

*UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA*  
**CHARLOTTE**  
*COLLEGE OF ARTS + ARCHITECTURE*

The Department of Dance presents

# Faculty Dance Concert

WORKS BY FACULTY

E.E. Balcos

Audrey Baran

Kaustavi Sarkar

Ashley L. Tate

LIGHTING DESIGN

Gordon W. Olson

STAGE MANAGER

Katie Foster

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Anne R. Belk Theater  
Robinson Hall for the Performing Arts  
Fri Jan 26 & Sat Jan 27 | 7:30 pm  
[coaa.charlotte.edu](http://coaa.charlotte.edu)

## **Support the Department of Dance**

The Dance Department Chair's Excellence Fund supports student welfare, class supplies, scholarship assistance, recruiting, lecture series, school-wide events, promotion, and related needs. To make a gift and impact our students, please scan the QR Code below. Thank You!



Dear audience members,

It is with great pleasure that I welcome you to our 2024 Faculty Dance Concert! This is an important weekend in which we feature the performance and choreography of our Dance faculty and welcome guest artists.

The pieces you will see tonight reflect the range of dance genres and practices our faculty specialize in, and demonstrate how dancemaking and performance - as methods of creative research - help us engage with and make sense of the world.

This is the first Faculty Dance Concert to feature choreography and performance by Assistant Professor Ashley L. Tate, who joined the department in 2022 and who brings essential knowledge about Hip Hop, jazz, and other African diasporic dance practices and cultures to our students and curriculum. Returning to the stage this year are Visiting Assistant Professor Audrey Baran, with her contemporary company Baran Dance, Professor E.E. Balcos in a new collaboration focused on the somatic practice of Body-Mind Centering®, and Assistant Professor Kaustavi Sarkar in a contemporary solo stemming from the Indian classical dance form, Odissi.

Thank you for being here to witness and share in this performance and for supporting the Department of Dance. We also have other opportunities to engage with the department this semester: Dance Major Day for prospective students on February 10; our Spring Dance Concert, March 21-24; a student choreography concert, Under Construction, on April 5; and our Traditions concert on April 27. Hope to see you there!

With gratitude,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Gretchen Alterowitz', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Gretchen Alterowitz  
Professor and Chair, Department of Dance

## ***Soma Terra***

CHOREOGRAPHY

E.E. Balcos

MUSIC

Jim Coleman

IMPROVISATIONAL SCORE

AND PERFORMANCE

E.E. Balcos, Tal Halevi, and Margery Segal

Tal Halevi and Margery Segal are visiting artists from NYC and Austin, TX respectively. *Soma Terra* is a dance based on the performer's internal and external environments and the relationships that manifest. The movement expression is embodied through the somatic movement practice of Body-Mind Centering®. The audience is invited in, to experience the artistic unfolding.

## ***Tales of War and of Waste***

CHOREOGRAPHY

Audrey Baran with the dancers

MUSIC

"Everything is Free" and "Don't Dream It's Over"  
by Flock of Dimes and Sylvan Esso

PERFORMANCE

Audrey Baran, Sharon Dunson, Ali Roth

## ***Rati Vilaap: Exploring Stages of Grieving***

CHOREOGRAPHY

Dr. Maya Kulkarni

MUSIC

Shyam Kalyan

PERFORMANCE

Kaustavi Sarkar

Using mythological sketches, stages and modes of grief are explored in four acts. Act I: *Sambhrama* borders on delirium, Act II: *Smarana* rests on remembrance, Act III: *Tandava* ushers in total destruction, and Act IV: *Vilaap* describes the state of acceptance with mourning. The story is borrowed from the iconic ancient poet Kalidasa where the protagonist *Rati* mourns the loss of her beloved. *Vilaap* means crying out loud. The piece showcases *Shilpanatanam* (meaning moving imagery), which is a compositional technique and creative process envisioned by Kulkarni. Funded by Sarkar's NEA grant "*ShilpaNatanam: A New Vocabulary in Indian Dance*," *Rati Vilaap* has both solo and duet avatars jointly created with Martha Graham Company virtuoso Blakeley WhiteMcguire.

