreography: **Sierra Schlehuber**

Performers: **Sierra Schlehuber** — Crooked Tree Arts Center School of Ballet

Music/Sound Score: **Nova Orem and Rhythms Del Mundo**

*Additional Program Notes: Filmed at Super Blue Art Museum and Moreno's in the Miami, Florida*

## **Mystique**

Choreography: **Amberly M. Simpson** in collaboration with **the dancers**

Performers: **Members of Ambo Dance Theatre's Pre-Professional Company —**

**Cory Baca, Caeli Baker, Marie Cunningham, Carly Hay, Helena Smith-Pohl**

Music/Sound Score: "Shallow Water" by **Yehezkel Raz, Sivan Talmor**

## **Sinaloa Mexico Traditional Folklorico Dance**

Performers: **Members of El Concilio's Ballet Folklorico de Mi Tierra: Cinthya**

**Martinez, Dennise Hernandez, Dyana Valle, Emma Ramos, Evelyn Nuñez, Jaelyn Harrison, Mayeli Paredes-Zavala, Samantha Nochebuena, Yadhira Sandoval**

Music/Sound Score: *El Pato Asado* by **Banda Sinaloense MM & Corazón de Texas** by **Banda Punto Medio**



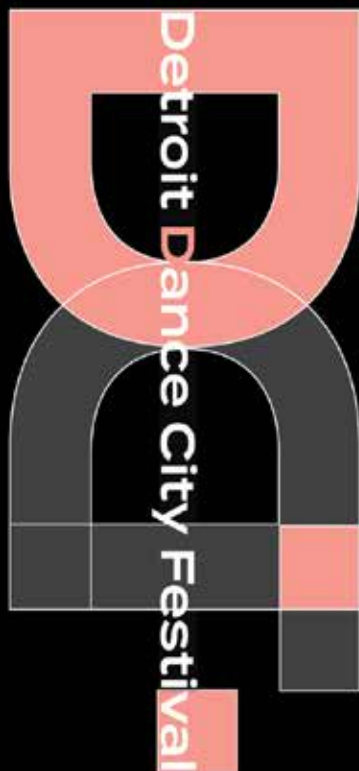
TRAIN



PERFORM



CONNECT



September 6-8, 2024  
Detroit Institute of Arts  
[detroitdancecityfestival.com](http://detroitdancecityfestival.com)

## RAD FEST DANCE MAKER BIOGRAPHIES

**2023/2024 RADicle Artist Amanda Ramirez** (she/her) is a **Chicago**-based dancer, director, and choreographer who creates genre-bending performance works centered around her Chicana culture. Ramirez is a graduate of Texas Tech University and has performed and presented original choreographic works spanning from modern-contemporary, improvisation, salsa, and flamenco.

She's a grant recipient of Women Who Create, Cliff Dwellers and a resident/fellow of Chicago Cultural Center, Links Hall CO-Missions, The Croft, See Chicago Dance and more. She's directed, choreographed and produced several evening length shows and is currently in post-production for her first dance film, "Tierra", which she directed, produced, and choreographed. Learn more at [ramirezdance.com](http://ramirezdance.com)

**Ambo Dance Theatre (Louisville, KY)** is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit arts organization and modern dance company under the direction of Amberly M. Simpson. Our work is often interdisciplinary in nature, combining elements from theatre, film, photography, and visual arts to create works that touch on social issues and the human condition.

Using a collaborative model for creation, Ambo Dance Theatre not only presents the unique voice of the choreographer, but also the direct input and movement vocabulary of the dancers themselves to create innovative, integrative, and original modern dance works that unify a variety of perspectives on complex topics.

Led by Artistic Director **Amy Wilson**, **Dance in the Annex** (DITA) produces live, dance-film works and site-specific events with an emphasis on process. DITA was conceived in 2009, curating a master class series led by local and national guest artists for dance professionals. DITA has produced numerous performances in **Grand Rapids** and beyond. DITA has performed

at RAD Fest, Sidewalk Detroit and Kristi Faulkner Dance. DITA's award winning screendance work has been presented in dance film festivals around the globe, including ScreenDance International (Detroit), Monza Film Festival and Reale Film Festival (Italy).

