

Dance (DE) CONSTRUCTED



Department of Theatre Arts and Dance

UTA Department of Theatre Arts and Dance
presents

DANCE (DE)CONSTRUCTED

Creative Director
LAURIE M. TAYLOR

Lighting Designer
JARED LAND

Stage Manager
KRISTEN WIRKLER

Assistant Stage Managers
ALLISON MARSHALL, JOSH STRIDER-WESTERFIELD

Light Board Op
OLIVIA GFRORER


Sound Board Op
BRIANNE AGUIRRE

Wardrobe
HANNAH SWAIM

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

UTA respectfully acknowledges the Wichita and Affiliated Tribes upon whose historical homelands this University is located. Their ancestors resided here for generations before being forcibly displaced by U.S. settlers and soldiers in the mid-1800s. We recognize the historical presence of the Caddo Nation and other Tribal Nations in the region; the ongoing presence and achievements of many people who moved to the area due to the Indian Relocation program of the 1950s and 1960s; and the vital presence and accomplishments of our Native students, faculty, and staff.

Any video and/or audio recording of this production is strictly prohibited.

This playbill is a production of **PERFORMING ADS** 

PROGRAM INFO

1. *Where They Left...Off*

Choreographer: Savannah Fennell

Music: "To Build a Home" by The Cinematic Orchestra

Cast: Sarah Jo Adams, Savannah Fennell, Nicholas Harrison, Aaliyah Smith

Costume Concept: Savannah Fennell

Many places can be home, but it is what happens in those places, and the memories of loved ones that never fade. Frozen in time. Happy and sad. Even as things change.

2. *The Paths We Cross*

Choreographer: Ashleigh Christian

Music: "Keepers of the Keys and Seals", "The Children of Our Age" & "Agape" by Nicholas Britell

Cast: Gina Amador, Amaria Andrews, Claudia Artega, Natalie Gonzales, Megan Love, Sam Morales, Kyleigh Perry, Haneul Song, Chris Wade, Alexandra Mendoza

Costume Concept: Ashleigh Christian

This piece explores the nature of human connection through crossing paths and shared experiences. As we connect, we are constantly gathering and embodying experiences of others around us. How do we remain true to ourselves whilst honoring the uniqueness of others?

3. *e/motion/transformation (working title)*

Choreographer: Laurie M. Taylor

Music: "IDGAF" by Drake, "Delresto" by Travis Scott ft. Beyoncé, "Ready Err Not" by Flying Lotus, "Eyes Above" by Flying Lotus, "Gumi Nerimwe" by McIntosh Soko Jerahuni, "Clang" by Bauuer.

Cast: Sarah Jo Adams, Andre' Williams, Ben Ashcraft, Nicholas Harrison, Aaliyah Smith, Jolie Lambert, Addison McClain, Kate Trowbridge, Makenna Ostrom, Kyleigh Perry, Prince Williams

Costume Concept: Laurie M. Taylor

A work-in-process, first iteration offering of a collaborative interdisciplinary work exploring trauma, transformation, motion, and sound.

-Intermission/Pause-

4. *Not your Barbie Girl*

Choreographer: Sarah Jo Adams

Music: "Missed Me" by The Dresden Dolls, "Duet" by Milton Babbitt, and "Butterflies" by Gayle

Film images: curated by Sarah Jo Adams

Cast: Autumn Robinson, Macy Thiebaud, Alexa Calvillo, Tilda Grace, Regina Amador, Sylvia Schulte

Costume Concept: Sarah Jo Adams

What does it mean to be a woman? Strong, soft, sexy, feminine, masculine, smart, powerful... women are life, women are all.

5. *Entre las Tierras (In-Between Lands)*

Choreographer: Claudia P Orcasitas

Music: "Wandering" by Josi Horikawa, "Viento" by Santi, "Agua" by Rainer Scheurenbrand,

Film: "Entre las Tierras (In-Between Lands)" by Claudia Orcasitas

Performers: Amaria Andrews, Haneul Chong, Savannah Fennell, Natalie Gonzales, Alexandra Mendoza, and Kyleigh Perry.

Costume Concept: Crickett Pettigrew

A dance work inspired by the architectural elements of a Peruvian Inca ruin called "Cahuachi." This ensemble work integrates mental imagery, as well as kinesthetic representations alongside dance on film.

