

WELLSPRING

CORI TERRY & DANCERS



Little Worlds

2022–2023 SEASON

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102.1 FM - News & Conversation
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WELLSPRING CORI TERRY & DANCERS

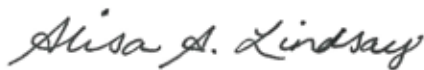
Welcome!

For Wellspring's 2022-23 season, we bring to you *Little Worlds*. We invite you to join us on an artistic journey into the known and unknown, as Wellspring/ Cori Terry & Dancers presents new works by Artistic Director, Cori Terry, and Associate Artistic Director, Marisa Bianan, as well as selected works from Wellspring's repertoire. We celebrate our 42nd Season by continuing our endeavor to make authentic modern movement accessible to all, to provide a welcoming and safe environment for free artistic expression, and to continue our legacy of being a part of Kalamazoo's vibrant arts scene.

Our community is composed of individuals with their own stories that influence how each experiences the world around them. *Little Worlds* 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 into our performances, enjoy 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 self-awareness. Thank you for making this possible now and into the future.

Be well,



Alisa A. Lindsay
Board President

Start your Holly-Days
with the Symphony

**You'll
fa-la-la-
love it!**

Holiday Pops

SAT | DEC 3 | 7:30 p.m.

SUN | DEC 4 | 3 p.m.

Chenery Auditorium



Special guests:

Erica Gabriel, Soprano

Marcus Jordan, Baritone

John Devlin, Conductor

Start your holiday celebration with the most festive event of the season! This holly, jolly concert is packed with **mistletoe-tapping holiday favorites**, the sounds of your Symphony, and wrapped up with **gorgeous vocals** from guest soloists. Charismatic conductor John Devlin whisks us away on a **holiday adventure fit for family and friends.**



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December 3 & 4

“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 42nd year in 2022, 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.

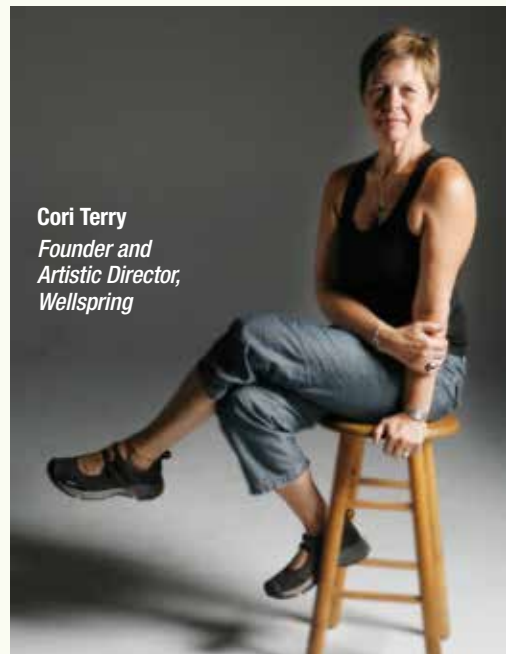
Today Wellspring continues this legacy as a modern dance producer, presenter, and educator.

- 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 (RADFest), 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*

