



*Department of
Theatre and Dance*



**JOHNSON
THEATRE
2024**



NOVEMBER 8 & 9
7:30 p.m.

NOVEMBER 10
2 p.m.

WINTHROP DANCE THEATRE

BUY TICKETS HERE



\$5 with Winthrop ID
\$10 General Public

A Way Through

Choreographer: Brian Franco-Winn

Music: "Lacuna" by Octo Champ, "Fake Memory" and "Dream Dust" by SHAO

Dancers: Morgan Belton, Raina Centner, Lyric Clancy, Valerie Kempton*, RJ Lee, Natalie Palmo, Adelaide Sprawls, Kya Spurgeon, Jesse Weber

Loss can come at the most unexpected time, often interrupting the flow of life and changing the way we look at the world. The act of coming together, communities bonding, and the support shared helps us learn how to navigate life under new circumstances. It can help us find a way through it all.

crisis-support-release

Choreographer: Kelly Ozust

Scene Painter: Anna Sartin

Music: "Eire"; "On the Wire"; "Summer 78" by Yann Tiersen

Dancers: Brandon Barrientos, Elloise Bethea, Savion Chester, Kyia Jones, Josh Pringle, Melonda Sullivan

On August 26, 2024, my 9-year-old nephew, Dominick, passed away after a seven-year battle with cancer. In death, as in life, he was surrounded by the fierce love of his parents, Ariana and Jason. As a mother myself, I have watched Ariana throughout Dominick's struggle and marveled at all the roles she was forced to take on: protector, advocate, nurse, doctor, researcher, the list goes on. Through it all, she kept her faith, prioritized her family, and reached out to check on others even while she was going through the worst possible thing a mother will have to endure. She is the strongest woman I know. This piece is for her and is a testament to the love and support of a close-knit family.

From Within

Choreographer: Emily Wiley

Music: "Concerto in G Minor for violin" by Antonio Vivaldi and "Palladio 1-Allegretto" by Karl Jenkins

Dancers: Kyran Anderson, Madalin Beam, Morgan Belton, Valerie Kempton*, Ty Lamb, Czar O'Neal, Natalie Palmo, Melonda Sullivan, Jesse Weber, Kayelyn Wilburn*

Driven by music, the dancers explore the inner self that emerges.

~INTERMISSION~

Fight or Flight-Maternal Prowess

Choreographer: Gabrielle Tull

Music: "Mogoya" by Oumou Sangaré, CBS News interview transcript
voiceover-Angeli Gomez, "Wisdom Eye" by Alice Coltrane

Dancers: Brandon Barrientos, Madalin Beam, LeNyah Bryan, RJ Lee, Josh Pringle, Anthony Rowe, Kayelyn Wilburn*

The work explores maternal instincts that become the ultimate and life saving priority over abiding by authoritative rules. We enter a state of fight or flight with traumatic experiences and are overcome by feelings of grief, hope, and comfort. We honor the lives lost at the Robb Elementary School mass shooting in Uvalde, Texas; and the only mother, Angeli Gomez, who ran into the building against police restraints to save her sons and other children.

Suffer Age

Choreographer: Jenn Jones

Music: Original poetry by Hayley Runge; "Makeba" by Jain; "Rise Up" by Andra Day; "We'll Meet Again" by Johnny Cash

Reader: Emory-Alexis Lewis

Singer: Mckenzy Harrison, Jacob Simpson

Dancers: Jada Brown, Sydney Burkhalter, Shaniah Gibson, Kyia Jones, Lexus Lyles, Valerie Kempton*, Emory-Alexis Lewis, Autumn Pearson, Connor Rothberg, Zoey Singletary, Adelaide Sprawls, Lilly Tillman

"Suffer Age" celebrates politics in America, including women's suffrage and the devotion of historical figures who ensured our freedom to vote. While "Suffer Age" showcases a sensitive topic, especially following election season, the work does not take sides, but instead celebrates our beautiful Americanisms.

Facets

Choreographer: Meg Schriffen

Lighting Designer: Kate Evans

Music: "She Remembers" by Max Richter (From The Leftovers); "Duet" by Steve Reich

Dancers: Madalin Beam, LeNyah Bryan, Raina Centner, Rachel Fuller, Remiya Jackson, Cassandra Jaramillo, Natalie Palmo, Josh Pringle, Melonda Sullivan

Life is full of many layers to unfold, and we all have many facets.

