

# @UNLVDANCE

A WORLD OF MOVEMENT

September/October 2015



A unique collaboration  
UNLV Dance, UNLV  
Orchestra, UNLV  
Music and UNLV Art.

Dolly Kelepecz

Anthony Rais

Tim Hoft

Richard Havey

Dave Rowe  
Sculpture

Louis Kavouras

Taras Krysa  
Conductor

## In Orchestra 2 UNLV Dance and UNLV Orchestra

**In  
Orchestra  
2**  
Artemus  
Ham  
Concert  
Hall

Oct 16 at  
730pm

Oct 17 at  
230pm and  
730pm

Tickets:  
\$18/\$10

Box Office:  
702-895-2787

The UNLV Department of Dance and School of Music present In Orchestra 2, a collaborative concert of dance, music, art and design, on Friday, October 16 at 7:30pm and Saturday, October 17 at 2:30pm and 7:30pm in the Artemus W. Ham Concert Hall.

Dance faculty Dolly Kelepecz and Richard Havey created a new ballet and jazz dance inspired adaptation of Stravinsky's timeless ballet burlesque *Petrushka*. *Petrushka* has always been hailed as a production that unites dance, music, and design. This unique production will feature professional marionette and puppetry artist, Anthony Rais. *Petrushka* tells the story of three

puppets and their love and jealousy for one another.

Department of Dance Chair, Louis Kavouras tackles Toru Takemitsu's sonorous and poetic contemplation of the flow of water, *Riverrun*. With regards to the work, Takemitsu writes, "The music flows in the form of a musical tributary derived from a certain main current, wending its way through the scenery of night towards the sea of tonality." This dance is an abstract formalist construction based on the principals and movement of Modern Dance Master Erick Hawkins. Kavouras has been a member of the Erick Hawkins Dance Company for over 20 years.

The program also includes the lovely atmospheric works by Erik Satie, *Gymnopédies* choreographed by Fall 2015 Ballet Artist-in-Residence April Wexelman.

UNLV Dance has a long history of inter-departmental collaborations. This concert includes installation art/scenic design by Department of Art sculpture faculty Dave Rowe, piano performance by School of Music faculty Tim Hoft, and Lighting Design by Dance Production Specialist Peter Jakubowski. The program will be conducted by Taras Krysa, director of UNLV Orchestras and the Henderson Symphony. For further info contact the Performing Arts Center Box Office: 702-895-2787.

## Erick Hawkins' Plains Daybreak Reviving the Masterpieces

In March 2015 UNLV Dance performed PastPresent, a concert of works by master choreographers and new works inspired by the classics. UNLV Dance faculty Louis Kavouras and Katherine Duke, Artistic Director of the Erick Hawkins Dance Company restaged Hawkins' classic 1979 Native American inspired dance work, *Plains Daybreak*.

Hailed by the New York Times as the Poet of the Modern Dance, Hawkins' *Plains Daybreak* is a rhythmic movement poem for the Earth and reveals a Native American inspired world where humans and nature have mutual respect for one another.

Twelve UNLV dance majors trained and danced alongside members of this professional dance company in the recreation. The work included live chamber orchestra to the original composition by Alan Hovhaness with original masks by Ralph Lee and scenic design by Ralph Dorazio.

*Plains Daybreak* was recently presented at Texas State University, San Marcos, as part of their Dancestry project alongside works by Isadora Duncan and Loie Fuller on September 11 and September 12, 2015. UNLV BFA dance major Malik Gray danced with



UNLVDance Fall 2015  
Ballet Artist-In-Residence

### APRIL WEXELMAN

•BS Psychology, Pepperdine University  
•MFA Dance Choreography ,  
Jacksonville University  
Training: Houston Ballet, Kirov Ballet Program, Alonzo King (Lines Ballet), David Parsons, Yaniv Abraham (Batsheva Dance Company )

April danced professionally at Conejo Civic Ballet, Malibu Ballet, California Dance Theatre, and Phyzix Dance Theatre.

She taught at Las Vegas Academy for the Performing Arts, The Rock Center for Dance, Fern Adair Conservatory for the Arts, Douglas Anderson School for the Performing Arts, LaVilla School for the Performing Arts, Dance 101, F13rce Dance Theatre, Roswell City Dance, Dance Masters of America, Jacksonville University, Florida State College, and Nevada Ballet.

Kavouras and the Hawkins Company during these performances.

UNLV Dance has long been hailed as Hawkins West. Students at UNLV were the first dance majors in the country to perform works by this historic choreographer. UNLV is also the repository for the Erick Hawkins Archive and Collection of scenic designs and costumes. This allows dance majors to work with original historical artifacts of the modern dance.



Erick Hawkins' Plains Daybreak at Texas State University



## UNLV New Pilates Minor and Certificate Program

UNLV Dance is proud to announce our new Minor in Pilates and Pilates Certificate. UNLV was the first dance program in the country to add a curriculum in Pilates Technique. This technique was developed by Joseph Pilates as a system of movement exercises that were designed to

strengthen, integrate, and coordinate the mind and body.

Dance faculty Dolly Kelepecz was instrumental in bringing Pilates to the State of Nevada. She has developed this unique minor and certificate program for the training of future pilates instructors and practitioners. For more information contact [dolly.kelepecz@unlv.edu](mailto:dolly.kelepecz@unlv.edu) or [kaleigh.mancha@unlv.edu](mailto:kaleigh.mancha@unlv.edu).



