



**Meg Schriffen (Dance Program Director)** holds a B.A. in dance education from Winthrop University and an M.F.A. in performance and choreography from Florida State University. After graduating from Winthrop, Meg taught dance at Camden Elementary of the Arts and later became head of the Dance Department at Thomas Sumter Academy in South Carolina. While teaching, she also performed and choreographed for the Sumter Civic Dance Company and performed with The Power Company in Columbia, South Carolina. Notable achievements while at Florida State included performing in master works such as Martha Graham's, *Steps in the Street*, from *Chronicle*, and being appointed rehearsal director and a performer in Paul Taylor's, *Esplanade*. She was also involved in Dance Repertory Theatre and assisted director Lynda Davis, as well as performed in pieces by many guest choreographers including Terry Creach, Bruce Wood, Jawole

Zollar, Gerri Houlihan, and Dr. Nancy Smith Fichter. She also performed works by FSU faculty, Lynda Davis, Anthony Morgan, Patty Phillips, and Rick McCullough. After her active involvement in FSU's Dance Department, Meg returned to Rock Hill and was a member of Charlotte-based contemporary dance company, Caroline Calouche and Company. Other credits include performing and choreographing for the American College Dance Festival, The Charlotte Dance Festival, North Carolina Dance Festival, South Carolina Dance Festival, Florida Dance Festival, Staibdance Summer Intensive, and several Piccolo Spoleto Festivals. Meg has been on faculty for the Staibdance Summer Intensive in Sorrento, Italy, where she has taken Winthrop dance students each summer. She has also been a long-time faculty member in dance for the ST-ARTS program, hosted at Winthrop each summer for gifted and talented middle school students. Meg is in her ninth year of teaching dance at Winthrop University.



**Jackie O'Toole** was born and raised in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, where she began her formal dance training. She received her B.A. in dance and B.A. in communications from Coker College. She received her M.F.A. in dance performance and choreography from Florida State University. Ms. O'Toole's choreography has been presented in venues including the Cloud Dance Festival in London, the White Wave Festivals in New York City, and the American College Dance Association Festivals. She has set choreography on West Chester University's dance program and was on the dance faculty at the American Music and Dramatic Academy's Los Angeles campus (AMDA). Ms. O'Toole received her certification in Lester Horton Technique through the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater.

She is a member of the L.A. based Sarah Berges Dance Company, as a guest performing artist. She serves on the board for the Charlotte Dance Festival and recently co-wrote and was awarded a grant entitled "Evaluating Professional Readiness in Dance." In the summer of 2015, she was chosen as a fellow for the University of Pennsylvania's *Center for Minority Serving Institution's* Inaugural program "ELEVATE". Ms. O'Toole is an assistant professor of dance at Johnson C. Smith University, in Charlotte, North Carolina.

### Artistic Staff

- |  |                               |
|--|-------------------------------|
| <b>Director</b>                          | <b>Meg Schriffen</b>          |
| <b>Scenic Designer</b>                   | <b>Biff Edge</b>              |
| <b>Lighting Designer</b>                 | <b>Daniel Gordon</b>          |
| <b>Assistant Lighting Designer</b>       | <b>Madia Medico ~ student</b> |
| <b>Costume Designer</b>                  | <b>Janet Gray</b>             |
| <b>Costume Studio Supervisor</b>         | <b>Amy Turner Thompson</b>    |
| <b>Sound Engineer/Technical Director</b> | <b>Biff Edge</b>              |
| <b>Pre-Show music</b>                    | <b>Winthrop Jazz Ensemble</b> |

WINTHROP

DANCE

THEATRE

11.12  
11.13  
11.14  
8:00PM  
+  
11.15  
2:00PM

RESERVED SEATING \$5 W/ WU ID  
JOHNSON THEATRE \$10 FOR PUBLIC



ARTS AT WINTHROP

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## Winthrop Dance Theatre 2015

