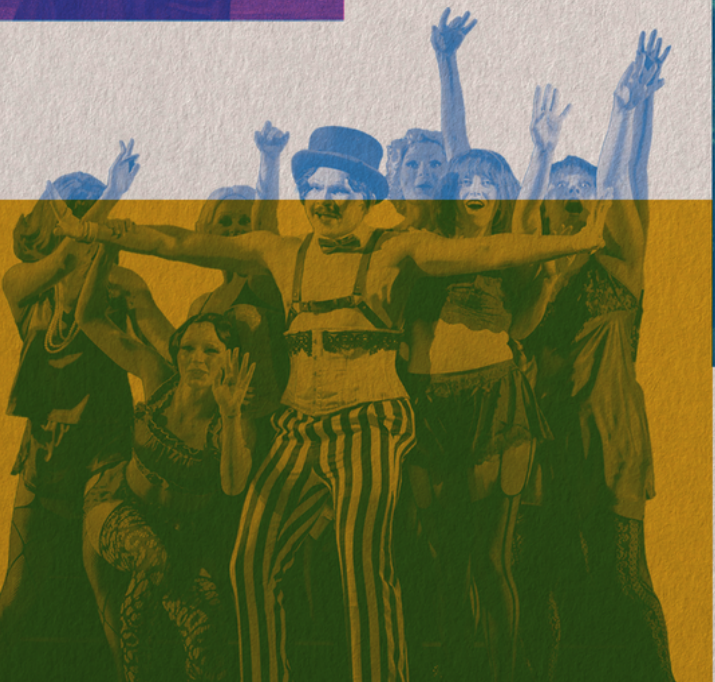
ON STAGE







CHARLOTTE
COLLEGE OF ARTS + ARCHITECTURE

Welcome!

An engaged audience is the most essential level of support we can receive. Thank you for being a part of this performance experience!

Revenue from ticket sales directly supports student scholarships in dance, music and theatre. You can expand opportunities for students with a financial gift to fund scholarships, visiting artists and scholars, master classes, study abroad and more. To make a secure gift online, please visit **giving.charlotte.edu**. Thank you for your support!

About the College of Arts + Architecture

Grounded in a commitment to excellent teaching, the College of Arts + Architecture sparks curiosity, fosters innovative research and anchors collaborative projects that empower and sustain communities.

The College of Arts + Architecture will infuse the university's urban mission with arts and design, creative research and collaborative projects that inspire cultural vibrancy throughout Charlotte, the region and beyond.

Connect with us! We hope you will join us again soon. Stay up to date with our College news and programming on our website at **coaa.charlotte.edu**. Follow us at **@CLT_COAA** on Instagram and **@CLTCOAA** on Facebook and LinkedIn.

Program Book Feedback

We welcome your valuable input on digital program books. Please complete this brief survey to provide your feedback.

UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA
CHARLOTTE
COLLEGE OF ARTS + ARCHITECTURE

The Department of Dance presents

Fall Dance Concert

SHIFT

CHOREOGRAPHY

Alyah Baker

E.E. Balcos

Billy J. Hawkains III

Maya Kulkarni

LIGHTING DESIGN

David M. Fillmore Jr.

STAGE MANAGER

Simone Kahoussi

Anne R. Belk Theater
Robinson Hall for the Performing Arts
Thu Oct 22- Sat Oct 24, 2026 | 7:30 pm
Sun Oct 25, 2026 | 2:00 pm
coaa.charlotte.edu

Closed Captioning

The College of Arts + Architecture is proud to offer closed captioning for this performance (for the pieces that include voiceover and/or music with lyrics), available on your smartphone.

Please connect to the "NinerWiFi-Guest" WiFi network and click this link to access captioning: 10.139.165.80

Universal phone holders are available for loan at the box office for a hands-free experience!

Captions powered by CCTheater, from AccessTech, LLC. (info@getaccesstech.com)

If you'd like to provide feedback on your experience using captioning today, please complete this brief survey.

Content Warning

Please be advised that this production incorporates the use of haze and strobe effects. A few pieces contain intense sensory effects that may be overwhelming for some audience members (*What the Tree Remembers...*, *juste, juste* and *PROTOCOL*).

Viewer discretion is advised for individuals with light sensitivity and/or photosensitive epilepsy, or sensory sensitivities.