**Anna Bauer** and **Jairus Carr** are dancers and choreographers living in **Austin, Texas**. They dance for the Kathy Dunn Hamrick Dance Company while producing their own work. Anna and Jairus began collaborating in 2022. Their pieces have performed at events across Texas: Texas Dance Improvisation Festival, Barnstorm Dance Fest, Austin Dance Festival, and Aired Dance Summer Fest. In 2023, they travelled to Washington to reset a duet on the artists of Bellingham Repertory Dance for their fall show Doubles. Anna and Jairus are trying their best—they also make coffee, read books, and hold hands.

**Ballet Folklorico de Mi Tierra** is a folklorico dance group that was formed by El Concilio in 2018. With the idea of creating a space for youth to explore their cultural heritage through dance. The group can be seen performing a variety of traditional folklorico dances from places like Jalisco, Chipas, Sinaloa, and Veracruz. With the commitment of the youth and the support of parents/staff, Ballet Folklorico de Mi Tierra can be found performing at different community events across **Kalamazoo** & Southwest Michigan.

**Brynne Billingsley** works at the intersection of creative and healing arts. A **New Yorker** since 2003, her choreography has been presented by Dragon's Egg, Women in Motion, Center for Performance Research, Triskelion Arts, Soaking WET Festival, Chashama Gallery, NYU Skirball Center, Dumbo Dance Festival, Joyce Soho/ Performance Mix Festival, Northside Festival, and Bushwick Open Studios Festival. Brynne has

collaborated with Chris Elam/Misnomer Dance Theater, Jody Oberfelder, Murray Spalding, and Bjork among other artists. She holds an M.F.A. from Hollins University and is the owner of Progressive Pilates Williamsburg, a renowned center for somatic education and healing.

**Chloe Ilene Misner** is a movement-maker and dance educator based in **South Bend, IN**. She is the Artistic Director of New Industry Dance and a full-time dance educator at Clay High School. Chloe has trained in modern, ballet, West African, and improvisation, among various other styles. Her approach to movement as investigative physical research is what inspires choreographic choices and creative concepts. Chloe holds a dual B.A. in Anthropology and French, with a minor in Dance; she is currently pursuing a Master's in Education.

**Christa Smutek** is the Artistic Director of Artistic Edge Dance Centre, Director of the in-studio intensive, The Collective Movement, and Founder of her project based dance company, Smutek Dance. Christa studied at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor and received her B.S. in Movement Science from the School of Kinesiology. Christa established Smutek Dance, in 2019 and have performed at numerous festivals throughout the country. Most recently, Christa was honored to be one of eight choreographers selected for the Ann & Weston Hicks Choreography Fellowship at Jacob's Pillow, under the direction of Risa Steinberg and Dianne McIntyre.

**Claire Little** graduated from Oakland University with a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Dance Performance and was the recipient of the O'Dowd Scholar in Dance in 2019. Claire has worked with Jodie Randolph Dance, and accepted an apprenticeship with Eisenhower

Dance Detroit in 2019. Claire has also been a company member with ConteXture Dance Detroit for the last 3 years! In 2019, she received the Maggie Allesee choreography award and produced the show "All the Things I Wish I'd Say... but Won't." This year Claire produced another show titled "Isolada" as a fundraiser to fund her missions schooling in Mexico!

**Claire Porter / PORTABLES** ([www.cportables.com](http://www.cportables.com)) is a series of solos and small group works that adapt to a variety of spaces, from theaters to telephone booths. Included are the award winning NAMELY, MUSCLES, a poetic enactment of all the muscles of the body and then some, seen at conferences, festivals, medical schools. Her PORTABLES are a changing series selected from repertory that have toured Europe, Korea, India, and USA. Her current project, GRAMMAR SHORTS, is a seriously silly ride through English Grammar. Sentenced to Sentences is one of these stories.

**ConteXture Dance Detroit** is a non-profit dance company based in Detroit, that was founded in 2014 by artistic director, Tracy Halloran. It is a contemporary modern dance company that is interested in exploring cultural identity and the relationship between artistic expression and the human condition. Its concert works examine themes within human relationships in order to begin a dialogue on why and how we are connected to each other.

ConteXture's mission, as part of the burgeoning arts explosion in the city, is to explore and expand the urban dance identity of Detroit. Through advanced training and performance opportunities, ConteXture has developed a local corps of professional dancers in an effort to establish Detroit a nationally recognized center of dance.