### Little Swans

<b>Choreographer</b>	<b>Marius Petipa, adapted and restaged by Mia Cunningham</b>
<b>Music</b>	<b>“Swan Lake” by Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky in 1876</b>
<b>Dancers</b>	<b>Jessica McFarland*, Hannah Price, Carly Thompson*, Carley Tomlinson Hannah Leonard (US)</b>

*This is the first of two from an adaptation of Petipa’s version of “Swan Lake.”*

### Universe Within

<b>Choreographer</b>	<b>Ashlee Ramsey</b>
<b>Movement Invention &amp; Text</b>	<b>Ashlee Ramsey and Dancers</b>
<b>Music</b>	<b>“New Laughter Mode (The Way In)” and “Being Here” by Laraaji</b>
<b>Film Footage</b>	<b>Alex Churney and Dr. JC Guimberteau</b>
<b>Dancers</b>	<b>Hunter Hughes, Kylie Smith, Billy Thompson, La’Raine Turlington, Kristin Ward</b>

*“Universe Within” explores how the microcosmic intelligence of the body and the individual experience reflects a macrocosmic intelligence and experience of the universe. Using the body as a resource for connecting to this greater intelligence and higher consciousness, “Universe Within” plays with embodied knowing as a means for both connecting to and cultivating a creative life force of awareness, joy, empathy, love and community.*

### Big Swans

<b>Choreographer</b>	<b>Marius Petipa, adapted and restaged by Mia Cunningham</b>
<b>Music</b>	<b>“Swan Lake” by Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky in 1876</b>
<b>Dancers</b>	<b>Jessica McFarland*, Erika McLendon, Morgan Nawrath, Hannah Price, Carly Thompson*, Carley Tomlinson Hannah Leonard (US)</b>

*This is the second of two excerpts from an adaptation of Petipa’s version “Swan Lake.”*



**Maria Caruso** is the founder and director of Bodiography Contemporary Ballet and chair of the Performing Arts Department at La Roche College. Ms. Caruso received her B.F.A in dance from Florida State University and a M.S. in professional leadership from Carlow University. In 2011, Bodiography was trademarked as a movement vocabulary and it formed the basis of Caruso’s unique research-based choreographic process. Her passion for both athleticism and healing within the confines of dance further defined her now successful **Bodiography® Fitness and Strength Training** and **Bodiography® Dance Movement Therapy Systems**, that are expanding across the United States. At La Roche College, she fulfills her passion for education in collaboration with her privately owned conservatory, Bodiography Center for Movement, and she enjoys continued collaboration with academic colleagues in the field of dance. Ms. Caruso is currently traveling the globe as a master teacher and solo performer, creating new works for a variety of professional companies, universities, and pre-professional dance ensembles, and actively directs Bodiography Contemporary Ballet’s performing and community engagements. Her catalog of more than 70 choreographic works is actively being presented across the nation through the support of her rehearsal directors, Lauren Suflita Skrabalak and Amanda Fisher.



**Lauren Suflita Skrabalak** (cum laude) earned her B.F.A. in Ballet (performing and teaching emphases) from the University of Utah in 2002. While on scholarship, her undergraduate performing career included a guest artist role with Ballet West and dancing with the Utah Ballet. This allowed for an opportunity to travel abroad to Taipei, Taiwan performing a soloist role in Balanchine’s famed ballet *Concerto Barocco*. She also danced on the Medals Plaza stage during the 2002 Salt Lake Winter Olympics. After graduation, Skrabalak danced professionally, choreographed and taught for Bodiography Contemporary Ballet in Pittsburgh. As a principal dancer, she worked with choreographers like Ze’eva Cohen; Lynne Taylor-Corbett; and former principal dancer for the American Ballet Theatre Johan Renvall. During her seven year stay with the company, she was promoted to rehearsal director and assistant director of the conservatory. Despite the current geographical distance, Skrabalak continues to work with Maria Caruso as one of her rehearsal directors. Furthermore, her works have appeared at the Byham Theater, Kelly-Strayhorn Theater and Johnson Theatre, and has extended her teaching talents to the following schools: University of Utah, Point Park University, Carnegie Mellon University, West Virginia University, University of North Carolina at Charlotte, Washington & Jefferson College, McDaniel College, La Roche College, and now Winthrop University. Skrabalak earned her M.F.A. in dance (performing arts) at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee and graduated Spring 2013 with honors. She resides in Charlotte, is on faculty for the Charlotte Ballet Academy, as well as teaches Pilates at Iron Butterfly. Currently, Skrabalak is also an active Advisory Board Member for the Charlotte Dance Festival.