Earplugs, weighted blankets, and sensory support bags (in partnership with KultureCity) may be requested at the box office.

Dear audience members,

Welcome to Fall Dance 2026, and thank you for joining us for an evening of dance at UNC Charlotte.

The Fall Dance Concert is an important part of our department's annual programming. It provides an opportunity for our students to work alongside accomplished faculty and guest artists while experiencing the creative process from rehearsal to performance. This year's program brings together a diverse collection of choreographic voices, movement practices, musical landscapes, and approaches to storytelling.

The works presented tonight invite us to consider the many ways dance can communicate. Alyah Baker's *juste, juste* explores devotion and desire through a hybrid movement language that draws from ballet and modern dance, while *Wonder Full* reflects on the awe, joy, sorrow, and connections that shape a life well lived. E.E. Balcos's *Moontide* offers a rich physical response to Rachmaninov's music, while Billy J. Hawkains III's *PROTOCOL* examines systems, repetition, discipline, and the possibilities that emerge when we question the rules we inherit. Guest artist Maya Kulkarni's *What the Tree Remembers...* considers memory, loss, destruction, and renewal through the life cycle of a tree.

Together, these works demonstrate the breadth of contemporary dance and the ways our faculty and guest artists engage movement as a form of inquiry and expression. They also reflect our department's commitment to exposing students to artists with varied backgrounds, aesthetics, methodologies, and perspectives.

We are especially pleased to welcome Maya Kulkarni to UNC Charlotte. Her visit extends the students' learning beyond the traditional classroom and studio, allowing them to engage directly with an accomplished artist whose choreographic practice draws from sculpture, architecture, literature, mythology, and the human experience. Experiences such as these are central to dance education: students learn not only by studying dance, but by being in conversation with the artists and ideas shaping the field.

Thank you for being here and for supporting the Department of Dance. Your presence in the audience matters. Your support helps us continue to provide students with opportunities to perform, create, research, collaborate, and engage with the broader professional dance community. We hope tonight's concert inspires you to return, bring someone new with you, and continue experiencing the many ways dance lives at UNC Charlotte.

With gratitude for your support,
Tamara Williams, Interim Chair and Director of Undergraduate Studies
Department of Dance
College of Arts & Architecture, University of North Carolina at Charlotte

Moontide

CHOREOGRAPHY	E.E. Balcos
COSTUME DESIGN	Rachel Engstrom
MUSIC	"Piano Concerto #2 in C minor," Op. 18, Mvt. II: Adagio sostenuto by Sergei Rachmaninov
PERFORMERS	Viktoria Pena Adamovicova, Avery Allen, Alyssa Burgess, Jasmine Forner, Gia Free, Gianna Gause, Kayla Golden, Mackenzie Holbert, Alyssa Hopson, Camry Miller, Reagan Overby, Riley Simon

Inspired by the gravity of the earth and moon and its effects on our fluid ecosystems.

What the Tree Remembers...

CHOREOGRAPHY	Dr. Maya Kulkarni
REHEARSAL DIRECTION	Kaustavi Sarkar
COSTUME DESIGN	Rachel Engstrom
MUSIC	Shyam Kalyan
VOICEOVER & SOUND DESIGN	Benjamin G. Stickels
PERFORMERS	Grace Berry, Sophia Borgnis, Alicia Houssou, Ava Nultemeier, Elizabeth Robinson, Ryan Scribner

What the Tree Remembers... is a dance work tracing the life of a tree as a witness from immanence to disappearance. From the pulsating womb of the earth, a tree rises, growing into a mighty, aging presence. Within its trunk dwell memories: children playing beneath its shade, now ghostly echoes of a vanished past; a mother mourning her missing child, suspended between hope and despair. Peacocks dance, flirt, and beckon the monsoon. Thunder erupts into a furious storm; the earth trembles, the wind howls, and the tree is shattered, swallowed by the earth.

Silence descends. Then, deep within the stillness, life stirs again. Is it a new seed, or the ancient cycle beginning anew?

juste, juste

CHOREOGRAPHY	Alyah Baker in collaboration with dancers
COSTUME DESIGN	Rachel Engstrom
MUSIC	"Just (After Song of Songs)" by David Lang, sung by Trio Mediæval
PERFORMERS	Ari Flournoy, Gianna Gause, Camille Habran, Nalani Hill, Lexi Potter, Zoe Jones

juste, juste, inspired by the spare, haunting lyrics and melody of *Just (After Song of Songs)* by David Lang, is a meditation on devotion and desire. Originally commissioned in 2025 by Rhode Island Choreography Project for a cast of four dancers, this work has been reimagined for six dancers. Through a hybrid movement language that combines balletic and modern iconography, the dancers embody themes of tension, surrender, gesture, and flow.