## *An Offering*

CHOREOGRAPHY	Audrey Baran with the dancers
MUSIC	“Sunny December,” “Patience is Expensive,” and “Have Me” by Bombadil
PERFORMANCE	Rahquelah Conyers and Kate Micham

## *From Brooklyn to Browne’s Ferry*

CHOREOGRAPHY	Ashley L. Tate with the dancers
MUSIC	“Sampha’s Plea” by Stormzy (ft. Sampha); “Amazing Grace” by Klassik; “Browne’s Ferry” by YUNG Citizen
VIDEOGRAPHY	Marlon Morrison, with interviews with Grace A.M.E. Zion Church members Karen Dixon, Trisia and David Haygood, Clara Lewis, and Gwendolyn and James McClellan conducted by Meg Whalen; “The History of Charlotte’s Brooklyn Neighborhood,” WTVI Charlotte
PERFORMANCE	Montë Murphy, Julia Peterson, Ashley L. Tate

The Browne’s Ferry neighborhood, like many University area neighborhoods, was developed in the late 1980s and 1990s as a racially and ethnically diverse middle-class neighborhood. In addition, it is home to the transplanted Grace A.M.E. Zion Church, whose congregation moved from their historic church in the Brooklyn/Second Ward neighborhood in 2006. Based on oral histories, mapping and historical land research, and demographic research, a multidisciplinary creative team is creating musical, video, and choreographic works capturing stories of Browne’s Ferry and Brooklyn for public presentation in May 2024. The project team includes: Nadia M. Anderson (Architecture), Mira Frisch (Music), Ashley L. Tate (Dance), and Meg Whalen (CoA+A), with members of Grace A.M.E. Zion Church and the Browne’s Ferry Community, the Charlotte Strings Collective, YUNG Citizen, Marlon Morrison, and additional community artists. Tonight’s performance serves as a teaser for the upcoming productions.

## Faculty Biographies

**E.E. Balcos** (Professor, he/him), Filipino-American and native Minnesotan, is Professor of Dance, performer, choreographer, and somatic movement educator. He holds a BA in Music from The Colorado College and an MFA in Choreography from The University of Iowa. He is a Registered Somatic Dance Educator (RSDE) and a Master Somatic Movement Educator (MSME). Balcos is passionate about somatic movement practice, primarily Body-Mind Centering®, and its application in dance and the creative process. He is an active member of the Body-Mind Centering® Association (BMCA) and the International Somatic Movement Education and Therapy Association, (ISMETA) and is on the Board of Directors. Balcos is also a founding member of the dance company Movement Migration.

**Audrey Baran** (Visiting Assistant Professor, she/her) is a Filipina-American Charlotte-based dance maker, performer, and educator. She holds an MFA in Dance from Hollins University and a BA in Dance and Graduate Certificate in Anti-Racism in Urban Education from UNC Charlotte. Baran was a selected choreographer for the 2022 Joffrey Ballet's Winning Works and Charlotte Ballet's Innovative: Direct from the LAB 2021. She has presented work in the Richmond Dance Festival, FEMMEfest, NDEO Conference, Bill Evans Somatic Dance Conference, NC Dance Festival, Tobacco Road Dance Productions, Triangle Dance Project, Ladyfest CLT, and Charlotte Dance Festival. Baran is the founder / artistic director of multifaceted contemporary dance company and nonprofit organization, Baran Dance.