**Kelly Ozust** earned her M.F.A. at The University of North Carolina, Greensboro where her thesis concert, which explored the narrative possibilities of the body, was nominated for best thesis work of 2011. Her work explores the intersection of dance and social justice by joining traditional elements of dance and theatre to create new embodied narratives. She has worked as a choreographer for musical theater, opera, and theater for youth productions in North Carolina and Georgia, and her contemporary dance works have earned multiple choreography awards from regional competitions. She is interested in pairing dance and technology, and her most recent dance for film was honored with the Kress Award from the Georgia Museum of Art. She teaches modern, jazz, hip hop, and musical theatre dance styles in the Department of Theatre and Dance.



**Bethany Tuffy** was born and raised in Las Cruces, New Mexico where she trained for 13 years with Michele and Kevin Self. As a member of the Las Cruces Chamber Ballet she danced various leading roles in both classical and contemporary ballets. Graduating Summa Cum Laude Bethany earned a B.F.A. in ballet and a minor in psychology at Texas Christian University. Upon graduation she was invited by Fernando Bujones to join Southern Ballet Theatre, now Orlando Ballet. Under his artistic direction, Bethany danced professionally with the Orlando Ballet for four years, performing a vast repertoire of classical, contemporary and world premiere ballets. She had the honor of working with such choreographers as Fernando Bujones, Peter Stark, Elizabeth Gillaspay, Maria Julia Landa and Bruce Wood. Bethany’s teaching career began even before her professional dancing career after completing a two-year dance teacher-training program. She has since taught students ages 3 through adult in pre-professional, academic and recreational settings. She has an expansive range of teaching that includes Creative Movement, Ballet, Pointe, Variations, Perfecting Technique, Conditioning, Stretch, Musical Theatre Dance, Tap, Jazz and Modern. Bethany has been a part of the Winthrop faculty for almost ten years. She and her wonderful husband are the proud, lucky parents of two amazing daughters.

## CHOREOGRAPHERS



**Mia Cunningham** began her dance education as a child in Texas. She graduated from North Carolina School for the Arts and began dancing professionally with various companies in the U.S. and abroad. After living in New York City for seven years, she joined North Carolina Dance Theatre, in Charlotte, N.C., where she danced for 18 years before retiring. During her time at NCDT, she was fortunate to work with many choreographers. Some of the choreographers included Dwight Rhoden, Alonzo King, Jean Pierre Bonnefoux, Sal Aiello and Uri Sands, who also created ballets for her. She also was given the opportunity to dance roles in the ballets of George Balanchine's *Concerto Barocco*, *Four Temperaments*, *Stravinsky's Violin Concerto*, *Rubies*, *Serenade*, Alvin Ailey's *The River and Feast of Ashes*, Paul Taylor's *Esplanade*, Agnes de Mille's *Rodeo* and Nacho Duato's *Jardi Tancat* and *Na Floresta*. Upon retirement, Cunningham began her career as an educator in dance and has been a part of the Winthrop faculty for the past five years, as well as Davidson College and various dance academies in the surrounding Charlotte area.



**Ashlee Ramsey** is a dance artist and educator as well as a yoga teacher currently based in North Carolina. Having received her B.F.A. in dance from UNC-Greensboro and her M.F.A. in dance from Arizona State University, Ms. Ramsey has directed several evening-length dance and multi-disciplinary performance productions in Greensboro and Winston-Salem, North Carolina and in Tempe, Arizona. Her most recent production, *The Sideshow Saturdays Project* (2015), encompassed ten weeks of process-oriented, dance-based experiments guided by artists of various disciplines who invited audience and community members to step into a performance installation or to participate in a creative project. Ms. Ramsey has performed, presented work or taught dance in North Carolina, Washington, D.C., Connecticut, Rhode Island, Arizona and India. Currently, Ms. Ramsey holds the privilege of teaching dance and yoga at Winthrop University, Wake Forest University, Salem College, Village Yoga Studio and the YMCA of Northwest North Carolina.