Wonder Full

CHOREOGRAPHY	Alyah Baker in collaboration with dancers
REHEARSAL ASSISTANT	Abbi Gray
COSTUME DESIGN	Alyah Baker and Rachel Engstrom
MUSIC	"Gimme Some More," "I Got The…", and "My Song" by Labi Siffre
PERFORMERS	Jasmine Forner, Naiya Graham, Abbi Gray, Lizzy Haynes, Tashyia Lowe, Constanza Martell-Cote, Gracie Sisk, Alex Wood, Eris Dinkens (understudy)

And I wonder
If you know what it means
To find your dreams come true
- Labi Siffre

Labi Siffre's earnest lyrics and groovy arrangements, the catalyst for this dance, reflect the awe, wonder, sorrows, and joys of a life well lived and the communities and connections that sustain us through it all.

PROTOCOL

CHOREOGRAPHY	Billy J. Hawkains III with the dancers
COSTUME DESIGN	Rachel Engstrom
MUSIC	Emptyset: *Across*, *Ascent*, *Border*, *Dissolve*
PERFORMERS	Riley Adams, Anshu Chakraraj, Kayla Golden, Camry Miller, Willow Miller, DeMya Powell, Elizabeth Robinson, Sara Sprinkle (understudy)

PROTOCOL is a rigorous, mechanical, and physically demanding work driven by the collective energy of its dancers and the force of its musical landscape. Its four sections were created independently, resisting the expectation of a singular narrative or continuous through line. Instead, they are connected through a shared physical language of effort, repetition, discipline, manipulation, and order, while music and the shifting technological environment of the LED screen further activate the worlds the dancers inhabit.

At the same time, *PROTOCOL* emerged from my desire to break the protocols I had acquired around making a dance—the assumptions that one section must logically lead to the next, that ideas must resolve, or that everything must ultimately "make sense." As a choreographer, I am increasingly interested in questioning these inherited and self-imposed habits and discovering what becomes possible when I give myself permission not to obey them. *PROTOCOL* therefore lives inside a contradiction: while the dancers inhabit a world shaped by systems, rules, discipline, and collective responsibility, the process of making the work became an exercise in resisting them. As one dancer described it, *PROTOCOL* is like working on an assembly line: if one person stops, the work moves on without them.

Music Clearances: Easy Song Licensing

Select projected images for this production were created using AI generative tools.

Video and/or audio recording is strictly prohibited.

Faculty Biographies



Alyah Baker (Assistant Professor) is a choreographer, performer, and scholar working at the intersection of art and embodied activism. She holds an MFA in Dance: Embodied Interdisciplinary Praxis and a B.A. in Sociology from Duke University. In 2017, Baker founded AB Contemporary Dance, a project-based dance company, and Ballet for Black and Brown Bodies, an education and advocacy platform committed to accessible, culturally relevant ballet training. Her choreography has been presented by the NC Dance Festival, Oakland Ballet, Choreography Project in Rhode Island, T2 Dance in Colorado, and American Dance Festival, among others. Baker's research has been recognized in local and national media, including *Dance Teacher Magazine* and *The New York Times*. **For Baker's full bio:** https://coaa.charlotte.edu/people/alyah-baker/



E.E. Balcos (Professor) is a Filipino-American originally from Minneapolis. He has choreographed numerous professional works and works for students. From 2006-2013, his dance company, E.E.MOTION, was featured with North Carolina Dance Festival, Charlotte Dance Festival, ADF's Acts to Follow Series, Piccolo Spoleto in Charleston, SC, Wake Forest Dance Festival, and the Minnesota Fringe Festival. His choreography has also been presented in venues including the Knight Theater in Charlotte, Walker Art Center and Intermedia Arts in Minneapolis, Joyce/Soho and Danspace Project in New York City, Folly Theatre in Kansas City, and Lawrence Art Center. Balcos has performed and presented work throughout the U.S., Canada, England, Germany, Italy, Mexico, the Philippines and Uzbekistan. **For Balcos' full bio:** https://coaa.charlotte.edu/people/e-e-balcos/



