



Department of Dance
Franklin College of Arts and Sciences
UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA

UGA Department of Dance Presents

UGADC SPRING CONCERT

\$18 Adult | \$8 Student/Senior | Groups of 8+ Adult, \$10 any show

April 9, 2026 at 7:30pm | April 10, 2026 at 7:30pm
April 11, 2026 at 2:00pm | April 11, 2026 at 7:30pm

UGA Dance Theatre, 263 W. Green St., Athens, GA 30602

Scan for tickets



Supported in part by
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the Humanities and Arts



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UGA Dance Theatre

DANCE 2.0 EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING FUND

UGA DEPARTMENT OF DANCE'S 3-YEAR
DANCE 2.0 INITIATIVE PRIORITIZES LASTING
INNOVATION, RENOVATION,
& STUDENT SUCCESS.

OUR EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING FUND BOLSTERS
ACADEMIC INNOVATION
& CAREER READINESS.



FUNDS GO TO SUPPORT ANNUAL GUEST ARTIST RESIDENCIES
WITH ARTISTS OF NATIONAL AND/OR INTERNATIONAL
CALIBER AND OTHER INTERACTIONS WITH PROFESSIONAL
ARTISTS WHO SERVE AS ENTREPRENEURS IN THEIR FIELD.



GUEST
ARTIST
CLASSES



CHOREOGRAPHIC
RESIDENCIES



GUEST
LECTURES

PROGRAM ORDER

UPLIFT

Choreographer: Elizabeth Stich

Music: Atomic Number by case/lang/veirs

Performers: Kat Lazos, Anna Jane Self, Katherine Stockton

JAZZ SUITE

Choreographer: Barbara Powers

Music: Jazz Suite No. 2: VI. Waltz 2 by Dimitri Shostakovich

Performers: Gianna Bonfini, Charlotte Carbaugh, Audrey Hager, Mary Laura Hodges, Nika Shlomi, Violet Sofish, Mary Peyton Tanner

RUNWAY— “KENTE VOGUE & VIBE”

Choreographer: Jason Aryeh

Music: My Name Is by DJ Zinhle (feat. Busiswa Gqulu) (Radio Edition)

Sound Design: Samuel Quaye

Costume: Emmanuel Saim

Performers: Lee Alleyne, Summer Arrington, Danica Best, Mikhaila Johnson, Kat Lazos, Shania McConnell, Kendall Sanders, Katherine Stockton, Sarah Tso

PERIPHERAL HEARTS

Choreographer: Jennifer Weber

Music: Ludwig van Beethoven’s Symphony No. 7 in A Major, Op. 92 performed by the Vienna Philharmonic Symphony, conducted by Carlos Kleiber

Costume: Original costume design and construction by Susan Romer

Performers: Gianna Bonfini, Charlotte Carbaugh, Caroline Hawes, Naomi Kleber, Elsa Kusky, Kat Lazos, Chelsea Mills, Nika Shlomi, Charlotte Smith

Program Note

Peripheral Hearts is inspired by Kneehigh Theatre’s Tristan and Yseult by, drawing specifically from the Love Spotters and the Club of the Unloved—those who exist just outside the center of the story. This work turns its gaze toward the sidelines and asks: what if you’ve only ever been watching, waiting? What is at stake when you finally step into the spotlight—and what is at stake if you never do? If love never arrives, do you remain part of the Club of the Unloved? Do you keep searching, or do you learn to make peace with longing itself?

BREACH

Choreographer: Meg Gourley

Music: Danish String Quartet, Virke, The Flamingo Jones

Performers: Lee Alleyne, Summer Arrington, Ava Grau, Mary Laura Hodges, Sara Mullis, Andie Richardson, Ava Siegel, Charlotte Smith, Elizabeth Steele, Katherine Stockton

Program Note

Hello again,

Since I last wrote, the sound of your silence has not fallen on down-cast eyes. Though we have not reached a settlement, I know that a deal will be reached in time. Thus, it is you who can speak on behalf of those who still reside in this place. It is but you, old friend, who can absolve the guiltless. You have seen the outcome of a contract that cannot be broken with merely requests of reprieve. Her cries are fruitless, inside a chamber which she herself has locked. So now, I write to you again with requests for unraveling. I can assure you that breach in good faith would not be forgotten.