**Emily Morgan** is an assistant professor of dance at Winthrop University. She taught at the University of Texas, El Paso; El Paso Community College; University of North Carolina, Greensboro; Elon University; the North Carolina Governors School; and at a public arts magnet high school in Winston-Salem, North Carolina. Emily has performed with members of Lower Left Performance Collective in Texas and New Mexico, with Sebastian Prantl in Krems, Austria, Daniel Aschwanden in Vienna, and in work by Stephan Koplowitz, Ellen Cornfield, Martha Connerton, Jan Van Dyke and BJ Sullivan. Emily studied extensively at the Merce Cunningham Studio, as well as at the Trisha Brown Studio and the Limón Institute in New York City. She received her M.F.A. in dance/choreography from UNCG and her B.A. in dance from Denison University in Ohio. She is also a registered yoga teacher.



**Stacy Garrett McConnell**, native of Greenville, South Carolina, holds a B.A. in dance education: K-12 certification and B.F.A. in dance performance/choreography from Columbia College and a M.F.A. in dance performance and choreography from Florida State University. In addition to her training at CC and FSU, she has studied at The Ailey School's (official school of Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater) Summer Intensive and American Dance Festival's six week school. As a performer, she has had

the opportunity to work with a variety of artists and companies, as well as interned with Urban Bush Women directed by Jawole Zollar. Since joining Winthrop University's Department of Theatre and Dance in 2002, McConnell has taught a range of courses from Dance Pedagogy, Dance Kinesiology, Modern Technique, and Musical Theatre Dance Forms. Several of McConnell's contemporary choreographic works including *Classic (For You)*, *Feelodin*, and *Suite Dean* have been performed at an array of venues across the east coast. In addition, she has choreographed a variety of musicals including *Oklahoma* and *Fame*. She continues to choreograph for contemporary project-based company Woodward Street Dance Project, of which she was co-founder and co-artistic director.

*we go together to what end*

**Choreographer**

**Emily Morgan, in collaboration with the dancers**

**Music**

**"Courante" by Caroline Shaw, performed by Roomful of Teeth**

**Dancers**

**Natalie Bradley, Dontrell Brailsford, Beth Byouk, Sydney Carr, Niki Credit, Mason Diaz, Devon DiFederico, Kaila Dockal, Jennifer Kight, Caroline McDonald, Iris Myers, La'Raine Turlington**

*While there may be comfort within a group, there are times when we relentlessly keep moving towards something, like hamsters running on a wheel, without a lot of awareness as to exactly where we're all going.*

*the middle*

**Choreographer**

**Stacy Garrett McConnell**

**Music**

**"Fly" and "Ascolta" by Ludovico Einaudi**

**Dancers**

**Dontrell Brailsford, Christopher Davis, Nehemiah Hope\***

*What does it mean to be in the moment? To stay so connected to a breath, a movement, a life that only the truth remains, wrong isn't a possibility.*

**- There will be a ten minute intermission -**

*Life Tides*

**Choreographer**

**Maria Caruso**

**Rehearsal & Staging Director**

**Lauren Suflita Skrabalak**

**Music**

**"Tides" and "Hourglass" by Garth Stevenson**

**Dancers**

**Beth Byouk, Kaila Dockal, Mikaela Laxton, Megan Long, Hannah Price, Mackinsey Shahan\*, Carley Tomlinson, Carmen Trull**

*This work is a reflection on birth and its physiological, emotional, and intellectual nuances as it parallels to the natural ebb and flow of the waters of the earth. Built on inspiration of watching colleagues and friends giving birth to creative ideas as well as human life, and the waters being our cradle of life. The piece seeks to explore the natural waves of life that propel us from birth to death.*

