

THE SCHOOL OF MUSIC, THEATRE, AND DANCE PRESENTS

SPRING DANCE CAPSTONE CONCERT

TO BE SEEN

MICAELA OAR • KIMBERLY MAYORGA • MADISON HARD • CLAIRE FORDEN

FRIDAY, MAY 8 AND SATURDAY, MAY 9, 2026

7:30 P.M. | MATINEE SATURDAY, MAY 9, 2 P.M.

UNIVERSITY DANCE THEATRE



COLORADO STATE
UNIVERSITY

SEASON SPONSOR:



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of CSU

SPRING CAPSTONE CONCERT 2026

FOR THE SAFETY OF OUR DANCERS, PHOTOGRAPHY AND VIDEOGRAPHY
ARE PROHIBITED.

Amalgamation

Choreographer: Claire Forden

Music: *ingydar* by Adrienne Lenker, *Fool* by Adrienne Lenker, *Dreams* by the Cranberries

Costumes: Claire Forden

Lighting Design: Valeria Reyes

Dancers: Cheyenne Babros, Delia Black, Makenzie Ciernia, Hannah Essig, Charva Jamison,
Jordan Santry, Leigh Sullivan, Mykala Wimberley

Understudy: Honey Baker

Craving Your Approval

Choreographer: Micaela Oar

Music: *Cowpoke* by Isaiah Sheffield, *The Greatest* by Billie Eilish, *No Complaints* by Noah
Kahan, *I Know The End* by Phoebe Bridgers

Costumes: Micaela Oar

Lighting Design: Dale Kaiser

Dancers: Cheyenne Babros, Delia Black, Hannah Essig, Madison Hard, Charva Jamison,
Madeline Palacios, Amelia Peacey, Leigh Sullivan

INTERMISSION

Apologetic Attachment

Choreographer: Madison Hard

Music: *Dimensions* by Arcade Fire and Owen Pallett, *Fearless* by Rhye, *Me in 20 Years* by
Moses Sumney

Costumes: Madison Hard

Lighting Design: Dale Kaiser

Dancers: Cheyenne Babros, Hannah Essig, Charva Jamison, Brady McCue, Micaela Oar,
Jordan Santry

Understudy: Madeline Palacios

Raíces

Choreographer: Kimberly Mayorga Escalante

Music: *Empty Fields* by Lilian Mille, *Swells (Backing Vocals Only)* by Théo Boulenger, *siento que merezco mas - A COLORS SHOW*, *tengo mucho ruido*, and *vivo si me exiges* by Latin Mafia

Costumes: Kimberly Mayorga Escalante

Lighting Design: Valeria Reyes

Projection and Sound Design: Kimberly Mayorga Escalante

Dancers: Amethyst Aligaen, Grace Gardner, Nicole Genalo, Ryli O'Rourke, Kaitlyn Tayntor, Jacqueline Urquidez, Megan Wycisk

Production Assistant: Megan Wycisk

Additional Projection/Film Assistant: Adriana Gallegos

A special thanks to El Centro for their collaboration in facilitating the photographing of over 50 students here at Colorado State University, as shown in the final section of this piece. I would also like to thank Adriana Gallegos for her tremendous support throughout the creation of this project and for filming parts of the initial film projections. This work is a continuation of a documentary I created about my parents, titled *Un Sueño Humilde*, which premiered at the ACT Human Rights Film Festival as part of their student film selection in April 2026. This piece is deeply personal and would not have been possible without the support of my parents, teachers, peers, and dancers. The media elements for the final section were inspired by a Latin Mafia concert attended in Dallas, Texas on February 3, 2025.

Este baile está dedicado a mis padres que me confiaron con compartiendo su historia y que sacrificaron todo lo que conocían para darme todo lo que tengo hoy.

COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY DANCE PROGRAM SUPPORTERS

CSU Dance Supporters enrich our students' educational experience through scholarships, guest artist residencies, student travel, and creative opportunities and projects.

The 2025-2026 recipients of the School of Music, Theatre, and Dance Green and Gold Performing Arts in Dance scholarships are Addison Adair, Cheyenne Babros, Honey Baker, Alyssa Benik, Emily Bjork, Delia Black, Tyne Carney, Mikayla Carter, Sophia Crile, Amryn Cowen, Hayley Crouch, Allison Davies, McKenna Donohue, Emily Flaherty, Max Fields, Grace Gardner, Charva Jamison, Oliver Myers, Kimberly Mayorga Escalante, Jordan Santry, Jacqueline Urquidez, Mykala Wimberley, and Megan Wycisk.