Choreographers



Brian Franco-Winn is a dancer, choreographer, and educator whose work reaches across a variety of dance perspectives. His works are centered on the human experience and draws upon his lived experiences in addition to his research to work toward a more inclusive and diverse representation of the world in concert dance. Brian's choreography has been performed around the Carolinas at festivals and other colleges and universities. As a performer, he danced with Plexus Dance and Caroline Calouche & Company in Charlotte, North Carolina, where he performed and taught contemporary and aerial dance for the company. Brian is an avid choreographer, clinician, and adjudicator within the pageantry arts community. He is the director of Etude, a performing arts organization under the Carolina Arts Collective and continues to choreograph for groups around the nation. Brian received his M.F.A. in Choreography from the University of North Carolina Greensboro where he was a graduate teaching associate in the School of Dance and formerly taught on the dance faculty at Kennesaw State University. He is thrilled to be the new assistant professor of dance at Winthrop University.



Kelly Ozust is an educator, choreographer, and performer with a focus on narrative storytelling and community engagement. In the department of theatre and dance she teaches modern, jazz, tap, and musical theatre techniques, as well as courses in choreography, dance education, and dance theory. She works closely with the musical theatre concentration by choreographing for the annual musicals, choreographing for the musical theatre workshop course, and teaching musical theatre history. She choreographs for all the faculty concerts annually and directs the Winthrop ChristmasVille RockHettes each fall. She has taught master classes and shown work at Piedmont University (Demorest, Georgia), Colorado State University (Fort Collins, Colorado), Lindenwood University (Saint Charles, Missouri), and Greensboro Fringe Festival (Greensboro, North Carolina). She is also on faculty at the DanceWV festival (Weston, West Virginia). She has performed throughout the Southeast and danced with Van Dyke Dance Group and Sarah Council Dance Projects. Kelly is an award-winning filmmaker with projects that have been shown at the Georgia Museum of Art and the ACDA Screendance Gala.



Emily Wiley was born and raised in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania where she received her early dance training at Pennsylvania Regional Ballet. After her family relocated to South Carolina, she continued pre-professional training at the School of North Carolina Dance Theatre. Later, Emily attended the Houston Ballet Academy on a full scholarship. After one year, Emily was invited to join Houston Ballet II, where she became the first representative of Houston Ballet to compete in the prestigious ballet competition, Prix De Lausanne in Lausanne, Switzerland. During her 10-year career as a soloist with Houston Ballet, she was featured in many works by world-renowned choreographers including: George Balanchine, Sir Kenneth McMillan, Anthony Tudor, William Forsythe, Stanton Welch, Wayne McGregor, Jiri Kylian and Nacho Duato. In midst of international company tours, she juggled principal roles and received a Princess Grace Award nomination. In 2013, she was one of the featured dancers in Jordan Matter's print work, "Dancers Among Us," photographed in New York City. After retiring from a full-time performance career, Emily began to cultivate her teaching skills and discovered her natural ability to choreograph and coach for all skill sets.



Gabrielle Tull is an assistant professor of dance and program coordinator for dance education at Winthrop University. She is a 2020 M.F.A. dance graduate from University of North Carolina Greensboro. As a previous high school dance director, she received a M.Ed. in divergent learning at Columbia College, South Carolina. Artistically, Gabrielle has performed with professional companies including The Power Company, Terrance Henderson Inc. Her recent scholarship in the Afro Diaspora foundations in jazz technique was awarded the Artist Express Grant, funded by the VCA and the NEA in 2021. Additionally, she was a lead presenter for the 2022 CADD at Duke University. Presently, she is one of the founding members and grant facilitators of the South Carolina Dance Educators Network, a professional organization that provides equitable access to quality professional dance education resources in the state. Her scholarship with SCDEN has resulted in grant awards from 2022-2024 with the SC Arts Commission and SCDE.



