

**CENTRAL'S DANCE EDUCATION PROGRAM
WITH DANCENTRAL PRESENTS**

songbook



DIRECTORS:
PASCAL REKOERT
ERICA NELSON

SUNDAY, APRIL 13, 2025
3:00 PM
WELTE AUDITORIUM
NEW BRITAIN, CT

**SPONSORED BY THE WELTE SOCIETY &
THE FOX-LARKIN-JUDD FUND FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS**

CENTRAL CONNECTICUT STATE UNIVERSITY
1615 STANLEY STREET, NEW BRITAIN, CT

PHOTO BY JAQLIN MEDLOCK

Central Connecticut State University



Dr. Kimberly Kostelis, Provost & Vice President for Academic Affairs
Dr. Jayanthi Kandiah, Dean, College of Health & Rehabilitation Sciences
Dr. Pete Morano, Chair, Physical Education & Human Performance Department
Pascal Rekoert, Dance Education Program Director
Erica Nelson, Dancentral Director and Faculty Advisor

The Dance Education Program with Dancentral

~Presents~

songbook

Sunday, April 13 at 3:00 p.m.
Welte Auditorium

Featuring Choreography by:

Faculty members:

Ashley Caldeira, Stephen D. Hankey, Lindsay Hansen,
Erica Nelson, Ilker Ozbelli

Guest choreographers:

Emily Bufferd, Christine Sessa, Garett Wierdsma

Guest artists:

Tiana Boccuzzi (CCSU alumna)
Jennifer Muller/The Works
Norwich Free Academy Dance Company

Student choreographers:

Karis Bongiolatti, Jenna Buehler, Sydney Champagne,
Vilmari Gonzalez, Ashley Jones, Samantha Kuruc

Cover dancer: Rubie Kollman photographed by Jaqilin Medlock

Central's Dance Education Program is committed to uplifting and giving power to diverse voices through the arts. We acknowledge that our dance studios are located on the unceded ancestral land of the Tunxis, Quinnipiac, and Wappinger People. If you live in the United States, you will likely live and work on the stolen land of other Indigenous Peoples. We hope you will help your community learn about the land you are occupying to overcome the negative effects of settler colonialism and celebrate the rich history and traditions of Native People. Learn more at <https://native-land.ca>

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 2025



12th CENTRAL DANCE FESTIVAL



OPEN TO ALL
STUDENTS AGE 11+

SCAN HERE



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DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

Twenty-five years ago, I first set foot onto the beautiful stage on which you see the Central dancers perform today to rehearse one of the works being performed: Jennifer Muller's *Attic*. Of course, the world has changed since then. One powerful way to unite and honor our commonalities is what you are doing today: celebrating the arts.



While the importance of art has been debated for decades, its value is undeniable. How would you navigate life without video-sourcing platforms, your library of books, or the performing arts organizations that inspire and uplift us? The arts entertain, inspire, and provide an opportunity for self-discovery and expression. They are the ultimate connector. The word “art” originates from the Latin *ars* or *artem*, which means “skill,” “craft,” or “work of art.” While studying as part of our Dance Education Program, our students perfect the skill of dance and the art of teaching. They are diverse and talented, and I am excited for you to see their craft on stage and witness where their professional journey takes them. Staying within the performance topic, they are the ones who will continue to shape the rhythm of our growing community through their contributions to the dance and education landscape!

Dance, like music, can bring people together and bridge cultural divides. Just as music can evoke shared memories or inspire spontaneous moments of joy—whether through a nostalgic tune on the radio or a favorite song at a family gathering—dance invites us to connect through movement and emotion. In the United States, dance has played an essential role in cultural expression and community building, from the Harlem Renaissance to modern-day TikTok dances. By recognizing the value of dance in educational spaces and promoting its inclusion in the curriculum, we can help foster a more diverse and culturally rich society that celebrates the unique contributions of all its members. You, as an audience member, are part of this!