6. *Desolate*

Choreographer: Makenna Ostrom

Music: "Xanny" by Billie Eilish and "Labrinth" by Dracula (Nate Sees Cassie)

Cast: Makenna Ostrom and Andre' Williams

This work touches on a sensitive topic for many people. Depression is normally looked upon as a sad issue that many struggle with. This focuses on the internal battle of the mind and an exploration of what that can look like.

7. *Bleeding Oceans, Release Freedom*

Choreographer: Aaliyah Smith

Music: "Oceans" by RYX, Ólafur Arnalds

Cast: Sarah Jo Adams, Ben Ashcraft, Natalie Gonzales, Nicholas Harrison, Jolie Lambert, Kyleigh Perry, Sylvia Shulte, Macy Thiebaud

Costume Concept: Aaliyah Smith

Trauma comes in waves and can consume you like the ocean, leaving wounds that may never truly heal. In time however those wounds may heal and soon become reminders of the challenges you've overcome. It's a long journey that is not easy, but is worthwhile in the end. For these wounds will keep you on the right path until you find the next beautiful ocean that will consume you with love.

8. *Living in the Liminal*

Choreographer: Laurie M. Taylor

Music: "Musical Bow Solo" Jokoli of Totota Music of the Kpelle of Liberia Smithsonian Folkways Recordings/1972 Folkways Records, and "Conviction" by Kendrick Scott

Film: Sarah Jo Adams and Dancers

Cast: Sarah Jo Adams, Natalie Gonzales, Makenna Ostrom, Kyleigh Perry, Andre' Williams.

Costume Concept: Laurie M. Taylor

The liminal; a place a transition, a rite of passage. A point of no return; away from the known, into the unknown.

DANCE (DE)CONSTRUCTED FACULTY CHOREOGRAPHERS

LAURIE MICHELLE TAYLOR, M.F.A., B.A. is a Liberian American creative culturalist, choreographer and entrepreneur. Her work centers around iterative and creative practices of “placeness,” posing questions around the reconceptualization and functionality of “place” as a thinking-based dance practice - a practice deeply tethered to phenomenology, states of being, movement and culture. She is an expressionist of African diaspora consciousness in the world of the arts, business, and culture, rendering an interdisciplinary approach which allows for the exploration of various knowledge forms both in and beyond the studio. Laurie’s work utilizes frameworks based in performative practice which can be applied across a multitude of platforms, genres, and industries. Her work as a choreographer and artistic director has morphed into various iterations, including founder of Soul Movement Global, an initiative specializing in movement, creative thought, and artistic ideation as a means of problem-solving in today’s complex markets.

She is a University of the Arts Life Experience Fellow and work has earned her fellowships with Alvin Ailey’s New Directions Choreographers Lab, The Mertz Gilmore Foundation LSC Grant and a Diversity Initiative Grant from University of Delaware. She is a two-time Jerome Foundation/ Harlemstage awardee and has worked with artists such as Debbie Allen, Angelique Kidjo and Darin Atwater’s Soulful Symphony, among others. With a strong interest in contemporary African identity and its connection to rhythm and sound, Laurie’s work spans several continents, with creative and social impact projects in Liberia, Nigeria, and Ghana, respectively. She has toured nationally and internationally with her company, Laurie M. Taylor/Soul Movement, as well as with Nicholas Leichter Dance, Urban Bush Women, Francine E. Ott/The Walk and many others. She has taught and performed in over 20 countries with notable performances at The Joyce Theater, Brooklyn Academy of Music, Madison Square Garden in New York, and the Strathmore Center in Washington, D.C. As an educator, Laurie has held such positions as Visiting Assistant Professor of Dance at University of Calgary, Alberta, Canada; Shenandoah University, Winchester, Virginia; Loyola Marymount University, Los Angeles; The Ailey/Fordham BFA program, New York, and The Society of Performing Arts in Lagos, Nigeria. She is the author of *Infinite Treasure* and the *Inheritance of Place*, published as part of her thesis project by University of the Arts. She is currently an Assistant Professor of Dance and Dance Area Head at the University of Texas at Arlington. Through divine providence, she continues to thrive, grow, and share as an artist, innovator, and human being.