**Kaustavi Sarkar** (Assistant Professor, she/her) an Odissi (eastern Indian traditional art form) practitioner/scholar, under the tutelage of Guru Poushali Mukherjee, Ratikant Mohapatra, and Sujata Mohapatra, grounds her practice within Indian philosophy, religious studies, South Asian aesthetics, technology studies, and critical cultural studies. Her book projects *Dance Technology Social Justice* with McFarland Publishers and *Shaping S-Curves* with University of North Carolina publishers establish her as an authority in the field of South Asian Dance Studies. Through her *Dance and Community Research Institute*, a worldwide network of professionals, she has won state/ federal grants standardizing dance education, creating professional-development opportunities, and organizing conferences.

**Ashley L. Tate** (Assistant Professor, she/her) is a director, choreographer, educator, and performer from Saint Louis, Missouri. She is the founder, artistic director, and executive director of Ashleyliane Dance Company. Tate received her MFA in Dance from Washington University in St. Louis, where she was a recipient of the Spencer T & Ann W. Olin Fellowship for Women in Graduate Study. In addition to various cities in the state of Missouri, her choreographic work has been featured in showcases in New York City, Las Vegas, Chicago, Boulder, Santa Monica, and Atlantic City. She teaches master classes and workshops in Hip Hop, contemporary, jazz, house dance, improvisation, and composition. She is the co-producer of Dance the Vote, a non-partisan grassroots arts-based voter registration initiative founded by Joan Lipkin, and is a key participant in the nationally recognized No Tears Project, a multidisciplinary festival designed to honor Civil Rights history. Her current research interests include the use of dance as a vehicle for community advocacy and social change, as well as the visual, auditory, and kinesthetic benefits of Hip Hop music and movement.

## Guest Artist Biographies

**Jim Coleman** (he/him) is an American musician who plays keyboards and sampler. He was a member of the 1990s noise Cop Shoot Cop and afterwards worked as a solo musician specializing in instrumental electronic music and film scores. The Children... is a loose collective initially formed and maintained by Jim Coleman and Michael Wiener. Contributing members include Phil Puleo, Kirsten McCord, John Nowlin and Rock Savage. Their live shows are sprawling, experiential and theatrical, integrating song structure, improv, performance and projections. Jim also composes also under the name of Phylr.

**Rahquelah Conyers** (she/her) is an Asheville native with a love for performance and art that explores the commonalities and intricacies of human nature. Her movement and creations are a culmination of her studies in Psychology, Sociology, Human Sexuality, and Dance at UNC Charlotte. She is a former member of Moving Spirits Inc. and an active company member of Baran Dance, incorporating her training in Modern, West African, African Brazilian, and Commercial Dance into her practice. She is motivated by collaboration with artists outside of dance to create expansive art that continues to seek out venues that can make a difference.

**Sharon Dunson** (she/her) has been a company member of Baran Dance for five years. Since graduating from Scripps College (2017) she has enjoyed learning and growing in various dance styles. In 2022, Sharon had her choreographic debut in *Baran Dance: Tiny Dances*. She has performed with the company in various local projects including the Charlotte International Arts Festival and Queen City Nerve's "Best of the Nest" (2023).

**Tal Halevi** (she/her) is a choreographer, dancer, and teacher based in New York City. Born and raised in Israel, she was a member of the Rina Schenfeld Dance Theater in Tel Aviv and performed with choreographers Nimrod Freed, Jeanette Stoner, and with the New York Theater Ballet. Her choreography, exploring the interplay of physical embodiment, shifting states of consciousness, and their expression through movement, has been presented in Europe, Israel, Canada, and the United States. A registered somatic movement educator and a certified teacher and practitioner of Body-Mind Centering®, she leads workshops on using somatic practices for dance-making.

**Kate Micham** (she/her), based in Charlotte since 2009, has been honored to work and perform, both on stage and in film, with some of the area's most talented artists including Audrey Baran, Megan Payne, and Lauren Bickerstaff. As a Baran Dance contemporary company member and contributing choreographer the last 11+ years, Kate has performed in the Democratic National Convention, North Carolina Dance Festival, Tobacco Road Dance Productions, Hollins MFA Thesis Presentation, LadyFest, Wine & Dance, etc. Her choreography has been featured in Baran Dance shows, the North Carolina Dance Festival, TEDxCharlotte, Charlotte Dance Festival, Women's Showcase of Charlotte, and LadyFest 2023.