Billy J. Hawkains III (Lecturer) is a choreographer, educator, and arts leader from Detroit, Michigan. He is founder and director of The III Collective and one of three Master Teachers of Safety Release, developed by B.J. Sullivan. Hawkains has a 15-year association with Theatre of Movement (Duane Cyrus, dir.), contributing to creative processes, rehearsal direction, research, and repertory preservation. He is also a founding board member and Community Advisory Board Secretary for The Black Artist Dance Collective. Previously, he taught at Kennesaw State University and the University of Arizona. Hawkains holds an MFA in Dance Choreography from UNC Greensboro and a BFA in Dance Performance from UNCSA. **For Hawkains' full bio:** https://coaa.charlotte.edu/people/billy-j-hawkains/



Kaustavi Sarkar (Associate Professor) is a soloist whose practice-based research investigates virtuosity in dance-theater through Indian aesthetics, with particular emphasis on choreography and creative processes. She has commissioned works from leading female choreographers Ananya Chatterjea, Rohini Dandavate, Aruna Mohanty, and Maya Kulkarni, examining creative practice in South Asian aesthetics. Her scholarship appears in *International Journal of Screendance*, *Choreographic Practices*, *Journal on Dance Education,* and *Performance Research*. Her books, including *Dance Technology and Social Justice* and *Shaping S-Curves: Choreographic Process in Odissi*, contribute to contemporary dance scholarship and pedagogy. Sarkar serves as regional director for the American College Dance Association's Mid-Atlantic region and convenes the Dance and Community Research Institute, advancing the integration of South Asian diasporic arts. She is also founding member and business manager of *South Asian Dance Intersections* and founder of the annual *Odissi Odyssey* conference at UNC Charlotte. **For Sarkar's full bio:** https://coaa.charlotte.edu/people/kaustavi-sarkar/

Guest Artist Biography



Maya Kulkarni is a dancer, choreographer, teacher, and creator of *Shilpanatanam*, a distinctive choreographic vocabulary developed over more than a decade through an extensive body of original works. Her career as a performer and choreographer has spanned the United States, Europe, and India, earning recognition for technical precision, expressive depth, and compelling storytelling. *The New York Times* critic Anna Kisselgoff hailed her as the "Dancer's Dancer." At the heart of Kulkarni's artistic practice is a movement and dramaturgical language conceived to transcend cultural boundaries. Drawing inspiration from sculpture, painting, architecture, literature, poetry, and mythology, it transforms stories from diverse civilizations into movement, metaphor, and human experience. Her repertoire includes works inspired by Plato, Greek mythology, Indian narratives, and universal themes of love, conflict, identity, desire, and transformation. Works such as *The Allegory of the Cave*, *Medea's Passion*, *The Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse*, *Adventures of a Naughty Bee*, and *Narcissus and Echo* demonstrate the breadth of her choreographic vision.

Support the Department of Dance

The Dance Department Chair's Excellence Fund supports student welfare, educational supplies, scholarships, recruiting, guest artists, department events, and related needs.
To make a gift and impact our students, **please visit this link**.
Thank you for your support!

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
Alyah Baker, Assistant Professor
E.E. Balcos, Professor
Dr. Ann Dils, Professor
Billy J. Hawkains III, Lecturer
Kim Jones, Professor
Delia Neil, Associate Professor of Dance, Assoc. Dean for Academic Affairs
Dr. Marissa Nesbit, Assistant Professor, Dance Education Coordinator
Dr. Kaustavi Sarkar, Associate Professor
Ashley L. Tate, Assistant Professor, Concert + Events Coordinator
Poah Portillo, Lecturer, Music Director and Lab Manager
Tamara Williams, Associate Professor, Director of Undergraduate Studies
Hannah Harrell, Academic Advisor
Jennifer Jacobs, Office Administrator
Courtney Mervine, Arts Education Specialist

Adjunct Faculty

Kazuko Adachi, Accompanist
Inna Amromin, Accompanist
Allen Boyd, Accompanist
Joshua Carr
Anna Edwards
Christine Fisher
Tracy Heim
Rodrigo Jimenez
Wendy Jimenez
Tod A. Kubo
Eric Mullis
Lauren Skrabalak
April Turner
Alyce Vallejo
Luciano Xavier, Accompanist