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STRING COMPETITION

MAY 18, 2023

Kick Off Competition Gala Dinner

MAY 19, 2023

Bach Prize Award Night

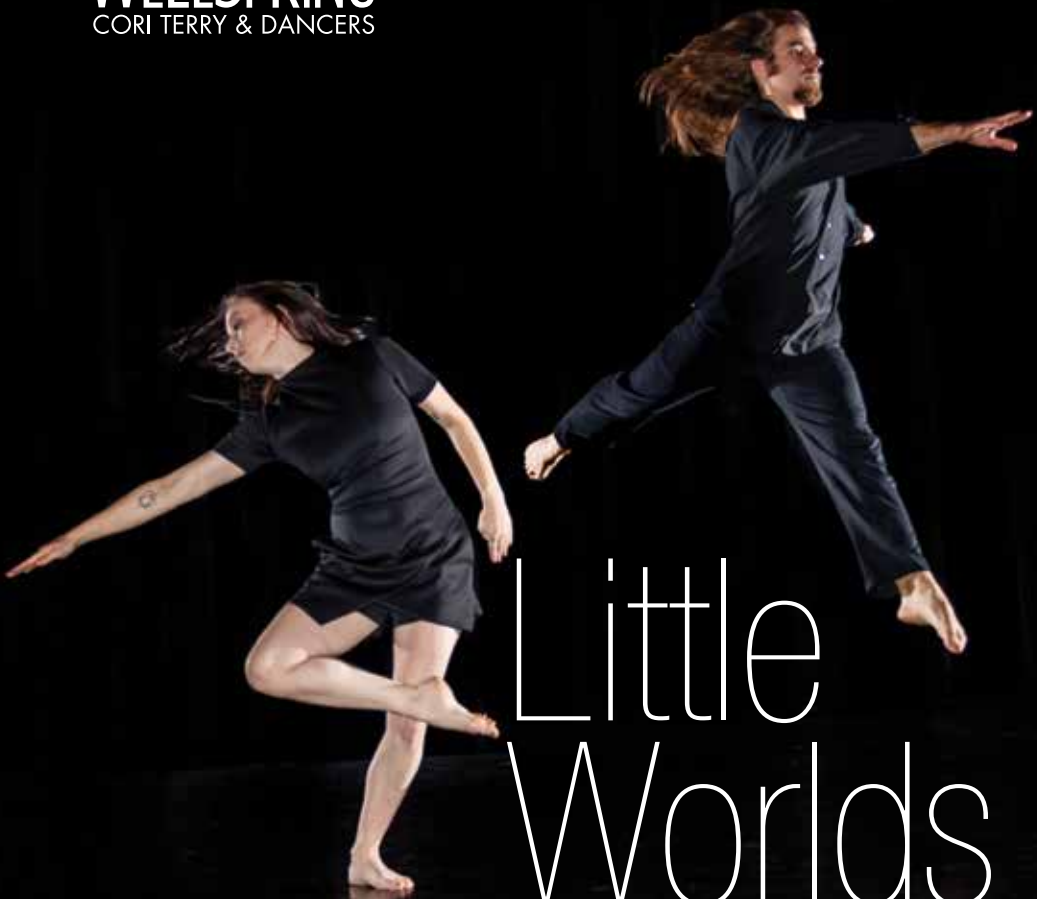
MAY 20, 2023

Stulberg Semifinals and Finals



For more information, please visit our website www.stulberg.org

WELLSPRING
CORI TERRY & DANCERS



Little Worlds

FALL CONCERT OF DANCE

Friday, November 18 @ 8 pm
Saturday, November 19 @ 8 pm
Sunday, November 20 @ 2 pm

Wellspring Theater, Epic Center
Downtown Kalamazoo

Photo © Amelia Falk



Little Worlds

Fall Concert of Dance

Wellspring/Cori Terry & Dancers

Cori Terry, *Artistic Director*

Alexis Smith, *Rehearsal
Director*

Marisa Bianan, *Associate
Artistic Director*

Emily McKee

Andrew Niedbala

Lachan Niedbala

Emma Shansky

Angel Sutton

Lights & Stage Design

Samantha Snow

Technical Director

Samantha Snow

Crew

Ava Moyle

House Manager

Mia Collins

Photography

Amelia Falk

Two Billion Heartbeats (2012)

Choreographer: Cori Terry

Music: Christen Lien, Warsaw Village Band

Costumes: Patricia Plasko

Dancers: Marisa Bianan, Emily McKee, Andrew
Niedbala, Lachan Niedbala, Alexis Smith,
Angel Sutton

Take Back the Sun (2021)

Choreographer: Marisa Bianan

Music: *Take Back the Sun* by Cori Somers/ Red
Sea Pedestrians

Costumes: Patricia Plasko

Dancers: Emily McKee, Andrew Niedbala, Lachan
Niedbala, Angel Sutton

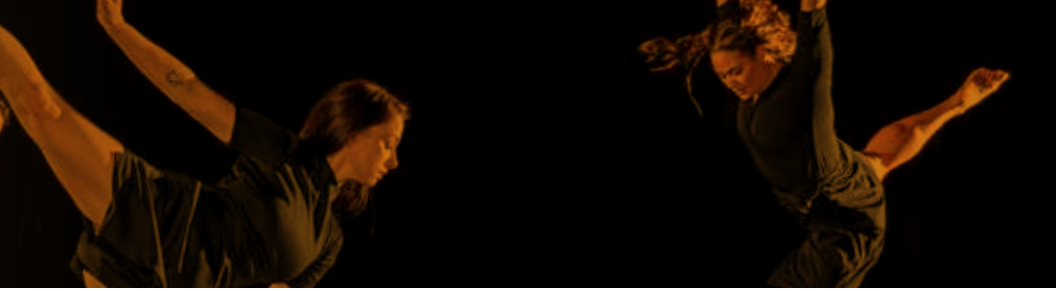
Figure Heads (1989)