**Montë Murphy** (he/they) is an Ethnochoreologist and Artist-Activist native of Raleigh, NC, leading his work with the voices and stories of his ancestors. His work focuses on exposing creative arts to underserved communities and exposing them to somatic practices for wellness. He is an archivist and preserver of Africanist cultural practices and traditions. He creates safe spaces for artistic exploration through dance education and amplifies inclusivity of the the voices of BIPOC communities. He is grateful to curate positive impacts for the community through his non-profit of A Brotha's



Luv in Motion, inc, where he expands his art into community wellness in the form of healing arts. Murphy attended UNC Charlotte, where he practiced dance scholarship, social practice, wellness, and advocacy. He has educated ages K-12, adults, persons with disabilities, and continues to increase his options of supporting the community through presenting at festivals, workshops, and conferences.

**Julia Peterson** (she/her) is a graduate of UNC Charlotte and a company member with Baran Dance. Prior to her time at Charlotte, she became part of the middle dance team for two years. She later became an apprentice for the Wanda Dance Company at Northwest School of the Arts for High School. Upon graduating high school, Julia attended UNC Greensboro and Central Piedmont Community College but found her true home at UNC Charlotte. She is excited for what is to come in the future.

**Ali Roth** (she/her) grew up in North Alabama where she trained in various styles and performed in productions such as Oklahoma!, Aladdin, The Wizard of Oz and more. She performed every role in The Nutcracker from sheep to Sugar Plum during her tenure at Dancer's Inc. Ali graduated from the University of Alabama with a Bachelors of Arts in Dance in 2019. During her time in school she choreographed and performed in, Dance Alabama! and Alabama Repertory Dance & Theatre and then studied at Broadway Dance Center's professional Semester in New York City. Ali returned to Birmingham, AL to join Formations Dance Company and is now in her third season as a company member of Baran Dance in Charlotte, NC.

**Margery Segal** (she/her) is a Performer/Dancer/Healer and a Therapist of Somatic/Developmental Movement, Pre/Perinatal Birth, Body-Mind Centering® & Body-Centered Psychotherapy, residing in Austin, Texas. She danced professionally in NYC in the Dance-Performance companies of Stephanie Skura, Yoshiko Chuma, Nina Martin and the London-based Gaby Agis plus numerous others. As a Choreographer/Writer/ Deviser, she is the Artistic Director of the Austin based Dance Performance company: Margery Segal/NERVE/Performance- creating large scale onsite performance works as well as tightly woven dance-plays that explore the character's experiences with mammalian survival in challenged landscapes.

# About the Department of Dance

The Department offers Bachelor of Arts degrees in Dance with concentrations in Dance Education, Applied Dance, or Performance, Choreography, and Theory. Dance study is enhanced by the interdisciplinary nature of our College of Arts + Architecture, study abroad opportunities, and the activities of a vibrant campus and the bustling, arts-minded city of Charlotte.

## Faculty and Staff

Gretchen Alterowitz, Professor and Chair

E.E. Balcos, Professor

Audrey Baran, Visiting Assistant Professor, Concert + Events Coordinator

Dr. Ann Dils, Professor

Kim Jones, Associate Professor

Delia Neil, Associate Professor and Coordinator, Professional Training Certificate in Dance