Much like the timeless melodies of the *Great American Songbook*, which have brought joy to generations, dance stirs our emotions and invites us to connect. Just as you might sing along to your favorite song in the car during a road trip or belt out a tune in the shower, dance invites us to celebrate life's rhythms and movements. Whether through the elegance of ballet, the energy of hip-hop, or the expressive freedom of contemporary dance, the art form brings people together in a shared human experience.

We are excited that you joined us at Welte Auditorium or online. I hope this will be the first of many times we connect as audience members or future students. Enjoy the show!

With gratitude,
Pascal Rekoert



songbook

Please note: This performance includes music with strong language and references to mature themes, including violence. Viewer discretion is advised.

Pre-Show DJ: Brian Nelson

TRIALS OF LOVE (Excerpt, 2023)

Choreographed by Karis Bongiolatti

Danced by Karis Bongiolatti, Jacey Bongiolatti, Emma Boothby, Jenna Buehler, Taylor Clem, Erin Curry, Neyleannie Franco, Vanessa Fusco, Vilmari Gonzalez, Sammy Kuruc, Caitlyn Noble, Jaelynn Oquendo, and Marilyn Tiul

Music: *Somebody to Love* by Queen

Welcome & Opening Remarks

Pascal Rekoert - Director, Dance Education Program

Attic (1993, Excerpt)

Jennifer Muller/The Works

Choreographed by Jennifer Muller

Performed by Rosie Lani Fiedelman

Music: *A Hundred Years* by Tracy Chapman



Descent into Dementia (2024)

Choreographed by Christine Sessa

Rehearsal assistants: Zora LeBon, Isabella Rivera-Rowe and Elizabeth Sanderson

Performed by Nicole Cherrone, Erin Curry, Danielle DeCaro, Neyleannie Franco, Brooke Ginex, Katelyn Higgins, Alexa Lombardo, Sara Marturano, Jaelynn Oquendo, Kaitlynn Pusztai, and Ashley Richardson

Music: *Unforgettable* by Natalie Cole and Nat King Cole

DREAM (Premiere)

Choreographed by Ilker Ozbelli

Performed by Ilker Ozbelli and Aleaf Sara

Music: *Wicked Game* by Hauser



Unraveled (Premiere)

Choreographed and performed by Jenna Buehler

Music: *She Used to Be Mine* by Sara Bareilles





Awards & Scholarships

Pascal Rekoert - Director, Dance Education Program

NHSDA Inductees and NHSDA Honor Roll Graduates

Estelle Jones Triarhos Scholarship: Danielle DeCaro

Awarded by Jim Triarhos, son of Estelle Jones Triarhos

Demetra Daniel Perrelli Scholarship: Rubie Kollman

Awarded by Dr. Jayanthi Kandiah - Dean, College of Health & Rehabilitation Sciences

Carol Ciotto Leadership Award: Marissa McPherson

Catherine J. Fellows Scholarship: Cheyenne Lueken

Awarded by Dr. Kimberly Kostelis - Provost & Vice President for Academic Affairs

BANG (Premiere)

Choreographed by Lindsay Hansen

Danced by Erin E. Curry, Samantha Storm, Sifa Kiza, and Kaitlynn Pusztai

Music: *Bang Bang (Instrumental)* by Jessie J., Ariana Grande, and Nicki Minaj

The Ones We Meet Along the Way (Premiere)

Choreographed by Ashley Jones

Performed by Jacey Bongiolatti and Ashley Jones

Music: *Piano Man* by Billy Joel

YOU'RE NOBODY (Premiere)

Choreographed by Garett Wierdsma

Performed by Keara Bernetich, Madeline Coughlin, Rubie Kollman, Samantha Kuruc,

Sara Marturano, Faith Mooney, Kaitlynn Pusztai, and Hope Sennett

Music: *You're Nobody 'Til Somebody Loves You* by Dean Martin, *To Speak of Solitude* by Brambles, and *What Kind of Fool Am I* by Lesley Gore

