

Program Order

Land Acknowledgement

Lighting Designer: Matthew Cohen

Facilitator: Maya Chicueyi Ocelotl Diaz-Villalta

We invite you to please stand with Maya to face the four directions. We begin in the East, West, North, South. We end with looking up to Sky and bowing to Earth.

Title: *Sisterhood Rumba Andaluza*

Choreographer: CatherineMarie Davalos with the dancers

Lighting Designer: Matthew Cohen

Music: edited flute by Jorge Pardo, “Ar-Xapah” and “L'ambôccá” by Califato $\frac{3}{4}$

Dancers: Molly Buzanis, Katherine Mertel, Madison Roethler, Maggie Sepsey, Giuliana Sorbi, Holly Welpott

About the Piece: This group work is based on the powerful energy of Flamenco dancing and music to embrace sisterhood and the power of the collective energy of women.

Bio: **CatherineMarie Davalos** has been the Director of Dance at Saint Mary’s College for the past 24 years. She holds an MFA in Dance from CSU Long Beach and is certified in the Bill Evans pedagogy method. The Davalos Dance Company performs regularly in the Bay Area and also in Italy; their last work (pre-pandemic), *Borders, Spaces and Brown Eyes* marked the 25th anniversary performance. They look forward to touring to Italy again in 2022 and completing the “chocolate dance” by the end of this year. Davalos has been the recipient of grants from the National Endowment for the Arts and the Zellerbach Family Foundation.

Title: *La Bruja*

Choreographer: Rogelio Lopez

Lighting Designers: David Gaylord and Rogelio Lopez

Music: “La Bruja” by Conjunto Jardin

Dancers: Lindsey Aquino, Caitlynn Bennett, Tatyana Cordova, Andrea Diaz-Garcia, Maya Chicueyi Ocelotl Diaz-Villalta, Emily Espinosa, Andrio Jordan Fong, Ashley Hernandez, Alexa Janezell, Imelda Jimenez, Alyssa Plummer

Videographers: Jordan Alvarez, Heather Michelle Bennett, David Gaylord

Film Editor: David Gaylord

About the Piece: *La Bruja* is a folk story about a witch and a typical song of the *son jarocho* style. It has sorrowful yet playful characteristics and is from the port city of Veracruz, Mexico. It

blends Indigenous, Spanish, and African elements and unique instrumentation that sounds as expressive and off-beat as its lyrics.

Bio: Rogelio Lopez is a dancer, dance instructor, choreographer, costume, lighting, and scenic designer. He earned his MFA in Dance at California State University Long Beach in 2005 and graduated with honors. Since then, he has been guest faculty at universities and colleges throughout the country. Rogelio is an Associate Professor and serves as the Director for the MFA in Dance program at Saint Mary's College of California. He teaches ballet folklórico, modern dance and several design classes for grads and undergrads. Rogelio is the director/choreographer of his own company, Rogelio Lopez & Dancers, which has performed in the Bay Area since 2015.

Title: *Bloom Where You Are Planted*

Choreographer: Dana Lawton

Lighting Designer: Matthew Cohen

Music: "Surf Rider" by The Lively Ones, "Cachito" and "Flower Girl" by Juan Garcia Esquivel

Dancers: Anna Burke, Jenny Rinefort, Kara Townsend, Sophia Warren

About the Piece: *Bloom Where You Are Planted* celebrates taking stock and relishing being where you are with people you love.

Bio: Dana Lawton began teaching part-time at SMC in 1998; she is now Full Professor and Chair of the Performing Arts Department. Dana holds an MFA in Choreography from Mills College and a BFA in Dance from California Institute of the Arts. Artistic Director of Dana Lawton Dances, a multi-generational modern dance company, her work has been performed locally, nationally, and internationally since 2007. She was awarded 'Outstanding Performer' in the Vision Series 2000 and nominated for an Isadora Duncan Award for her work with Janice Garrett (Garrett+Moulton) in 2002. Dana is a passionate teaching artist who brings effervescent joy and a sense of deep appreciation to all facets of her work and life.