Dr. Marissa Nesbit, Assistant Professor and Dance Education Coordinator

Dr. Kaustavi Sarkar, Associate Professor

Ashley L. Tate, Assistant Professor

Tamara Williams, Associate Professor, Director of Undergraduate Studies

Shamou, Director of Music for Dance

Hannah Harrell, Academic Advisor

Tesh Ramey, Arts Education Specialist

Jennifer Jacobs, Office Administrator

## Adjunct Faculty and Dance Musicians

Kazuko Adachi, Accompanist

Inna Amromin, Accompanist

Allen Boyd, Accompanist

Anna Edwards

Albert (AJ) Glasco

Rodrigo Jimenez

Wendy Serrano Jimenez

Tod A. Kubo

Elsie Mufuka

Lauren Skrabalak

Luciano Xavier, Accompanist

# Production Team

PRODUCTION MANAGER	Hali Hutchison-Houk
TECHNICAL DIRECTOR	Matthew B. Fraiser
ASST. TECHNICAL DIRECTOR	Meena Carr
PRODUCTION ELECTRICIAN	Rick Moll
AUDIO ENGINEER	Benjamin G. Stickels
COSTUME DESIGNER	Rachel Engstrom
STAGE MANAGEMENT MENTOR	Rachel Swenson Watkins
STAGE MANAGER	Katie Foster
DECK CREW	Naomi Diaz, Kayhe Duerson, Kat Fletcher
LIGHT BOARD OPERATOR	Madison King
SOUND BOARD OPERATOR	DJ Cook

Music Clearances: Easy Song Licensing

# CoA+A Performing Arts Services

Dean Adams, Senior Associate Dean for Performing Arts

Hali Hutchison-Houk, Production Manager

Liz Paradis, Audience Services Manager

Beth Rucker, Business Services Coordinator

Liz Wooley, Performing Arts Operations Manager

Meena Carr, Assistant Technical Director

Rachel Engstrom, Lecturer, Costume Lab Supervisor / Designer

Matthew B. Fraiser, Lecturer, Technical Director

Rick Moll, Senior Lecturer, Production Electrician

Gordon W. Olson, Senior Lecturer, Lighting Designer

Benjamin G. Stickels, Senior Lecturer, Audio Engineer, Asst. Production Manager

Rachel Swenson Watkins, Senior Lecturer, Stage Management

Rebekah Briles, Hazel Doherty, & Noah Tepper, Music Stage Managers

Wendy Van Rees, Performing Arts House Management Supervisor

Tammy McNamara, Performing Arts House Manager

Patron Services Representatives

Will Loyd, Alex Lozier, Avery Pack, Justin Spencer

Robinson Hall Technicians

Caleb Basham, Lucy Burch, Kayhe Duerson, Alex McLellan, Nick Mendlik,  
Christian Souza, Renee Szeghy

# College of Arts + Architecture

## Upcoming Events

### JANUARY

Hunter Kopczynski  
Faculty & Friends Concert Series  
Tue Jan 30 | 7:30 pm  
Rowe Recital Hall

### FEBRUARY

Student Spotlight Concert  
Fri Feb 2 | 7:30 pm  
Anne R. Belk Theater

Selections from *The Magic Flute*  
Opera Workshop  
Thu Feb 8 | 7:30 pm  
Sun Feb 11 | 2:00pm  
Rowe Recital Hall

*The New South: Part 1- How We Got Here*  
by Margarette Joyner  
Thu Feb 15- Sat Feb 17 | 7:30 pm  
Sat Feb 17 & Sun Feb 18 | 2:00 pm  
Black Box Theater

Jazz Combos & Ensemble  
Tue Feb 20 | 7:30 pm  
Rowe Recital Hall

Wind Ensemble & Symphonic Band  
Wed Feb 21 | 7:30 pm  
Anne R. Belk Theater

Orchestra  
Thu Feb 22 | 7:30 pm  
Anne R. Belk Theater

### MARCH

Jessica Lindsey  
Faculty & Friends Concert Series  
Tue Mar 12 | 7:30 pm  
Rowe Recital Hall

Spring Dance Concert  
Thu Mar 21- Sat Mar 23 | 7:30 pm  
Sun Mar 24 | 2:00 pm  
Anne R. Belk Theater