Tangle (2009, Excerpt)

Jennifer Muller/The Works

Choreographed by Jennifer Muller

Performed by Rosie Lani Fiedelman and Duane Gosa

Music *All I Want* by Joni Mitchell

To All the Loss (2024)

Choreographed by Vilmari Gonzalez

Performed by Liloni Brown, Erin Curry, Amanie Fleeting, Neyleannie Franco, Vanessa Fusco,

Vilmari Gonzalez, Samantha Kuruc, Jaelynn Oquendo, and Ashley Richardson

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



10-Minute Intermission

Intermission music by Simon & Garfunkel, Rolando Alarcon, Sam Cooke, Donna Summer, and Bob Dylan

MANS WORLD (Premiere)

Choreographed by Ashley Caldeira

Performed by Emma Boothby, Taylor Clem, Erin Curry, Vanessa Fusco, Brooke Ginex, Katelyn Higgins, Samantha Kuruc, Raven Laney, Sara Marturano, Victoria Mazzaferro, Ashley Richardson, Hope Sennett, and Samantha Storm

Music: *A Man's World* by James Brown

I Will BE THERE (Premiere)

Choreographed by Ilker Ozbelli

Performed by Erin Curry and Kaitlynn Pusztai

Music: *Unsteady* by X Ambassadors

Turning Tables (2025)

Norwich Free Academy Dance Company

Choreographed by Ashley Caldeira

Performed by Merren Ballester, Sadie Brown, Esther Comte, Brinlee Davis, Raven Laney, Alyssa Ortiz, Baylee Pangburn, Roxi Philipp, Trudy Rogers, Emmery Shaw, Soleil Stetson-Murphy, Amelia Sujecki, and Grace Turner

Music: *Turning Tables* by Adele



W.O.M.A.N. (Excerpt of "Tribute to Etta James"; Premiere)

Island Reflections Dance Theatre Inc. and Central Students

Choreographed by Stephen D. Hankey

Danced by Tiana Boccuzzi, Mellissa Craig, Loren Denise, Nicole Cherrone, Danielle DeCaro, Neyleannie Franco, Sifa Kiza, Faith Mooney

Ashley Richardson, and Samantha Storm

Music: *Woman (Shake Your Booty)* by Etta James

Song for SCUM (PREmiere)

Choreographed by Erica Nelson in collaboration with the dancers

American Woman

Samantha Storm

S.C.U.M. Girls

Alexa Lombardo and Ashley Richardson

The Patriarchy

Neyleannie Franco

Contemporary Corps

Keara Bernetich, Emma Boothby, Taylor Clem, Kate Higgins, Kaitlynn Pusztai, Hope Sennett

Groovy Funky Females

Madeline Coughlin, Danielle DeCaro, Ashley Jones, Sifa Kiza, Samantha Kuruc, Sara Marturano, Faith Mooney

Dramaturg: Dr. Kyle Grimm, courtesy of The Hartt School, University of Hartford

Music: *Thank Heaven For Little Girls* by Bing Crosby, Buddy Cole & His Trio

Tract for Valerie Solanas by Matmos

I Enjoy Being A Girl by Rodgers & Hammerstein



Imagine (Premiere)

Central Connecticut State University Alumni

Choreographed by Tiana Boccuzzi

Performed by Tiana Boccuzzi, Allie Brown, Kayla Burt, Rhiannya Byrne, Megyn Jasman, Nicolette Marinelli, Gianna Passarelli, and Alaina Watson

Music: *Imagine* by Eva Cassidy

Time's Arrow (Premiere)

Choreographed by Sydney Champagne in collaboration with the dancers

Performed by Taylor Clem, Rubie Kollman, Jaelynn Oquendo, Hope Sennett, and Samantha Storm

Music: *Wolf and Mythological Beauty* by Big Thief mixed with "Swamp Sounds at Night - Frogs, Crickets, Light Rain, Forest Nature Sounds" retrieved from The Guild of Ambiance on YouTube

Have I sought or am I seeking? (2022)

Choreographed by Emily Bufferd

Performed by Karis Bongiolatti

Music: *Goodbye Yellow Brick Road* by Sara Bareilles

FreeDumb! (Premiere)

Island Reflections Dance Theatre Inc.

