

MESSIAH UNIVERSITY DEPARTMENT OF  
THEATRE AND DANCE  
PRESENTS



**THE FALL SENIOR SERIES**


**AN EVENING OF PERFORMANCE**  
CREATED AND PRESENTED BY DEPARTMENT SENIORS

**DECEMBER 8-9 AT 8 P.M.  
& DECEMBER 10 AT 3 P.M.**

***"FOOTPRINTS ACROSS OCEANS:  
A DANCE JOURNAL"***  
**CREATED BY  
XIN YI TOH**

POLLOCK DANCE STUDIO  
CLIMENHAGA BUILDING

**2023-2024  
SEASON**

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Messiah\_ Univ\_ Theatre\_ and\_ Dance 

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**Mission Statement:** As a community of Theatre and Dance artists, we cultivate the stewardship of intellect and imagination in a forum for civic dialogue as we seek to understand our calling in Christ.

[messiah.edu/departments/theatre](https://messiah.edu/departments/theatre)

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@MUTheatreandDance

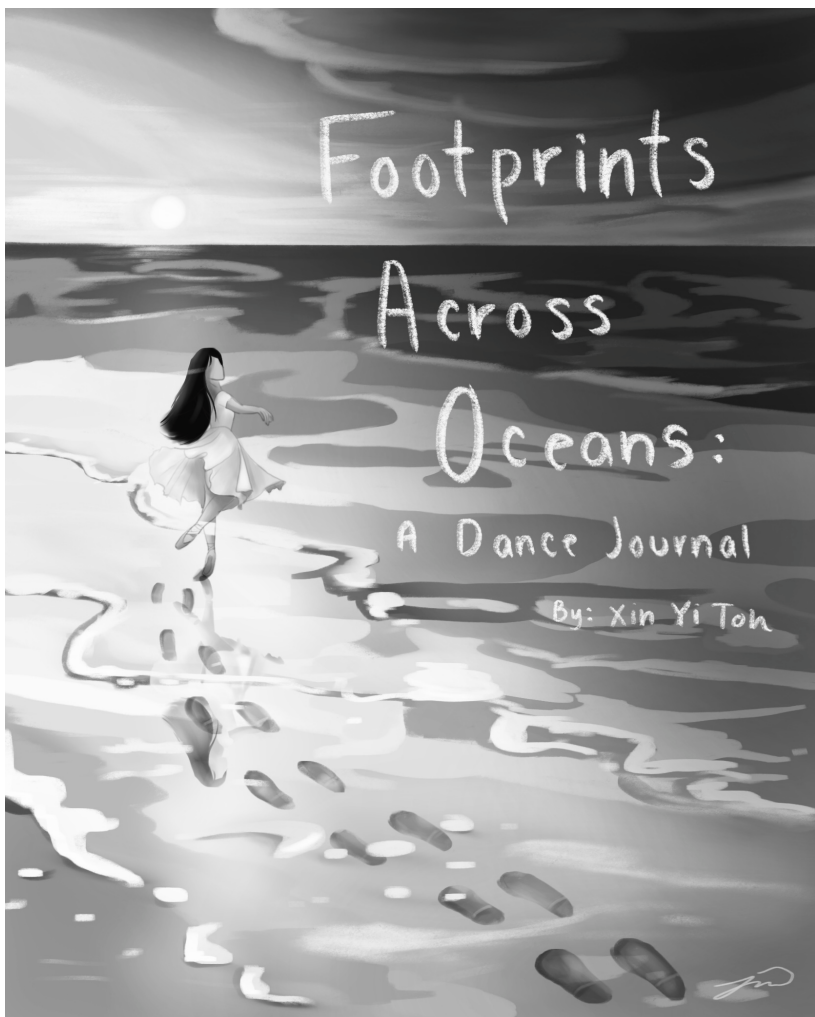


Messiah\_Univ\_Theatre\_and\_Dance

**THE PHOTOGRAPHY, VIDEOTAPING, OR OTHER VIDEO OR AUDIO RECORDING OF THIS PRODUCTION IS STRICTLY PROHIBITED.**

# **“FOOTPRINTS ACROSS OCEANS: A DANCE JOURNAL”**

**Created by Xin Yi Toh**



## **CAST**

International student.....	Xin Yi Toh
International student.....	Anna Kreider
Companion / Mother / Challenges .....	Xiao Ying Fong
Companion / Challenges / Echo .....	Lyric Penland
Companion / Challenges .....	Sarah Dunn

## **PRODUCTION TEAM**

Choreographer.....	Xin Yi Toh
Stage Manager.....	Sunny Almeyda
Costume Designer .....	Xin Yi Toh
Lighting Designers .....	Bethany Sauder, Xin Yi Toh
Assistant Lighting Designer .....	Jordan Rodgers
Sound Designer .....	Xin Yi Toh
Show Image Design.....	Joanna Guo
Project Advisor .....	Gregg Hurley
Chair of the Theatre and Dance Department.....	Daniel Inouye
Technical Director.....	Benjamin Roberts
Production Manager .....	Patricia DuBois
Publicity Coordinator .....	Hannah Wilburn
House Managers.....	Orphie Hartman, Jack Jones
Light Board Operator .....	Lea Ratos
Sound Board Operator.....	Sunny Almeyda

## **SPECIAL THANKS**

Thanks to the cast for their patience, dedication, and creativity.  
Thanks to Gregg Hurley for advising this project, and for his great support and guidance.  
Thanks to the crew for their time, flexibility and being quick on their feet.  
Thanks to family and friends for their support and prayers.