**In compliance with Winthrop University policy, we ask smokers to use the designated area across the driveway from the front of Johnson Hall.**

### *If it rains...*

<b>Choreographer</b>	Kelly Ozust, in collaboration with the dancers
<b>Music</b>	“Sample This” by Chilly Gonzales “Can’t Keep” by Eddie Vedder
<b>Text</b>	<i>The Worst Hard Time</i> by Timothy Egan
<b>Dancers</b>	Olivia Benincase, Caroline McDonald, Jessica McFarland*

*In response to the current state of drought gripping California, this piece examines the ways in which human interaction with natural resources seems to produce cyclical environmental crisis. From the Dust Bowl of the 1930s to today’s current climate, how do we respond, progress, and learn from what has come before?*

### *The Rose*

<b>Choreographer</b>	Bethany Tuffy
<b>Rehearsal Assistant</b>	Mackinsey Shahan* (student)
<b>Music</b>	“The Rose” by Amanda McBroom (originally sung by Bette Midler in 1979)
<b>Dancers</b>	Mikaela Laxton, Carley Tomlinson Katelyn Arledge (US)
<b>Vocalists</b>	Taylor Neal, Catherine Powell*, Shania Truax

*This piece explores the concept and sensation of having a guardian angel nearby. Bethany created this piece in loving memory of her mother.*

### *Shelter*

<b>Choreographer</b>	Meg Schriffen
<b>Music</b>	“This Place is Shelter,” “Tomorrow’s Song” and “Near Light” by Ólafur Arnalds
<b>Dancers</b>	Michael Arrington, Kaila Dockal, Emily Molinari, Morgan Nawrath, Kristin Ward Tiffany Moss & Olivia Benincase (US)

*How do we find shelter, security, or comfort? This piece explores various perceptions of seeking and finding shelter in someone or something.*

### *Plague of Peace*

<b>Choreographer</b>	Jackie O’Toole
<b>Original poetry</b>	“Diary of Forgiveness” by Jackie O’Toole read by Surya Swilley
<b>Music</b>	“Everybody Wants to Rule the World” by Tears for Fears, “Love” by Art of Noise
<b>Dancers</b>	Devon DiFederico, Mikaela Laxton, Megan Long, Emily Molinari, Morgan Nawrath, Carly Thompson*, Carmen Trull

*“Hiding in silence diminishes what was once power. The choice of forgiveness will make peace worth the pain.”*

### Production Staff

<b>Stage Manager</b>	Aisha Addison
<b>Assistant Stage Manager</b>	Sarah Bruce *
<b>Light Board Operator</b>	Kimberly Tipton
<b>Sound Board Operator</b>	Shelby Lewis
<b>Fly Operator</b>	Kevin Aoussou
<b>Stagehands</b>	Rayana Briggs, Brittani Grant, Amber Jones
<b>Scenic Studio Assistants</b>	Brian Drescher*, Stephanie Schley*, Sarah Stewart
<b>Scenic Construction/Lighting Crew</b>	Aisha Addison, Mariah Barrie, Brandy Brogden*, Rodrick Freitas*, Zeke Jones*, Phylisha Mace, Maggie Shaw
<b>Costume Studio Assistants</b>	Jasmine Gunter*, Zachary Morrison, Stacey Packer*
<b>Costume Construction Crew</b>	Mariah Barrie, Karlie Brown, Brian Drescher*, Isabella Edwards, Lauren Landers, Zachary Morrison, Stephanie Schley*, Sarah Stewart
<b>Box Office Staff</b>	Caitlyn Bryant*, Jasmine Gunter*, Zeke Jones*, Dani Lilley*, Madia Medico*, Lauren Roberts*, Garrett Whiffen*, Tessa Zimmerman*
<b>House Manager</b>	Sarah Provencal
<b>Poster Designer</b>	Reagan Martin

\*Denotes membership in Alpha Psi Omega, the National Honorary Theatre Society