Ever Yours

INTERMISSION

SCHERZO

Choreographer: Lisa Fusillo

Music: Ludwig van Beethoven from Symphony No. 9 in D minor; performed by David Garrett & band

Performers: Sara Grace Abernathy, Bethany Barner, Gianna Bonfini, Kayla Bond, Charlotte Carbaugh, Amelia Cassidy, Caroline Hawes, Elsa Kuskys, Chelsea Mills, Bailey Orr, Hannah Smith, Charlotte Smith, Laura Towner

LOVE AT FIRST GRIP

Choreographer: Elizabeth Stich

Music: It's Oh So Quiet by Björk

Performer: Elizabeth Steele

THE PROMISE FROM THE PERIL

Choreographer: Rebecca Gose

Music: Tristan Harris (TED2025), Jóhann Jóhannson, Meredith Monk, Phillip Glass

Performers: Summer Arrington, Bethany Barner, Carina Cardoso De Araujo, Addison Davis, Molly Drake, Ava Grau, Mary Laura Hodges, Calista Honick, Ava Siegel, Katherine Stockton

FLOÚ

Choreographer: Maleek Washington

Music: "All These Worlds, Pt. II" by Murcof, "Puddle Underwater" by Salamanda

Rehearsal Director: Lisa Fusillo

Costume Concept: Maleek Washington

Performers: Summer Arrington, Bethany Barner, Danica Best, Ava Grau, Audrey Hager, Mary Laura Hodges, Mikhaila Johnson, Naomi Kleber, Shania McConnell, Ava Siegel, Sarah Stadelmeier, Elizabeth Steele, Laura Towner

BOWS

Please join us after the Friday evening performance for a reception in the Mark Wheeler Studio.

For the safety of the dancers and the experience of audience members, no unauthorized photography or videography is allowed. Thank you for your cooperation.

ARTISTIC STAFF

Director

Lighting Designer / Stage Manager

Poster / Program Design

Videographer & Livestream Feed

Photographer

Barbara Powers

Carina McGeehin

Abigail Schulze

Ron Braxley

Jason Thrasher

CHOREOGRAPHER BIOGRAPHIES



Jason Aryeh

Jason Aryeh is the formal Artistic Director and Founder of Africa Alive Dance Company, a project research-oriented movement performance ensemble, resident in Accra. He was the lead Dancer and Choreographer for the Performing Arts Workshop (PAWS), a resident performance dance company affiliated with the University of Ghana. Aryeh was also a featured performance soloist and Choreographer for the Sankofa African Dance and Drum Company affiliated with the State University of New York, College at Brockport. He was the Director, Choreographer and movement research scholar for the resident Theater Company at the Center for National Culture, Ghana.

Jason Aryeh earned his Bachelor of Fine Arts (BFA) degree in Dance and African Studies from the University of Ghana and his Master of Fine Arts (MFA) degree in Performance and Choreography Studies from State University of New York, College at Brockport. He has shared his research expertise both in the classroom and in the movement studio at; University of Ghana, Salem College, Roger Williams University, University of Rochester, Spring Field College, University of Southern Mississippi, Darton State College, East Carolina University, Goucher University, University of Florida, Elon University, University of North Carolina, Greensboro, Hobart and William Smith College, State University of New York, College at Brockport, Springfield College, Massachusetts and Radford University, Virginia.

Aryeh was awarded the Wilhelmina Boyd Community Service by the Black Student Union for the outstanding contribution to the community and the outstanding Black Faculty in recognition of Teaching and considerable Skill in Motivating and Inspiring students.



Rebecca Gose

Rebecca Gose is an artist/scholar/educator who began her professional career in modern dance as a principal dancer with Garth Fagan Dance company, touring extensively across the US as well as at festivals and theatres across Europe, South America, New Zealand, Israel, and in the premiere of Fagan's Griot New York, a Bessie award-winning dance collaboration with Fagan, the Wynton Marsalis Septet, and sculptor Martin Puryear. She has subsequently performed the repertoire of iconic modern dance choreographers including Ruth St. Denis, Eric Hawkins, Doug Varone, David Parsons, Stephen Petronio, Alwin Nikolais, and Moses Pendleton. Gose received her MFA in Dance from the

University of Washington. As a professor at the University of Georgia since 2001, Rebecca teaches contemporary modern dance, pedagogy, dance science, and directs the P12 teacher certification program. In addition to making dances for a variety of populations for over 30 years, Rebecca's scholarly work focuses on pedagogical and dancer wellness through the lenses of motor learning and somatic perspectives. Her research has achieved global reach, and has been published in International Journal of Arts Education, International Journal of Education & the Arts, Frontiers in Psychology, Journal of Dance Education, and Experimental Brain Research, and others, and she was honored to be selected to contribute a chapter to the 2022 award-winning book, *Dancing Across the Lifespan*. Gose regularly presents at national and international conferences such as World Dance Alliance, NDEO, and IADMS.



