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CORI TERRY & DANCERS

THE 2023-24 SEASON



A STEP TO GREATNESS

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

**2024 STULBERG
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WELLSPRING CORI TERRY & DANCERS

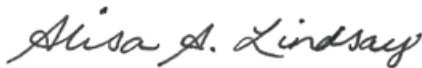
Welcome!

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

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

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.

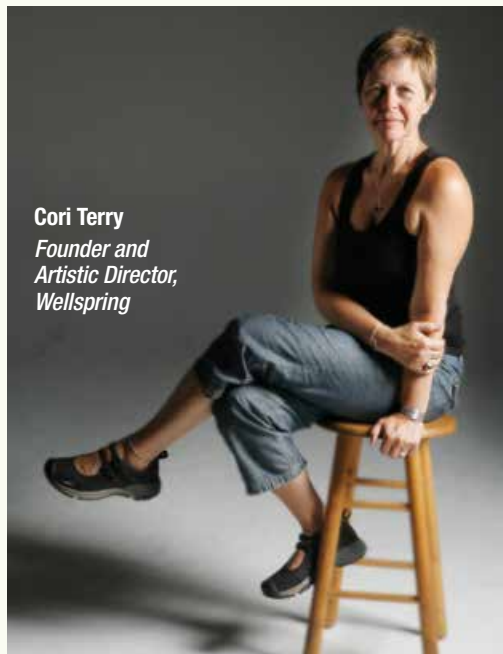
Today Wellspring continues this legacy as a modern dance producer, presenter, and educator.

- 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 (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*

para11els

ELEVENTH ANNUAL CONCERT



7:00 PM
WELLSPRING
THEATRE

12.9.23

359 south kalamazoo mall
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pre-sale \$15
general admission \$20



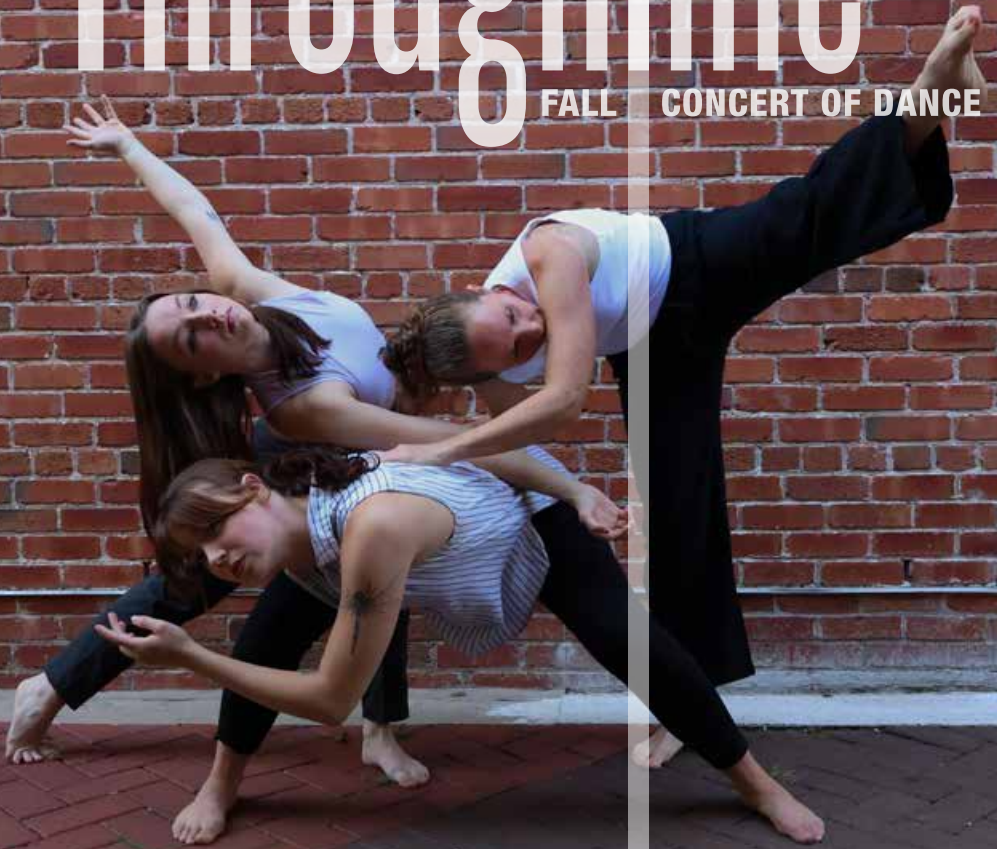
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WELLSPRING
CORI TERRY & DANCERS

Throughline

FALL CONCERT OF DANCE



Friday, November 17 @ 8 pm
Saturday, November 18 @ 8 pm
Sunday, November 19 @ 2 pm

Wellspring Theater, Epic Center
Downtown Kalamazoo

Photo © Mia Crowley



Discover! KALAMAZOO



Throughline

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

House Managers

JG Luitje and Rachel Lasky

Technical Crew

Maggie Dziedick and
Diego Zambrana

Photography

Mia Crowley

Warm Shadow (2019)

Choreographer: Cori Terry

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

Music: Fink

Set: Jon Reeves, Patricia Plasko

Luminosity (PREMIERE)

Choreographer + Dancer: Marisa Bianan

Music: Vittorio Monti, Sarah Nemtanu, Chilly
Gonzales

Costume: Patricia Plasko

From the embers, and back again...