CLAUDIA P ORCASITAS is a Peruvian-American dance artist. She is deeply invested in practicing ballet, modern dance and contemporary dance. Orcasitas was a long-time company member of the San Marcos Ballet, directed by Vera Stastny (Peru) and Contemporary Dance /Fort Worth directed by Kerry Kreiman (Texas). She holds an M.F.A. in Dance from Texas Woman’s University where she was the recipient of the Dr. Linda Caldwell Excellence in Writing award, the Experiential Student Scholars Award and the Mary Cartwright Brown Merrick & Hellen Baldwin Bauer Smith Scholarship for her outstanding academic performance and research practice. Utilizing both western and non-western forms, her most recent creative work explores body, space and identity. Orcasitas is currently working as adjunct dance professor at University of Texas at Arlington and associate director at Terrell Dance Department at FWISD, where she provides dance instruction and continues honing her choreographic skills.

ASHLEIGH GABRELLE CHRISTIAN is a choreographer, performer, and educator from Odessa Texas, with a B.A. in Dance Studies and an Education minor from Texas Woman’s University. Christian has studied Modern, Contact-Improvisation technique, Ballet, Hip-Hop and Cultural dance styles, performance and choreography, as well as various dance theories and somatic practices. Her collaborative work and training also include time as a dancer with companies such as Wrkn’ Progress Hip-Hop Crew, The Jordan Fuchs Company, and Zion Dance Project. She has worked with choreographers such as Vincent and Abigail Hardy, Sarah Gamblin, Mary Williford-Shade, Jose Zamorra, Nia Love, and Cleo Thomas. Christian has also spent time training and teaching at various workshops and intensives such as “Pulse” and “Streetz” dance conventions, Texas Dance Improvisation Festival, American Dance Festival, Texas Dance Educators Association, and the American College Dance Association. As an educator, Ashleigh holds a teaching certification with the state of Texas, with specific certifications in Dance (8-12) and Physical Education (EC-12), and has taught high school dance as an assistant director, and as current head director of dance in Richardson Texas. Her choreographic works have extended across competitive dance for junior high and high schools, studios, and concert dance at the collegiate level.

CAST

SARAH JO ADAMS (she/her) is a senior BFA Musical Theatre Major and Dance Minor at The University of Texas Arlington. She has been dancing and choreographing with UTA's dance company since her sophomore year. Along with dancing, you might have also seen her as Rosie in UTA's *Cabaret*. She has also worked at Firehouse Theatre in Farmers Branch. Sarah Jo has had a passion for dancing since she was just two years old. Her mom put her in a dance class to get out some of her energy, and she has been hooked ever since. She would like to thank her parents, Todd and Cynthia, for always supporting her and her goals, and her fiancé Bruce for pushing her to reach her dreams. Enjoy the show! @sarah_jo_adams

REGINA AMADOR is a second-year student pursuing her BFA in Musical Theatre with a minor in Dance here at UTA. She began dancing at a young age with jazz dance and has always shown a passion for musical theatre. She danced ballet and *Danza Folklórica Mexicana* for six years at Vive la Danza Academy (Mexico) and then moved to Texas to pursue her degree. She was last seen as part of the ensemble for UTA's *Sweeney Todd* Mainstage Production and as the Stage Manager of *John Proctor is the Villain*. She is very excited to finally be part of the dance company and share this production with everyone! She thanks her mom and friends for all their support. Enjoy the show!

AMARRIA ANDREWS is a Houston, Texas native and Junior Criminal Justice Major with a Dance Minor. She gives gratitude her family and friends for supporting her through her dance journey.

CLAUDIA ARTEAGA is a Junior in the Electrical Engineering department. This is her first time ever performing on stage! Although she does not have experience in the dance world, she has had so much fun experiencing how dance shows are set up. She's excited to give her best during her performance!

BEN ASHCRAFT is excited to be entering his second dance performance with the dance company. He was last featured in Laurie M. Taylor's production of "Break Through Enter In". Ben would like to thank his fellow cast members and his family for their support. He would also like to dedicate this performance to his late father Wes Ashcraft.

