

UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA
CHARLOTTE
COLLEGE OF ARTS + ARCHITECTURE

The Department of Dance presents

Spring Dance Concert

WORKS BY FACULTY AND GUEST ARTISTS

Gretchen Alterowitz

Kim Jones

Tamara Williams

Nejla Yatkin

COSTUME DESIGN

Rachel Engstrom

LIGHTING DESIGN

Jennifer O'Kelly

STAGE MANAGER

M. Lupino

Anne R. Belk Theater
Robinson Hall for the Performing Arts
Thu Mar 31- Sat Apr 2, 2022 | 7:30 pm
Sun Apr 3, 2022 | 2 pm
coaa.charlotte.edu

Welcome to the Department of Dance Spring 2022 Concert!

We are delighted that you have joined us to celebrate the work of our students and to experience live performance and dance film.

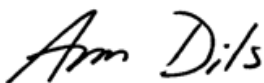
A special feature of our concert is the film, *Authentic: A Celebration of Karen Hubbard*, honoring the work of Associate Professor Hubbard. Nationally and internationally, Hubbard is the doyenne of vintage jazz research and teaching. Her work builds on her professional career, including performing as an NBC Hullabaloo dancer and work in musicals, especially serving as a dancer and the Paper Doll Munchkin prototype for the film version of *The Wiz!*. Hubbard also studied with and continues to research the life and works of Alfred “Pepsi” Bethel, a Greensboro-native who went on to be a Savoy Lindy Hopper, New York-based dancer and choreographer, and director of the Pepsi Bethel Authentic Jazz Dance Theater. At UNC Charlotte, Hubbard is a much-respected faculty member and mentor who works to make dance study accessible to many kinds of students. Hubbard’s work has been disseminated through academic writing and master teaching, especially in association with the National Dance Education Organization. The film was created by Charlotte-based filmmaker, Marlon Morrison; produced by Meg Whalen, College of Arts + Architecture (CoA+A) Director of Communications and External Relations; and resourced by Jenna Duncan, CoA+A Visual Resources Lecturer.

Also featured in this concert is a film, *Thread*, by guest artist, Nejla Yatkin, and videographer, Enki Andrews. Yatkin is an award-winning, Chicago-based dance maker, celebrated for her choreography and video project with Andrews, *Dancing Around the World*. Visiting Assistant Professor Audrey Baran serves as rehearsal director for Yatkin’s work. Yatkin’s February residency in the Department of Dance and the production of this video were supported by the UNC Charlotte Chancellor’s Diversity Challenge Fund, the Department of Dance, and the College of Arts + Architecture.

The concert also features live works by faculty members in collaboration with students. They include works by Gretchen Alterowitz, Kim Jones, and Tamara Williams. We are delighted to welcome back lighting designer Jennifer O’Kelly of O’Kelly Design Studios and thankful for our frequent collaborators from Performing Arts Services, College of Arts + Architecture.

If you are attending the concert on Friday, April 1, please stay after the concert for a reception celebrating our return to live performance and Associate Professor Hubbard.

Proudly,



Ann Dils
Professor and Chair, Department of Dance

In the Beginning DANCE

CHOREOGRAPHY	Kim Jones, Caroline Vance (Tap), Carlos Alexis Cruz (Theatre Interlude), in collaboration with the cast
MUSIC	“In the Beginning God” Duke Ellington, <i>Concert of Sacred Music</i>
PERFORMANCE	Tabitha Baker, Maria Borrowman, Aliyah Brewington, Amber Colby, Lysa Fakir, Martha Murray, Carly O’ Rourke, Mico Quijano, Kenny Raynor, Sarah Webb

Duke Ellington composed “In the Beginning God” for a concert at Grace Cathedral in San Francisco in 1965. Ellington believed, “Every man prays in his language, and there is no language God doesn’t understand.” Music and dance are among those languages.

