

College of Lake County Dance Department presents

2020 Virtual Winter Dance Concert



December 4th and 5th at 7:30 p.m.

Live Streamed via Zoom

Artistic Director's notes

What a year! We had time to reflect on what we value, to take notice of our courage and resilience, and to redirect our hopes and dreams by looking ahead. As performing artists we long to be back on the stage, rehearsing with others, and sharing our work with a live audience. But we recognize that the ultimate goal of our practice is to connect with others through our creative work. As a result of the crisis we are facing, we have had to reimagine the possibilities for bringing our art form to audiences. I am so proud of the participants in this show for persevering and overcoming the challenges of creating works in isolation, in various spaces, and under unstable conditions in order to bring us their beautiful and thought-provoking works of art. I admire their courage for revealing their vulnerabilities while sharing their personal artistic expressions with us all. We celebrate our dances with you tonight in hopes of inspiring others to keep on pursuing what makes them happy. For us, it is dancing.

Please join us after the performance for a conversation with the dancers. Feel free to email any questions that you may have about the performance to valpert@clcollinois.edu. Thank you for coming and supporting all the hard work the dancers have put into the show.

Sincerely, Valerie Alpert

The taking of video, audio or still recordings is strictly prohibited by law.

For more information about upcoming College of Lake County Performing Arts Events, visit www.clcollinois.edu/arts.

 Find us on Facebook:
College of Lake County Dance Department

Program

The Journey Home

Music: *Journey Home* by Drew Anderson
Choreographer/Performer: Cora Schultz

The New Normal

Music: *Someone You Loved* by Brooklyn Duo
Choreographer/Performer: Jennifer Blake

The Pain of Isolation

Music: *Six Feet Apart* by Alec Benjamin
Choreographers/Performers: Helen Murphy and Talia Murphy

A Mirrored Partner

Music: *Te Quiero* by Maluma
Choreographer/Performer: Giselle Leon

Still Got Hope

Music: *The Good News* by K. Flay
Choreographer: Christine Chernoff
Dancers: Christine and Mike Chernoff

Grounded

Music: *Two Faces* by Yatao
Choreographer/Performer: Frances Skurski

Unleashed

Music: *Control* by Zoe Wes
Choreographer/Performer: Sabrina L. Soto
Videographer: Berny Echeverria

If You Love Her

Music: *If You Love Her* by Forest Blakk
Choreographer/Performer: Megan Tomaszewicz

Tango Up Against the Wall

Music: *Encanto Rojo* by Fabio Hager Sexteto
Choreographer: Valerie Alpert
Performers: Christine Chernoff, Giselle Leon, Cora Schultz and Frances Skurski

This program is partially supported by a grant from the Illinois Arts Council Agency.

The Essence of the Nile

Music: *Water* by Beyonce ft. Salatiel & Pharrell Williams
Choreographer: Sacha Dill
Performers: Sacha Dill, Antione Williams, Eryn Beach, Amaya Husband, Jada Davis, Lexus Brites, Shania Furbert, Sophie Jones, J'yindae Preece and Yve Smith

Artists Biographies

Valerie Alpert (Artistic Director/Choreographer) is a native of Chicago and received her B.F.A. in Dance from the University of Illinois, her M.F.A. in Dance from The Ohio State University, and her Ph.D. in Dance from Texas Woman's University. In between her school years Alpert performed, choreographed and taught dance both nationally and internationally. Alpert's choreography has drawn praise at many festivals across the United States and internationally as well. Along with her extensive performing and choreographing experience, Alpert is equally enthusiastic for teaching dance to people of all ages. Alpert is currently on faculty at the College of Lake County. For more information on VADCO, visit www.vadco.org.

Jennifer Blake (Choreographer) is a second-year student at College of Lake County pursuing a nursing and psychology degree. After taking a dance class for fun at CLC, she fell in love with the teachers and the atmosphere and decided to continue taking classes. Since being at CLC she has taken ballet I and II and modern dance I. This will be her first choreographed work and she is excited to have been given this opportunity to choreograph a piece. She hopes you enjoy it along with the rest of the show!

Christine Chernoff's (Choreographer) early dance training was at Northwest Ballet Academy in Schaumburg, IL. She earned her Associate in Arts degree in dance from the College of Lake County. In 2018 she performed with L-Theory Collective in their show titled "Elevate" and again in their "2020 Summer Dance Showcase, A Virtual Dance Concert." She enjoys taking social dance lessons with her husband and their favorite styles are West Coast swing and salsa. Christine's dream is to open her own dance studio and focus on teaching ballet, jazz and modern dance to adults.

