



REED DANCE DEPARTMENT YEAR-END NEWSLETTER

We hope this newsletter finds you and your loved ones well as we head into summer break. The spring semester was unprecedented, to be sure. We know that many of you still face challenges in your lives, but have nonetheless continued your work in dance with sharp minds and strong hearts. As our department begins to chart a path forward in our changed and changing world, we wanted to first take a look back at what we experienced and achieved—in person and virtually—during the 2019-2020 academic year.

We hope that you enjoy this short retrospective!

MILESTONES

GRADUATES

Saga Darnell (Dance-Theatre)

Hannah Jensvold (Art-Dance)

Laura Kennedy (Dance)

Maya Nájera (Dance)

Congratulations to our graduating seniors! **Saga's** thesis, *Our Beds Are Islands: Creating Queer Physical-Theatre* explored representations of queer intimacy in media and featured the December 2019 production *This Bed is an Island*. **Hannah's** thesis, *Perceiving, Sensing, and Inhabiting: Embodiment and Physical Experience in Contemporary Dance and Visual Art*, explored mechanisms of embodiment in visual art and contemporary dance and included a February 2020 production *Inhabit*, and a virtual visual art installation in May 2020. **Laura's** thesis, *The Spaces Between*, which included a February 2020 production of the same name, explored historical and contemporary facets of tap and contemporary dance fusion. **Maya's** thesis, *Valuing the Dance Marathon*, drew on original archival research to explore the value of dance within depression-era dance marathons and their literary and contemporary manifestations. All four projects contribute in exciting artistic and scholarly ways to the dance field. While we will miss Saga, Hannah, Laura, and Maya tremendously, we cannot wait to see where their paths take them post-Reed!

QUALIFYING EXAMS

Rose Cole-Cohen (Anthropology-Dance)

Soroa Lear

(Comparative Literature, Dance as allied field)

Congratulations, rising seniors! **Rose** successfully completed qualifying exams in Dance and Anthropology. **Soroa** successfully completed the Comparative Literature qualifying exam, which included dance-focused material.

NEW DANCE MAJORS

Oliviana Moreno and **August Singer** have officially declared as Dance Majors! They join majors **Liv Kilpatrick**, **Alli Fatone**, **Isaac Elingson** (Dance-Theatre), **Rose Cole-Cohen** (Anthropology-Dance) and **Ruby Carmel** (hopefully soon-to-be either CRES-Dance/Theatre or Dance-Theatre). We don't want to put anyone on the spot, but we look forward to any and all rising sophomores joining our numbers!



ARTISTS & SPEAKERS

nibia pastrana santiago

We kicked off the year with the *taller de nada* (workshop on nothing) with pastrana santiago, a San Juan-based choreographer in town to perform with Miguel Guterrez as part of PICA's 2019 TBA festival. The workshop, held September 6, 2019, engaged in "conceptual and physical practices of actively doing nothing...to manifest our creative and political selves in performance."

LESTER TOMÉ

An Associate Professor of Dance at Smith College, Tomé presented a lecture titled "The Value of the Black Ballet Star: Politics of Desire in the Economy of Institutional Diversity" on October 3, 2019. Through a focus on Cuban-born dancer Carlos Acosta, the talk explored ballet's emerging displays of diversity.

SASHA WALTZ & GUESTS

Between October 10-12, 2019, Reed dance students had the opportunity to attend an impactful performance of *Körper* (presented by White Bird) and to attend a masterclass with Sasha Waltz company members on campus on October 11. Waltz is one of Europe's most celebrated choreographers, and *Körper* "demonstrates the fundamental material substance of our bodies as we are thrown about, piled up, and ultimately liberated."



Reggie Wilson
Fist & Heel Performance Group
Residency

November 2-5, 2019
All events free!

