

Tulane University Theatre and Dance, Newcomb Dance Program presents



ABOVE THE OAKS '21



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

DANCES

"In the Hollow"

choreography by Rachel Slater Carter

Emerging from the shadowed valley, she unshrouds. A person who is digging herself out from under past and future dreams: she strives to reclaim herself. A solo.

Music: Gustavo Santaolalla, Susumu Yokota, יוֹהַן יוֹהַנְסֶוֹן © Jóhannsson ©

"Written in Stone"

choreography by Rachelle "Shelly" Rogers

Dancers: Brina Salazar, Sasha Cox, Maya Ross

Music: Tuur mang "Station 5" Niklas Paschburg ©

choreography by Ruby Simon

Dancers: Ari Renai, Kyia Dickerson, Victoria Guest, Zoe Hopewell, Mackenzie Bell

Music: Pink and White - Frank Ocean®, Case of You - Joni Mitchell®, Nice and Quiet - Bedouine®, Everybody Needs Somebody to Love - Solomon Burke®, Lagom - Rodrigo Delgado©

A brief pause

"Dance Piece 1"

choreography by Kennedy Walker

Dancers: Hannah Friedlander, Ari Renai, Carina Kroff, Bella Marbaise, Victoria Guest

Music:

"4th Gen"

choreography by Rachel Abrahams

When you dig down, really deep into the dirt, does it harm you or does it help you? A solo.

Music: Iki, Mike Sheridan - Spiral ©

Sounds of Fire for Sleep - Flame of Fire Sound ©

"Untitled"

choreography by Jonina "Joni" Hetfield

Dancers: Lucy Vanderbrook, Sasha Cox, Ellie Weko, Kyia Dickerson, Eleanor Fazio

Music:

CHOREOGRAPHERS

Rachel Abrahams comes to Tulane from Brooklyn, New York. She has worked with FUERZABRUTA, Third Rail Projects, Shen Wei Dance Arts, Jessica Gaynor Dance and other artists. Rachel is a collaborator and teaching artist with BODYART Dance and has taught masterclasses and performed internationally. She works with other artists on various movement projects that involve improvisation and are steeped in the spirit of collaboration.

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. She is the founder and co-artistic director of Muddy Feet Contemporary Dance in Portland, OR, USA. Slater's new solo **In the Hollow** examines the dichotomy of a demanding world with the sensation of emptiness which may follow a seismic shift in that world. She would like to thank her partner, Chris, for accompanying her on this adventure, and her new Tulane family for welcoming her so warmly.

Jonina "Joni" Hetfield is a senior graduating in December with a major in Public Health. Joni, from Bethesda, MD, has been studying ballet since she was 3. Having just returned from a year and a half in New Zealand where she was a dancer for a regional Basketball Team, Joni was inspired to create choreography combining her ballet training with commercial dance techniques. Joni's piece explores the intense societal scripts that women are expected to follow, while highlighting the strength, beauty, and individuality. She would like to thank her Mom and Dad for being her biggest fans, as well as her amazing faculty advisor Alice Pascal-Escher.

Rachelle "Shelly" Rogers is a junior at Tulane double majoring in Neuroscience and Dance from Columbus, Ohio. She has been dancing for 15 years studying primarily ballet with modern, jazz, and graham. She challenged herself to choreograph a piece using multiple dancers exploring the concept of daily routine. Routine can be boring, repetitive even frustrating, but it also can provide comfort and safety from unknown chaos that exists. She wants to explore the edge of breaking from routine and finding a new sense of freedom in uncertainty. She would like to thank her beautiful dancers, Brina, Maya, and Sasha, Michaela Cannon and Tulane faculty for providing guidance a place to choreograph.

Ruby Simon is a senior, majoring in Dance and Theatre Performance, from Seattle, WA. She grew up dancing at All That Dance and has performed with the Tulane Ballroom Dance Club, and in past Tulane student choreography and Newcomb Dance Company productions. For Above the Oaks '21, Ruby explored the relationship of the pedestrian and performative by playing with the random nature of a stream of consciousness when viewed from an outside perspective. This work is a mosaic, a jukebox, and a part of an edgeless puzzle. She hopes this piece gives any other perfectionists out there the push they need to just make the thing! She would like to thank her wonderful, talented cast, Jeffrey Gunshol, Monica Payne, and the Tulane dance department faculty and students for their support and feedback.

Kennedy Walker is a senior at Tulane from Baton Rouge, LA double majoring in Neuroscience and Dance. She has been a member of Newcomb Dance Company for her entire tenure at Tulane, and before college, she trained for 15 years in contemporary, jazz, ballet, tap, and hip hop. To Kennedy, this piece represents the flock mentality that both birds and humans share while also exploring the beauty in stillness and individuality when one breaks from the flock. Audience members should focus on the duality and contrast of flock movement and individuality. She was inspired by the future and how she will make her own way in the world post-graduation. She wants to thank all of the faculty of the Dance Department, her family and friends for giving her the skills, feedback, and courage that have made this piece possible.

PERFORMERS

Mackenzie Bell is a junior from Prairieville, LA studying Communication and Dance. She has been dancing since she was three- training in ballet, jazz (and diminutives), tap, and hip hop, before focusing on modern during high school. She is excited to participate in Above the Oaks because of her longing to performing again, and love of seeing students' ideas come to fruition. She would like to thank her family and friends, choreographer and fellow dancers for their professionalism and grace.

Sasha Cox is a senior from Encinitas, CA studying Psychology, Dance, and SLAMM. She's been dancing since age 5 with many opportunities to perform alongside industry professionals and in multiple student works. Sasha considers the Tulane Dance Department her second home and is endlessly grateful for the support and love of the faculty and fellow students.