ALEXA CALVILLO is a Sophomore majoring in Psychology with a Minor in Dance. This is Alexa's third semester dancing with UTA's department of dance, and she couldn't be more ecstatic to be back! Alexa would like to thank her choreographers, instructors, and her dance friends she has made along this year!

SAVANNAH FENNEL is a senior Chinese and French translation and localization major with a minor in theatre arts. She has had the privilege of performing with the dance company for the last five semesters. She has worked as dance captain, choreographer, costumer, and ensemble in various productions and groups both on and off campus. Savannah is very excited to showcase her original choreography and designs with the company for the first time. She is honored to have worked with such a creative and hardworking cast to create this challenging piece. She'd like to thank them, Prof. Taylor her friends, and family for their encouragement to share her art.

NATALIE GONZALES is a Fort Worth native and Exercise Science Major looking to pursue a minor in Dance. This is her first semester in dance at UTA. She has previous dance experience from high school at IM Terrell Academy for STEM and VPA, Ballet Center of Fort Worth, and five seasons with the Youth Company of Ballet Frontier of Texas. In high school, Natalie joined the Terrell Dance Ensemble for three seasons. She hopes to continue her dancing career throughout college and use her degree to pursue a profession in physical therapy where she can work with young children and professional dancers. Her favorite styles include ballet and Horton technique, but she hopes to get stronger in other styles like jazz and hip-hop along her dance journey.

TILDA GRACE is a freshman BFA Musical Theatre student. She has over 10 years of dance training and is now working professionally as a performer in dance, theatre and circus arts throughout the DFW area. Some of her most recent credits include, Ensemble/featured dancer in *Chaplin the Musical* at WaterTower Theatre, Dainty June in *Gypsy* at Theatre Arlington, Minnie Fay in *Hello Dolly*

CAST

at The Firehouse Theatre, and featured dancer/contortionist in Dallas Theater Center's *The Odyssey*. She is excited to be performing with the UTA dance company for the first time!

NICHOLAS HARRISON is a Junior pursuing a BFA in Musical Theatre and a Minor in Dance. He is very excited to be back with the dance company this year! He hopes that you enjoy the performance!

JOLIE LAMBERT is thrilled to be part of Dance Deconstructed for a second semester! She is currently in her junior year, obtaining a BFA in Musical theatre with a minor in dance. She is so grateful she gets to do what she loves by dancing every day, and that she gets to do it under such amazing faculty and alongside such amazing peers. Jolie would like to thank her family and her friends at UTA for their endless support. Enjoy the show!

MEAGAN LOVE is a senior pursuing a major in Cinematic Arts and a minor in dance. She has been dancing since she was five years old, beginning with ballet and learning more genres as she got older. She has performed in *The Nutcracker* with the Ballet Center of Fort Worth for 7 years as well as a variety of other dances, plays, films, and musicals throughout her life. She loves performing and couldn't imagine herself doing anything else!

ADDISON MCCLAIN is a Junior Psychology major with a minor in Dance. This is her first time performing on stage since high school! While she continues to grow as an artist, also she loves to watch performance and is excited to perform in Dance Deconstructed. Addison is grateful for the lessons she's learned from her instructor Prof. Taylor and the support from her friends and her family. She especially thanks her mother for being a voice of reason through challenging times.

SAM MORALES is a sophomore BFA Musical Theatre student. This is her second semester in the UTA Dance Company, but first time performing. After breaking two bones in the past year, she is back and ready to dance alongside friends. You may have seen her in the ensemble in *Sweeney Todd*, and you'll get a chance to see her again in the spring musical *Head Over Heels*. Sam is hoping to graduate with a minor in dance performance alongside her major. Outside of performing onstage, she loves to write and compose original music, practice tarot, read, and hang with her friends. She's very excited and grateful for this opportunity, and hopes you enjoy the performance.

MAKENNA OSTROM is a Junior BFA Musical Theatre student with a minor in Dance. This is her first time choreographing for Dance Deconstructed as a student choreographer. She is excited to share her work and hopes it inspires others. She is blessed to have worked closely with Prof. Taylor and André in this process. She would like to thank everyone involved including her family, friends, and choreographers for all the love and support.