Choreographed by Stephen D. Hankey

Danced by Tiana Boccuzzi, Mellissa Craig, and Loren Denise

Music: *I Wish I knew How It Would Feel to Be Free* by Nina Simone

Regards (1991, Excerpt)

Jennifer Muller/The Works

Choreographed by Jennifer Muller

Performed by Duane Gosa

Music: *Crossroads* by Tracy Chapman

All That Remains (2024)

Choreographed by Samantha Kuruc

Performed by Jacey Bongiolatti, Karis Bongiolatti, Marlee Cowden, Erin Curry,

Vanessa Fusco, Katelyn Higgins, Samantha Kuruc, Victoria Mazzaferro,

Jaelynn Oquendo, Hope Sennett, and Sophia Vongsaroj

Music: *Closure* by Hayley Warner

Bow Music: ABBA



Dancentral Members

We express our deepest gratitude and admiration for the amazing campus dancers who performed in this performance. Your talent, energy, and passion are inspiring and made the show an unforgettable experience. Moreover, your dedication and hard work are evident in every move you made in preparation and during the show. You should be proud of the magic you created. Thank you for sharing your talents with us and for bringing joy and beauty into your community. Keep dancing and shining bright!

Keara Bernetich

Jacey Bongiolatti

Emma Boothby

Nicole Cherrone

Taylor Clem

Madeline Coughlin

Erin Curry

Danielle DeCaro

Amanie Fleeting

Neyleannie Franco

Vanessa Fusco

Brooke Ginex

Kate Higgins

Ashley Jones

Sifa Kiza

Rubie Kollman

Samantha Kuruc

Alexa Lombardo

Sara Marturano

Victoria Mazzaferro

Marissa McPherson

Faith Mooney

Jaelynn Oquendo

Suelynette Pacheco

Lucia Perez

Kaitlynn Pusztai

Ashley Richardson

Hope Sennett

Samantha Storm

Sophia Vongsaroj

Choreographers

Tiana Boccuzzi (CCSU Alumna) is a 2023 graduate of Connecticut State University, earning her bachelor's in Elementary Education with a focus in English. She is currently a first-grade teacher in East Hartford, CT. Throughout her time at Central, she was an active member of Dancentral for nine semesters and served as the company's Public Relations Officer, Vice President, and President. She now represents dance as the National Academy of Health and Physical Literacy's Eastern Seaboard Region New Professional Representative, teaching and choreographing at local studios and premiering an alumni piece in today's show called *Chilled Waters*. She is grateful to remain connected with the Dance Education Program, Dancentral, and to return to the stage with fellow alumni from various graduating years.

Karis Bongiolatti (Student Choreographer), a senior Dance Education major graduating in May 2025, has been a dedicated member of Dancentral for eight semesters and choreographing for three. A lifelong dancer, she now student-teaches at Waterbury Arts Magnet School and instructs at Sparkle and Shine Dance and Deborah's Dance Workshop. Passionate about sharing dance, she co-owns Rhinestone Cowgirls Line Dancing with her sister and teaches line dancing across the state. On campus, she founded and led the Line Dancing Club for two years. She was also a guest teacher at Central's High School Dance Festival. Honored with the Demetra Daniel Perrelli Scholarship and the Major of the Year Award, Karis is grateful for the opportunities dance has provided and extends heartfelt thanks to her family and friends for their support.