Thank you to Cynthia Mousel for the creation of our endowed scholarship, the Irmel Fagan Dance Scholarship, dedicated to the legacy of Irmel Fagan, Department Head of Women's Physical Education and dance at CSU from 1959-1979. The 2025-2026 recipient is Kimberly Mayorga Escalante. Thank you to Jane Sullivan for her endowment for the Jane Sullivan Scholarship in Dance Education. The 2025-2026 recipient is Cheyenne Babros. Thank you to the family and friends of Grace Harris for contributing to the Grace and Dwight Harris Endowed Dance Scholarship. The 2025-2026 recipient is Charva Jamison.

Thank you to Jane Slusarski-Harris and Rod Harris for the creation of our newest scholarship, the Rod Harris and Jane Slusarski-Harris Dance Scholarship. The 2025-2026 recipients are Alyssa Benik and McKenna Donohue. We are grateful to our many donors who support the dance program. We invite you to become a supporter today!

EVERY GIFT MATTERS. To learn more or to donate, [Click Here to Give to CSU Dance!](#) or call (970) 491-3558.

BIOGRAPHIES



Claire Forden

Claire is from Littleton, Colorado and started dancing at age 6 at Belliston Ballet where she trained in ballet, jazz, modern, contemporary, hip hop, and tap. During this time, she completed Cecchetti and RAD ballet training methods and danced in many featured Nutcracker roles. At age 16, Claire began dancing at Little Theatre Culture Center dance studio under the direction of Debbie Veecherelli where she continued to train and began to perform in dance competitions.

Currently, Claire is pursuing her Bachelor of Arts in Dance at Colorado State University where she is on the Dean's List and a recipient of the Green and Gold scholarship. She has continued her dance studies in Ballet and Modern technique classes taught by Chung-Fu Chang, Susie Garifi, Jenna Smith, Madeline Harvey, Julia Cooper, Joy Prendergast, and Judy Bejarano. Claire has also participated in an exchange semester in Limerick, Ireland at the Irish World Academy of Music and Dance under the direction of Grant McLay. While in Ireland Claire studied contemporary dance, choreography, contact improv, and Irish dance.

In addition to CSU Dance, Claire is pursuing a career in Physical Therapy by taking relevant classes and shadowing professionals in the field. Claire participated an internship with CSU dance faculty member Lisa Morgan at the Center for Healthy Aging in her program *Moving Through Parkinson's*. Claire is also a ballet teacher at Little Theatre Culture Center during the summers for kids aged 13-18.

After her graduation in 2026, Claire plans to apply for and attend a Doctor of Physical Therapy Program and specialize in either Sports Medicine or Women's Health. She is extremely grateful to all those who have helped support her future and current ventures, including her family, professors, and friends.

claireforden.wordpress.com



Madison Paige Hard

Madison is a dancer, educator, and creator. Madison's formal training began at the age of 3 at Premier School of Dance (Thornton, CO) under the direction of Karin Gritz and Alexandra Fields. During her time at Premier, she received her training in various styles including ballet, jazz, modern, musical theater, contemporary, and open Styles. At the age of 5, she joined the competition team where she participated in numerous regional dance competitions and conventions. Madison performed in Premier's annual production of *The Nutcracker* where she had the opportunity to dance the featured roles of Snow Queen, Spanish Princess, and Sugar Plum Fairy. Madison also gained experience competing in Y.A.F., Young Artist Festival, most of her high school years and was the proud recipient of awards and scholarships. Throughout her time at Premier, Madison found her love for choreography. Her last project was a collaboration with her fellow graduating seniors and included choreography, costumes, and lighting design that was performed at Premier's annual Spring showcase.

Madison will complete her B.F.A in Dance and minor in Business Administration as a first-generation student at Colorado State University in May of 2026. Throughout her time at Colorado State University, Madison has further extended and developed her technique and performance skills. The dance program at CSU has provided Madison opportunities to work with renowned guest artists and participate in master classes from various professional companies. In spring of 2023, Madison was cast in an original piece by Hernan Justo titled *Merceditas* and *Taquito Militar*, which was previously set on his dancers at Carolina Ballet Theatre. Madison currently works with the dance company, Animus, located in Denver, CO. While working with Animus, she gained experience in performance and collaboration outside of an academic setting. Madison continues to exercise her performance skills through the dance department's annual fall, spring, and capstone concerts. Her time with the dance program has grown and strengthened her abilities and love for dance.

