Movement & Tides: Spring Dance Concert

It's spring semester and the creative process is in bloom. The UNLV Department of Dance is pleased to announce Movement & Tides, an exciting and diverse concert of ballet and contemporary jazz dance.

Ballet Artist-in-Residence Clarice Rathers joins forces with ballet professor Dolly Kelepez-Momot to choreograph Carl Orff's Secular Oratorio Carmina Burana, which is based on a collection of medieval poems. Carmina Burana is considered by many to be one of the most popular, dramatic, and bold works in classical vocal repertory. The poems of Carmina Burana, such as O Fortuna, speak to the fate of life's seasons: happiness, turmoil, and love. This performance of Carmina Burana represents a collaboration between the extraordinary talents of UNLV Department of Dance and UNLV School of Music, featuring percussionists, pianists, and graduate students of the UNLV Vocal Performance Program.

Jazz dance Artist-in-Residence, Alexandra Yonkovich, will premiere 6 PM to 6 AM, an original work that moves through three emotions: pleasure, pain, and reclamation. With the music of Ray Charles, Louis Armstrong, Tom Waits, and Leon Bridges, the theme is set for a time of enjoyment and reminiscence, representing the cycle of experience and the importance of progressing forward in times of uncertainty.

Jazz dance Artist-in-Residence, Stephanie Martinez presents Shiver, a new dance work that invites the audience to view the dancers as three parts of the same woman. Shiver explores loss - the before, the during, and the after - the human response to separate oneself from a person, place, or thing that no longer serves personal growth.

The concert will also include a new work by jazz dance Professor Victoria Dale. UNLV Dance is proud that this work was recently premiered at the International Association of Blacks in Dance Conference in Dallas, Texas. To purchase tickets, contact the Performing Arts Center Box Office: 702-895-2787.
Allen and Harper’s Coalesce Shows a Disparate World of Strangers Connected in Motion
January’s Coalesce concert at UNLV Dance gave us the opportunity to glimpse into the lives of strangers to see and understand our own humanity. An artist splatters paint on the bodies of dancers and deals with the sensual world around him. Dancers find themselves in synchronous moments on the platform waiting for the train. We are reminded that sometimes happiness comes from the simple things in life: a compliment, a handshake, a moment of support, or a dance with a stranger. Coalesce takes us on a seamless journey passing us from one stranger to the next and allows us to see and coalesce ourselves in the image and idea of the other.

Congratulations to faculty choreographer Cathy Allen and alumni choreographer Heather Harper for such a strong concert. Congratulations to our New York guest performers, to our alumni performers and to our fantastic BFA dancers, and also fantastic lighting and production work. Quite a strong and moving show. Bravo everyone!

Diversity in Motion: UNLV Dance Excites Audiences at the 29th International Association of Blacks in Dance
UNLV Dance is proud of jazz dance Professor Victoria Dale and her long association with the International Association of Blacks in Dance. This association has lead to numerous performance opportunities for UNLV dance majors. This year, dance major Ari Williams was chosen to represent UNLV at the January 25-29, 2017 conference in Dallas, Texas. “Ari wowed the crowd and received a standing ovation,” exclaimed Dale. “She was able to represent UNLV’s strong commitment to dance technique and diversity.”

Events like this affect students and become the seminal moments that shape their artistic lives. Ari Williams talks about her experience, “I was able to meet modern dance legends and take classes with masters of modern dance. In a short time, I developed friendships and was able to see the strength and the significance of the African-American contribution to the art of dance. I have never considered myself a soloist, just a simple dancer trying to get on my leg. This opportunity pushed me; Professor Dale saw something inside me that I had not seen in myself. She gave me the opportunity to shine and grow, all the time surrounded by amazing dancers, choreographers, teachers, pioneers, and legends. Words cannot express how grateful I am to have been selected to represent UNLV in this way.”

Ari Williams in make up prepares to perform at the 29th IABD.

Professor Victoria Dale and Alvin Alley Dance Company Artistic Director Robert Battle.
Steps in Dance Research: Rediscovering Hawkins Dance Past

Hailed by the New York Times as Hawkins West, UNLV was the first university given permission to perform works by the significant modern dance choreographer, Erick Hawkins, and UNLV has had a long tradition of Hawkins performance, research, and Hawkins Modern Dance technique. UNLV has become a repository for the Erick Hawkins Modern Dance Collection, which contains all of Hawkins’ scenic elements, costumes, and production materials. Erick Hawkins’ choreographic notes, notebooks, journals, and papers are currently housed in Washington, D.C. at the prestigious Library of Congress in the Erick Hawkins/Lucia Dlugoszewski Dance Collection.

In January, Department of Dance Chair Louis Kavouras, began a new chapter of research traveling to Washington, D.C. and New York City to begin researching two lost works by Hawkins, *Stephen Acrobat* (1947) and *John Brown* (1945). “Stephen Acrobat and John Brown are fascinating works by Hawkins,” says Kavouras. “He choreographed these works while he was in the Martha Graham Dance Company. Martha Graham presented them. They are transitional and were created before Hawkins developed his own modern dance technique and company. These works will give us a window into Hawkins the artist before he became a significant choreographer. They are potent. They also employ two sets by the famous sculptor Isamu Noguchi. The Isamu Noguchi Museum in New York is highly interested in the works coming back to life. It will be great to resurrect these dances, perform them in New York City, and then bring them back to UNLV, Hawkins West, so the UNLV dance majors can experience history and see their own history in the works of this master of the modern dance.”

Photos of the prestigious Library of Congress in Washington D.C., the largest library in the world.

Artist-in-Residence Spotlight: Clarice Rathers

Clarice Rathers has enjoyed an extensive dance career, including 20 years with Nevada Ballet Theatre beginning in 1983. She retired from the company as Principal Dancer in 2004 and worked in different levels on the Artistic Staff of Nevada Ballet Theatre. A graduate of North Carolina School of the Arts, Clarice joined Arizona Ballet Theatre and shortly thereafter was promoted to Soloist. She was then invited to perform with Ballet West. Rathers enjoyed a celebrated dance career, working under several famous choreographers and teachers including Sir Frederick Ashton, Val Caniparoli, Eugene Loring, Toni Launders and Anton Dolin, as well as Vassili Sulich, James Jeon, Louis Godfrey, and Denise Schultz. Upon joining Nevada Ballet Theatre, Clarice danced numerous principal roles including Odette/Odile in Swan Lake, Sugar Plum Fairy in The Nutcracker, Aurora in Sleeping Beauty, Coppelia, Giselle, Anna Karenina, and Paquita, as well as lead roles in Vassili Sulich's contemporary ballets. Clarice was awarded the Nevada Governor's Arts Award for Distinguished Service to the Arts. Rathers was also introduced to Pilates, training under Dolly Kelepecz. She then became a Certified Pilates Instructor and studio manager for DK Body Balancing.
Last concert of this season...buy your tickets now!

Thursday April 27 at 7:30pm  
Friday April 28 at 2:30 and 7:30pm  
Saturday April 29 at 2:30pm and 7:30pm  
Sunday April 30 at 2:30pm

Dance Studio One  
HFA 111  
$18/$10  
Ticket Info:  
895-ARTS

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Ticket information for the 2017-2018 season coming soon!

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