WELLSPRING CORI TERRY & DANCERS

Little Worlds

2022-2023 SEASON

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Welcome!

For Wellspring's 2022-23 season, we bring 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 S. Lindsay

Alisa A. Lindsay Board President

WELLSPRING Cortery & Dancers

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"One of Kalamazoo's Artistic Gems"

Kalamazoo holds the unique distinction of being home to one of the nation's longeststanding, 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



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



little Worlds

SPRING CONCERT OF DANCE

Friday, May 19 @ 8 pm | Saturday, May 20 @ 8 pm Sunday, May 21 @ 2 pm

Wellspring Theater, Epic Center | Downtown Kalamazoo





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LITTE WORDS Spring 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 Nirvan Singh, *guest artist*

Lights & Stage Design Samantha Snow Technical Director Samantha Snow Crew Ava Moyle

House Manager Mia Collins

Photography Amelia Falk

ABSOLUTE SYNERGY (2022)

Choreographer: Marisa Bianan Music: "Narrow Road" by DARKSIDE, "...I'm the Echo" by DARKSIDE Dancers: Marisa Bianan, Emily McKee, Andrew Niedbala, Nirvan Singh, Angel Sutton

THE LOGIC OF THE MOIST EYE (1995)

Even in the most selfless forms of love and communion each individual remains an island."

- Arthur Koestler

Choreographer: Cori Terry Music: "Spiegel im Spiegel" by Arvo Pärt Dancers: Andrew Niedbala, Emma Shansky Costumes: Patricia Plasko

THE EMPTY SKY (2019/2023)

"Earth, Fire, Water, Spirit, Air...."

Choreographer: Alexis Smith Music: Sophie Hutchings, Thomas E. Rouch, Rhiannon Bannenberg Dancers: Marisa Bianan, Emily McKee, Andrew Niedbala, Emma Shansky, Angel Sutton Costumes: Maddie Nelson

— INTERMISSION —



TWO HEARTS, FOUR LUNGS (2023)

Choreographer: Lachan Niedbala Music: "9X" by Michael Wall, "Pilgrims On A Long Journey" by Cœur De Pirate, "Heartbeat Steady 2" from Epidemic Sound Dancers: Marisa Bianan, Emily McKee, Angel Sutton, Emma Shansky

DICHOTOMY (Premiere)

Choreographer: Marisa Bianan Music Composition: Lauren Donahue Dancers: Alexis Smith, Angel Sutton Costumes: Patricia Plasko

THE CENTER OF... (2022/2023)

"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; "Bowsprit" by Balmorrhea Projection Design: Sam Snow Dancers: Marisa Bianan, Emily McKee, Andrew Niedbala, Emma Shansky, Nirvan Singh, Alexis Smith, Angel Sutton

2022-2023 Wellspring Board of Directors

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Cori Terry. Founder and Artistic Director Alexis Smith, Rehearsal Director Marisa Bianan, Associate Artistic Director and Dance Academy Coordinator Kate Elizabeth-Leishman Yancho. Executive Director Amaya Mackenize, Office Coordinator Rachel Miller, RADFest Curator Emily McKee, Marketing Assistant Sam Snow. Technical Director and Facility Coordinator Rebecca Bowles, Intern Abby Nagy, Intern

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 91 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 choreographic works at the 2019 Midwest RADFest, Inaside Chicago Dance's Summer 2020 concert, and the 2021 Maggie Allesee Choreography competition. Recent accolades include her commission to create a new work for Western Michigan University's First Year Performance class, which premiered in February 2022, and being selected to participate in the 2023 Detroit Dance City Festival's Choreographers Showcase. This season. Marisa has stepped into the role of Associate Artistic Director with Wellspring/Cori Terry & Dancers. 2022-2023 is Marisa's fifth season with WSCTD.



Alexis Smith (Rehearsal Director) has been a Wellspring company member since 1997, providing many opportunities to develop herself as a dancer, performer, teacher, rehearsal director and

choreographer. Currently, she is working on The Legacy Project, which includes digitizing and archiving Cori Terry's major works from the past 42 years. Ms. Smith holds a Bachelor's degree in Biomedical Sciences from Western Michigan University (1996) and in 1999, received an Irving S. Gilmore emerging artist grant to study micromovement with pioneer mover Emilie Conrad in NY. Within her business Windwater Healing LLC, Alexis is a practicing licensed massage therapist. a consulting astrologer integrating health, body, mind and movement awareness, a certified clinical hypnotist in Heart-Centered Hypnotherapy and a nature-based practice guide. Along with her work, Alexis loves being in nature, traveling and making memories with her teenagers, Eli and Lily.