## RAD FEST DANCE MAKER BIOGRAPHIES

**Corinne Imberski** is a dance performer, choreographer, and improviser. She has presented solo and ensemble works for over thirty years, at venues grand, small, impromptu, and digital. Corinne is a recipient of the 2020 Meier Achievement Award, as well as numerous residencies, including Links Hall, See Chicago Dance, and the Ragdale Foundation. In 2021, she was nominated as “Best Dancer” and “Best Choreographer” in Chicago Reader’s *Best of Chicago* poll. She is also performs with REIdance group, a dance-theater company based in **Chicago**. For more information, please visit [www.corinneimberski.com](http://www.corinneimberski.com)

**CPR Dance: Inhale Movement** is the premiere contemporary dance company of **Southwest Michigan** founded in 2022. We propose movement as fundamental to existence as breath. Breathing life, moving life, with attendance towards one another. A way to further succinctly identify and communicate the values of wandering through intangible movement, lost and found, with well-being and care as a fulcrum that doesn’t shy away from but presses into reflective evaluative works. CPR Dance: Inhale Movement is founded by Carolyn Pampalone Rabbers, and host of the Chayah Artistic Residency. [www.inhalemovement.com](http://www.inhalemovement.com)

**Dmitri Peskov** is a choreographer, filmmaker, poet and writer who currently serves as the Chair of the Snow College Dance Department in **Utah**. Recent commissions include presentations of new choreography at the Dumbo Dance Festival in New York City and at the Third Dance Festival in Tempe, AZ; poetry and short story publications in *Neva*, *Dactyl* and *Pyroscaphe* journals in Russia and Kazakhstan; as well as screenings of the new dance film *Bardo* at Festival Videodanza de Puerto Rico, FilmFest by Rogue Dancer and Himachal Short Film Festival in India.

**Elijah (Eli) Motley**, a **North Carolina**-based choreographer, dancer, and educator, holds an MFA in Dance from UNC Greensboro and a dual BA/BS from Old Dominion University. He has performed with notable dance companies such as Chicago Dance Crash and Rennie Harris: Pure Movement. His own work has been commissioned and presented at festivals and universities across the U.S. Currently, Eli serves as an assistant professor at Elon University.

**Elizabeth Corbett** dances, teaches, and choreographs out of **upstate NY, Memphis**, and **Paris, France**. She spent several formative years as a member of the Milwaukee Ballet and The Joffrey Ballet, followed by a decade with William Forsythe’s Ballett Frankfurt. Ms. Corbett worked in Brussels with Anne Teresa De Keersmaecker’s school of contemporary dance, P.A.R.T.S., and with Rosas, as a teaching artist for over ten years. She received many international guest invitations as a freelance artist in teaching, dancing, and choreographing. Corbett received her graduate degree in dance at Hollins University, and it led the way to forming the dance collective TINATA with Brynne Billingsley and Penelope Freeh.

**Embodied Arts Collective** is a pre-professional dance company based in Michigan. Artistic Director, Ari Mokdad is a Detroit-born choreographer, writer, and educator. She attended GVSU where she received three BA degrees in Dance, Writing, and English. Ari completed her MA and doctoral studies at Wayne State University and her MFA from Warren Wilson College.

**Erika ‘Red’ Stowall** is an educator, dancer and choreographer residing in **Detroit, MI**. Red graduated from University of Michigan School of Music Theatre and Dance with a Bachelor in Fine Arts. She is a recipient of the Kresge Artist Fellowship, Applebaum’s Emerging Artist Award as well as Fulbright Hays GPA Study Abroad grant, awarded through the University of Detroit Mercy.



Red uses her classical training combined with her background in West African dance, as the foundation of her work. Many of her works explore her real life experiences navigating being a black woman in society. Her work is based on positive portrayal of Black stories and advocating for Black women's voices. Red sees dance as a calling and is passionate about creating performance pieces, which invite conversation on safe spaces for Women of Color, restoration and positive narrative/images of Black communities. She is currently the dance teacher at Martin Luther King High School, in Detroit, her alma mater. Red is the founder and current Artistic Director of Big Red Wall Dance Company. The company has been active since 2011.

**Eva Green** is a citizen of the **Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma** and is a business major student at Snow College. She has been training in artistic gymnastics for over ten years with Dan and Janna Coleman, Ron Bunting, and Melanie Wysong. She is the winner of over 7 first-place Utah state titles and one regional title in competitive gymnastics. Eva also studied movement improvisation with Dmitri Peskov and is a current member of the Snow College Dance Company. She has appeared in dance works by Breann Birmingham, Maren Rodgers, Robert Cox and Tylee Coates.

