

SPRING DANCE SHOWCASE

A group of dancers in dynamic poses on a stage. The dancers are wearing dark, loose-fitting clothing. The lighting is dramatic, with strong highlights and shadows, creating a sense of movement and energy. The background is a solid dark color.

FRIDAY, APRIL 25 THROUGH
SATURDAY, APRIL 26 AT 7:30 p.m.
SUNDAY, APRIL 27 AT 2 p.m.

EDUCATIONAL OUTREACH SHOWING
FRIDAY, APRIL 25
AT 10 a.m.

JOHNSON THEATRE
2025

Swing Out!

Choreographer: Kelly Ozust

Music: "In the Mood" by Glen Miller; "Inside Out" by Dave Mills

Dancers: Dazani Campbell, Valerie Kempton*, Elizabeth Mulinde,

Connor Rothberg, Robert Sepheus, Adelaide Sprawls

Lighting Designer: John P. Woodey

"Swing Out!" is an exploration of early, authentic jazz dance. This form, developed in the early 1900's and created by African-American dancers, is uniquely America, but is firmly rooted in West African aesthetics and culture. It is a vernacular form, which means that it was developed within a community both socially and performatively. The deeply layered history of jazz dance is too vast to unpack in a program note, but this piece honors early pioneers Frankie Manning, Pepsi Bethel, and Mora Miller and some of the named steps that they were well-known for: The Tranky Doo, The Trickeration, and The Shim-Sham Shimmy. Look for groundedness, vocal encouragement, community-mindedness, articulate rhythms, and individual expression throughout the piece: all hallmarks of authentic jazz dance!

Smooth Operator

Choreographer: Josh Pringle

Music: "Angel" by Sault; "Papa Was A Rolling Stone" by The Temptations

Dancers: Lauren Bloss, LeNyah Bryan, Raina Centner, Rachel Fuller, Noemi Gaitan, Remiya Jackson, RJ Lee, Miracle Parker, Mikayla Rainey, Dakarai Vann, Jesse Weber

Lighting Designer: Kate Evans

"Smooth Operator" is a contemporary jazz work that delves into the thrilling, high-stakes world of spies, exploring themes of leadership, quick thinking, and secrecy. The piece challenges conventional notions of masculinity while celebrating the individuality, versatility, and expressive power of each dancer through the rich language of jazz. As the suspense unfolds, the audience is left wondering-who's behind it all?

For You

Choreographer: Emily Wiley

Music: "Dance for Me Wallis" by Abel Korzeniowski; "Fly" by Ludovico Einaudi;

"ICARUS" (orchestral version) by Tony Ann

Dancers: Kyran Anderson, Madalin Beam, Morgan Belton, Elloise Bethea,

Sydney Burkhalter, Savion Chester, Lyric Clancy, Valerie Kempton*,

Mikey Kesler, Czar O'Neal, Autumn Pearson*, Connor Rothberg,

Grayson Skidmore*, Riley Stinson, Melonda Sullivan; Alicia Littlejohn (US)

Lighting Designer: John P. Wiley

This work explores relationships. Love can last a lifetime or be a fleeting moment. Loss can alter the course of your life; the emptiness becoming another partner.

~INTERMISSION~

Now I See Me

Choreographer: Brian Franco-Winn

Music: "I. Sequence (Four)" by Peter Gregson;

"passepied" by Jean-Michael Blais

Dancers: Brandon Barrientos, Madalin Beam, Morgan Belton, LeNyah Bryan, Miracle Etheridge, Hannah Hayman, Valerie Kempton, Tymia Lamb, RJ Lee, Alicia Littlejohn, Sara Montreuil, Czarkaveus O'Neal, Jaylese Savage, Seyven Schlueter, Grayson Skidmore*, Riley Stinson, Melonda Sullivan, Molly Wilson

Lighting Designer: John P. Woodey

Inspired by the childhood game of Hide & Seek, this piece uses play as a metaphor to explore the intricate journey of self-discovery. It begins with the impulse to conceal-parts of ourselves, our truths-and unfolds into an active search for identity, belonging, and community. Through movement, we trace the emotional terrain of hiding, seeking, and ultimately finding.

Building 9

Choreographer: LeNyah Bryan

Music: "Murphy Homes Projects | West Baltimore" by Baltimore History Channel via YouTube; "1980's Portsmouth Public Housing Fatal Fire" by WAVY TV 10 via YouTube; "Liberation" by Oukast ft. Cee-Lo; Dialogue by Tasha and Leon Bryan

Dancers: Miracle Parker, Josh Pringle, Mikayla Rainey, Jaylese Savage

Lighting Designer: Kate Evans

In the shadows of towering concrete and whispered corners of the 1980s projects, stories danced before they were even spoken. Four stories, four struggles; one community. Come along the journey to the past of how adversity is created and not taught.