Jenna Buehler (Student Choreographer) is from Long Island, New York, and is finalizing her degree as a Dance Entrepreneurship major at Central this year. Her dance journey began at KJ Dance Theatre, where she trained in tap, lyrical, ballet, contemporary, and jazz. In high school, she competed with her dance team at Mephram High School at NDA nationals. Additionally, she was a Universal Dance Association staff member and spent a summer traveling and working with various dance teams. Most recently, she closed out her final season, competing with Central's Dance team as a second-year captain. Previously, she competed with the KJ Dance Theatre company for 13 years. She works at Stage Left Dance in Middletown, Connecticut, teaching competitive senior Hip Hop and Pom! In her free time, Jenna enjoys working at her marketing job on campus, working out at the gym, crocheting, and growing closer with her friends and family.

Emily Bufferd (Guest Choreographer) is the Producer of The Young Choreographer's Festival, an annual event presenting some of the most up-and-coming 18-25-year-old young choreographers in all genres of dance, Faculty at Steps on Broadway and Broadway Dance Center in NYC, and Choreographer whose work has been described as "visually stunning" - OnStageBlog.com and

"technically intricate and portrayed exquisitely" - Examiner.com; further information can be found at www.emilybufferd.com IG @ebufferd

Ashley Caldeira (Dance Faculty) is a dancer and performer for over 25 years. She is trained in all dance styles and has been dancing professionally for six years. Ashley received her Dance & Physical Education degrees from Central. She then continued to receive her Master's in Curriculum and Instruction, now pursuing her administration license. Ashley is the Dance Program Director at the Norwich Free Academy. She is also the Artistic Director of the Wildcat Dance Off, and continues to choreograph and teach Masterclasses throughout New England.

Sydney Champagne (Student Choreographer) is a Connecticut-based dancer, choreographer, and dance educator from New Hartford, CT. As a teen, she served as captain for the competitive dance team at D.A.N.C.E. by Kristin for several years while training in ballet, lyrical, tap, and jazz. She then began to expand upon her dance journey at Central Connecticut State University as a Dance Education Major specializing in Entrepreneurship. There, she dances and choreographs for Central's dance company, Dancentral, and served as its President for two semesters. Along with teaching students ages 4-18 weekly at various local studios, Sydney dances as a professional member of the project-based contemporary dance company Garet&Co. Sydney prioritizes making meaningful connections with her audience members, peers, and students and strives to create works that move and inspire audiences rather than impress them. When not dancing, teaching, or creating, Sydney enjoys practicing yoga, making visual art, cooking, spending time in nature, and snuggling her kitties.

Vilmari Gonzalez (Student Choreographer) is a senior at Central and is set to graduate in May. Vilmari is studying Dance Education and is excited to teach dance full-time soon. Vilmari is completing her student teaching semester and running her dance studio, Studio143. This semester, Vilmari is dancing in two works and is excited to be showcasing her dance "To All the Loss" for the second time. This choreography holds a special meaning, and she is excited for the audience's response. She is most grateful to all her dancers for showing up and working to make her vision come to life, and thanks her entire support system for helping her throughout this whole process. She hopes you all enjoy watching her piece on this stage for the final time.

A native of Trinidad and Tobago, **Stephen Hankey** (Dance Faculty) is a dancer, master teacher in traditional Caribbean folk forms, Artistic Director, and choreographer of Island Reflections Dance Theatre. Mr. Hankey also teaches at the Cooperative Arts and Humanities High School (full-time) and is an Adjunct Professor at Central Connecticut State University. Stephen holds a masters in Teacher Leadership M.S. from the Central Connecticut State University and a B.F.A. from the Hartt School, University of Hartford (Honors). Stephen is the President and Artistic Director of The Island Reflections Dance Theatre, Inc., in

Hartford, CT, and was a founding member, choreographer, and performer of The National Dance Theatre Company of Trinidad and Tobago. His choreography credits include J'ouvert (1995), Road March (1997), A Brighter Day (1998) and Red House Fire! Fire! (1999) for the Baggasse Company; Bassman with the Signal Hill Theater Workshop Tobago (1997); Hewanorra Story for the St. Lucia Research Center and Jen S. Designs (1997); the "Voodoo Ceremony" for the ABC television film Production Creature, by Peter Benchley with Trilogy Entertainment North Ltd. (1997); and Ti Jean and His Brothers for Trinity College (2000). He has collaborated with Indiana State University, Trinity College, and Yale on special assignments, and has performed extensively nationally and internationally.