Dr. Lisa Fusillo

Lisa Fusillo began professional ballet training at the Washington School of Ballet and later trained in New York, London, Russia and Denmark. She holds the Professional Teaching Diploma from the Royal Ballet School (London) and certifications from American Ballet Theatre National Training Curriculum and the New York City Ballet Education Department. She has taught and choreographed in Austria, Belgium, France, Germany, England, the Netherlands, Thailand, Taiwan, and for the International Ballet Competition (Jackson, MS). Dr. Fusillo is Fulbright Scholar (Taiwan), a Willson Center Research Fellow and the recipient of four National Endowment for the Arts grants.

She has taught with the UGA at Oxford Program in the U.K. and in May 2024, Dr. Fusillo directed the new UGA Domestic Field Study program, Dance in New York City. Also in 2024, her choreography “Celebration for Hyorim” won 2nd Place at Prague International Dance Festival and she won “Best Presentation” at an International Arts and Humanities Conference. Dr. Fusillo is the founder/director of Dance Repertory Project and is the UGA Foundation Professor in the Arts.



Meg Gourley

Meg Gourley (she/her) is a dance artist, choreographer, and educator whose work bridges performance, research, and community engagement. Based between Atlanta and Milwaukee, she holds a BFA in Dance and a minor in Anthropology from the University of Georgia, along with K–12 Dance Certification. She began her training at Decatur School of Ballet and has since studied with the Joffrey Ballet School, Staibdance, the Governor’s Honors Program, and the American Dance Festival.

Her performance career includes international work in Costa Rica with Danza Universitaria and in Voronezh, Russia with the UGA Department of Dance. She has performed with Staibdance, Atlanta Dance Collective, Valletto Dance, Monica Hogan Danceworks, Patsy Collins, Emma Morris, and Decatur City Dance. Gourley was a company member with Kit Modus for seven seasons under the direction of Jillian Mitchell, performing works by Mitchell as well as guest choreographers including Christian Denise, Marco Palomino, Noelle Kayser, and Annalee Traylor.

As a choreographer, her work has been presented in Atlanta, Milwaukee, Philadelphia, and New York. In 2025, she premiered her evening-length work *In Light of These Regrets* in Atlanta. Her collaborative projects include works with Catherine Messina presented at Dixon Place and at the DanceUSA conference, and *Tethered Together* with Jordan Young and Andre Lumpkin, shown at *Underground Atlanta*, *Fly On A Wall’s Excuse The Art*, and *The Goat Farm’s Site*. She has received commissions from Agnes Scott College, Dekalb Symphony Orchestra, Peach State Opera, Emory University, and the University of Georgia, where she will serve as Alumni in Residence in Spring 2026.



Barbara Powers

Barbara Powers is a Senior Lecturer of Dance at the University of Georgia, where she leads recruitment, directs the University of Georgia Dance Company Concert, and teaches ballet, contemporary, jazz, yoga, dance appreciation, and practicing wellness. She holds a B.F.A. from New York University's Tisch School of the Arts and an M.F.A. from the University of Washington.

Her research explores the intersections of dance, wellness, community, and creativity. She has presented nationally and internationally at the IADMS iConference, Healthy Dancer Canada Conference, Association of Contemplative Mind in Higher Education, National Dance Education Organization, and the Conference on Higher Education Pedagogy. Her scholarship has also been published in *Dance Education in Practice*.

Ms. Powers has performed professionally with Ririe-Woodbury Dance Company, the Radio City Christmas Spectacular as a Rockette, Li-Chiao Ping Dance, the Catey Ott Dance Collective, and Skybetter and Associates. She holds certifications in vinyasa and restorative yoga, Pilates mat, and meditation instruction, and is the co-founder and director of the Art of Wellness Living Learning Community at the University of Georgia.