**Hannah Seidel** is an Associate Professor of Dance at **Grand Valley State University** whose research interests lie at the intersections of play, improvisation, and the therapeutic aspects of movement. Hannah's choreography has been presented across New York and the Midwest including two commissions by the New York Society for New Music. New York City performance credits include Gibney Dance, Mariah Maloney, David Appel, Erica Essner Performance Co-op, and Tiffany Mills. BA: Pomona College, MFA: SUNY Brockport, 92NY's Alternate Route

Dance/Movement Therapy program completed in 2023, recipient of two National Dance Education Organization President's Awards and GVSU's Pew Teaching Excellence Award.

**Happendance Velocity**, based in Okemos, Michigan, is a professional company of dancers who perform, teach, and choreograph concert dance works. Velocity is a collective led by Happendance's CEO, Rachel Miller, and Velocity Rehearsal Director, Jennah Quinn Gray. The company specializes in Contemporary dance, working in styles informed by traditional modern, jazz, ballet, and hip hop/urban styles. Their performances are always exciting and unpredictable!

**Heather Mitchell (Rootead)** — We are a pre-professional dance and drum company for youth ages 13–18 years old. We focus on educating youth on the histories and cultures of the African Diaspora, while developing their social-emotional learning skills. RYDDE youth learn movements and rhythms from Traditional West African to Afro-fusions. Within our RYDDE Village we promote respect, responsibility, self-accountability, generative communication, collectivism, self-growth and dedication.

**Jennifer Meckley** (She/They) is a queer artist who obtained a B.A. in Dance from Slippery Rock University and a M.F.A in Dance from The Ohio State University and is an Assistant Professor of Dance at **Ball State University**. She served as a faculty member at West Chester University, Northampton Community College, and the University of Dayton. Jennifer is a founding member of the modern dance company, Abby Z and the New Utility performing at venues well-known festivals and venues around the world. Their choreography has been presented at The American College Dance Association, and Cleveland Dance Fest, Detroit City Dance Festival.

## RAD FEST DANCE MAKER BIOGRAPHIES

**Joanna Whitmyer** (she/they) is a dancer and movement-maker from **Southwest Michigan** with a varied background in dance from ballet to ballroom. Joanna mainly focuses on their own internal expansion of their dancing while diving deeper into somatic movement and improvisational technique. They are a true believer in the power and resilience that can come from within the body. Joanna is a company artist, rehearsal director and collaborator with New Industry Dance Company based in South Bend, IN.

**Joy and Aerick Burton** are Move with Joy and Breakin' Ballet's Founders and Directors. Joy is a dancer, instructor, choreographer, freelancer, and owner of Move with Joy Studio in Kalamazoo, MI. Joy graduated from EMU with a B.S. in Dance Performance in 2012. From 2010 to 2012 they performed with the modern dance company, People Dancing, directed by Christina Sears. Joy has been teaching dance and movement for 20 years.

Aerick is an artist, breaker, activist, co-founder of Move with Joy and director of Breakin' Ballet. Aerick's one of a kind origami installations and taxigami works have been featured in Art Prize 2018, and 2021. Aerick was also an original founder of Breaking group Kalamacrew and teaches breaking and origami at Move with Joy studio in Kalamazoo, MI.

**Kinnari Vora** (Chicago) shares stories of universal human conditions through movement, meditation, and theatrical practices. Her contemporary works are rooted in Bharatanatyam (disciple of Sarmishtha Sarkar, India), various Indian folk dances, kalaripayattu martial arts and recently contemporary dance. With collaboration at its core, her works are guided communal healing rituals, ancestral wisdom and interconnectedness. Kinnari is co-founder of the Ishti Collective and a core collaborator with Surabhi Ensemble. Her

works have been presented at the Museum of Contemporary Arts, Ragdale Foundation, Pivot Arts Festival, World Music Festival, and globally in India, Europe, Mexico and Vietnam. She is a 2022 Chicago Dancemakers Lab Artist and High Concept Labs Fellow.

**Kwangmin Kim:** Seed dance project group Artistic Director. Kookmin University Department of Performing Arts, Doctor of Dance. **Seoul** International Choreography Festival SOLO&DUET GRAND PRIX. Goyang Lake Festival GYALF Awards. Changmu International Dance Festival Dance Art Award. Seoul Performing Arts Festival Dance Collection Choreography Award.