## PROGRAM ORDER

### **Arrival** 抵达

Self: "Yay, freedom. I can't wait for this studying abroad journey to begin."

Song: "Diabolique" by Raphael Beau

### **Foreigner** 局外人

Self: "I felt like a foreigner. There isn't anyone who seems to understand me, and I don't seem to understand everyone else here either."

Song: "Diversity" by Hauschka

### **Homesick** 思念

Self: "Home, 9500 miles away, feels incredibly distant. I miss it so much... Hi mom, if you ever see this, please don't worry about me - I'm doing well here. Just wanted to say I'm missing you again."

Song: "一荤一素" by 毛不易

### **Overwhelmed** 压垮

Self: "I'm struggling, I don't think I could make it, it's so much harder here than I thought. Dealing with challenges like culture shock, academic pressure, language barriers, expectations, and financial stress, all while adapting to new environments and making new friends, is overwhelming."

Song: "Heart Cry" by Drezh

### **Why I first started** 初衷

Self: "If you can remember why you started, then you will know why you must continue - Chris Brukmenn."

Song: "Il carillon" by Virginio Aiello

### **Grow** 成长

Echo: "You've got to grow."

Song: "Grow - A COLORS ENCORE" by FACESOUL

### **Farewell** 离别

Self: "Since I began this journey, every day feels like I'm living in-between. I'm living between my old & new life, the feeling of belonging, and not quite belonging, and the feeling of being homesick and at home. I discovered that comfort and the unknown can coexist. Grateful for everyone who supported me throughout this journey. I'm ready to graduate and I'm excited for the next adventure. Wheeeee..."

Song: "Jazz Stomp" by Morninglightmusic

## A NOTE FROM THE CREATOR

"Footprints Across Oceans: A Dance Journal" is my personal narrative as an international student traveling across oceans all the way from Malaysia to the United States to pursue my dreams. It's more than a performance; it's an invitation for the audience to enter the world of an international student.

Through this show I hope to provide reassurance to individuals who might share similar experiences, regardless of whether you're an international student, it's ok to feel vulnerable and lost, as strength often emerges from those very moments. You are not alone in your journey. Despite the inevitable struggles and uncertainties, let's all remember why we first started. We are stronger than we think. 加油!

**Xin Yi Toh, Creator**

## BIOS

**Xin Yi Toh** is a senior dance major and a psychology minor. She is very excited and blessed to create this show inspired by her experience as an international student in the United States. She's a ballet-trained dancer born and raised in Malaysia, but her time at Messiah introduced her to diverse dance styles including jazz, hip hop, modern, and tap dance. Xin Yi has had the privilege of performing in various shows in Messiah such as Culmination, Blue Christmas, Humanities Symposium, Percussion Ensembles, YBTV, International Gala, and unforgettable Senior Shows of her dear friends Elisaveta & Mikayla. Each performance has enriched her with diverse perspectives and unique experiences.

**Anna Kreider** is a senior with a criminal justice major and a psychology minor. Anna is thrilled that, throughout her time at college, the dance department allowed her to participate in several shows. Anna is ecstatic and appreciative that she will be taking part in a wonderful dance with fantastic dancers. She would like to express her gratitude to Xin Yi for allowing her to be part of this amazing experience. Anna would also like to thank her family and friends who have supported her throughout her time at Messiah.

**Lyric Penland** trained in ballet at three in Oklahoma and moved to completion-style dancing in New York City. She is a first-year dance major, with a second major in cross-cultural ministries. Before coming to Messiah, she went to a performing arts school and trained under the Paul Taylor teen ensemble divination. She continues training here in various styles of ballet and modern.

**Sarah Dunn** is a first-year dance and English double major and is excited to be performing in her first show at Messiah University. Sarah has been dancing since age three, with a focus on ballet, although she enjoys learning and performing in every style. She is extremely thankful for the opportunity to be a part of this performance!

**Xiao Ying Fong** is an international student from Malaysia, currently a junior pursuing a major in international business along with two minors in marketing and dance. She started dancing at the age of three years old with gymnastics and ballet. Over the years, she explored different dance styles such as cheerleading, contemporary, and modern dance, and participated in multiple performances and competitions. As she just arrived at Messiah University, she began to be involved in Messiah's Dance community. As such, she is grateful for the opportunity to dance at Xin Yi's senior show.