Thank you to the cast, Caroline and Carlos, for their collaboration. We explored rhythm and movement in Ellington’s music. This work was commissioned for a performance of Duke Ellington’s *Sacred Concerts* on April 9, 2022 at Queens University of Charlotte.

Thread

CHOREOGRAPHY	Nejla Yatkin, in collaboration with the cast
DIRECTION	Nejla Yatkin
MUSIC	“Iluminar,” by Porangui
PERFORMANCE	Chloe Dos Reis, Ava Drexel, Alyssa Faustin, Jaiden Gardner, Laura Lehmann, Anna Mayorga, Ashley Perry, Laura Isabel Velez
LIGHTING DESIGN	Rick Moll in collaboration with O’Kelly Design Studios
VIDEOGRAPHY	Enki Andrews
EDITING	Enki Andrews and Nejla Yatkin
REHEARSAL DIRECTION	Audrey Baran

Nejla Yatkin’s residency in the Department of Dance and the production of this film were supported by the UNC Charlotte Chancellor’s Diversity Challenge Fund, the Department of Dance, and the College of Arts + Architecture.

Willful We

CHOREOGRAPHY Gretchen Alterowitz, in collaboration with the cast
MUSIC Alexander Balanescu and the Balanescu Quartet
PERFORMANCE Brandy Brown, Susanna Couch, Kayley McLamb,
Ana Risch, Destiny Sims

Drawing on personal experiences of being women in or near ballet, and using the canonical ballet, *Giselle*, as a point of reference, this piece envisages alternatives for ballet femininities.

Authentic: A Celebration of Karen Hubbard

VIDEOGRAPHY, EDITING, AND GRAPHICS Marlon Morrison
PRODUCER Meg Whalen
SPECIAL THANKS Jenna Duncan

Rooted

CHOREOGRAPHY Tamara Williams, in collaboration with the cast
MUSIC “Wanting Memories,” Sweet Honey in the Rock
“Na Ku Penda (Eu te Amo, Mama),” Lenna Bahule
“As” (album version), Stevie Wonder
PERFORMANCE Neha Kissler, Kenny Raynor,
Briahna Waters, Charity Williams

Rooted explores memories of nostalgic moments in time, individualism and agency, and connections through family, friendships and community. As Stevie Wonder states in “As,” “We all know sometimes life’s hates and troubles, can make you wish you were born in another time and space,” but through our continued support of each other and respect for humanity we can continue to lift each other up through difficult times. Feel free to clap and dance with us as we dance through the times!

Faculty Biographies

Gretchen Alterowitz (Associate Professor) is an artist-scholar whose research focuses on feminist, queer, democratic, and collaborative dancemaking and performance. Her writing is published in *Dance Chronicle*, *Conversations Across the Field of Dance Studies*, *Journal of Dance Education*, and the *Oxford Handbook on Contemporary Ballet*. She has presented her choreography at festivals across the US and the Grachtenfestival in Amsterdam. Alterowitz is also a member of AGA Collaborative, a dance research and performance collective. She holds an MFA in Dance from the University of Iowa.

Audrey Ipapo Baran (Visiting Assistant Professor) is a Filipina-American dance maker, performer, and educator based in Charlotte, NC. She holds an MFA in Dance from Hollins University and a BA in Dance from UNC Charlotte, where she is the 2019 Department of Dance Distinguished Alum. Baran is a selected choreographer for Joffrey Ballet Academy's Winning Works 2022 Choreographic Competition and Charlotte Ballet's 2021 Innovative: Direct from the LAB. As the founder/artistic director of contemporary dance company Baran Dance and a Registered Yoga Teacher, Baran thrives on sharing her research on movement and mindfulness throughout the Queen City and beyond.



Karen W. Hubbard (Associate Professor) holds a BA in Sociology (Kent State University), MA in Dance (The Ohio State University), and Certificate in African/Kenyan Studies from the University of Nairobi as a Fulbright-Hays Scholar. Her professional training includes modern dance, contemporary & traditional jazz dance, ballet, and pantomime.