KYLEIGH "KY" PERRY is a third-year student at UTA, majoring in Psychology with a minor in Dance. This is Ky's second semester with the Department of Theatre Arts and Dance, and she is so excited for the show! With many years of experience, Ky is always eager to learn and enjoys working with the talented people in the dance company. After university, Ky hopes to continue dancing and broadening her understanding of the performing arts. She would like to thank her friends and her family, as well as her teachers, choreographers, and you, the audience members, for attending!

AUTUMN ROBINSON (she/her) is a BFA Acting junior/Dance Minor. Autumn was last seen in *Romeo and Juliet* as "Nurse" at UTA and has since choreographed *Godspell* with Artisan Center Theatre. Followed by performing in Dallas with Soul Rep/Echo Theatre's Company production of *Cadillac Crew* and Echo Theatre's *Echo Reads*. She's so happy to be able to dance with such a beautiful cast and thanks her family for their support. IG: @hunnybun_autumn

SYLVIA SCHULTE is a second year Musical Theatre major at UTA. This is her first time performing with the dance company, and she could not be more thrilled! She would like to thank the student choreographers Sarah Jo Adams and Aaliyah Smith, as well as Professor Laurie Taylor for this opportunity and their guidance throughout this process.

CAST

AALIYAH SMITH is a senior BFA Musical Theatre major with a minor in dance. She has had the privilege of performing with the dance company for 3 semesters, and is so excited to choreograph for the first time. She was most recently seen performing in UTA's production of Cabaret as Frenchie. She would like to thank her amazing cast for their passion & creativity, the faculty for their guidance and support, and her mom and brothers for their constant love and support.

HANEUL SONG is a Bachelor of Science Biology Major in her third year here at UTA. This will be her second semester joining the UTA Dance Company and she is very satisfied with the program and the opportunities that dance has to offer. Haneul is excited to continue to continue her journey with the dance company and hopes to dance with many more talented dancers.

MACY THIEBAUD is proud to be dancing with UTA's Department of Theatre and Dance for a second year! She is currently working on her BFA in Musical theatre with a minor in Dance. Dance inspires her and she loves continuing her growth and journey with movement. Macy would like to thank her family and friends at UTA for their constant support. Mav up!

CHRIS WADE (he/him) was born and raised in Fort Worth Texas. He is a transfer student, and this is his first semester at UTA. He graduated from Tarrant County College with a 3.4 GPA. He was in the top 10% of his class and is an honorary Phi Theta Kappa member with an associate of arts degree.

ANDRE' WILLIAMS is a Senior BFA Musical Theatre major here at UTA. He is both excited and saddened to be taking part in his final dance company performance with Dance (De)constructed. It had been a joy to take part of the Maverick Dance Company these few years and learn about my body and its relationship to movement. I'm so incredibly grateful to all the faculty in the dance program for constantly pushing me to grow and expand my own artistry. 1,2,3 MDC!

PRINCE WILLIAMS (he/she/they) is a Sophomore in the BFA Musical Theatre Program here at UTA. Prince is very excited and honored to take to the stage as a performer in UTA's Dance Deconstructed. You may recognize them from their work in the ensemble of UTA's production of Sweeney Todd as well as "Herman" in Cabaret.

PLEASE...

- Be sure to turn off all cellular phones or similar electronics prior to the show beginning.
- Avoid the temptation to send text messages during the performance!
- If your child becomes restless, please step into the lobby to avoid disrupting the performance.
- For your and the performers' safety, we ask that you remain in your seats and keep all personal items out of the aisles.
- No photography or recording of the performance is permitted.
- Please do not bring food or drinks into the theatre.

THANK YOU AND ENJOY THE SHOW!

BENEFACTORS

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BA in Theatre Arts or BFA in Theatre Arts with Performance, Design and Technology, or Musical Theatre Focus Minors in Theatre Arts and Dance

The University of Texas at Arlington Department of Theatre Arts and Dance provides students with an extensive education in the theatrical profession. It is through broad practical experience and an equally extensive theoretical application of the art and craft of the stage that students learn the primary components that comprise the theatrical event. The application of these components, in a series of classroom and public performances, ensures a challenging educational environment for the theatre arts student.

If you would like more information about The University of Texas at Arlington's Department of Theatre Arts and Dance, please feel free to email our Academic Advisor, Miranda Marin at miranda.marin@uta.edu.

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