(2020)

Choreographer: Marisa Bianan

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

Music: Paul Barnes

Costumes: Curated from the Wellspring
archives by Marisa Bianan

— INTERMISSION —



Gravity (2022)

An excerpt from “Planets”, which was originally performed live at the Gilmore Piano Festival on May 8, 2022 with the piano duo ZOFO, this dance is inspired by celestial imagery: the centrifugal pull of the planets in orbit, gravity, eclipses, shooting stars, meteor showers, and the deep vastness of space...

Choreographer: Cori Terry

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

Music: David Lang

Costumes: Patricia Plasko

Dichotomy (2023)

Choreographer: Marisa Bianan

Dancers: Marisa Bianan, Angel Sutton

Music Composition: Lauren Donahue

Costumes: Patricia Plasko

Ms. Terry will introduce the final work

Lilt (2000)

Choreographer: Cori Terry

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

Music: Taj Mahal with Toumani Diabate

Costumes: Elaine Kaufman/Patricia Plasko



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Special Thanks

Peter Brakeman

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(aka Do Something Lady)

Daniel Napp

Patricia Plasko

Patti Scarff

Jeff Weber

ZOFO



Thank you

Wellspring/Cori Terry & Dancers,
for all that you do for dancers
and dance in Southwest Michigan!
We are proud to support you.

Become a member
and we can help support
your artistic passion too!

ac

KalamazooArts.org | arts council
of greater kalamazoo

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 95 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.

Since graduating, Marisa has presented various choreographic works in the Midwest including at the 2019 Midwest RADFest and Inside's Summer 2022 in-person/virtual hybrid concert. Recent accolades include becoming a finalist for the 2021 Maggie Allesee Choreography Competition, being commissioned to create a new work for Western Michigan University's First Year Performance class, which premiered in February 2022, and being accepted into the 2023 Detroit Dance City Festival Choreographer's Showcase. Marisa stepped into the role of Associate Artistic Director with Wellspring/Cori Terry & Dancers in 2021. 2023-2024 will be Marisa's sixth season with WSCTD.



Alexis Smith (Rehearsal Director) has been a Wellspring company member since 1997, offering opportunities for development as a performer, rehearsal director, teacher and choreographer. Ms.

Smith is also working on The Legacy Project, which entails digitizing and archiving Cori Terry's work, spanning 43 years. Alexis holds a Bachelor's degree in Biomedical Sciences from Western Michigan University. Ms. Smith's practice, Windwater Healing LLC, offers soul bodywork; an integration of her life studies as a licensed massage therapist, professional mover, certified clinical hypnotist in Heart-Centered Hypnotherapy, nature-based practitioner and consulting astrologer. Currently, Alexis is deepening her love and understanding of astrology, with Kelly Surtees, in her two year professional training program. Along with her work, Alexis loves traveling, being in nature and spending time with her teenagers, Eli and Lily.

(continued on next page)

Artist Biographies



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 instructor and marketing assistant for the Wellspring 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.



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 Movement Reservoir Dance Company, CPR Inhale Movement, Chamberlain Dance, Tapestry Dance Company, & Atelier Dance Company. Lachan had the opportunity to choreograph on Wellspring in the Spring 2023 concert and she has showcased other independent pieces of choreography in Kalamazoo (MI), Detroit (MI), Holland (MI), Chicago (IL), and Paris (France.) Additionally, Lachan has been producing concerts and picking up project based work since 2020.

Outside of performing and choreographing, Lachan has been an instructor for Wellspring Dance Academy since 2020, as well as the Youth Performing Ensemble Coordinator. When she isn't dancing, Lachan can be found playing with her Pug, Manny, or spending time with her husband, Andrew, and her son, James. Lachan is thrilled to be returning for her second season with Wellspring! She is eager to share the stage with the wonderful artists of Wellspring again and share more dance with the community.



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 excerpts of *Happy Little Things: on a Gruff Cloud of Wanting* by Aszure Barton, "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 third season at Wellspring and cannot wait to experience all of the opportunities this next year has to offer.

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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.

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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.

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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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