**Kyungwha Hong** Contemporary Dance Company Artistic Director. Current University of Michigan, Department of Dance Visiting Scholar. 2022, Detroit Dance City Festival Guest Choreographer. Graduated from Kyunghee University, Department of Dance and Graduate. Kyunghee University Department of Performing Arts, Doctor of Dance. Guest Professor at Kyunghee University. Current Director of **Korean Dance Society**. Current Korean Association for Culture and Arts Education.

**Lachan Niedbala** is the Artistic Director and Founder of Movement Reservoir Dance Company. After graduating from Hope College, Lachan has worked with various dancers. Currently, she dances and teaches at Wellspring and leads their Youth Ensemble. Lachan has always had a passion for creative exploration. MRDC enables her to delve into that desire and foster an environment for other artists to do likewise in a professional setting that is compatible with dancers' full-time jobs.

Movement Reservoir Dance Company was founded by Lachan Niedbala to provide a creative outlet for artists and increase the **Kalamazoo** community's opportunity to experience dance.

**Lake Michigan Dance Company** is a pre-professional dance company at Lake Michigan Dance Academy in **Allendale, MI**. LMDC includes students ages 7 and up who love to perform throughout our community and to dive into new styles of dance. Our dancers train in ballet and jazz technique and perform pieces in all styles including Jazz, Contemporary, Lyrical, Musical Theater, Hip Hop, and Modern. We are so grateful and excited to be participating in RAD Fest for the first time this year!

**Leif VanHorn** has been dancing and performing with the Crooked Tree Arts Center School of Ballet for the past nine years under the direction of Heather Raue. Leif has also studied dance at Chautauqua Institute, Colorado Ballet, and The Croft Residency. *Dualité* is Leif's third self-choreographed solo screendance performance at RAD Fest.

**Lisa Kusanagi, MFA**, is a Japanese multi-award-winning artist with expertise in dance and screendance. She investigates conceptual virtuosity through physical artistry and leverages her transnational upbringing and influences in the creative elements of her projects. Her works have been presented in over 30 countries including at the 60th Ann Arbor Film Festival, the 10th Aesthetic Short Film Festival, Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts, Movement Research at the Judson Church, and JW Marriott Hotel Los Angeles L.A. Live. Lisa holds a BA in Theater and Dance from Sonoma State University and an MFA in Dance from Hollins University. She is a 2018 RAD Fest Screendance juror, a 2024 Pola Art Foundation fellow, and a 2024 Miami Light Project Here & Now commissioned artist.

**Melissa Younker** (she/her) is a **Salt Lake City-based** artist with a multifaceted dedication to dance; directing, choreographing, teaching,

performing and designing costumes. Her experimental approach combines her multi-disciplinary experiences to create solo, ensemble, site-specific, video, and theatrical performances. She is driven by curiosity: engaging in intimate and unrestrained processes. Melissa has toured throughout the USA, Croatia, France, Mongolia and South Korea as a dance artist and educator with Ririe-Woodbury Dance Company, Nikolais Dance Theatre, DanceMotion USA,<sup>SM</sup> Orianttheatre Dance Company, Heartland Collective, among others. Melissa's work as an artist is always an exchange of ideas — a sharing of wonder.

**Moving Spirits, Inc.** is a contemporary arts organization dedicated to performing, researching, documenting, cultivating, and producing arts of the African diaspora. We believe that the creative arts should be used as a vehicle to bring awareness to injustices and obstacles impacting our communities. Moving Spirits' artists dedicate themselves to evolving social change through dance performances and community engagement.

**Osmani Tellez** is a Cuban-born **Miami-based** dance artist. He graduated from the National School of Arts in Havana. As a professional dancer, he had the pleasure of working with companies including Danza Abierta, Danza Hoy, Rajatabla, and Neodanza as well as with artists such as; David Zambrano, Mia Lawrence, Jeremy Nelson, Tim Feldmann, Bo Madvig, Kirstie Simson, Chamecki-Lerner, Jennifer Monson, Jennifer Miller, and Yvonne Meier. He uses improvisation as a tool to explore subjects and develop ideas in personal and authentic ways. His original choreographic work has been presented worldwide.