Bang Hye Yeon, Pak Sa Rang, Chae Ha Ra, and Lim Do Hyun, dance majors from Korea National Sport University are in residence at UNLV for 8 weeks this fall.

### UNLV/KNSU 8-week International Dance Cultural Exchange Program

The UNLV Department of Dance is proud of its international partnership with prestigious Korea National Sport University. This Fall, four dance majors from KNSU will be in residence at UNLV for eight weeks. In the Spring, four UNLV dance majors will spend eight weeks in Korea.

### New BFA Degree Track UNLV Dance to Offer BFA Professional Track

Dr. Beth Mehocic is working on curriculum for the BFA for the Dance Professional and the department hopes to offer it starting Fall, 2016. This BFA degree is for both current and former dance professionals who would like to make their experience count toward a degree in higher education. Getting a BFA in Dance would open the doors for a multitude of careers as well as for anyone interested in pursuing a master's degree.

### Special Alumni Discount Once a Family Member, Always a Family Member

All UNLV dance alumni now receive a special ticket price of \$10 for all UNLV Dance concert productions. All dance alumni receiving this newsletter via email will be on the list at the box office for discount eligibility. Limit 1 discounted ticket per alumni. Photo ID is required.



### Space Rental Continue Your Choreographic Work

Need rehearsal space to continue your choreographic work? The Department of Dance offers special alumni rental rates. For information contact Sandra De Borger at 702-895-3827.



### Master Class with Lula Washington Dance Company

During her recent tour to Las Vegas, Lula Washington, Artistic Director of the Lula Washington Dance Company, shared her profound knowledge and unique dance vocabulary. The September 15th master class organized by dance faculty member Vikki Baltimore Dale, focused on core strength, body articulation, and individuality.



**Alumni Spotlight**  
**Jason Hortin**  
**Hubbard Street Dance Chicago**

Jason Hortin received his Bachelor of Fine Arts in Performance and Choreography from UNLV in 2005. He has danced with Moving People Dance Theatre, Erick Hawkins Dance Company, and River North Dance Chicago. Jason joined Hubbard Street Dance Chicago in 2007, and has danced the choreography of numerous significant contemporary choreographers: Jiri Kylian, Mats Ek, Crystal Pite, Ohad Naharin, William Forsythe, Twyla Tharp, Nacho Duato, Johan Inger, Sharon Eyal, Alonzo King, Toru Shimazaki, Aszure Barton, Daniel Ezralow, Jorma Elo, Victor Quijada, Kyle Abraham, Jim Vincent, Lucas Crandall, Susan Marshall, Marguerite Donlon, Julian Barnett, Alejandro Cerrudo, Robyn Mineko Williams, Doug Varone, Frank Chaves, Harrison McEldowney, Lynne Taylor-Corbett, Kevin Iga Jeff and Lauri Stallings.



*In Jason's own words*

*What I love about Dance:*

Dance is a powerful way of expressing something, anything. Whether you are inside a masterpiece like Jiri Kylian's 'Petite Mort', or in any other dance, the dance is dependent upon those whom perform it—there's always a sense of anxiety to perform up to what the piece requires. There is something transcendental that happens between dancer, ensemble, and the work that goes beyond the scope of daily activity, something that I believe art (and specifically good art) succeeds at. Dance has also brought me to amazing places and incredible people- truly the ends of the earth.

*About UNLV Dance:*

UNLV Dance rekindled my interest in dance. Prior to enrolling in the dance department, I was a computer science major. However that changed after a few semesters of technique courses. There was a sense of purpose, know-how and delivery of information that prepared me for a professional career in dance. I really appreciated the equal emphasis on ballet, jazz and modern. In addition to all that is offered, there's a great wealth of history and experience offered through the guest artists - a great opportunity to gain even more information and insight and perhaps guide you to possibilities in dance. Lastly, the opportunity to travel the world was essential.

*Advice to young artists:*

If you're interested in a specific company, learn everything you can about them. Sign up for a workshop. Take feedback as positive criticisms to work on. If you don't/can't take criticism, this probably isn't the field for you. Oh, and take ballet. Lots of it.



**UNLV Dance On The Move Around the World · Summer 2015**

During the Summer of 2015, UNLV Dance faculty continued the department's international travel mission with trips to Denmark and Greece. Margot Mink Colbert and Dolly Kelepecz presented Ballet Mink's *Echoes and Tales* at the Dansekapellet Theatre in Copenhagen Denmark in June 2015. This program included three recent dance alumni: Kaileigh O'Neill, Shannon Redfield and Hailey Wood.

Cathy Allen's Red Desert Dance Company was presented at the International Dance Competition-Hellas in Athens, Greece and won 3rd Place in the pre-professional category. This performance utilized BFA dance majors Kristina Hakobyan and Alex Cancel-Sanchez. Red Desert Dance Company was also presented as part of the Check It Dance Festival in New York City, New York. The New York performance included dance majors Kristina

Hakobyan, LJ Luevanos, Lay'la Rogers, and UNLV dance alumni Danylle Latham, Jewel Raquel, Shannon Redfield, Summer Reece, and Sandra Sherer.



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