Weekend Intensive Workshop
For intermediate and advanced dance students
Saturday & Sunday, Nov. 2-3
10:30-3:30 PM (lunch provided), PAB 240
RSVP required: email cwilcox@reed.edu

Public Lecture/Demonstration
Monday, Nov. 4, 6:30-7:30 PM, PAB 128
Free and open to the public
Q&A to follow

Choreography Workshop
Tuesday, Nov. 5, 1:30-3:00 PM, PAB 240
RSVP required: email cwilcox@reed.edu

Contemporary Technique Class
Tuesday, Nov. 5, 3:10-4:30 PM, PAB 240
RSVP required: email cwilcox@reed.edu

Special thanks to the Mellon Foundation for making this residency possible

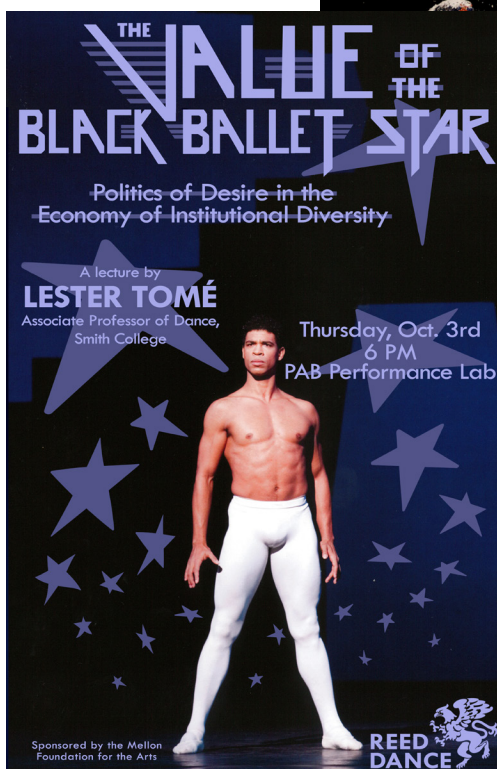
REED DANCE

REGGIE WILSON / FIST AND HEEL PERFORMANCE GROUP

For our 2019-2020 White Bird residency, we had the pleasure of working with Reggie Wilson/Fist and Heel Performance Group, a Brooklyn-based dance company whose mission is to create, research, develop, and present new performance work that investigates the intersections of culture and movement practices. Between November 7-9, 2019, students had the opportunity to see *POWER*, a new work that explores the early evolution of African American spiritual worship and shout traditions by re-imagining what the practices of Black Shakers could have looked like. On campus, Wilson offered a complete roster of events, including a lecture demonstration, technique class, and weekend-long choreography workshop for intermediate and advanced students.

LUCIANA ACUÑA & LUIS BIASOTTO / GRUPO KRAPP

On February 19-21, we hosted Buenos Aires-based choreographers Luciana Acuña and Luis Biasotto, co-founders of Grupo Krapp, one of the most important and irreverent groups on the Argentine dance theater and music scene. Students had the opportunity to take genre-blending workshops with the artists and to see their memorable work, *Hielo negro* (Black Ice), on Greenwood Performance Stage.



EVENTS & GROUPS

DANCE TROUPE

During the 2019-20 school year, Dance Troupe was fortunate and excited to welcome many first years into the Reed dance community! In weekly meetings led by signators Hannah Jensvold (Dance/Art '20), Laura Kennedy (Dance '20), and Sophia Kongshaug (Linguistics '20), as well as guest classes by members such as Annabelle Stern ('24), dancers explored improvisation, partnering, and composition exercises, participated in conditioning workouts, took technique classes from contemporary floorwork to jazz to lyrical, and learned choreographed phrases. For the Winter 2019 Reed College Dance Concert, members performed a piece choreographed by Sophia Kongshaug in collaboration with the dancers. While it was disappointing to not be able to finish the semester away from the studio, Hannah, Laura, and Sophia are immensely grateful for their time leading Dance Troupe and being a part of the Reed dance community during their Senior year at Reed and throughout their time here, and Dance Troupe is excited for an eventual return to the physical studio and to continue moving together and sharing dance with the Reed community!