Lindsay Hansen (Dance Faculty) holds an Associate of Arts degree in Dance from Naugatuck Valley Community College and a B.S. in Elementary Education with a cross-endorsement in Dance Education PK-12 from Central Connecticut State University. She completed her M.S. in Educational Leadership from Central and her 6th year from Quinnipiac University. She is a full-time Dance Educator at Kinsella Magnet School of Performing Arts in Hartford and has been teaching Dance Education and developing curriculum in the public school setting since 2013. Lindsay is pursuing her EdD in Dance Education from Teachers College, Columbia University, and is also a certified Peak Pilates instructor.

Ashley Jones (Student Choreographer) is a Senior at Central majoring in Dance Education with a Specialization in Entrepreneurship. During her time at Central, she has been a part of Dancentral for seven semesters and is the Secretary for the club. She had the honor and privilege of being a choreographer for the student showcases and choreographed many tap pieces. Ashley has been dancing for 20 years and continues her passion for dance with teaching at her home studio Grossi Dance and Performing Arts Academy in Vernon CT. She had the opportunity to coach and choreograph two tap solos for their competition dance team. Ashley was a guest faculty member at the National Association of Dance & Affiliated Arts, Greater New England Chapter #20, teaching freshman tap. This semester, she premieres her tap duet, *The Ones We Meet Along the Way*.

Samantha Kuruc (Student Choreographer) is a Central Connecticut State University junior majoring in Secondary History Education. This is her fourth semester dancing with Dancentral and she is excited to revive "All That Remains" from the Fall 2024 show. Sammy is advancing her dance career as an educator by coaching the Brookfield Varsity Dance Team and teaching at the Academy of the Dance Arts in Brookfield and Alyce Carella Dance Center in West Hartford. Since this is her first choreographic work, she hopes the audience enjoys all the focus and energy she has poured into it. She would also like to thank her mother, Jill, and her grandmother, Ruth, for always driving her and encouraging her to reach her fullest potential in all aspects of life, especially in dance. Samantha hopes to choreograph again for the upcoming fall show and to continue her

journey as a dance educator with all the knowledge she has gained from her experiences.

Jennifer Muller (Guest Artist; October 16, 1944 - March 29, 2023) was a creative force in the modern dance world for over 50 years. After serving as Principal Dancer with the José Limón Company, and as Associate Artistic Director of the Louis Falco Dance Company, Muller founded Jennifer Muller/The Works (JMTW) in 1974. JMTW earned global recognition for its dynamic theatricality, virtuosity, and humanity- touring 39 countries on four continents, including a State Department tour of South and Central America. Muller also created and re-staged dance works for 26 international repertory companies, including Alvin Ailey, Tanz-Forum, Lyon Opera Ballet, Aterballetto, NDT, NDT3, and Introdans. She was known for her multi-disciplinary collaborations, working with iconic creative artists, including Keith Haring, Sandro Chia, Yoko Ono, Keith Jarrett, Tom Slaughter, Julia Kent, Burt Alcantara, and Marty Beller. Jennifer Muller believed passionately in the importance and power of live dance. She encouraged dancers, creatives, students and audiences to trust their humanity, deepen their imagination, and connect in a shared and potentially transformative experience. From this essential mission unfurled 50+ years of creativity and a monumental body of work that continues to reach countless people around the world. Learn more at jmtw.org.