Title: *Reflected/Refracted*

Choreographer: Zaquia Mahler Salinas

Lighting Designer: Nature

Music: "Everything I Need" by Geminelle

Dancers: Kathy Barajas, Caitlynne Bennett, Carmen Cortez, Andrio Jordan Fong, Olivia Gutierrez, Kiana Kwong, Alyssa Ly, Noelle Tham

Videographers: Dancers

Film Editor: Zaquia Mahler Salinas

About the Piece: Through danced and spoken call-and-response, *Reflected/Refracted* is an exploration of connection and community across distances and screens.

Bio: DISCO RIOT Artistic Director, **Zaquia Mahler Salinas** is a live performance and dance film artist from San Diego, CA. She obtained her BA in Dance from UC Santa Barbara (2011), and her MFA in Dance: Creative Practice at Saint Mary's College of California (2017). She is currently serving as dance faculty at San Diego City College and the Coronado School for Creative and Performing Arts. As a choreographer, Zaquia has presented dance works throughout California, Texas, Peru and Mexico. Zaquia has participated in various residency programs, including an artist and teaching residency in Bethlehem, Palestine with Diyar Dance Theatre in 2019. As a teacher, artist, director and practitioner, she works to promote expressive embodiment as creative reclamation, healing, and resistance.

Title: *A Dense Exploration*

Choreographer: Crystaldawn Bell

Lighting Designer: Matthew Cohen

Music: "Why Didn't You Save Me" by Nicolas Jaar

Dancers: Anna Burke, Molly Buzanis, Carolina Celis, Katherine Mertel, Emily Mootz, Jenny Rinefort, Madison Roethler, Maggie Sepsey, Kara Townsend, Holly Welpott

Bio: Crystaldawn earned her BFA from California Institute of the Arts. Since relocating to the Bay Area, she has worked with Labayen Dance/SF, Anne Bluethenthal and Dancers, Stranger Lover Dreamer, Paufve Dance, Nina Haft & Co, Todd Eckert, and ODC. She received an Isadora Duncan Award (Izzie) for Outstanding Achievement in Performance-Ensemble for her performance in Eckert's duet "First Stab at Closure" and has been nominated on two other occasions for Outstanding Performance-Individual. Crystaldawn was recognized as a Refinery 29: 30 under 30 and was the recipient of the Aninstantia Grant. She is currently working with Robert Moses' Kin, Post: Ballet, Margaret Jenkins Dance Company, and ahdanco. Crystaldawn loves teaching and is on faculty at Saint Mary's College of California, Shawl-Anderson Dance Center, and ODC.

Intermission

Title: *Courage*

Choreographer: Pope Flyne

Lighting Designer: Matthew Cohen

Composer and Master Drummer: Pope Flyne

Dancers: Carolina Celis, Ella Dotson, Allie Drikas, Olivia Rose Grimes, Alexa Janezell, Samantha Kennedy, Alyssa Plummer, Elena Prisco, Claire Roberts

About the Piece: “Courage is the master of Fear not the absence of it.” These lovely Dance Warriors express their courage in the art form of dance to express their courageous dreams to heal the world. This dance of courage is evidence that Movement is Life.

Bio: **Pope Flyne (PAUL SF ACKAH)** has taught at many Bay Area schools and colleges including Kaiser, Piedmont Avenue, Joaquin Miller and Thornhill Public Elementary Schools, UC Berkeley, Mills College, New College of San Francisco, University of Creation, Saint Mary's College and many more. His dance troupe presenting Nzimah Dance, KUNDUM, was the first African Dance troupe to perform at Disneyland.

Title: *Here*

Choreographer: Elizebeth Randall Rains in collaboration with the dancers

Lighting Designer: The sun

Music: “There’s a Light” licensed from Beautiful Chorus, A LOVE IN THE WORLD PUBLISHING (BMI)

Dancers: Madeline Bird, Trinity Boykin, Sophia Courtemarche, Maya Chicueyi Ocelotl Diaz-Villalta, Emily Mootz, Elena Prisco, Eesha Shah, Willa Clare Truby, Sophia Warren

Videographers: Dancers and friends/family

Film Editor: David Gaylord

Bio: Elizebeth Randall Rains is an adjunct professor at Saint Mary’s College of California and a faculty member at Shawl-Anderson Dance Center. Her pedagogy is centered around embodiment, mindfulness, and community. She earned an MFA in Dance Performance and Choreography from NYU’s Tisch School of the Arts and a BA in Dance from San Francisco State University. Elizebeth is the grateful mama of two magical little ones who guide her daily through the trees.