Madison's passion and admiration for dance will always fuel her ambitious and creative offerings. She hopes to share her love for dancing through performing, teaching, and choreographing. It is fulfilling and rewarding for Madison to witness the joy in others from the sole thing that nurtured her happiness for so long. Madison's drive and devotion for the art of dance widens as she continues to explore new ways of moving and creating. Madison would like to extend gratitude towards her family for always believing in her aspirations, the mentors throughout her career for encouraging and never giving up, and her friends for always showing up without having to be asked.



Kimberly Mayorga Escalante

Kimberly Mayorga is a first-generation student pursuing a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Dance and a Bachelor of Arts in Journalism and Media Communications at Colorado State University. She began dancing at age four and has trained in ballet, contemporary, jazz, and modern. Her training includes working with Alonzo King LINES Teen Program, Broadway Dance Center's Summer Intensive, and the Vail Valley Academy of Dance.

Through her time at CSU, her training has greatly been influenced by all of her professors. In 2024, Kimberly attended the American College Dance Association, performing in Grace Gallagher's *Class Divides*, and presented choreography in the CSU Spring Dance Concert. She was also cast in a piece by guest artist Jesus Muñoz, *Caminos*, and performed at the Versatility Dance Festival in 2026 with Jacqueline Urquidez's capstone piece, *All Strings Attached*.

Kimberly is a recipient of the CSU Dance Merit Scholarship, the Rod Harris and Jane Slusarski Scholarship, and the Irmel Fagan Dance Scholarship. She is also set to graduate with Distinction. She was an intern for Tony Testa's *Movement Through Images* project and a social media intern for Canyon Concert Ballet School. She also works as a freelance photographer and filmmaker for CSU's dance department, documenting performances, photographing senior capstone concert poster images, and creating films used as projections in dance works.

Growing up in a Hispanic household, Kimberly values empathy and compassion. She is passionate about preserving dance through film and photography and advocating for accessibility in the arts. Kimberly believes film and dance are powerful nonverbal storytelling tools and aims to merge both mediums to create meaningful narratives. She strives to cultivate inclusive and empathetic creative spaces while advocating for human rights, accessibility, and diversity in the arts.

Her short documentary *Un Sueño Humilde*, about her parents' immigration story, was selected for the student film section of the ACT Human Rights Film Festival in April 2026, where she also serves as a Student Outreach and Impact Coordinator. Kimberly's capstone piece is a continuation of the film she created about her parents and solo performances based on their interviews. Her capstone is a multimedia performance featuring a film she produced, integrating archival video and photography, all captured and edited by her.



Micaela Oar

Micaela is originally from Medford, Oregon. In fourth grade, her elementary school teacher Mrs. Laeger encouraged her to pursue dance outside the classroom. She joined Precision Cheer and Dance at the age of 9, where she was a part of the competitive hip hop, lyrical, and pom teams. When Micaela was 14, she moved to a different dance studio; Turning Point Dance. At Turning Point Dance, she became a well-rounded dancer who took hip hop, contemporary, tap, ballet, and jazz. Micaela was also a part of Turning Point Dance competitive company where she performed and competed around Oregon. At Turning Point Dance she also was a teacher's assistant for hip hop, tap, and ballet. Micaela also took masterclasses from Eugene Ballet, Holly Curran, Lo Poppy, and Bosco.

After high school, Micaela pursued her dance knowledge further by attending Colorado State University, where she is currently pursuing her B.F.A in Dance and will be graduating in May of 2026. She has been trained under Professors Chung-Fu Chang, Emily Morgan, Grace Gallagher, Jenna Smith, Joy Prendergast, Judy Bejarano, Julia Cooper, Lisa Morgan, Madeline Harvey, Matthew Harvey, and Susie Garifi. At CSU, Micaela has taken modern, ballet, improv, choreography, dance history, and dance pedagogy. She also has taken the Repertory Engagement class which she performed and taught to the community, public schools, and in CSU concerts. Micaela also has taken the Teaching Creative Movement class, during which she made lesson plans and taught dance to first graders in a local public school. While at the university, she has taken masterclasses from Andre Megerdichian, Beth Twigs, Hernon Justo, and Joanna Mendl Shaw and has performed in multiple dance concerts.