## RAD FEST DANCE MAKER BIOGRAPHIES

**St. Paul** dance artist and educator **Penelope Freeh** thoughtfully transforms ballet's transmission and embodiment. She is a McKnight Fellow for Choreographers, Sage awardee for Outstanding Performer, and her work is in the repertoires of many Twin Cities companies and groups. Freeh danced with James Sewell Ballet for seventeen years, serving as Artistic Associate from 2007-11. She teaches at the University of Minnesota and St. Olaf College. *Unfashioned Creature*, her collaboration with composer Timothy C. Takach, was named a top ten Most Memorable Dance Event of 2023. She holds a Dance MFA from Hollins University where she met her TINATA colleagues.

**Robin Pettersen** is an independent choreographer who also provides workshops in Dance Composition. Her choreography has been chosen for Gala Concerts at American College Dance Association festivals on four different occasions. She has completed guest artist residencies at multiple universities, setting choreography and teaching composition. Emeritus faculty at the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater, Robin also taught at UW-Madison and Alfred University. Recently, Robin has collaborated with the Crooked Tree School of Ballet, setting work on their faculty and pre-professional students.

**Sam Snow** (Technical Director) graduated in 2016 with a BFA in Technical Theatre & Design from Western Michigan University with a focus in scenic design. Since graduating Snow has worked for various companies and schools in the community including The Barn Theatre, Wellspring/Cori Terry & Dancers, Face Off Theatre Company and Portage Central Theatre. Snow has worked as a scenic designer, lighting designer, technical director and more. Some highlights include *RENT* (2017 & 2023),

*ANASTASIA* (2022), *BIG FISH* (Sutton Foster Ovation Award- Best Scenic Design) and *BONNIE & CLYDE* (Wilde Award Nominated). Snow is currently the Gull Lake Center for the Fine Arts Manager and Technical Director for Wellspring/Cori Terry & Dancers.

**Sierra Schlehuber** has been obsessed with dance as long as she can remember. She began her training at the age of 4 at the Crooked Tree Arts Center School of Ballet. Sierra enjoys a variety of dance styles such as ballet, Latin, modern and contemporary. At the age of 9, she attended Ballet Hispanico's Elevate Summer Program where she got to explore alternative forms of dance more deeply and embrace her Colombian heritage. Sierra also took master classes by Pilobolus and Hubbard Street Dance in 2023, and she attended Miami City Ballet's Young Dancer Intensive.

**Sophie Minouche Allen** is a **Chicago-based** dancer, choreographer and teacher who pushes playfulness, nuance and rigor to the forefront of her creative endeavors. She is fascinated by how humor and grief can share space, and loves to make people smile. As a performer, she has worked with Darling Shear, Ayako Kato, and Katlin Michael Bourgeois among others. Upcoming 2024 choreographic commissions include Midwest RAD Fest and FACT/SF Summer Dance Festival. Sophie holds both a BFA in Dance and a BA in Philosophy, Politics and Economics (PPE) from the University of Michigan and is a certified Countertechnique® Teacher.

**Symbiosis Arts** is a dance based collaborative arts company that invigorates imagination with our approach to creation and performance. Our goal is to educate and inspire a wide audience and find new platforms to showcase our collaborative art. For more information, visit [Symbiosisarts.org](http://Symbiosisarts.org).

In its 21st season, **The Seldoms** creates multimedia performance charged by bold, exacting physicality and the belief that dance can inspire thinking and action. Under the direction of Carrie Hanson, the company designs expansive productions with practitioners of visual arts, theater, sound, and fashion, as well as scientists and historians. Based in **Chicago**, The Seldoms has toured extensively nationally and to Russia, Taiwan, Scotland, and Canada. Performer Haley Marcin joined the ensemble in 2021, and has contributed to five projects. She leads company training and teaches extensively in the Chicago area. [www.theseldoms.org](http://www.theseldoms.org)

**TINATA** was formed by Brynne Billingsley, Elizabeth Corbett, and Penelope Freeh during the Covid pandemic. They completed their MFA degrees through Hollins University before beginning the creation of “Things that aren’t there, an exploration of liminality, through improvisation. They are freelance teaching artists, performers, and choreographers. Corbett is a **dual U.S.-Belgian citizen**, with dance roots in The Joffrey, William Forsythe’s Ballet Frankfurt, and Anne Teresa De Keersmaeker’s school, P.A.R.T.S. Billingsley has shared her love for art, movement, and life in NYC since 2003. She is the owner/founder of Progressive Pilates Williamsburg. Her choreography has been presented by Dragon’s Egg, The NYU Skirball Center, Joyce Soho/Performance Mix Festival, and many others. Freeh is a Twin Cities-based, three time McKnight Fellow recipient. She danced with the James Sewell Ballet, MN Ballet and MN Dance Theater and has choreographed across the country. Freeh holds teaching positions at St. Olaf College, the University of Minnesota, and most recently, as Visiting Assistant Professor at Hollins University.