Choreographer/Concept: Timothy O'Slynn/
XSIGHT! performance group

Music: Michael Kirkpatrick

Dancers: Marisa Bianan, Alexis Smith, Andrew
Niedbala, Emily McKee

— INTERMISSION —



Absolute Synergy (2022)

Choreographer: Marisa Bianan

Music: “Narrow Road” by DARKSIDE,
“...I’m the Echo” by DARKSIDE

Dancers: Marisa Bianan, Emily McKee,
Andrew Niedbala, Lachan Niedbala,
Angel Sutton

The Center Of... (2022)

*“Think about it: There is no
experience you've had that
you were not at the absolute
center of.”*

— David Foster Wallace

Choreographer: Cori Terry

Music: *Flowers* by Julia Lowe, Ocean
Waves

Projection Design: Sam Snow

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

2022-2023 Wellspring Board of Directors

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and Facility Coordinator*

Artist Biographies



Cori Terry (Artistic Director), Wellspring's founder and Artistic Director, was born in Brooklyn and attended

the State University of New York at Stony Brook before moving to New York City to complete her dance training. In 1974, she joined the Erick Hawkins Dance Company, performing and teaching throughout the US and Europe. She moved to Kalamazoo as Artist-in-Residence at Western Michigan University in 1980 and founded Wellspring in 1981. In 1987, she received Kalamazoo's prestigious Community Medal of Arts Award. She completed a BFA in dance from WMU in 1989 and has taught master classes there as well as throughout Michigan and the Midwest. In 2006, Ms. Terry was honored by Kalamazoo College as recipient in the first-ever Women In Town Awards, recognizing the artistic achievements of local artists. Ms. Terry was awarded the 2008 Community Dance Advocacy Award from WMU's Partners in Dance for her outstanding contributions in dance in the Greater Kalamazoo community, and was a finalist for the 2008 Governor's Lifetime Achievement Award. She received a Women of Achievement Award from the YWCA in 2019. To date, she has choreographed more than 85 major works for Wellspring. Ms. Terry is a certified Advanced Rolfer®, in practice since 1996.



Marisa Bianan (Associate Artistic Director) obtained her Bachelor of Fine Arts degree from Western Michigan University in April

2018. Through her studies, Marisa had the privilege to work with choreographers including Jeremy Blair, Monique Haley, Carolyn Pavlik, and Brendan Duggan. While at Western Michigan University, Marisa also performed with the Western Dance Project, a pre-professional dance company, from the years of 2015-2016 under the direction of Whitney Moncrief. Since graduating, Marisa has presented various choreographic works in the Midwest including at the 2019 Midwest RAD Fest and Inaside's Summer 2022 in-person/virtual hybrid concert. Recent accolades include becoming a finalist for the 2021 Maggie Allesee Choreography Competition, and being commissioned to create a new work for Western Michigan University's First Year Performance class, which premiered in February 2022. Most recently, Marisa has stepped into the role of Associate Artistic Director with Wellspring/ Cori Terry & Dancers. 2022-2023 will be Marisa's fifth season with WSCTD.



Alexis Smith (Rehearsal Director) has been a company member with Wellspring since 1997, providing many

opportunities to develop and strengthen herself as a performer, teacher, choreographer, rehearsal director and human. She also is having the pleasure of digitizing and archiving all the Wellspring pieces and concerts through the past 41 years. Ms. Smith holds a Bachelor's degree in Biomedical Sciences from Western Michigan University. She is a practicing licensed massage therapist, a certified clinical hypnotist in Heart-Centered Hypnotherapy, a consulting Astrologer and this summer is completing her apprenticeship in contemplative, nature-based philosophies and practices. Alexis is thrilled to be creating her new business, Windwater Healing LLC, which is an integration and offering of all her life studies. Along with her work, Alexis loves exploring and sharing space with her teenagers, Eli and Lily.