Sacha Dill (Choreographer) first started her dance journey at the age of 9. Moving forward, she studied ballet, jazz, and hip hop at The Berkeley Institute as well as at The Russian School of Ballet. To enhance her skills, she joined Troika, which helped her with confidence, technique and much more. She has traveled with Troika and performed internationally dancing, singing and acting. She has had the pleasure of instructing beginner to advanced hip hop levels at DanceSations since 2013 when the school opened full-time in Bermuda. She has also performed in various DanceSations' productions and has traveled with them

to New York City to participate in dance classes. She thoroughly enjoys working with kids and loves to share her passion and energy with her students. Sacha won the "So You Think You Can Dance" Bermuda Competition in June 2014. She was also one of the recipients of the National Bermuda Dance Foundation bursary in 2015 and 2016. She concluded her studies in May 2018 at the College of Lake County where she was awarded subsequent dance scholarships for 2016 and 2017 and graduated with a diploma in fine arts and dance. During her time in Illinois, She was a company member of L-theory Collective conducted by Lamaiya Lancaster, which allowed her the opportunity to choreograph and perform in numerous company pieces. She is excited to be back teaching full-time and to be running the Hip Hop EliteTeam at DanceSations School of Dance. She often travels to New York along with DanceSation's company members and instructors to train and heighten her craft. She took classes at both Broadway Dance Center and The Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater. To challenge herself, instead of taking all hip hop classes, she took contemporary, jazz funk, commercial jazz, street jazz, Broadway jazz and dancehall. She is proud of the recognition that was given in every class she took part in. She is very grateful to be a part of such an extraordinary team and to be lead under the direction of Holly Pacheco who shows nothing but support and only wants the best for her students and her instructors.

Giselle Leon (Choreographer) is a CLC student, new to performing and choreographing. In 2019, she became a group fitness instructor which sparked her love for dance and her desire to pursue it in college. Prior to this, she independently studied different genres of dance online while practicing at home. This is her first time being involved in a dance concert. Her favorite styles include salsa, reggaeton and lindy hop. In her free time she likes to workout and play the piano.

Helen Murphy (Choreographer) of Highland Park is in her third year as a College of Lake County business major and theatre performance minor. She has been dancing for 15 years in dance styles such as ballet, jazz, lyrical, contemporary, modern and hip-hop. She has also been a Pointe dancer for 7 years. She was last seen in the CLC *Winter Dance Concerts* of 2018 and 2019. She is excited to be a part of this production and to be able to continue dancing with her sister Talia, despite the pandemic.

Talia Murphy (Choreographer) of Highland Park, has 12 years of dance experience in the fields of ballet, tap and jazz. She is a student at Deerfield High School as well as a club volleyball player. She is excited to be a part of her first college production and has enjoyed performing dance with her sister Helen, during the pandemic.

Cora Schultz (Choreographer) is 17 years old and a senior in high school. She is currently home-schooled and attends College of Lake County part-time. She has studied dance for 10 years under many different teachers. She has danced at Dance Theatre of Northern Illinois, but currently dances at Talent Forum and CLC. In addition, she attended a summer intensive for Ballet 5:8 in 2019. She hopes to go to a four-year university next fall to study dance, psychology and to eventually study movement therapy.

Frances Skurski (Choreographer) is a free and fun-loving dancer who has performed in a variety of things from previous Prairie Spirit Dance Troupe shows to Gamma Phi Circus at Illinois State University. She returns to the College of Lake County to continue her own creative journey that she encourages all to explore through art! “If music be the food of love, play on, give me excess of it.” *Twelfth Night Act 1, scene 1, 1-3* —William Shakespeare

Sabrina L. Soto (Choreographer) is a 24 year old who started dancing when she learned to walk. She took a long break from performing but still danced when she could. Her favorite dance styles are hip hop, ballet and contemporary. She experienced the world of breakdancing and popping and locking in high school. She became friends with one of Chicago’s favorite dance crews, Styling Out, and during quarantine, became a member. Sabrina’s goal is to normalize dance therapy. She uses it to let go of everything holding her down because dance is “uplifting and you don’t have to think about anything going on.” She dreams of being able to help people find their inner spirit and let it out to be free.

Megan Tomaszewicz (Choreographer) has been dancing for 16 years focusing on the styles of ballet, lyrical, contemporary and modern. She started off at a Waterford Dance Academy, a small studio in Lindenhurst and later moved on to Talent Forum in Libertyville where she gained most of her experience. She attended the College of Lake County for 3 semesters, pursuing her degree in elementary education with a minor in dance. She is now attending the University of North Carolina Greensboro and is currently a junior continuing her degree in elementary education and her minor in dance. Her goal is to be a 3rd or 4th grade teacher and also to teach dance whenever the opportunity arises. Dance is her passion and she finds it is the best way for her to express all of her inner emotions. She identifies as a dancer because that is what makes her who she is. Without dance she wouldn’t be herself.

I would like to extend a special thanks to the following for their support:

The CLC Board of Trustees, Dr. Lori Suddick, President, the Communication Arts, Humanities and Fine Arts Division, Sheldon Walcher, Carol Dikelsky, Dave Aykroid, Ryan Rychlinski, Terry Crews, CLC Public Relations and Marketing department, in addition to the family and friends of all participants.