Title: *Una Carta Para Mi Madre (A Letter For My Mother)*

Choreographer: Rogelio Lopez in collaboration with the dancers

Lighting Designer: Matthew Cohen

Music: “Salento” by Rene Aubry

Dancers: Carmen Cortez, Angelina Fleming, Olivia Rose Grimes, Samantha Kennedy, Alyssa Plummer, Cierra Taylor, Macy Yu

About the Piece: This dance comes as an altar for my mom. Since work and life have not allowed me time to properly honor her, I am choreographing pieces, including this one, to honor her life, love, and presence on this earth.

Bio: **Rogelio Lopez** is a dancer, dance instructor, choreographer, costume, lighting, and scenic designer. He earned his MFA in Dance at California State University Long Beach in 2005 and graduated with honors. Since then, he has been guest faculty at universities and colleges throughout the country. Rogelio is an Associate Professor and serves as the Director for the MFA in Dance program at Saint Mary's College of California. He teaches ballet folklórico, modern dance and several design classes for grads and undergrads. Rogelio is the director/choreographer of his own company, Rogelio Lopez & Dancers which has performed in the Bay Area since 2015.

Title: *...If Only For A Moment...*

Choreographer: Micah Sallid

Lighting Designer: Ian Robertson

Music: "Let's Face The Music and Dance" - Nat King Cole

Dancers: Olivia Gutierrez, Hannah Holt, Rochelle Demelo, Isa Madath

Videographer: David Gaylord

Film Editor: David Gaylord

About the Piece: During complicated times, let us take a moment to let go, breathe, smile, and enjoy in the form of tap, if only for a moment.

Bio: **Micah Sallid** is a Los Angeles native who began studying with Arlene Kennedy Universal Dance Design at 17 months old and danced with the Kennedy Tap Company. She moved to Atlanta, GA for her high school years and danced for Decatur City Dance in their Apprentice Ensemble ballet/jazz company and Junior Rhythm Keepers tap company. For three years, she was an intern in choreography with the Broadway Dreams Foundation and toured multiple cities. In May 2019 Micah graduated from Saint Mary's College with a BA in Dance and a minor in Women & Gender Studies. Within her college career she received the Louis LeFevre Award and two of her choreographed pieces represented Saint Mary's College at ACDA, including her senior thesis. Micah is currently performing with the Bay Area Tap company La Mezcla, Modern company Davalos Dance Company, and teaching in the East Bay.

Title: *"I'll be dancing when..."*

Choreographer: Shaunna Vella

Lighting Designer: Matthew Cohen

Music: T.Rex "Cosmic Dancer", sound score Alex Cox

Dancers: Madeline Bird, Molly Buzanis, Sophia Courtemarche, Emily Mootz, Alyssa Plummer, Jenny Rinefort, Madison Roethler, Kara Townsend, Sophia Warren, Holly Welpott

Videographer: David Gaylord

Film Editor: David Gaylord

About the Piece: A tribute to our courageous seniors, who led our program as artistic ambassadors through this difficult and tumultuous year with brilliance and grace. This dance film and live performance is an archive offering both a moment of reflection and forward visioning as they depart from the college and into their futures.

Bio: **Shaunna Vella** is a choreographer, performer, teacher and activist that has created work in the Bay Area for over 20 years. Her performance work and academic scholarship is an interdisciplinary praxis of queer performance, dance and embodiment, and Performance Studies. She is the Director of the LEAP (Liberal Education for Arts Professionals) Program and an Associate Adjunct Professor in the Performing Arts Department, as well as faculty at Shawl-Anderson Dance Center. She is the co-director of Stranger Lover Dreamer and Vella & Merrell Dance. Her choreography and performance installations have been seen at Counterpulse, ODC Theater, Dance Mission Theater, Shawl-Anderson Dance Center, The Garage, Studio 210, Ashby Stage, The Flightdeck, Temescal Arts Center, as well as open spaces and unexpected corners. She holds an MFA in Dance: Creative Practice and BS in Psychology and Performing Arts: Dance from Saint Mary's College.