



PRESS RELEASE

October 14th, 2021

For Immediate Release

Contact: Juanita Smith

box@tulane.edu

Department of Theatre and Dance, Newcomb Dance Program

presents

Above the Oaks '21

**Dance makers take to the mainstage in the annual presentation of
graduate and undergraduate new works**

Department of Theatre and Dance, Newcomb Dance Program presents the dance mainstage production, *Above the Oaks '21*. Dance students are shaping the future of movement in these new works of modern dance. *Above the Oaks '21* will feature original group dances choreographed by four undergraduate students, Jonina Hetfield, Rochelle Roberts, Ruby Simon, and Kennedy Walker and solo works by new Interdisciplinary Dance Performance MFA graduate candidates, Rachel Abrahams and Rachel Slater.

Themes for this dance concert will center on self-discovery, developing and breaking of routines and how commonplace things and movements can become works of art. Audience members can expect to be delighted and inspired as dancers deliver a journey of realization, inner strength and acceptance. Refreshing and resilient, this mainstage dance production embodies the spirit of 2021. This dance production is suitable for all ages and admirers of all dance genres.

The performance will run October 28th and 29th at 6:00pm in McWilliams Room 300. *Above the Oaks '21* is free, ticketed event open to the Tulane University community and its affiliates. Ticket reservations will be available on October 18th at 12pm. Prior to purchasing a ticket, please consult our website for information about Covid19 protocols for Tulane University and the Department of Theatre and Dance.

Tickets:

TICKETS AVAILABLE, OCTOBER 18th, 2021 at 12pm

Tickets are free but reservations are required for entry to the performance as seating is limited.

Tickets can be reserved at the box office, by phone or online via our website starting October 18th, 2021 at:

<https://liberalarts.tulane.edu/departments/theatre-dance/box-office>

PLEASE NOTE: ALL AUDIENCE MEMBERS WILL BE REQUIRED TO PRESENT PROOF OF VACCINATION AT CHECK OUT AND UPON ARRIVAL AT THE THEATRE. MASKS WILL BE

REQUIRED AT ALL TIMES FOR ALL AUDIENCE MEMBERS THROUGHOUT THE PERFORMANCE.

For more information on indoor gatherings rules and regulations please consult <https://ready.nola.gov/incident/coronavirus/safe-reopening/>. Please keep in mind that Tulane University reserves the right to expand upon the city's guidelines as it sees fit.

Venue:

Suite 300, Elleanor P. McWilliams Building (Bldg. #70)

6823 St. Charles Ave

New Orleans LA 70118

Nearby street parking is available. Please contact the box office for more parking information.

Contact us:

Lupin Box Office

Suite 155, Dixon Performing Arts Center Annex

6823 St. Charles Ave

New Orleans LA 70118

Monday – Friday 11am – 4:00pm and at the venue 1 hour before the performance

box@tulane.edu | 504-865-5106

<https://liberalarts.tulane.edu/departments/theatre-dance>



ABOVE THE OAKS '21

CHOREOGRAPHY BY RACHEL ABRAHAMS, JONINA HEGTFIELD, RACHELLE ROGERS,
RUBY SIMON, RACHEL SLATER, KENNEDY WALKER

A photograph of a dancer in a voluminous, multi-layered dress with a rainbow color gradient. The dancer is in a dynamic pose, with one arm extended and the other bent. The background is dark, making the vibrant colors of the dress stand out.

OCTOBER 28TH & 29TH
6:00PM
MCWILLIAMS 300

RACHEL ABRAHAMS



Rachel Abrahams Rachel Abrahams has been dancing for the majority of her physical life. She studied Russian Ballet and attended summer training at the Joffrey Ballet (NYC) and the Kirov Academy for two summers (Washington DC) before attending Nassau BOCES Cultural Arts Center (now Long Island High School for the Arts). Rachel went on to complete her BFA in Performance & Choreography from The California Institute of the Arts. During her time there, she studied with Colin Connor (Limon Dance), Glen Eddy (Netherlands Danse Theatre, Colburn School) as well as other esteemed professors and working artists.

In 2010, Rachel completed an apprenticeship with Shen Wei Dance Arts and joined the company on a tour to Berlin as well as two site specific performances at The Metropolitan Museum of Art and at the Park Avenue Armory for the company's 10th anniversary season. She has had the pleasure of building work with Bryn Cohn + Artists, Jessica

Gaynor Dance, and Yin Mei Dance Theatre where she cast and Rehearsal Directed (Antigone) for the tour to Chengdu Shakespeare Festival in Chengdu, China. Rachel has been working with BODYART Dance (Thread, Maison) since 2011 first as a performer and teaching artist and later as Rehearsal Director and collaborator. Her work with BODYART has taken her to many high schools and universities in the US and abroad to lead masterclasses and set work. BODYART toured to Durban, South Africa in 2019 to perform with Jomba! Dance Festival Experience where hymn + them was performed in the National Art Gallery.

Rachel has performed in the Off-Broadway show FuerzaBruta WAYRA (Daryl Roth Theatres, NYC) and FuerzaBruta LOOKUP on tour in China. She has worked in Bushwick, Brooklyn with Third Rail Projects stepping in as Jett for their show The Grand Paradise.

RACHEL SLATER



Rachel Slater is a dancer, choreographer and educator recently relocated to New Orleans, LA. She holds a BFA from Philadelphia's University of the Arts in Modern Dance Performance, with an Emphasis in Choreography. Slater is currently pursuing her MFA at Tulane University in Interdisciplinary Dance Performance. She is the founder and co-artistic director of Muddy Feet Contemporary Dance in Portland, OR, USA with Suzanne Chi.

Slater's creative work has been presented around the world in association with the Philly Fringe Festival/ LIVE ARTS (Philadelphia), *Aix Dans* (Southern France), the Women on the Way Festival (San Francisco), Move Move Move (Melbourne, AU), 12 Minutes Max (Seattle), and the JAW Festival, Pacific

Dance Makers and *Alchemy* in Portland. She was a 2014 recipient of the Oregon Arts Commission Career Opportunity Grant and has worked as an Artist-In-Residence at the Banff Centre for Arts and Creativity, New Expressive Works and Sou'wester.

She has performed for Minh Tran & Company, Rachel Erdos (IL), Group Motion Multimedia Dance Theater, Éowyn Emerald & Dancers, Kun Yang Lin, Franco Nieto and Tracey Durbin, among others. Muddy Feet's first dance film, *Unfolding*, has screened internationally at over 25 film festivals including Greece, Portugal, Argentina, Mexico, Romania, at Lincoln Center in New York City, and at North Carolina's American Dance Festival. Most recently, Slater co-directed a new dance film for Muddy Feet and was commissioned to create a new work for the nationally acclaimed Jefferson Dancers.