Karen performed with Karamu Concert Dancers, a modern dance company based in Cleveland Ohio. She was also producer/moderator of a talk show airing weekly on ABC affiliate WSET-TV in Lynchburg, VA and Artistic Director/Dancer of *Dance-By-Two*, a touring narrated performance funded by the Virginia Commission for the Arts.

New York professional credits (AEA, SAG, AFTRA) include musicals, daytime serials, commercials, and films. Karen toured as a “go-go girl” with the NBC Hullabaloo Dancers, toured and performed on Broadway as Ermengarde in *Hello Dolly!*, and appeared as a Paper Doll Munchkin prototype and dancer in the film version of *The Wiz!*

She joined the Department of Performing Arts at UNC Charlotte in 1986. At the time, the center of campus was located in front of Rowe Arts Building and students earned the Bachelor of Creative Arts Degree. Her teaching assignments have included both studio and theory courses. She initiated dance-based writing intensive courses and she developed the General Education Course entitled *The Arts and Society: Dance*.

Based on five decades of jazz dance embodied/theoretical research, Karen evolved an innovative approach to teaching Vintage Jazz Dance; students learn jazz movement from the first half of the 20th century as well as cultural and historical/aesthetic aspects of the form. Her writing appears in academic journals and books, and her innovative teaching methodologies are utilized nationally. She has taught master classes throughout the US, in SA and the BWI, and she was one of the scholars consulted for the groundbreaking PBS *Free to Dance* series and the recently released film *Uprooted*. Her secondary research is the first half of the 20th Century Dance Interpretation of *Uncle Tom's Cabin*.

Karen is honored to be a recent interviewee for the NY Public Library Jerome Robbins Dance Division Oral History project. She attributes her success to the support of her students and colleagues through the years. Karen looks forward to clearing her office of clutter and she expects to delete over 12,000 emails. Then, it's onward to new adventures.

Kim Jones (Associate Professor) is a choreographer, dancer, régisseur for the Martha Graham Center, and artistic director of Movement Migration. She danced with the Graham Company, Metropolitan Opera, and was a principal dancer in US National Broadway tours. Choreographer Paul Taylor offered *Tracer* (1962), as the subject of a scholarly reconstruction by Kim. Her work was supported by NEA and UNC Charlotte Faculty Research Grants. Her work was presented at The Metropolitan Museum

of Art, The Museum of Modern Art (MoMA), and the Joyce Theater in NYC. Her dance reconstruction writing is published in *Dance Research Journal*, *Palgrave*, and an upcoming article in *Dance Education in Practice*.

Tamara Williams (Assistant Professor) earned her MFA in Dance from Hollins University in collaboration with The American Dance Festival, The Forsythe Company, and Frankfurt University. She has choreographed works that have been presented nationally and internationally including Serbia, Switzerland, Trinidad & Tobago, Jamaica, Mexico, and Brazil. In 2011, she created Moving Spirits, Inc., a contemporary arts organization dedicated to performing, researching, documenting, cultivating, and producing arts of the African Diaspora. Williams' book, *Giving Life to Movement* (2021) analyzes African-Brazilian dance histories and cultures. Her monograph, *The African Diaspora and Civic Responsibility: Addressing Social Justice through the Arts, Education and Community Engagement*, (forthcoming) investigates how African American, African-Brazilian, Haitian, and Latinx artists and scholars address civic responsibility and social justice issues through the arts.

Guest Artist Biographies

Enke Adrews is a Chicago-based multimedia, interactive artist experimenting with physical phenomena to discover how humanity views itself in light of our finite human perceptions and how expanding those reflections enhances our self-awareness. Initially inspired by “technology” artists such as Eadweard Muybridge, Alfred Stieglitz, Chuck Close, and United Visual Artists, Enki began working as a photographer in 2000. His arts pieces have been exhibited at New York Figment, Nuit Blanche New York, and at Monitor Digital Festival. His photography has appeared in the *Huffington Post* and the *Washington City Paper*. For more, visit syncord.com.