Kyia Dickerson is a junior at Xavier and Tulane University as a chemistry pre-med major. She has been dancing since she was 2, and has trained at the Chicago Academy for the Arts and Alvin Ailey. She would like to thank the choreographers that picked her to be a part of their vision for this dance concert.

Eleanor Fazio is a freshman at Tulane from Boston MA. She has been dancing for fourteen years with various instructors. She is looking forward to sharing the work Joni created, and greatly enjoyed exploring this ballet and jazz piece. She appreciates the effort and beauty within her fellow group members, and the passion Joni has held as she taught. She would also like to thank her mother and father for providing so much support throughout her dance career

Victoria Guest is a Freshman from Houston, TX studying Economics. She has been dancing since she was 4 years old at her local studio and joined the dance team at her high school. She's excited to perform and showcase her artistry to the Tulane community in Above the Oaks 21'. She would like to thank her mom for her unending love and support and friends for their continual encouragement.

Zoë Hopewell is a senior at Tulane studying neuroscience and dance from Iowa City, IA. She has been dancing for almost her whole life. She is excited to dance in Above the Oaks to get back onstage after COVID. She would like to thank her mom for driving her back and forth to ballet classes for all those years.

Lucy Vanderbrook is a sophomore at Tulane University from Covington, LA studying dance and communications. She has been dancing for 12 years and has performed many times in The Nutcracker and other shows. She is excited to be a part of Above the Oaks because its an opportunity to perform and connect with the Tulane dance community. Lucy would like to thank her family, friends, and choreographer for being so supportive.

Ari Renai is a sophomore majoring in finance from Atlanta, Georgia. Ari has taken dance technique since his sophomore year in high school and has performed multiple solos and group routines. He chose to join Above the Oaks because of his passion for movement and dance. Ari wishes to thank student choreographers Ruby Simon and Kennedy Walker for their guidance and creativity, the Tulane Theater and Dance Department for holding an event dedicated to student work, and his family for their endless support.

Maya Ross is a junior at Tulane studying math, dance, and French from Mons, Belgium. She has done ballet, jazz, and musical theatre through her local performing arts centre for 10 years. She is thrilled to have the opportunity to work with other dance students and dive more into modern movement. Maya would like to thank Shelly Rogers for giving her the chance to perform her choreography.

Brina Salazar is a sophomore at Tulane studying Psychology and Dance from Winter Park, Fl. She has been dancing for 10 years performing at competitions, studio recitals, and community shows. She joined Above the Oaks '21 to share her passion for dance with the Tulane community. She would like to thank her parents for supporting her passion and the Tulane Dance Department for this wonderful performance opportunity.

Ellie Weko is a freshman at Tulane studying dance and communications from Haddonfield, New Jersey. She has been dancing since she was 7, training for the majority of her time with the School of Pennsylvania Ballet, which allowed her to perform in George Balanchine's "The Nutcracker" with the Pennsylvania Ballet company, as well as several school productions. Ellie is excited to be dancing in this show as it is her first performance at Tulane and because it allows her to experiment with other styles while make connections with other dancers. She would like to thank her friends, family, choreographer and all the dancers in this show for being encouraging and supportive of her ambitions and abilities.

PRODUCTION CREW

Director
 Technical Director Vlad Ghinea
 Production Manager Dodd Loomis
 Stage Manager
 Assistant Stage Manger
 Scene Designers.....
 Properties Designers
 Light Operator Samuel Verdino*
 Light OperatorBrendan Mullenix*
 Sound Operator
 Costume Designer Michelle Hathaway
 PR/ Box Office Manager..... Juanita Smith
 House Manager Nicole Schirripa
 Box Office Associate/ Usher Calvin Belton
 Box Office Associate/ Usher Grace Kresge
 Run Crew

Faculty Advisors:

*in fulfillment of MFA in Design

Land Acknowledgement

Tulane University, Department of Theatre and Dance acknowledge that Tulane University is located on land once inhabited by theChitimacha, Houma and Choctaw. This area already had a name before colonizers called it New Orleans - Bulbancha, meaning the "place of many tongues" in Chocotaw. This meeting of land and water was a space of exchange for many indigenous people including Atakap, Caddo, Choctaw, Houma, Ishak, Natchez, and Tunica nations who traveled in and out for hunting or trading following the tides and seasons.

TULANE FACULTY AND STAFF

Department Chair, Barbara Hayley
 Theatre Coordinator, Antony Sandoval

Faculty

Michaela Cannon
 Amy Chaffee
 Diana Cuspa
 Diogo de Lima
 Alice Pascal Escher
 Vlad Ghinea
 Jeffrey Gunshol
 Michelle Hathaway
 Victor Holtcamp
 Dodd Loomis
 Matthew Martinez
 Jenny Mercein
 Monica Payne
 Jessica Podewell
 John "Ray" Proctor
 Martin Sachs
 Leslie Scott
 Ryder Thornton
 Beverly Trask

Adjunct Faculty

Ausetua Amor Amenkum
 Chris Arthur
 Carolyn Barber-Pierre
 Nicole Boyd Buckels
 Graham Burk
 Jerisse Grantham
 Nancy Gunn
 Michael Harkins
 Nikki Hefko
 Clare Moncreif
 John Neisler
 Neal Todten
 Donald Williams

Staff

Hope Bennett
 Anthony Contello
 Gaynell Robinson-Watkins
 Juanita Smith
 Margaret Van Ryckeghem
 Graduate Students
 Rachel Abrahams
 Rebecca Allen
 Kelly Bond-Osorio
 Stephanie Dixon
 Kaylee Drake
 Keanne Louks
 Brendan Mullenix
 Emmalie Hall-Skank
 Alexandra Robinson
 Christopher Rodriguez
 Jaime Silverman
 Rachel Slater
 Samuel Verdino
 Joey Vreeland