Jenn Jones is a freelance choreographer who currently directs the ballet program for Havilah Dance Company in Matthew, North Carolina, and teaches as an adjunct professor of dance for Winthrop University. After completing her bachelor's degree from the University of South Florida, Jenn went on to pursue a Master of Arts degree in dance education and graduate certificate in nonprofit management from the University of North Carolina Greensboro. Growing up, Jenn studied classical ballet and character movement at Southern Ballet Theatre (now Orlando Ballet) under the direction of Barbara Watson, and the Ormond School of Ballet under the direction of Jane Bradshaw. Jones performed professionally for 20 years in both concert and commercial arenas with companies including: the TOC Project, a contemporary ballet company in Miami directed by former Twyla Tharp company member, Lara Tinari; Bella Danza, an eclectic modern company in Ybor City directed by Maria Capitano, Karen Pederson and dancers, utilizing both abled and disabled bodies; and others in Tampa, Miami, and Charlotte. Jenn has taught for the Patel Conservatory (home of Next Generation Ballet), Tampa Preparatory School, and Charlotte Ballet.



Meg Schriffen was the dance program director at Winthrop University and an associate professor of dance for 16 ½ years. After her graduation from Winthrop with a B.A. in dance education, Meg taught dance at Camden Elementary of the Arts and Thomas Sumter Academy. While teaching, she also performed and choreographed for the Sumter Civic Dance Company and the Power Company in Columbia, South Carolina. While pursuing her M.F.A. at Florida State University, she performed in pieces by guest and faculty choreographers. She also performed in master works including Martha Graham's Steps in the Street from Chronicle and in Paul Taylor's Esplanade. Schriffen has performed and presented her choreography at the American College Dance Association conference, the Charlotte Dance Festival, several Piccolo Spoleto Festivals, and the Staibdance Summer Intensive in Sorrento, Italy. She also served on the board of the American College Dance Association and was a performer with Bodiography Contemporary Ballet Charlotte. She has certifications in Bodiography Fitness and Strength Training system, and a 200-hour yoga teacher certification. Since leaving Winthrop full-time, Meg is the children and family ministry director at All Saints Anglican Church. She is thrilled to be back at Winthrop to choreograph for the department.

CREW

Director	Kelly Ozust
Stage Manager	Kiernan Hedlund*
Assistant Stage Manager	Kate Evans
Lighting Designer	Biff Edge
Costume Designer	Leslie Cook
Technical Director	John P. Woodey
Scene Shop Supervisor	Erica Meece
Costume Shop Supervisor	Cheralyn Lambeth
Box Office Manager	Brandon Dawson
Scene Shop TAs	Ali Griffin, Kam Gwinn*, Kiernan Hedlund*, Kayelyn Wilburn*
Costume Shop TAs	Chloe Morgan*, Mirrel Sharpe*
Box Office TAs	Destiny Gore*, Samiyah Jeffery, Mackenzie Joy, Valerie Kempton*, Taylor Rowe Morgan, Noah Nappier
Costume Construction Crew	Jessica Caltagirone*, Sierra Dennison, Kate Evans, Ethan Ganzell, Ash Hernick, Mikey Kesler, Grace Santucci, Aidan Tibbitt*
Scenic Construction/Lighting Crew	Savannah Amos, Cassi Bleitz, Jessica Caltagirone, Reese Dinacci, River Dively, Chloe Morgan*, Mirrel Sharpe
Running Crew	Abigail Bast, Amina Bonner, Eva Brown, Shaylee Keogh, Savannah Rennell, Grayson Skidmore, Lauren Smith
Poster Designer	Prema Van Deren

*Denotes members of Alpha Psi Omega National Theatre Honor Society

WINTHROP UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE OF VISUAL AND PERFORMING ARTS

Karen Oremus, M.F.A. Dean
Tracy Patterson, D.M.A. Associate Dean

DEPARTMENT OF THEATRE AND DANCE

Zinorl Broñola, M.M.	Instructor of Theatre and Dance
Leslie Cook, M.F.A.	Associate Professor of Theatre
Rachel Dawson, M.F.A.	Assistant Professor of Theatre
Biff Edge, M.F.A.	Assistant Professor of Theatre
Brian Franco-Winn, M.F.A.	Assistant Professor of Dance
Daniel Gordon, M.F.A.	Department Chair and Professor
Stephen Gundersheim, M.F.A.	Professor of Theatre
Ramona Kundl	Administrative Assistant
Marvin McAllister, Ph.D.	Associate Professor of Theatre
Sandra Neels	Associate Professor of Dance
Kelly Ozust, M.F.A.	Associate Professor and Program Director of Dance
Gabrielle Tull, M.F.A., M.Ed.	Assistant Professor of Dance
John P. Woodey, M.F.A.	Assistant Professor of Theatre and Dance

Winthrop University is accredited by
The National Association of Schools of Theatre and
The National Association of Schools of Dance.

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