CarlosAlexis Cruz (Associate Professor of Physical Theatre) is the Producing Artistic Director of the Nouveau Sud Circus project, a circus for social change company in service of the urban region of Charlotte, North Carolina. The company is currently invested in the creation of *BESTIA*, a circus take on the journey of central American immigrants. Cruz's Nouveau Sud was just awarded a NEFA National Theatre Project Creation and Touring grant for Bestia. Notable awards: Knight Foundation- Celebrate

Charlotte Arts, Princess Grace Foundation 2017 Works in Progress Award with the support of the Baryshnikov Arts Center in NYC. Cruz is Diversity Coordinator for the College of Arts + Architecture at UNC Charlotte.

A graduate of UNC School of the Arts, **Marlon Morrison** worked as a professional actor in New York City for more than 15 years and enjoyed success in regional theaters across the country. In 2016, he returned to Charlotte, his hometown, and founded My Voice, My Choice Inc., an organization that utilizes theatre and filmmaking to address character development and leadership skills in youth. Additionally, he has developed an independent career as a filmmaker and videographer working in the public and nonprofit sectors. Recent projects include Dance Professor Tamara Williams's *Remembrance 2020* and *Iba Obirin 2021-22*. He will premiere his first documentary, *Blue Cipher*, in April 2022.

Jennifer Wynn O'Kelly (Lighting Designer) began collaborating with inventive theatre and dance companies in 1989. She is excited to be returning as a guest artist this spring to the wonderfully supportive environment at UNC Charlotte. She is currently in process on a number of new projects around the state working for live audiences with RhinoLeap, Piedmont Players, contemporary circus and dance, traditional and musical theatre and opera, in addition to prepping for her second cast iron sculpture collection which she began during 2020. Jennifer earned her MFA in Scenic Design at UNCSCA, a BFA in Sculpture from UT Arlington, is a member of the IATSE and founding member of Delurk Gallery in Winston- Salem, NC.

Caroline Vance is from Durham, NC and has been teaching in dance studios across the triangle for the past 7 years. She graduated from UNC Chapel Hill in 2016 with degrees in English and Psychology. Caroline spent 13 years studying rhythm tap with Gene Medler at the Ballet School of Chapel Hill, and was a member of the North Carolina Youth Tap Ensemble (NCYTE) from 2008-2012. In 2016, she was brought on as NCYTE's co artistic director alongside Gene Medler. Caroline has had the privilege of learning from some of the greatest tap dancers in the world at festivals across the US, and has taught at the North Carolina Rhythm Tap Festival in Chapel Hill.

Described by *The New York Times* as “a magician, telling tales and creating worlds” and “a fierce and supple performer,” Chicago-based choreographer **Nejla Yatkin** travels the globe inspiring empathic connections between people and their environments. She creates solos, choreographs ensemble dances for stages and sites, collaborates on plays and film/video projects, and educates young artists. Nejla hails from Germany; her artistic lineage enfolds European dance-theatre, American Modern Dance, African-American modern dance, and numerous international influences. She is the recipient of awards from the Princess Grace Foundation, the National Performance Network, 3Arts and the Baryshnikov Arts Center, among others. For more, visit www.ny2dance.com.