Emily McKee began dancing with Wellspring/Cori Terry & Dancers in 2021. She is enrolled at Grand Valley State University (GVSU), where she is currently receiving her Bachelor of Arts degree. Emily

is currently working as a marketing assistant for Wellspring Dance Academy and Wellspring/ Cori Terry & Dancers. She is an instructor at Wellspring Dance Academy, as well as Academy of Dance Arts. She was given the opportunity to choreograph for Youth Performing Ensemble, GVSU first-year students, and for Movement Reservoir. In her free time she enjoys photography and other DIY projects when she is not cuddling with her cats and dog.



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 lannacone, 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 for Wellspring Dance Academy where she is also the Coordinator for Wellspring's Youth Performing Ensemble. Additionally, Lachan is passionate about her independent projects. She produced the film series *Rooted Movement* in 2021. Perspectives Dance Concert in 2022. and will be producing her third concert in fall 2023! Lachan has been involved with Wellspring since 2019 and is thrilled to be joining Wellspring as a company member this vear. It's been a pleasure to be working with such wonderful artists! Lachan is also overjoyed to be able to share with you her piece "Two Hearts. Four Lungs."



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!



media

Angel Sutton graduated wtih her Bachelor of Fine Arts in Dance from Western Michigan University April of 2023. During her time at WMU, she had the opportunity to perform in experts of *Happy Little Things:*

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on a Gruff Cloud of Wanting by Aszure Barton,



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"Three Themes" from George Balanchine's *Four Temperaments*, and works by Jeremy 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.



Nirvan Singh (Guest Artist) received his Bachelor of Arts in Dance from Western Michigan University on a full ride as a Medallion Scholar. He has performed in numerous pieces by WMU's dance department

faculty such as *Falling Table*, an excerpt from Tchaikovsky's *Swan Lake* as Prince Siegfried, *Phage, Fantoccio, An Evolutionary Story written in the East Sea*, and *Wingless Angels*. During his time at Western, Nirvan also had the opportunity to perform in Great Works pieces including Paul Taylor's *Esplanade*, Aszure Barton's *Happy Little Things (Waiting on a GruffCloud of Wanting)*, and George Balanchine's *Four Temperaments*.

Following graduation, Nirvan moved to Detroit for an apprentice position at Eisenhower Dance Detroit. Throughout their 31st season, Nirvan had the opportunity to perform in works by choreographers including Maleek Washington, Norbert De La Cruz III, WeWolf, Stephanie Pizzo, and Laurie Eisenhower. In addition to dancing for the company, Nirvan taught at the School of Eisenhower Dance Detroit as well as choreographing for/mentoring many students for YAGP solos.

Nirvan has since relocated back to Kalamazoo as an instructor for Ballet Kalamazoo, guest artist with Wellspring/ Cori Terry and Dancers, and freelance artist for various other projects.

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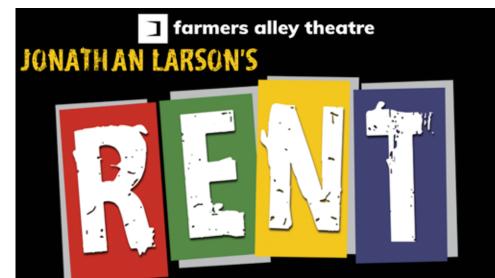
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Wellspring is grateful for the support of the following individuals, businesses and organizations. On behalf of the artists, board members and staff, thank you for continuing to support our work in the community.

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)

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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WHO WE ARE

In December 1986, the Black Arts & Cultural Committee was funded by four Kalamazoo residents. It later became the Black Arts And Cultural Center in April 1990, when they orchestrated our very first Black Arts Festival that July 1986.

MISSION STATEMENT

Develop potential and creativity in black artist, advance the awareness of Black artistic ability, preserve Black cultural heritage and enhance interactions among diverse groups in the community.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

From our annual Black Arts Festival in July to our annual Pre Kwanzaa Bazaar, we strive to host events that shine a light on Black culture and traditions.

MEMBERSHIPS

Members enjoy newsletters, reduced entry fees to BACC events and classes, and invitations to member only events.

CONTACT US

(269) 349 - 1035 info@blackartskalamazoo.org 359 S Kalamazoo Mall Suite 102 blackartskalamazoo.org

Special Thanks

Peter Brakeman, Nikole Eyre, Inesa Figueroa, Bill Weir and the Rustica Team, Patti Scarff, Dale Anderson and Confections with Conviction



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 nationallyrecognized 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

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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.



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