Susan Roemer

Susan Roemer is a Northern California-based costume designer specializing in creative collaboration for dance and film under her own label S-Curve Apparel & Design. Prior to her career in costume design, Susan worked as a professional dancer across the country, most notably with Smuin Ballet in San Francisco for nine years. Before retiring from the stage in 2014, Roemer attended Apparel Arts to study Patternmaking, Design, and Manufacturing Practices. Since 2012, Roemer has designed and constructed costumes for San Francisco Ballet, Smuin Ballet, Joffrey Ballet, Amy Seiwert's Imagery, Ballet West, Ballet Memphis, AXIS Dance Company, Tulsa Ballet, Kansas City

Ballet, BalletMet, Ballet Austin, Eugene Ballet, Singapore Dance Theatre, and Red Panel Creative among others. Roemer was awarded an Isadora Duncan Award for Visual Design of Amy Seiwert's "Wandering" in 2017. Her experience as a performer has informed her design perspective, blending fashion with the unique demands of dressing artists for stage.



Elizabeth Stich

Elizabeth Stich is an Assistant Professor specializing in aerial dance, contemporary modern, and creative coursework. Her choreography has been featured in Tuacahn Amphitheatre's Broadway season, Santa Barbara Floor to Air Festival, Red Rock Dance Festival, and the American College Dance Association regional gala, as well as numerous university dance programs. Elizabeth's scholarly research on aerial dance has been published in the *Journal of Dance Education*, *Theatre, Dance, and Performance Training*, *Performance Research*, and *Choreographic Practices*. She is the author of the book *Aerial Arts and Dance Improvisation: A Practical Guide to Creativity for*

Aerialists. Prior to joining UGA Dance, Elizabeth was an assistant professor at Utah Tech University where she founded the department's aerial dance program. She holds an MFA from the University of Utah, a certificate in Laban/Bartenieff Movement Analysis from Integrated Movement Studies and is a graduate of New England Center for Circus Arts.



Maleek Washington

Maleek Washington, a native New Yorker, is a performer, choreographer, and teaching artist at Broadway Dance Center, Peridance, and Steps on Broadway in New York City. His previous collaborations include with Sia, Kyle Abraham, Rihanna, ASAP Rocky, Camille A Brown and Dancers, and Sleep No More by PunchDrunk.

As a teaching artist, Washington has taught at prestigious institutions such as Joffrey's New York City Jazz and Contemporary program, Boston Conservatory, LaGuardia High School for Performing Arts, Bard College, Move NYC, and NYU Tisch.

Washington's multidisciplinary, experiential performance works explore the people, practices, and spaces that shape his Black identity. In 2017, he showcased his art at the Boston Dance Festival, Pepatian, BAAD!, Periapsis Dance and Music Noesis, and the renowned Movement Research at Judson Church in Spring 2018. He was also a 2017-18 Dancing While Black top 10 choreographic finalist. In 2021, Bill T Jones invited Washington to be part of Jones' "Fresh Tracks" cohort. Maleek was also honored with nominations for a 2021 and 2023 Bessie Award for "Outstanding Breakout Choreographer" and "Outstanding Performer." He was named a 2022 Princess Grace Award winner for choreography. Recently, he completed his inaugural year as the Director of Winter Intensive at Jacobs Pillow.



Jennifer Weber

Jennifer Weber is an Assistant Professor of Ballet at the University of Georgia. She merges analytical precision with creative practice, bringing a collaborative, human-centered approach to her work as an artist and educator. Holding an MFA from the University of Iowa and a BA in Mathematics, she has danced professionally with Omaha Theater Company, Ballet Quad Cities, and Ballet Nebraska. Her creative work is rooted in collaboration and curiosity about the human condition, exploring how the performing arts both reflect the world we inhabit and imagine alternate outcomes. Through

choreography, direction, and pedagogy, Weber is committed to fostering spaces where rigor, empathy, and possibility coexist.



DEPARTMENT OF DANCE FACULTY & STAFF

FACULTY

Jason Aryeh, Lecturer
Lisa Fusillo, Professor
Rebecca Gose, Associate Professor & Department Head
Barbara Powers, Senior Lecturer
Elizabeth Stich, Assistant Professor
Jennifer Weber, Assistant Professor

PART-TIME FACULTY

Natalie Cox
Michael Fulford
Lindsay Giedl
Tina Martin
Melissa Roberts
Lisa Williamson

STAFF

Shaun Baer, Director of Public Relations
Carina McGeehin, Technical Production Manager
Betty Prickett, Business Manager

PART-TIME STAFF

Abigail Schulze, Administrative Assistant
Sabrina Esmail, Work-Study Student Assistant
Amber Fetner and Louis Romanos, Music Accompanists

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