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

Dr. Ann Dils, Professor and Chair

Gretchen Alterowitz, Associate Professor and Concerts and Events Coordinator

E.E. Balcos, Associate Professor

Audrey Baran, Visiting Assistant Professor

Karen Hubbard, Associate Professor

Kim Jones, Associate Professor

Delia Neil, Associate Professor and Undergraduate Coordinator,

Professional Training Certificate in Dance

Dr. Marissa Nesbit, Assistant Professor and Dance Education Coordinator

Dr. Kaustavi Sarkar, Assistant Professor

Tamara Williams, Assistant Professor

Shamou, Director of Music for Dance

Hannah Harrell, Academic Advisor

Tesh Ramey, Arts Education Specialist

Jennifer Jacobs, Office Administrator

Adjunct Faculty

Kazuko Adachi, Accompanist

Allen Boyd, Accompanist

Missy Coyle

Albert (AJ) Glasco

Wendy Jimenez

Tod A. Kubo

Eric Mullis, Accompanist

Janet Schroeder

Luciano Xavier, Accompanist

Production Team

PRODUCTION MANAGER	Elizabeth A. Yoder
TECHNICAL DIRECTOR	Matthew B. Fraiser
MASTER ELECTRICIAN	Rick Moll
AUDIO ENGINEER	Benjamin G. Stickels
COSTUME LAB MANAGER	Hali Hutchison-Houk
COSTUME LAB SUPERVISOR	Rachel Engstrom
STAGE MANAGEMENT MENTOR	Rachel Swenson Watkins
STAGE MANAGER	M. Lupino
DECK CREW	Anastasia Lozneva, Laura Velez
LIGHT BOARD OPERATOR	Allie Shultz
SOUND BOARD OPERATOR	Kaitlyn Palmer
WARDROBE CREW	Anisah Alahmed, Cozetta Derritt
COSTUME LAB TECHNICIANS	Sophia Bradley, Ellie McCutchen, Emma Suzik, Adriana Tavira-Garibay, Mandy Worley
COSTUME LAB CREW	Helen Ciavolella, Tyler Clare, Olivia Colone, Micah Contee, Tiffany Gaskins, Deanna Giovacchini, Lily Lafave, Summer Post, Astrid Reed-Kennedy, Brooke Russo, Emma Suzik, Olivia Thonissen
LIGHTING LAB TECHNICIANS	D.J. Cook, James Hornburg, Tasha Kay, M. Lupino
LIGHTING LAB CREW	Alex Bissette, Emmett Cleaver, Isabelle Grise, Alyce Hyder, Summer Post, Rebecca Vaughan
PAS AUDIO TECHNICIAN	Emily Parker
ROBINSON HALL TECHNICIANS	Emmett Cleaver, Mary Groff, Leenah Newby, Chloe Shade, Renee Szeghy
LEAD SCENIC CARPENTERS	Kyle Harris, Jack Mathura
SCENIC CARPENTERS	Macey Biddinger, Joseph Ellsworth, Ana Risch, Danny Ruiz, Pavlo Smith
SCENIC PRACTICUM	Duncan Bayer, Julia Moser, Erika Rush

College of Arts + Architecture

Upcoming Events

APRIL

African Brazilian Arts Festival Thu Apr 7- Sun Apr 10
UNC Charlotte, Mint Museum, Camp North End

Moving Spirits Fri Apr 15- Sat Apr 16 | 6 pm
UNC Charlotte Botanical Gardens

Pippin Thu Apr 21- Sat Apr 23 | 7:30 pm
music and lyrics by Stephen Schwartz Sat Apr 23 & Sun Apr 24 | 2 pm
book by Roger O. Hirson Anne R. Belk Theater

Under Construction Mon Apr 25- Tue Apr 26
Student Choreography Concert Robinson 118

MOVE and RoM Student Dance Concerts Fri Apr 29 & Sun May 1
Robinson 118

CoA+A Performing Arts Services

Dean Adams, Associate Dean for Performing Arts Services

Elizabeth A. Yoder, Production Manager

Beverly Lueke, Interim Performing Arts Operations Manager

Liz Paradis, Audience Services Manager

Beth Rucker, Business Services Coordinator

Rachel Engstrom, Lecturer, Costume Lab Supervisor / Designer

Matthew B. Fraiser, Lecturer, Technical Director

Hali Hutchison-Houk, Costume Lab Manager

Rick Moll, Senior Lecturer, Master Electrician

Gordon W. Olson, Senior Lecturer, Lighting Designer

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

Rachel Swenson Watkins, Senior Lecturer, Stage Management

Hazel Doherty, Music Stage Manager

Kyra Hubert, Music Stage Manager

Wendy Van Rees, Performing Arts House Manager

Alex Gomes, Performing Arts House Manager