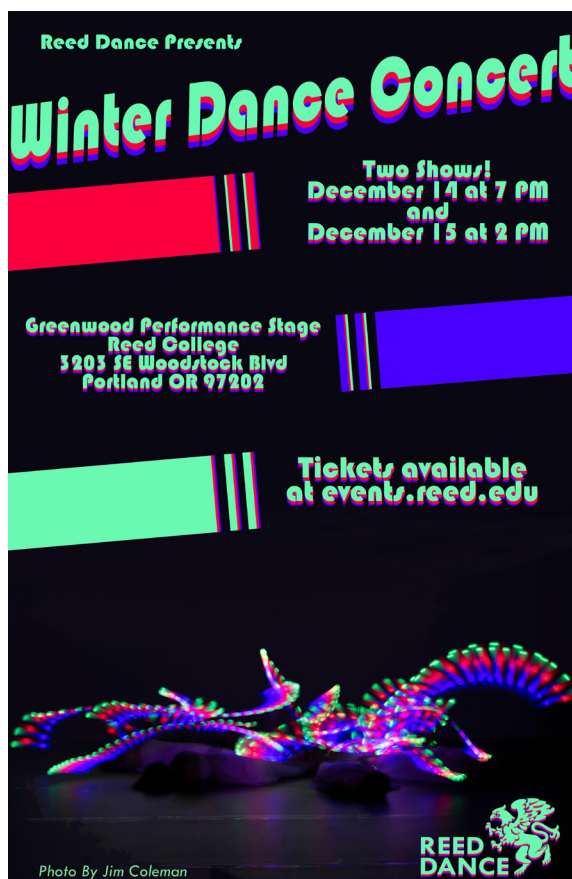


CONTEMPORARY PERFORMANCE ENSEMBLE

On November 1, 2019 the Contemporary Performance Ensemble presented a work-in-progress, making use of the expansive space of Performing Arts Building Atrium to provide viewers novel angles of view and spatial relationships to the dancers. The final work, *Unmoored*, choreographed by Carla Mann in collaboration with members of the ensemble, was staged for the Winter Dance Concert in December.

COMMUNITY DANCE at REED

Community Dance at Reed (<https://www.reed.edu/dance/community-dance/>), which aims to bring together members of the Reed College and broader Portland communities through collective creation, entered its fourth year. In fall 2019, we welcomed back a number of long-term community participants as well as over thirty new members, and created the piece *Eat Well*. *Eat Well* premiered at the 2019 Winter Concert and explored the politics of resources and access to them. Join us next year!



WINTER DANCE CONCERT

On December 14 & 15, the Winter Dance Concert showcased a breadth of exciting work by students and faculty developed across the Fall 2019 semester (and included a reappearance of the famed Körper wall). To revisit the nine amazing pieces on the program, check out video of the concert: <https://ensemble.reed.edu/Playlist/Js4i9RTf>

THESIS PERFORMANCES

Thesis-ing seniors Hannah Jensvold and Laura Kennedy presented their works, *Inhabit* and *The Spaces Between*, February 6-8, 2020. Performing for full houses on all three nights, these exciting, thought provoking works made us so excited for Hannah and Laura's future projects!

OTHER HIGHLIGHTS

In addition to work in classes and on thesis projects, Reed dancers have been hard at work on a number of projects, both independently and in conjunction with dance faculty. With the support of Presidential Fellowships, in summer 2019 **Hannah** explored the origins of Little Red Riding Hood in France and **Soraa** attended the B12 and Paris Summer Academy dance intensives. With the support of Mellon Funds for Dance in summer 2019, **Rose** interned at Ponderosa, a not for profit organization and artist community in northeast Germany. During summer 2019, **Maya** worked with **Victoria Fortuna** on a digital humanities project that explores the role of personal collections in dance archival research. In Winter 2020, Mellon Funds supported **Rose** and **Noah Sjoblom**'s attendance of the 7th annual Encuentro de Contacto Improvisación in Peru and **Hannah** and **Aliza Phillip**'s trips to the GagaLab Intensive in NYC. With the support of the Ruby-Lankford Grant, in summer 2020 **Liv Kilpatrick** and **Victoria** will create a digital exhibition based on the José Brown Collection; Brown is an under-documented choreographer who began his dance training at Reed.



FACULTY UPDATES

On November 15, 2019, **Carla Mann** presented a new choreographic work in collaboration with choreographer Katherine Longstreth, at Performance Works Northwest. **Carla** and **Minh Tran** are currently involved in a new

project, *It Would Have Been Enough*, directed by choreographers Rachel Slater and Suzanne Chi of Muddy Feet Dance and scheduled to premiere in 2020-21. **Victoria** presented at the Dance Studies Association's annual conference in August 2019 and will give a keynote at the Embodied Performance Practices in Processes of Reconciliation Conference at Royal Holloway, University of London in 2021. **Victoria** continues work on her new research on race and concert dance in Argentina as well as her digital humanities project on the use of personal collections in dance studies research.