Erica Nelson (Dance Faculty) is a classically trained dancer who received her BFA in Dance Performance with University Honors from The Hartt School, University of Hartford. She is pursuing her Master's in Arts Leadership and Cultural Management from Colorado State University. Erica has been teaching at Central since 2017 in the Dance Education Department as an adjunct faculty member and production manager. Her courses include Beginning and Intermediate Ballet, Beginning Modern, Dance History, and Dance Production and Administration. She also acts as the faculty advisor and Director of the student dance performance company, Dancentral. In addition to her educational and extracurricular leadership at the school, Erica works part-time as an assistant director in technical operations producing, directing, and stage-managing events at the university. When not at Central, she teaches dance at local studios in the private sector, stage manages for local and regional companies, and runs her own contemporary dance company, The END Ensemble, based out of Hartford.

Ilker Ozbelli (Dance Faculty) started ballroom training in his early teens in his native country, Turkey. Over the years, he trained with various teachers and dancers. He started to teach during his college years while studying mechanical engineering in Istanbul. After his master's degree in management information systems at CCSU, he decided to give ballroom dance a chance. He met Jonathan Stangel, joined the world of Arthur Murray, and the rest is history! Now, he is an experienced Ballroom Dance instructor with 20+ years of experience teaching students. He loves to teach and share his passion for dance. Annually rated

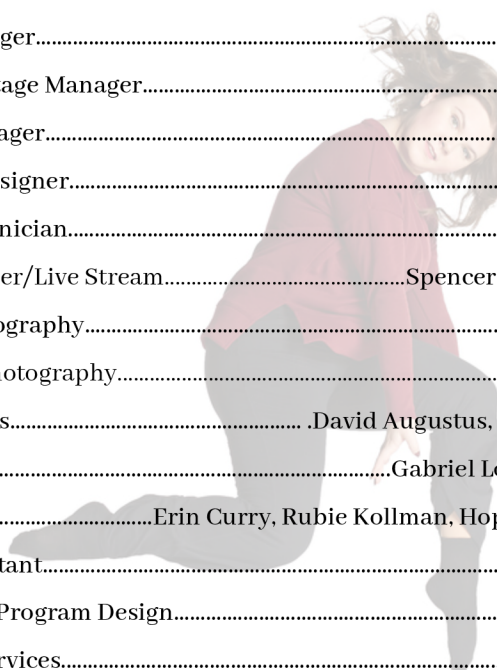
Arthur Murray International regional, local teachers top 10%, 2011 All star Top supervisor in Area 1, 2021, 2018, 2017, 2016, 2015, 2007 Open Rhythm winner in Arthur Murray CT Schools, 2011 All-Star Top Supervisor in Area 1. 2010 Rising Star Open Rhythm Finalist in Washington DC DOR (Dance-O-Rama). 2012 Rising Star Open Rhythm Quarter Finalist in Las Vegas Superama. 2018 Open Rhythm Semi-Finalist Washington DC DOR and Foxwood DOR.

Christine Sessa (Guest Choreographer) has been co-owner and artistic director of Morlock School of Dance in East Hartford for 19 years. Christine studied Dance Education at Eastern Connecticut State University, concentrating on modern and choreography. She danced with Mary Morlock from age 4 to 21, during which she received training from choreographers such as Frank Hatchett, Mia Michaels, and Rhonda Miller, traveling frequently to Boston and New York. While in college, she was part of a modern dance ensemble that performed at the 5x5 Dance Festival Showcase, the 2006 Dance Gala in Hartford, and the American College Dance Festival in Boston and Vermont. In 2020, she founded DooMSDay Dance Company as a creative outlet during COVID-19. She continues to bring her unique choreography to competitive dance. Throughout the years, she has received over 25 choreography awards, three Making the Impact awards, specialty awards, and acknowledgments. She continues to instill passion in her dancers and emphasizes the importance of storytelling through movement to create compelling moments in the classroom and on stage.