Emily McKee began dancing at the age of 5 in Kalamazoo and has since then competed and performed with numerous

studios before her enrollment at Grand Valley State University, where she is currently receiving her Bachelor of Arts degree as well as a minor in Marketing. In recent achievements as a student, Emily's solo choreography was chosen by the professors as one of two senior pieces to be performed in the Spring Concert. She also was given the opportunity to perform in the 2017, 2018, and 2019 American College Dance Association shows. Emily is currently working as an intern, instructor and marketing assistant for Wellsprings Dance Academy. She also is an instructor for Vicksburg Community Education Dance & Tumbling program and at Academy of Dance Arts. In her free time she enjoys photography and other art projects.

(continued on next page)

Artist Biographies



Andrew Niedbala joined Wellspring/Cori Terry & Dancers in autumn of 2019. He graduated from Hope College in the same

year with degrees in dance performance and civil engineering. Originally from Sterling Heights, Michigan, Andrew began dancing at an early age. Through the studio he attended, Anita's Elite Dance, and through university, he was blessed with opportunities to perform in such places as: Branson, MO; Salt Lake City, UT; Adelaide, SA, Australia; and Paris, France. Since moving to Kalamazoo in 2019, Andrew has also taught at the Academy of Dance Arts in Portage, where he provides instruction in multiple styles, including tap, jazz, and ballet. He is also employed in the paint department at Lowe's, where he has worked since summer 2021, and he is active in his church, Zion Lutheran of Kalamazoo. Andrew has been married to his bride Lachan since August 2022.



Lachan Niedbala received her Bachelor of Arts in Dance from Hope College in 2019. While at Hope, she worked with

choreographers such as Steven Iannacone, Sharon Wong, Matthew Farmer, and many more. Since graduating, she has worked with companies such as CPR Inhale Movement, Chamberlain Dance, Tapestry

Dance Company, and Atelier Dance Company. Additionally, she has had the opportunity to take her choreography to Detroit (MI), Chicago (IL), and Paris (France.) Outside of performing and choreographing, Lachan is an instructor at Academy of Dance Arts and Wellspring Dance Academy. Lachan is the Coordinator for Wellspring Youth Performing Ensemble. Additionally, Lachan is passionate about her independent projects. She produced the film series Rooted Movement in 2021 and Perspectives Dance Concert in 2022! When Lachan isn't dancing she is working as a barista at Starbucks. Lachan has been involved with Wellspring since 2019. She is thrilled to be joining Wellspring as a company member this year and to be performing alongside such wonderful artists!



Emma Shansky has had a passion for movement since she was very young. She feels so lucky that a dance studio opened in her town when she

was 10 years old, and she learned Tap, Jazz, and Ballet. She continued studying at Grand Rapids Civic Theatre, Grand Rapids Ballet, Milwaukee Ballet, Dayton Ballet, Lou Conte Studio, and she spent 2 semesters at Western Michigan University as a Dance Major. She has performed with the Left Bank Dance Theatre, Grand Rapids Ballet, Minnesota Ballet, Indiana University Dance Theatre, and Yale University. She played the role of Bebe in a touring company production of "A Chorus

Line,” performing the original Broadway choreography. She has choreographed musicals for high school, university, and community theatre productions. For the last several years, she has had a wonderful and fulfilling career as a certified Pilates and Yoga instructor, teaching and studying many different styles of movement. She loves to bake, take naps, and hang out with her husband and their two fluffy, orange cats!



Angel Sutton completed her Bachelor of Fine Arts in Dance from Western Michigan University in Spring of 2021, and she

is taking the next year to finish her minor in Biology. During her time at WMU, she had the opportunity to perform in *experts of Happy Little Things: on a Gruff Cloud of Wanting* by Aszure Barton, “Three Themes” from George Balanchine’s *Four Temperaments*, and works by Jermemy Blair and her peers. Also at Western, Angel was able to foster her love for choreography and collaboration as well as train primarily in Modern dance. She is looking forward to her second season at Wellspring and cannot wait to experience all of the opportunities this next year has to offer.

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Sun | December 4 | 4 pm

2023 | Beethoven No. 9
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Sat | March 4 | 7:30 pm

2023 | Brahms Requiem
with the KSO
Fri | April 15 | 7:30 pm

2023 | Love Is (volume 6)
with the K-College Singers
Wed | May 24 | 7:30 pm

2022-23 SEASON TICKETS ON SALE NOW!
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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 2021/22 fiscal year.

The 2022/23 Annual Fund campaign is currently underway and will extend through August 31, 2023. Please consider joining this list of contributors or renewing a past gift. Any amount is appreciated and invested wisely in unique and innovative programs.

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(continued on next page)

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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.

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