Micaela wanted to extend her dance knowledge and applied for and was accepted into a two-week study abroad dance program in Italy. She explored contemporary technique and contact improvisation. On the last night of the trip, Micaela performed a dance solo in front of the Arezzo, Italy community.

Currently, Micaela is a part of Animus II, a contemporary dance company based in Denver, Colorado. After graduation, Micaela would like to pursue commercial dance; performing in music videos, tv/film, and on tours as a performer. Finally, Micaela would like to thank her elementary school teacher who encouraged her to pursue dance and her mom who worked tirelessly to put Micaela through dance classes and encouraged her every step of the way. Another big thank you to all the professors at Colorado State University who inspired her and taught her to grow as a dancer.

SPECIAL DANCE CONCERT THANKS:

Director of Dance, Emily Morgan and CSU Dance faculty members: Judy Bejarano, Chung-Fu Chang, Julia Cooper-Pelkey, Grace Gallagher, Susie Garifi, Madeline Harvey, Matthew Harvey, Jessica Loveall, Lisa Morgan, and Jenna Smith for their ongoing technical and artistic mentorship of CSU Dance students. In addition, a heartfelt thank you to the production and publicity team for the School of Music, Theatre and Dance for supporting dance programming.

2026 SPRING DANCE CONCERT PRODUCTION TEAM AND TECHNICAL CREW

CONCERT DIRECTOR: Judy Bejarano

CAPSTONE DIRECTORS: Claire Forden, Madison Hard, Kimberly Mayorga Escalante
and Micaela Oar

STAGE MANAGER: Anna Higgins

PRODUCTION STAGE MANAGER: Caelum Janski

ASSISTANT STAGE MANAGER: Karli D'Angeli

FACULTY ADVISOR, STAGE MANAGEMENT: Matt Grevan

COSTUME COORDINATOR SPRING DANCE CONCERT: Elise Kulovany

LIGHTING DESIGNER: Dale Kaiser

ASSOCIATE LIGHTING DESIGNER: Valeria Reyes

LIGHTING DESIGNER SUPERVISOR: Tate Sanders

ASSISTANT LIGHTING SUPERVISOR: Abby Sumner

PRODUCTION ELECTRICIAN: Tate Sanders

PROPERTIES DIRECTOR: Tyler J. Offner

FACULTY ADVISOR, SOUND DESIGN: Chris Carignan

PRODUCTION SOUND ENGINEER: Hana Shiro

LIGHT BOARD OPERATOR: Josie Buchholz

SOUND AND PROJECTIONS BOARD OPERATOR: Josie Karet

LIVESTREAM SUPERVISOR: Chris Carignan

DANCE PRACTICUM INSTRUCTOR: Susie Garifi

STAGE TECHNICIANS/WARDROBE/DECK CREW: Addison Adair, Addilane Johnson,
Addison Skelding, Megan Wycisk

CONCERT POSTER AND PROGRAM DESIGN: Mike Solo

CONCERT PHOTOS: Machmer Media

CONCERT/POSTER IMAGE: Jackson Blunt

CONCERT VIDEOGRAPHY: RAM Productions

ADDITIONAL SCHOOL OF MUSIC, THEATRE, AND DANCE PRODUCTION STAFF

DIRECTOR OF PRODUCTION AND TECHNICAL DIRECTOR: Steven Workman

PRODUCTION MANAGER: Matt Grevan

PRODUCTION ELECTRICIAN: Tate Sanders

AUDIO ENGINEER: Chris Carignan

LIGHTING DESIGN FACULTY: Jackie Fox

COSTUME DESIGN FACULTY: Erin Carignan

COSTUME SHOP MANAGER: Elise Kulovany

COSTUME SHOP ASSISTANT MANAGER and CUTTER/DRAPER: Rebecca Evans

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Education in Motion

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CSU invites **Colorado PK-12 educators and administrators** to join us for exploration, sharing resources, and expanding our knowledge of how to integrate movement in the classroom. Guest speakers and university faculty will present relevant methods and tools to help reach more students and inspire innovative ways to teach core curriculum.



GUEST PRESENTER:

ANN BIDDLE is the founding faculty of the Dance Education Laboratory (DEL), Teacher Certificate Program and a curriculum consultant, professional developer, and writer.

SEMINAR TOPICS:

- Movement fundamentals with cross-curricular focus & integrated lesson plan ideas
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