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

This production features the following musical selections:

"Diabolique" by Raphael Beau

"Diversity" by Hauschka

"一荤一素" by 毛不易

"Heart Cry" by Drehz

"Il carillon" by Virginio Aiello

"Grow - A COLORS ENCORE" by FACESOUL

"Jazz Stomp" by Morninglightmusic

"Recomposed by Peter Gregson: Bach: Cello Suites No.6 in D Major, BWV 1012: 6. Gigue" by Peter Gregson

"The Entertainer (Piano Duet)" by Legend The Band

**WHO WILL CARRY THE WORD?** Written by Charlotte Delbo, Directed by Ed Cohn and Carmi Wilmot

"Who Will Carry the Word?" is a deeply moving recount of French writer Charlotte Delbo's survival during the Holocaust. The play depicts the atrocities during this unfathomable time in history, painting an emotionally raw picture of enduring the unimaginable. While "Who Will Carry the Word?" is based on existence in concentration camps, it also portrays how in times of despair, mankind comes together—bonded by strength and courage—to find hope and the will to escape a dire fate.

**Poorman Black Box Theater Oct. 5 - 7 at 8 pm; Oct. 8 at 3 pm**

**SHOELESS JOE** Directed by Susan Hurley

Fall musical theatre cabaret.

**Poorman Black Box Theater Oct. 28 at 8 pm; Oct. 29 at 3 pm**

**ALABAMA STORY** Written by Kenneth Jones, Directed by Daniel Inouye

As the Civil Rights movement is brewing, a controversial children's book about a black rabbit marrying a white rabbit stirs the passions of a segregationist State Senator and a no-nonsense State Librarian in 1959 Montgomery, Alabama. Meanwhile, the story of two childhood friends — an African American man and a woman of white privilege, reunited in adulthood — provides a private counterpoint to the public events swirling in the state capital. Political foes, star-crossed lovers, and one feisty children's author inhabit the same page in a Deep South of the imagination that brims with humor, heartbreak and hope. Inspired by true events.

**Miller Theater Nov. 9-11, 17-18 at 8 pm; Nov. 12 & 19 at 3 pm; \*Nov. 16 at 10 am special school performance**

**BLUE CHRISTMAS** Directed by Gregg Hurley

Messiah University dance students acknowledge the struggles and challenges of this broken and fallen world with this lament-driven dance experience. Reflect with us through the medium of dance with this intimate evening of words, music, and dance that will tenderly prepare us all for the joyous season of Advent.

**Poorman Black Box Theater Nov. 16 at 7pm**

**FALL SENIOR SERIES**

An evening of performance created and presented by department seniors.

**Poorman Black Box Theater Dec. 1 at 8 pm, Dec. 3 at 3 pm; Pollock Dance Studio Dec. 8-9 at 8 pm, Dec. 10 at 3 pm**

**2024 HUMANITIES SYMPOSIUM DANCE CONCERT** Directed by Gregg Hurley

Dancing is a scholarly pursuit. Watch and consider how the dance program tackles the annual Humanities symposium topic in its own unique way.

**Poorman Black Box Theater Feb. 23 at 4 pm; Feb. 24 at 8 pm**

**THE SPITFIRE GRILL** Music and book by James Valcq, Lyrics and book by Fred Alley, Based on the film by Lee David Zlotoff, Directed by Ed Cohn. Based on the hit film, "The Spitfire Grill" is a heartwarming and inspirational musical tale of redemption, perseverance, and family. A torn page from an old travel book sparks parolee Percy Talbot to journey to a small town in Wisconsin. There she finds a new life working at the Spitfire Grill. The folks in this depressed town have more to worry about than Percy's past, but fear and hesitancy turn to friendship when Percy schemes to revive the old grill by raffling it off. The entry fee is one hundred dollars, and the best essay on why you want the grill wins. Soon mail is arriving by the wheelbarrow full, and things are definitely cookin' at the Spitfire Grill.

**Miller Theater Feb. 29, March 1-2, 5-7 at 8 pm; March 2-3 at 3 pm; \*March 5 at 10 am special school performance**

**SPRING SENIOR SERIES**

An evening of performance created and presented by department seniors.

**Poorman Black Box Theater March 22 - 23 at 8 pm; Miller Theater April 18-19 at 8 pm**

**CULMINATION '24: SPRING DANCE CONCERT** Directed by Gregg Hurley

Dancing is an artistic endeavor. Celebrate spring and the dance accomplishments of Messiah University's theatre and dance department in an offering of favorite dance pieces from the year, new faculty work, student adjudicated creations, and senior capstone projects all in one fun and glorious dance concert!

**Miller Theater April 12 at 8 pm; April 13 at 2 pm**

**ONE-ACT FESTIVAL & SHOELESS JOE COMBINED**

A festival of student-directed and fully produced one act plays! Join us for several evenings of fresh, inventive, and innovative story telling.

**Poorman Black Box Theater April 26 - 27 at 8 pm & April 27- 28 at 3 pm**