

Messiah University Department of Theatre and Dance presents

Culmination '24

SPRING DANCE CONCERT



*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!


Directed by: Gregg Hurley

MILLER THEATER
CLIMENHAGA BUILDING

April 12 at 8 pm
& April 13 at 2 pm

2023-2024 SEASON

@MUTheatreandDance 

Messiah_Univ_Theatre_and_Dance 

 MESSIAH
UNIVERSITY

DEPARTMENT OF
THEATRE AND DANCE

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DEPARTMENT OF
THEATRE AND DANCE

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

CONNECT WITH US!

If you liked what you
saw tonight, please
spread the word on
social media!



@MUTheatreandDance



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**ANY VIDEO AND/ OR AUDIO RECORDING
OF THIS PRODUCTION IS STRICTLY PROHIBITED.**

PRODUCTION TEAM

Director..... Gregg Hurley
Stage Manager..... Madalyn Oliver
Costume Designer..... Susan Hurley
Lighting Designer.....Tristan Stasiulis
Sound Designer.....Eleanor Mund
Chair of Theatre and Dance Department..... Daniel Inouye
Technical Director.....Benjamin Roberts
Production Manager.....Patricia DuBois
Publicity Coordinators.....Meredith Hensel, Hannah Wilburn
House Manager.....Julie Osburn
Light Board Operator.....Ella Murray
Sound Board Operator.....Eleanor Mund

DANCERS

Faith Coburn	Hannah Lim
Eliza Crawford	Grace Miller
Elizabeth Crognale	Morgan Osborn-Wotthlie
Lilly Davey	Lyric Penland
Sarah Dunn	Olivia Reardon
AJ Espada	Ashton Ritter
Xiao Ying Fong	Heidi Schoenhals
Annika Gerber	Emma Walt
Skyler Hildebeitel	Ashley Winfield
Julia Kropp	Kaity Wingert
Kelsey Lemieux	

PROGRAM

Cinq Belles

Choreographers: Gregg Hurley and dancers
Music: "Les Cloches de Corneville" by Augusta Holmès
Dancers: Eliza Crawford, Sarah Dunn, Xiao Ying Fong,
Morgan Osborn-Wotthlie, Olivia Reardon

Wayfaring Strangers

Choreographers: Gregg Hurley and dancers
Music: Meredith Monk
Dancers: Elizabeth Crognale, Kelsey Lemieux, Lilly Davey, Skyler Hildebeitel,
Heidi Schoenhals

Pursuit

Choreographer: Gregg Hurley
Music: "Can't Run But" - Paul Simon
Dancers: Sarah Dunn, AJ Espada, Hannah Lim, Lyric Penland

Divided

Choreographer: Gregg Hurley
Music: "The Swamp" - Matthew Herbert and "Flat Earth" - Clown Core
Dancers: Sarah Dunn, AJ Espada, Xiao Ying Fong,
Julia Kropp, Hannah Lim, Lyric Penland, Olivia Reardon

Waiting

Choreographers: Heidi Schoenhals and Gregg Hurley
Music: Ólafur Arnalds
Dancer: Heidi Schoenhals

To Be Witnessed

Choreographers: Gregg Hurley, Annika Gerber, Skyler Hildebeitel
Music: Arvo Pärt
Dancers: Skyler Hildebeitel, Lilly Davey, Annika Gerber, Lyric Penland,
Ashton Ritter, Ashley Winfield, Morgan Osborn-Wotthlie

Intermission

American Mosaic

Choreographer: Eileen Beth Mitchell

Music: Chase Rice, West Side Story Chorus, Cypress Spring, Childish Gambino,
Tom MacDonald, Imagine Dragons, Travis Lake, LAAKE

Dancers: Lilly Davey, AJ Espada, Julia Kropp, Skyler Hildebeitel,

Morgan Osborn-Wotthlie, Lyric Penland, Olivia Reardon

Understudies: Xiao Ying Fong, Kaity Wingert

Psalm 31:9

Choreographer: Faith Coburn

Music: "Easy on my Eyes" by Stephen Sanchez

Dancer: Faith Coburn

Sweet Dreams

Choreographer: Skyler Hildebeitel

Music: "Sweet Dreams Seven Nation Army Mashup" by Pomplamoose and
Sarah Dugas

Dancers: Lilly Davey, Julia Kropp, Grace Miller, Lyric Penland, Olivia Reardon,
Emma Walt

cycles

Choreographer: Elizabeth Crognale

Music: Mashup; "Roses and Teeth for Ludwig Wittgenstein" by Matmos and
"Free" by Florence + the Machine

Dancer: Elizabeth Crognale

Where are You?