The Scoop and Swirl Revue

Choreographer: Gabby Tull

Music: Act I "C'est Si Bon" by Eartha Kitt

Act II "The Stripper" by David Rose

Act III "People Get Up and Drive Your Funky Soul" by James Brown

Act IV "Lady Marmalade" by Patti LaBelle

Dancers: Madalin Beam, Morgan Belton, Savion Chester, Raina Centner, Rachel Fuller, Remiya Jackson, Cassie Jaramillo, Ty Lamb, Czarkaveus O'Neal, Josh Pringle, Mikayla Rainey, Robert Sepheus, Riley Stinson

Lighting Designer: John P. Woodey

A "Revue" can be defined as brief theatrical entertainment that includes song, sketches, and dance. This production pays homage to the Las Vegas showgirl, The Rat Pack, and the jazz, funk, R & B genres.

Choreographers



Kelly Ozust is an educator, choreographer and performer with a focus on narrative storytelling and community engagement. In the Department of Theatre and Dance she teaches modern, jazz, tap, and musical theatre techniques, as well as courses in choreography, dance education, and dance theory. She works closely with the musical theatre concentration by choreographing for the annual musicals, choreographing for the musical theatre workshop course, and teaching musical theatre history. She choreographs for all the faculty concerts annually and directs the Winthrop ChristmasVille RockHettes each fall. She has taught master classes and shown work at Piedmont University (Demorest, Georgia), Colorado State University (Fort Collins, Colorado), Lindenwood University (Saint Charles, Missouri), and Greensboro Fringe Festival (Greensboro, North Carolina). She is also on faculty at the DanceWV festival (Weston, West Virginia). She has performed throughout the Southeast and danced with Van Dyke Dance Group and Sarah Council Dance Projects. Kelly is an award-winning filmmaker with projects that have been shown at the Georgia Museum of Art and the ACDA Screendance Gala.



Josh Pringle is a senior at Winthrop University, pursuing a B.A. in dance and a minor in business administration. Originally from Beaufort, South Carolina, Pringle has been dancing for more than fifteen years, with training in contemporary, jazz, ballet, and modern. He began his formal training at the Beaufort Academy of Dance, joining the company at age fourteen and competing in numerous regional and national competitions. At Winthrop, he currently serves as president of Terpsichore, the university's student-led dance organization, where he leads creative initiatives and cultivates a sense of community among student artists. He has furthered his training through prestigious programs such as the Alvin Ailey Summer Intensive. After graduation, Pringle will continue his artistic journey at the Alvin Ailey School Certificate Program in New York City, where he aspires to pursue a professional career in the performing arts.



Emily Wiley was born and raised in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, where she received her early dance training at Pennsylvania Regional Ballet. After her family relocated to South Carolina, she continued pre-professional training at the School of North Carolina Dance Theatre. Later, Emily attended the Houston Ballet Academy on a full scholarship. After one year, Emily was invited to join Houston Ballet II, where she became the first representative of Houston Ballet to compete in the prestigious ballet competition, Prix De Lausanne in Lausanne, Switzerland. During her 10-year career as a soloist with Houston Ballet, she was featured in many works by world-renowned choreographers including: George Balanchine, Sir Kenneth McMillan, Anthony Tudor, William Forsythe, Stanton Welch, Wayne McGregor, Jiri Kylian and Nacho Duato. In midst of international company tours, she juggled principal roles and received a Princess Grace Award nomination. In 2013, she was one of the featured dancers in Jordan Matter's print work, "Dancers Among Us," photographed in New York City. After retiring from a full-time performance career, Emily began to cultivate her teaching skills and discovered her natural ability to choreograph and coach for all skill sets.



Brian Franco-Winn is a dancer, choreographer, and educator whose work reaches across a variety of dance perspectives. His works are centered on the human experience and draws upon his lived experiences in addition to his research to work toward a more inclusive and diverse representation of the world in concert dance. Brian's choreography has been performed around the Carolinas at festivals and other colleges and universities. As a performer, he danced with Plexus Dance and Caroline Calouche & Company in Charlotte, North Carolina, where he performed and taught contemporary and aerial dance for the company. Brian is an avid choreographer, clinician, and adjudicator within the pageantry arts community. He is the director of Etude, a performing arts organization under the Carolina Arts Collective and continues to choreograph for groups around the nation. Brian received his M.F.A. in Choreography from the University of North Carolina Greensboro where he was a graduate teaching associate in the School of Dance and formerly taught on the dance faculty at Kennesaw State University. He is thrilled to be the new assistant professor of dance at Winthrop University.