Garet Wierdsma (Guest Choreographer) is a dance artist from Northwest CT and the creator and director of the beloved professional contemporary dance company Garet&Co. Garet graduated with high honors from NYU Tisch, earning a BFA in Dance and a minor in Business in 2021. Her accolades include being named the Choreography Fellowship Recipient at Sacred Heart University in January 2022 and selected as a young choreographer for the Young Choreographers Festival 2022 in NYC. Garet's work has received invites to perform at numerous festivals and shows across the Northeast, including performances at the following prominent venues: Jacob's Pillow, Symphony Space, Ailey Citigroup Theatre, The Warner Theatre, Dixon Place, Chesterwood, and TADA Emerging Artist Theatre. When not directing, choreographing, or dancing professionally, Garet dedicates much of her time to education. She continually strives to improve herself for her students and to create environments where all dancers have agency, feel valued and respected, and can express themselves through the magic of dance.



Production Staff



Artistic Director.....	Pascal Rekoert
Technical Director.....	Erica Nelson
Technical Manager.....	Nicholas Barton
Student Managers.....	Emmanuel Carter, Gabriel Lorenzo
CRO Event Coordinator	Alexis Little
Dancentral Director.....	Erica Nelson
Stage Manager.....	Erica Nelson
Assistant Stage Manager.....	Marissa McPherson
House Manager.....	Latoya Walker
Lighting Designer.....	Megan O'Brien
Audio Technician.....	Davis Martin
Videographer/Live Stream.....	Spencer Raccio, CCSU Media Center
Event Photography.....	Michela Semenza
Program Photography.....	Jaqlin Medlock
Stage Hands.....	.David Augustus, Drew Coppola, Saahil Desai,Gabriel Lorenzo Reyes, and Nate Ruiz
Wardrobe.....	Erin Curry, Rubie Kollman, Hope Sennett, Samantha Storm
Props Assistant.....	Lucia Perez
Poster and Program Design.....	Pascal Rekoert
Printing Services.....	CCSU Copy Center
Ushers.....	Courtesy of CCSU Student Center

Dancentral E-Board

President.....	Marissa McPherson
Vice President.....	Taylor Clem
Treasurer.....	Emma Boothby
Secretary.....	Ashley Jones
Public Relations Officer.....	Neyleannie Franco
NHSDA Officer.....	Marilyn Tiul

A special thank you to the Dancentral committees for supporting the show!

CCSU Dance Education Options

Undergraduate Degree Programs

- Dance Education with a Specialization in Entrepreneurship, B.S.
- K-12 Dance Education, B.S.
- Dance Minor

Other Dance Teacher Certification Programs offered:

- Cross-Endorsement in Dance Teacher Certification (for CCSU students)
- Formal Pathway to Dance Teacher Certification (for working educators)

Dance Program Faculty

Pascal Rekoert - *Dance Education Program Director*

Catherine Fellows - *Emerita Dance Education Program Director*

Jennifer DelSanto - *Department Secretary*

Brianna Albanese & Ashley Caldeira - *Hip Hop*

Ashley Caldeira - *Beginner Tap, Intermediate Tap*

Cassandra Forsythe - *Yoga*

Stephen D. Hankey - *Principles of Choreography, Contemporary, Afro-Caribbean*

Lindsay Hansen - *Beginner & Intermediate Jazz Dance*

Ingrid Howe-Green - *Elementary Dance Methods, Modern Dance and Theory*

Erica Nelson - *Ballet, Modern, Dance Production, Dance History*

Ilker Ozbelli & Karrie Russell - *Ballroom*



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@dancentralCCSU





Special Thanks To

Dr. Zulma Toro, President

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Professor Emerita

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Interim Assistant Dean for Accreditation & Partnerships

The Welte Society, The Fox-Larkin-Judd Fund for the Performing Arts and SALD/
Dancentral for their fiscal support

Brian Nelson and Karis Bongiolatti for their creativity, support, and materials for the pre-show. The Casey-Nelson family for their hospitality in hosting the JMTW dancers.