**Vitacca Ballet**, founded in 2020 by Kelly Ann Vitacca, is a creation-driven repertoire company in the **Houston** area. As the pandemic brought artists home to Houston, Vitacca committed to keep artists employed and the Houston arts scene alive with project-based work. This laid the framework for the launch of Vitacca Ballet in 2021, which now works to operate a 34-week season and employ local, national, and international artists. Vitacca has had the honor to work with regional and international choreographers including Resident Choreographer, Garrett Smith, Sean Aaron Carmon, Hélène Simoneau, Robyn Mineko Williams, and Alana Jones to name a few.

### **Wellspring’s Youth Performing Ensemble**

enables company members to explore and establish authentic voices through all aspects of dance performance while building community.

Lachan Niedbala is the YPE Coordinator and is a local Kalamazoo dancer/choreographer. Additionally, she is an instructor at Wellspring Dance Academy and a company member with Wellspring/Cori Terry & Dancers.

The Young Dancers Initiative serves as a pre-professional program for high school students aspiring to pursue a career in dance. YDI offers professional contemporary training, performance experiences, mentorship, educational workshops, choreographic and teaching opportunities, and networking to those delving deeper into contemporary dance. Tailored for Michigan’s emerging artists, YDI provides a distinctive approach to training and mentorship, with tracks in Performance, Training, or Mentorship, each flexibly catering to dancers’ needs. Each track grants access to educational opportunities like open classes and workshops. The Performance Track extends beyond training, culminating in fall season performances and additional opportunities in the spring.

## RAD FEST DANCE MAKER BIOGRAPHIES

**YY Dance + Media** was founded by Yukina Sato and Yujie Chen in 2023 to create works that intersect live performance and technology to explore the lived experience of marginalized bodies in the U.S. Yujie Chen is a Chinese dancer, filmmaker, and dance researcher. Her research examines Chinese and Chinese diaspora contemporary dance and popular performances. She is also a dance filmmaker and was the commissioned Artist with the Young Artist Platform of the China Dancers Association. Yukina Sato is a dancer, choreographer, and filmmaker. Currently serving as an Assistant Professor in Dance at the Department of Performing Arts at **Minnesota State University** Mankato. Her research focuses on locating cultural identity through embodied memories and geographical space.

### ADDITIONAL ENTERTAINERS

**Grace Theisen** (Kick-Off Party Performer)  
Grace Theisen is a powerhouse queer Americana artist from Kalamazoo, Michigan. Her original songs, *Behind the Rain* and *Wild Woman* were put on Spotify's official playlist, *Home At Last*. Her *Master of Fire* music video was a finalist in the Toronto Women's Film Fest and shown at the Hell's Half Mile Film & Music Festival. She and her band have played at Frederik Meijer Garden, Kalamazoo Pride, Bliss Festival, Earthwork Harvest Gathering, Fort Wayne Botanical Roots Music Festival. Her bandmates include world percussionist Carolyn Koebel, violinist Cori Somers, guitarist Adam Main and bassist Sarah Fuerst.

**Dr. Allyson Lowis PT, DPT, COMT, Cert. MDT, LMT** (Art Hop Improv Jam Facilitator) Allyson is a Kalamazoo native and graduated from Hope College with a BA in Exercise Science and a minor in dance in 2012. While at Hope she was in the pre-professional dance company dANCEpROJECT, now known as H2. After Hope she earned her massage therapy license before going on to Central Michigan University where she graduated with her Doctorate in Physical Therapy in 2017.

Allyson currently practices at Mindset Physical Therapy specializing in treating dancers.