LeNyah Bryan is a senior majoring in dance with a minor in educational studies from Summerville, South Carolina. LeNyah began dancing in middle school and has received a variety of accolades since then. Throughout her college career, she has taken/assisted master classes, created and taught lesson plans on and off campus, and joined a variety of dance organizations. Bryan has also performed in a plethora of faculty and student works that received praise such as winning the SOURCE conference and being selected to perform in ACDA. Bryan has choreographed three pieces in her time here at Winthrop that has shaped her into the dancer, choreographer, and future educator that she is today. Now as a senior, Bryan is president of the National Dance Education Organization (NDEO) and the vice president of Terpsichore. She continues to show her artistry through leadership and her drive to spread awareness of dance and dance education and how it can impact a variety of communities.



Gabrielle Tull is an assistant professor of dance and program coordinator for dance education at Winthrop University. She is a 2020 M.F.A. dance graduate from University of North Carolina Greensboro. As a previous high school dance director, she received a M.Ed. in divergent learning at Columbia College, South Carolina. Artistically, Gabrielle has performed with professional companies including The Power Company, Terrance Henderson Inc. Her recent scholarship in the Afro Diaspora foundations in jazz technique was awarded the Artist Express Grant, funded by the VCA and the NEA in 2021. Additionally, she was a lead presenter for the 2022 CADD at Duke University. Presently, she is one of the founding members and grant facilitators of the South Carolina Dance Educators Network, a professional organization that provides equitable access to quality professional dance education resources in the state. Her scholarship with SCDEN has resulted in grant awards from 2022-2024 with the SC Arts Commission and SCDE.

CREW

Director	Gabrielle Tull
Stage Manager	Kayelyn Wilburn*
Costume Designer	Leslie Cook
Costume Coordinator	Mikey Kesler
Technical Director	John P. Woodey
Scene Shop Supervisor	Erica Meece
Costume Shop Supervisor	Cheralyn Lambeth
Box Office Manager	Brandon Dawson
Scene Shop TAs	Kameron Gwin*, Kiernan Hedlund*, Kayelyn Wilburn*
Costume Shop TAs	Ethan Ganzell*, Ash Hernick*, Chloe Morgan*
Box Office TAs	Emily Camp, Destiny Gore*, Samiyah Jeffery*, Valerie Kempton*, Noah Lake, Taylor Rowe Morgan
Costume Construction Crew	Reese Dinacci, Kate Evans, Sunshyne Patterson
Scenic Construction/Lighting Crew	Abigail Bast, Reese Dinacci, Ash Hernick*, Hanna Jacobs
Running Crew	Taylor Burrows, Brooke Little, Drake Mullikin, Layla Steele, Riley Suthard, Samuel Tillman
Poster Designer	Molly Wilson

This production features mature content and language.

*Denotes members of Alpha Psi Omega National Theatre Honor Society

Winthrop University's Swingin' Eagles Jazz Ensemble

Director: Dr. Noah Bruening

Saxophones

Paul Font

Cameron Harrison

Gianni Allen

Charlee Laws

Lawson Kyle

Trombones

Paul Smit

Dominic Nunez-Smith

Taylon Henry

Mack Balay

Trumpets

Will Isenhour

Joshua Frye

Nathan Brown

Lilie Robles Smith

Rhythm Section

Jesse Matthews-Guitar

Harrison Warner-Piano

Nick Zorgias-Bass

Caleb Smith-Drums

Special Thanks to The Power House, Savvy's, Peaceful Pallate

WINTHROP UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OF VISUAL AND PERFORMING ARTS

Karen Oremus, M.F.A.
Tracy Patterson, D.M.A.

Dean
Associate Dean

DEPARTMENT OF THEATRE AND DANCE

Zinorl Broñola, M.M.	Instructor of Theatre and Dance
Leslie Cook, M.F.A.	Associate Professor of Theatre
Rachel Dawson, M.F.A.	Assistant Professor of Theatre
Biff Edge, M.F.A.	Assistant Professor of Theatre
Brian Franco-Winn, M.F.A.	Assistant Professor of Dance
Daniel Gordon, M.F.A.	Department Chair and Professor
Stephen Gundersheim, M.F.A.	Professor of Theatre
Ramona Kundl	Administrative Assistant
Marvin McAllister, Ph.D.	Associate Professor of Theatre
Sandra Neels	Associate Professor of Dance
Kelly Ozust, M.F.A.	Associate Professor and Program Director of Dance
Gabrielle Tull, M.F.A., M.Ed.	Assistant Professor of Dance & CVPA Director of Arts Education
John P. Woodey, M.F.A.	Assistant Professor of Theatre and Dance

Winthrop University is accredited by
The National Association of Schools of Theatre and
The National Association of Schools of Dance.



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