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FALL 2015

Speak.
Thrive.
Be Alive.



Shannon Henderson • Bonnie Tomson • Megan Adams • Kayla Banks • Alex Ader

DANCE MAJOR CAPSTONE CONCERT

Colorado State University

LA NOCHE MÁS LARGA

CHOREOGRAPHER: Kayla Banks

MUSIC: Rachmaninoff, Gershwin, Buika

DANCERS: Alex Ader, Devon DeSpain, Danielle Cardon, Shannon Henderson,
Chloe Milton, Molly Post, Isabella Rocha, Ashley Shute, Bonnie Tomson,
Jensen Woods, Mohammed York

ELEMENTAL MEANS

CHOREOGRAPHER: Bonnie Tomson

MUSIC: Break of Reality, Lavinia Meijer, Philip Glass, Nathan Lanier,
Julia Roberts, General Fuzz

DANCERS: Solo: Bonnie Tomson
Alex Ader, Mary Bogus, Devon DeSpain, Shannon Henderson,
Emily Overturf, Aminta Remisosky, Jensen Woods

PATH OF LIGHT

CHOREOGRAPHER: Alex Ader

MUSIC: General Fuzz

DANCER: Alex Ader

PHEONIX

CHOREOGRAPHER: Alex Ader

MUSIC: Balmorhea, Ashley Wyld (Poet & Narrator), Zoë Keating, Takénobu

DANCERS: Megan Adams, Kayla Banks, Danielle Cardon, Devon DeSpain,
Hannah Finnegan, Shannon Henderson, Kaylee Keener, Lauren Kotre,
Chloe Milton, Isabella Rocha, Bonnie Tomson, Mohammed York

INTERMISSION

COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY DANCE PROGRAM SUPPORTERS

University Dance Supporters enrich our students' educational experience through scholarships, residencies, and creative opportunities and projects. Our Very Special Thanks to Jane Sullivan for endowing the Jane Sullivan Scholarship in Dance Education, Grace Harris for endowing the Grace and Dwight Harris Scholarship, Cynthia Mousel for giving generously to our annual Dance Scholarship fund, Lori and Gregory Dighero for naming a seat in the University Dance Theatre in honor of Marjorie Nakata, Ms. Amy Huang for supporting CSU dance costuming and international guest artist residencies, Heather Bellotti, Nancy Hill, Julie Roholoff, Robyn Bailis and Gary Sirota, Roberta and Valerie Rudden, and Minnie Slusarski for scholarship support.

PRODUCTION TEAM

Director of Dance Division Jane Slusarski-Harris
Faculty Advisor Chung-Fu Chang
Student Directors Alex Ader, Megan Adams,
Kayla Banks, Shannon Henderson, Bonnie Tomson
Dance Production Assistants Kayla Banks, Mohammed York
Sound Designer Jon Burns
Dance Costume Coordinator Maile Speetjens
**All costumes were designed and executed by their respective choreographers with assistance
with purchasing and alterations from the CSU Costume Shop.*
Projections Designer Evelyn Helman
Photography Kamen Burton
Lighting Designer Tristan LeMaster
Asst. Lighting Designer David Van Name

TECHNICAL CREW

Stage Manager Meaghan Harris
Assistant Stage Manager Lindsay Morris
Light Board Operator David Van Name
Sound Board Operator Courtney Stephens
Curtain / Rail Operators Madison Martinek, Jenny Trenchard
Stage Technicians Elise Benton, Mary Bogus, Avery Jones,
Madison Martinek, Jenny Trenchard
Wardrobe Mistresses Katelyn Doyle, Anna Roller

UCA PRODUCTION STAFF

Technical Director Jay SeEVERS
Assistant Technical Director Brandon Ingold
Lighting Director Faculty Price Johnston
Faculty Head of Design Roger Hanna
Production Manager Hally Albers
Master Electrician Andrew Killion
Assistant Master Electrician Jessica Whitehead
Costume Shop Manager Janelle Sutton
Assistant Costume Shop Manager Maile Speetjens
Scene Shop Technician Trevor Grattan
Director of Marketing & Publicity Jennifer Clary Jacobs
Marketing & Publicity Media Mike Solo
Publicity Intern Star Donaldson
Events Manager Peter Muller
Assistant Events Manager Charles Gillard
Poster Design Nathan Young
Videography CSU Ram Productions

GRACIAS A LA VIDA

CHOREOGRAPHER: Kayla Banks

MUSIC: Violetta Parra, Monk, Ibeyi, Kay Coats

DANCER: Kayla Banks

NOTES: In memory of my grandmother Charlotte.

A special thanks to the costume shop for helping me to create my dress.

WE'RE ONLY HUMANS

CHOREOGRAPHER: Shannon Henderson

MUSIC: Dustin O'Halloran, Shane Koyczan

DANCERS: Megan Adams, Alex Ader, Kayla Banks, Hannah Finnegan,
Danielle Hannah, Devyn Lee, Katie McClendon, Lauren Kotre,
Bonnie Tomson, Isabella Rocha, Julianna Williams, Jensen Woods

NOTES: If only our eyes saw souls instead of bodies . . . how very different our ideals of
beauty would be.