Outside of work, she can be found hanging out with her husband and dogs. Allyson enjoys dancing, hiking with her husband and pups, and traveling

**Josiah DeNooyer** (Art Hop Improv Jam Musician) Josiah DeNooyer is a drummer, composer and educator from Grand Rapids, MI. Under the guidance of Keith Hall, he recently graduated from the acclaimed jazz studies program at Western Michigan University, where he received multiple DownBeat awards in the school's top ensembles. Since then, he has studied with Billy Childs, Steve Wilson and Rufus Reid as a part of the Ravinia Steans Music Institute. Beyond the academy, DeNooyer performs around West Michigan with various groups ranging in style from New Orleans Second Line to singer-songwriter and many different expressions of jazz. He has recorded drums for two recently released albums, *Planets* by producer-saxophonist Stratōs and *Datum* by producer-saxophonist Kyle James. He recently recorded his first album of original music for string quartet and jazz quartet, a work that reflects his vision to engage with the community and create music that crosses traditional stylistic boundaries. DeNooyer also

works as an educator, bringing music into Kalamazoo communities through afterschool programs, summer programs and workshops. He recently stepped into the Executive Director role of the Edison Jazz Fest where he engages with the musical community in Kalamazoo by supporting and promoting various artists through bi-monthly concerts and jam sessions.

**DJ Conscious** (After Glow Entertainment)

DJ Conscious has opened for artists such as Erykah Badu, Raekwon, B.O.B and more. His eclectic mix of Reggae, Funk, Hip-Hop, and R&B always leaves his audience treated to an evening of L.I.F.E (Love, Inspiration, Freedom & Entertainment)



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**Wellspring/Cori Terry & Dancers,**  
for all that you do for dancers  
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We would like to acknowledge all of the folks and organizations who have contributed to the success of RAD Fest 2024.

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Katie Houston & AJ Hartman  
Terese Greenlees  
Fu Liao and Chunwu Wu  
Leigh Ann Sayen & Thorsten Willmann  
The Vamvakas Family  
Shirley Marcel Wise  
Eugenia Zacks-Carney

### SPECIAL THANKS

Peter Brakeman  
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Wellspring is grateful for the support of the following individuals, businesses and organizations. On behalf of the artists, board members and staff, thank you for continuing to support our work in the community.

**This list represents gifts given or pledged during the 2022/23 fiscal year.**

The 2023/24 Annual Fund campaign is currently underway and will extend through August 31, 2024. Please consider joining this list of contributors or renewing a past gift. Any amount is appreciated and invested wisely in unique and innovative programs.

## **FOUNDATION and CORPORATE SUPPORT**

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David Anderson and Cori Terry

*(continued on next page)*

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Wellspring makes every effort to be accurate in this listing. Please let us know of any errors or omissions by calling Wellspring's Finance Coordinator at 269.342.4354.

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Alexis Smith, *Rehearsal  
Director*  
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Dr. Allyson Lewis is a physical therapist who specializes in working with dancers and performing artists. She is a dancer herself and strives to help all performing artists reduce injury risk, improve strength and stability, and recover from injury.



 **MINDSET**

Dr. Allyson Lewis  
DPT, PT, COMT, LMT, Cert MDT  
269.447.2672

# Wellspring Sustainability Fund

A campaign for continuity in artistic leadership

Since 1981, Wellspring/Cori Terry and Dancers has been an undeniable asset to Kalamazoo's rich cultural scene, having grown from a small local modern dance company to a regionally and nationally-recognized arts organization.

Perhaps viewed by some as audacious and unsustainable, founder Cori Terry had no qualms about the power of dance and how it can transform lives. The fact that Wellspring has grown in the areas of professional artistic development, classes for youth and adults, performances, extensive community collaborations, creation of a regional alternative dance festival, while maintaining a salaried company of professional dancers, is a true testament to the intrepid leadership, intellect, and quality of Ms. Terry and all those engaged with the organization.

As Wellspring has reached unprecedented levels of success along with a boundless vision, now is the time to ensure the continuation and sustainability of this pillar in our community. Wellspring's board of directors has identified a goal of \$500,000 for this campaign.

## Sustainability Fund Contributors

Amy Anderson	Eric and Lindsay
Larry and Shannon Bell	Oliphant
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Donna Lindsay	W. K. Kellogg Foundation
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The Wellspring Sustainability Fund campaign continues and will extend until our campaign goal is reached. Please consider joining this list of contributors. Any amount is appreciated and invested wisely in the vision for Wellspring's future.





Youth  
Dance  
(Ages 3+)

Adult  
Dance  
(Ages 15+)



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