Production Team

PRODUCTION MANAGER	Hali Hutchison-Houk
TECHNICAL DIRECTOR	Matthew B. Fraiser
ASST. TECHNICAL DIRECTOR	Meena Carr
LIGHTING DESIGNER	David M. Fillmore Jr.
PRODUCTION ELECTRICIAN	Rick Moll
SOUND ENGINEER	Benjamin G. Stickels
COSTUME LAB MANAGER	Christina Beam
COSTUME LAB SUPERVISOR	Rachel Engstrom
STAGE MANAGEMENT MENTOR	Rachel Swenson Flaherty
STAGE MANAGER	Simone Kahoussi
DECK CREW	Nic Hare, Abbey Murphy, Angelina Musa, Ella Zuchowski
CAPTIONING OPERATOR	Olivia Bader
LIGHT BOARD OPERATOR	Josepp Anderson
SOUND BOARD OPERATOR	Olivia Munn
WARDROBE	Francie Foster, Aarushi Mandal, Josie Perdue, Kaitlyn Stikeleather, Sage Walker
COSTUME LAB TECHNICIANS	Toby Lewis, Lindsay Rammalaere, Grace Richardson
COSTUME PRACTICUM	Xavion Coulter, Jordan Goddard, Samantha Griffin, Alivia Heath Taylor Tillman, Alex Tolar, Ja Williams
LIGHTING LAB TECHNICIANS	Evelin Golovashkina, Alex McLellan, Lexi Paysour, Eleanor Zeng
LIGHTING LAB PRACTICUM	Aeron Eury, Ava Regalado, Helena Werany
SCENIC CARPENTERS	Sandro Galvan, TJ Green, Gen Hoelscher, Ryn Johnson, Renee Ngari
SCENIC PRACTICUM	Evie Arno, Symone Bailey, Nat Cheek, Juan Dixon, Lizzy Haynes, Corey McClain

CoA+A Production Arts and Operations

Dean Adams, Senior Associate Dean for Performing Arts
Hali Hutchison-Houk, Production Manager
Liz Paradis, Director of Audience Services
Beth Rucker, Business Services Coordinator
Liz Wooley, Performing Arts Operations Manager
Christina Beam, Costume Lab Manager
Meena Carr, Assistant Technical Director
Rachel Engstrom, Senior Lecturer, Costume Lab Supervisor / Designer
Matthew B. Fraiser, Senior 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 Flaherty, Senior Lecturer, Stage Management
Dan Mulder, Technology Engineer
Hazel Doherty, Chloe Shade, & Noah Tepper, Music Stage Managers
Tammy McNamara, House Management Supervisor
Alyssa Barry, House Manager

Patron Services Representatives

Maggie Britt, Sommiya Brown, Briana Gerena-Rojas, Alex Lozier, Gabriel Tewell

Robinson Hall Technicians

Olivia Bader, Ethan Barros, Caleb Basham, Jaleel Eddie, Daniel Gaddy, Alex McLellan, Teddy Rayworth, Veronica Salas, Naomi Wilson

Join Our Mailing List

Please fill out this form to join our mailing list and receive information about upcoming events in the CoA+A!

College of Arts + Architecture
Upcoming Events

NOVEMBER

Eric Millard, trumpet Faculty & Friends Concert Series	Tue Nov 3 | 7:30 pm Rowe Recital Hall
John Proctor is the Villain by Kimberly Belflower	Thu Nov 12- Sat Nov 14 | 7:30 pm Sun Nov 15 | 2:00 pm* Anne R. Belk Theater **ASL interpretation available*
Jazz Combos & Ensemble	Tue Nov 17 | 7:30 pm Anne R. Belk Theater
Symphonic Band & Wind Ensemble	Wed Nov 18 | 7:30 pm Anne R. Belk Theater
Orchestra	Thu Nov 19 | 7:30 pm Anne R. Belk Theater
Gospel Choir	Mon Nov 23 | 7:30 pm Anne R. Belk Theater
Percussion Ensemble	Mon Nov 30 | 7:30 pm Anne R. Belk Theater

Please join us for the
Spring Dance Concert

Thursday, April 15- Saturday, April 17, 2027 | 7:30 pm
Sunday, April 18, 2027 | 2:00 pm
Anne R. Belk Theater, Robinson Hall for the Performing Arts

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