WHERE I BELONG

CHOREOGRAPHER: Shannon Henderson

MUSIC: Lapsley

DANCER: Shannon Henderson

NOTES: Unfold your wings.

BROKEN INTO BETTER SHAPE

CHOREOGRAPHER: Megan Adams

MUSIC: Hundred Waters

DANCER: Megan Adams

NOTES: This is me... trying to be as raw and real as I can through my language of choice.

SET

CHOREOGRAPHER: Megan Adams

MUSIC: Elysian Records, Blue Hawaii, FKA Twigs

DANCERS: Amanda Adams, Alex Ader, Danielle Cardon, Lindsay Dighero, Hannah Finnegan, Shannon Henderson, Lauren Kotre, Devyn Lee, Katie McClendon, Chloe Milton, Isabella Rocha, Julianna Williams, Mohammed York

NOTES: SET - God of the desert, storms, disorder, violence and foreigners in Egyptian mythology. He is a god that's purpose is to bring out everyone's dark side in order to heal and love oneself fully.

"I must also have a dark side if I am to be whole." - C.G. Jung



BONNIE TOMSON was born and raised in Franktown, CO. Tomson started her dance training at the age of three with Parker Dance Academy. It was at that young age that she decided dance was to be her lifelong career. Tomson has trained primarily in ballet using the Russian ballet syllabus as well as a few master classes in tap and modern dance.

Tomson has performed faculty pieces from Carol Roderick, Chung-Fu Chang, and Judy Bejarano as well as guest artist works. She has had the opportunity to be a member of the Colorado State University Tour Dance Company under the direction of Chung-Fu Chang and has traveled throughout the state as part of their outreach program for K-12 schools. Tomson directed with CSU Theatre's "Kids Do It All" program for three consecutive years, currently dances with Dança Nova under executive director Rebecca Hebert.

Tomson will receive her Bachelors of Arts in Dance and a minor in Arts Leadership and Administration through the LEAP institute in May of 2016. After graduation, Tomson intends on using her skill set gained from the various advocacy and arts management classes to further the local dance community, as well as auditioning for local companies in Fort Collins. In the near future, Tomson wishes to obtain her M.F.A. with the intent to teach dance at the collegiate level.

Tomson's senior capstone consists of a group ensemble in four sections featuring seven dancers and a solo piece. An original work, Tomson's group piece is the visual representation of elements that make up the environment, both natural and manufactured.

Tomson's solo will depict human interaction within this environment, in particular, delving into the human perception elements exist within that environment that are outside the realm of anyone's own control. Furthermore, Tomson looks to convey the message that there is much to be learned from the basic components of life, whether it be finding inspiration from the environment, living and adapting with change, or evolving from what has come before.

Please turn off all cell phones. Recording devices of any type are not allowed in the theatre during any performance. Adherence to this policy is requested for the safety of the performers and out of respect for both the performers and other audience members.



SHANNON HENDERSON grew up in Eagle, CO where she started training in dance at the age of four focusing on ballet, tap, jazz, contemporary, and lyrical at the Vail Valley Academy of Dance where she was a part of the advanced ballet company. Henderson has had several unique dance opportunities including taking part in the Vail International Dance Festival in Beaver Creek, CO, performances at the Ford Amphitheater in Vail, CO, and participation in the Colorado Ballet Summer Intensive annual summer show. Henderson also has had the honor dancing with such noted dancers as Jonathan Royce Windham and Tyler Peck.

While at Colorado State University, Henderson has performed excerpts from *The Nutcracker* and has been involved in both student and faculty pieces. When not performing, Henderson has also had the chance to choreograph her own original group and solo numbers.

Graduating in May of 2016 with Bachelor's Degrees in Dance and Journalism, Henderson hopes to explore different cultures' dance styles, while further strengthening her own technique and fulfilling her dreams of traveling the world. She hopes to open up a dance studio where she can teach future generations of dancers.

For the group dance of her senior capstone, Henderson created a dance that symbolizes the conflict between the desire to have authentic, meaningful relationships with others, and how shallow perceptions and judgments of others, based on stereotypes, conflict with that notion. Henderson hopes to challenge societal typecasts and bring new life to the idea of genuine interaction.

In the same vein, she'll perform her solo to a song from Lapsley. "Painter" on how interconnected all the inhabitants of earth are with the rest of the universe.

Shannon would like to extend a massive thank you to her family for the love and support they have showed her throughout her dancing career and the passion for dance that they have shared with her.