Choreographer: Tzeniah Frazier

Music: "Where are You"

Dancers: Julia Kropp, Lilly Davey

~Pause~

To Mourn

Choreographer: Annika Gerber

Music: "Waiting Room" by Phoebe Bridgers

Dancers: Faith Coburn, Lyric Penland, AJ Espada, Julia Kropp,
Skyler Hildebeitel, Annika Gerber, Heidi Schoenhals

Above All

Choreographer: Eileen Beth Mitchell

Music: "You Are Worthy" by Eddie James

Dancers: Lilly Davey, Sarah Dunn, Xiao Ying Fong, Hannah Lim,
Morgan Osborn-Wotthlie

DANCE SENIOR SPOTLIGHT

Faith Coburn is a senior psychology major, and she has been dancing for as long as she can remember. During her time at Messiah, she has been involved in several GIVIM productions. She also taught modern and jazz classes for Acclamation Dance Ministry, and served as their prayer chaplain for several semesters. She happily teaches ballet, contemporary, and technique classes at Hershey School of Dance & Arts, and plans to dance as an apprentice with LUNA Contemporary Dance after graduating. She loves that dance allows us to enjoy and share the beauty of Jesus! Soli Deo Gloria!

Elizabeth Crognale: Raised as a missionary kid in between homes in Boston, MA and Tenwek Hospital, Kenya, Elizabeth Crognale is a senior psychology major with a minor in dance. She has trained in ballet, modern, lyrical jazz, and theatrical jazz since age four. At Messiah, she has performed in Culmination and International Gala, and has choreographed and performed with Acclamation Dance Ministry for six semesters. After graduation, she hopes to split her time between working towards a PhD in neuroscience and dancing/choreographing post-modern dance in New England.

Xiao Ying Fong is an international student from Malaysia, currently a junior pursuing a major in international business along with a minor in marketing. 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 in the Senior Series, and Humanities Symposium. Today, she is grateful for the opportunity to dance for Culmination '24.

Annika Gerber is a senior at Messiah University pursuing a dual degree in social work and dance. Through her time at Messiah, Annika has had several opportunities to dance on stage, including Blue Christmas, the Drum and Dance Concert, Humanities Symposiums and Culmination. After graduation, she hopes to continue her education by earning her master's degree in social work. From there, Annika hopes to explore the use of dance/movement therapy in the mental health field. Annika would like to thank Messiah's faculty, her family, her husband, and God for supporting and guiding her through these last four years. They sure have been crazy, but so worth it!

Skyler Hildebeitel is a senior mathematics major with minors in statistics and dance. After graduation she will work as a clinical data scientist and plans to remain involved at her home dance studio. She is grateful to the Messiah dance program for showing her how to use dance as a form of worship and helping her become a more well-rounded dancer and choreographer. She would like to say thank you to her family and friends for their support throughout her dance career, to every teacher she's had for their wisdom and encouragement, and to the Lord for making her a dancer.

Hannah Lim: Hailing from Malaysia, Hannah Lim is a senior dance major with a minor in pre-counseling and therapy. She has trained in the dance styles of ballet, modern, and tap since she was four, and is continuing to learn various dance styles such as hip-hop and jazz. At Messiah, she has performed in several dance shows. Some notable performances include Blue Christmas, Humanities Symposium, Culmination, International Gala, and "Letting Our Walls Crumble". After graduation, she hopes to perform with a faith-based contemporary or ballet company and eventually pursue dance therapy to help people heal through dance.

Ashton Ritter is a second-semester senior majoring in theatre. Her experience includes stage managing *Dinosaur*, working crew for *Once Upon A Mattress* and *Clue*, and wardrobe crew for *Noises Off*. Some previous dance performances include Blue Christmas, and Anger/Love from "Letting Our Walls Crumble". She is excited to see where God will take her after graduation.

Heidi Schoenhals is a senior applied health science major and dance minor. She will be starting Messiah's Master of Occupational Therapy program this summer 2024. In her time with Messiah's dance program, she has performed with GIVIM in performances of Carnival of the Animals (2021), Blue Christmas (2021, 2022, 2023), Culmination (2022), Humanities (2022, 2023), Drum and Dance Collaboration (2022), and "Letting Our Walls Crumble" (2023). She is so grateful for each of these formational experiences with Messiah's dance program.

Xin Yi Toh recently graduated from Messiah University in December 2023 with a BA in dance and a minor in psychology. Originally from Malaysia, Xin Yi began her ballet training at the age of three. During her time in Messiah, she furthered her training in various dance styles including jazz, hip-hop, modern, and tap, directed her capstone project, "Footprints Across Oceans: A Dance Journal," and performed in various productions including Culmination, Blue Christmas, and Humanities. Currently, Xin Yi is excited to begin her new journey as a ballet instructor at Atlanta Professional Dance Academy.

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

THE STUDENT DIRECTED ONE-ACT PLAY FESTIVAL & SHOELESS JOE: MUSICAL CABARET

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