MEGAN ADAMS grew up in Denver, CO, having studied dance since the age of five at Michelle Latimer Dance Academy in jazz, ballet, pointe, contemporary, lyrical, tap, musical theatre, and hip-hop. Adams gained most of her performance experience through dancing competitively around the state for eight years and had an opportunity to travel to Los Angeles and study with several world-renowned teachers and choreographers at the EDGE Performing Arts Center. Adams also notes collaboration, particularly early in her training, with Dee Caspary, Brian Friedman, Jason Parsons, Travis Wall, and others as immensely positive and inspiring for her future dance career.

Adams has also performed at an NFL halftime show at Sports Authority Field and opened for the Radio City Rockettes at the Pepsi Center.

Throughout her time under their tutelage, Adams has expanded her dance technique in several ways and variations including the areas of modern dance, character, improvisation, choreography, and the Vaganova ballet method, as well as the pedagogy style of teaching.

After graduation, Adams hopes to continue to learn and grow as an artist and pursue a career as a professional dancer, specifically in jazz, lyrical, and contemporary fields.

For her senior capstone group piece, "Set," Adams decided to emphasize what she calls "everyone's dark side," with the work focusing on duality within each person and a movement to find balance within that understanding and acknowledgement of that inner conflict – a conflict Adams pulls inspiration from her own self-reflection. Adams looks to accentuate the creepiness and uniqueness of everyone's own shadows.

Maintaining the theme of inner reflection and process, Adams' solo piece, "Broken into Better Shape," tells her personal journey through pain. Through this piece, Adams demonstrates the many vulnerabilities and uncertainties in life and how those often translate into a sense of brokenness and disarray. Yet the piece is still hopeful as Adams looks to create a testament of her own courage and the hope that these life experiences will turn her fragments into a better version of herself.

ALEX ADER began dancing at the age of three at Peak Academy of Dance in the mountains of Conifer, CO, studying ballet, choreography, jazz, poms, and tap. In addition, Ader studied at Ascot Ballet, Makhateli Ballet, and Shelly True Dance Academy in ballet, jazz, and lyrical.

Ader has performed original choreographic works by Bejarano, Slusarski-Harris, Shih Kun-Chen, and Richard Wacko. She has also choreographed her own works including two that were performed in Colorado State University's Fall and Spring Dance Concerts. Outside of CSU, Ader has taught ballet and tap at Canyon Concert Ballet and has helped supervise the local 4H dance team for the past two years.

In December, Ader will receive her Bachelors of Arts in Dance and a minor in Arts Leadership and Administration through the LEAP institute. After graduating, Ader hopes to continue to choreograph and teach for local studios with the hope of someday owning her own dance studio. Growing up, Ader found her studio to be safe haven and place to grow and be nourished artistically; she hopes to one day to be able to provide that for her own students. In addition, Ader desires to form a Christian dance company that will enable her to express not only her own beliefs and passion for God through her choreography, but to express that same passion and faith to others.

Ader's senior capstone consists of a group piece entitled "Phoenix," demonstrating how actions taken and choices made have consequences which, when negative, can turn life, individually and corporately, into rubble and ruin. The dance shows that only once a decision to change or turn from those negative actions, can new life be found.

In conjunction, Ader's solo piece exhibits the belief that life's path is laid out before each individual person and while there is a set path there are many intricacies and mysteries along the way. Ader's piece looks to find peace through that journey of uncertainty while relying on faith to show the way forward.



KAYLA BANKS grew up in Aurora, CO, starting her formal ballet training her senior year at Grandview High School and gaining performance experience in the school musicals and at Heritage Christian Center.

While at Colorado State University Banks has performed in Rooms by Anna Sokolow, restaged by Yunyu Wang, dean of General Education at Taipei National University of the Arts; Swan Lake, restaged by Richard Wacko, professor of Ballet at the

University of Utah; and has performed in original works choreographed by Shih Kun-Chen and Hsin-Yu Kao, dancer at Compagnie Käfig.

While at CSU, Banks has performed as a speaker and dancer for IMPACT Dance Company under the direction of Judy Bejarano. Banks also teaches pre-ballet and musical theater at Canyon Concert Ballet, and has worked for the Bohemian Nights Foundation in Old Town Fort Collins.

Banks has presented her artistic work in research symposiums such as: MURALS, CURC (Celebrate Undergraduate Research and Creativity), and the Diversity Symposium.

Banks' involvement goes beyond being a dancer having also been a costume designer for CSU theater productions and is the Student Production Assistant for the CSU Dance Department.

A recipient of the Gilman Scholarship, Banks studied abroad in Santiago, Chile, focusing her studies in Spanish and cultural dances of Salsa and Bachata at the Universidad de Andres Bello. Before Chile, Banks danced in Germany with the Art Zen Dance Company, taking classes with Arne Kurzbach.

Upon graduating in December, Banks hopes to continue traveling to teach and choreograph dance. In addition, Banks has the desire to move to NYC or LA to pursue modeling, acting, and dancing, and with the hope to one day return to Germany to audition for the Pina Bausch Dance Co.

Kayla would like to thank her friends and family for always supporting her, and her professors for guiding and training her throughout her college career. Much love and appreciation to all.