

APPlause!

K-12 Performing Arts Series

Best of the Appalachian Dance Ensemble

For Grades K - 12 and Family Audiences

Curriculum Connections: Dance, Choreography, College life & preparation



Department of Theatre and Dance

APPALACHIAN STATE UNIVERSITY

The Best of the Appalachian Dance Ensemble APPlause! Concert

WHAT TO EXPECT

This virtual best-of showcase from Appalachian State University's Department of Theatre and Dance features six works from faculty choreographers, danced by App State Students. All of the work was created and recorded between 2006 and 2019 and highlights modern dance, tap dance, and dance of the African diaspora.

While ballet is the dance form that is generally most familiar to the public, most of what you will see falls into the genre of "modern dance." Modern dance is essentially an American art form that spans the 20th and 21st Century. Although the roots of modern dance are primarily associated with the United States it now exists all around the world. This dance form originally came about as a rebellion against the status quo. At the turn of the 20th Century, early modern dancers were primarily rebelling against the art form of ballet.

Modern dance can be an expression of inner feelings for both the dancer and choreographer. It can reflect current cultural and social change while serving as a vehicle for reflecting the personal opinions/ideas of the choreographer. It is often done in bare feet, presenting an abstraction of a story or mood, and uses a variety of movements that move beyond ballet vocabulary. Today modern dance also can exist as a fusion dance form with other dance or movement practices including but not limited to African Dance, ballet and tap dance. You will see a few of those pieces in this showcase.



Photo: Lynn Willis

PROGRAM

Plume (excerpts, 2006)

Choreographer: Marianne Adams in collaboration with dancers

Music: Rene Aubry, Serge Houppin, Henry Torque

Lighting Designer: John Marty

Costume Designer: Sue Williams

Bio: **Marianne Adams** holds an MA in Clinical Psychology from Appalachian State University and an MFA in Choreography and Performance from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro. As a dance professor, she has coordinated the Dance Studies honors program, the dance program, directed the Appalachian Dance Ensemble, and has received numerous grants in support of her choreographic and scholarly work. She continues to teach in dance, expressive arts, and somatic sustainability.

Tiny Potato on a Train (2016)

Choreographer: Cara Hagan in collaboration with the dancers

Lighting Designer: John Marty

Bio: **Cara Hagan** is an interdisciplinary artist whose practice is informed by movement, words, digital space, contemplative practice, and community. Ms. Hagan has the pleasure of sharing her artistic pursuits across the United States and abroad. She is an Associate Professor in the Department of Theatre and Dance.

Yantra (excerpts, 2013)

Choreography by Emily Daughtridge,

Music by Binod Katuwal, "Flute Meditation" from *Relaxation and Meditation* 2007; A.R. Rahman, "Chanchan" from *Water* 2005; MC Yogi, "Pilgrimage" from *Pilgrimage* 2012.,

Lighting Design by John Marty

Costume Design by Sue Williams

Bio: **Emily Daughtridge** is a Professor of Dance Studies at Appalachian State University. She earned her M.F.A. in Dance Performance from The Ohio State University and B.F.A. in Choreography and Performance, B.A. in Studio Art, and minor in Art History from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro. She is a certified, registered yoga teacher by the national organization, Yoga Alliance.

Another Country (excerpts, 2016)

Choreographer: Sherone Price, with collaboration with the dancers

Music: Amadou Kouyate, "African River" and "Akua Femi"; Otis Redding, "Just One More Day"

Lighting Designer: John Marty

Costume Designers: Sherone Price and Sue Williams

Bio: Sherone Price is an associate professor of dance studies in Appalachian State's Department of Theatre and Dance, where he also serves as Dance Director of the Diyé African Dance and Drum Ensemble. He received his dance training at North Carolina Central University, Duke University, and the American Dance Festival (ADF). He earned his BFA from the University of North Carolina-Greensboro and his MFA from Hollins University/American Dance Festival.

Tenuous Liaisons and Assorted Sundries (excerpts, 2011)

Choreographer: Laurie Atkins in collaboration with the dancers

Music: “Pathetique” by Andrew Bird, “La Noyee 2” by Tetes Raides & Yann Tiersen,
“Kommienezuspadt” by Tom Waits, “Two of Us” by the Beatles

Lighting Designer: Tim Snyder

Costume Designer: Sue Williams

Assistant Costume Designer: Billie Pierce

Bio: Laurie Atkins is an Associate Professor in the Department of Theatre and Dance. She was a core faculty member for the Now & Next Dance Mentoring Project from 2010-2015. She received her M.F.A. in Dance Performance from Ohio State University and has worked for a variety of artists/companies as a performer and collaborator.

Cirque de la Reine (excerpts, 2014)

Choreographers: Laurie Atkins, Regina Gulick, Rebecca Keeter

Music: Queen

Lighting Designer: John Marty

Costume Designer: Sue Williams

Bios: Laurie Atkins is an Associate Professor in the Department of Theatre and Dance. Regina Gulick is a senior lecturer and also serves as the department’s ballet specialist. Rebecca Keeter is a retired senior lecturer in the department.

THE ELEMENTS OF DANCE

The elements of dance are combined and used in a variety of ways by choreographers, people who make dances. It can be helpful to think about the elements of dance as you watch a performance.

Space: The directions or points in space that the dancer indicates with their body through movement. The area of space occupied by the dancer’s body, includes personal and general space, direction, size, pathways, levels, and shapes.

Time: The relationship of one movement or part of a movement to another. Includes pulse, speed (or tempo), duration, rhythm, and phrases.

Energy: The degree of muscular tension and use of force applied by a dancer while moving.

HOW TO APPROACH THE VIEWING EXPERIENCE

Experiencing live dance is very special because it is an ephemeral art form, meaning that it lives for a very short time. It is possible to record the moment of dance by videotaping, and you can watch a video of a dance, but it will never be quite the same as seeing the dance live. However, because COVID has made watching recordings of dance the primary way we can view and see it, at least temporarily, we think that watching virtual performances it is the next best thing!

Watching dance is a very personal viewing experience. Your opinion or experience watching a dance might be quite different from a friend or classmate. This is partly what makes dance so much fun to observe. The choreographer may have a specific message or idea that he/she is trying to express, but as an audience member you have the freedom to make your own meaning out of what you see on stage. Usually modern dance will not follow a specific storyline. Modern dance can be serious, funny, sad, emotional, absent of emotion, happy, and the list could go on and on. You may have a memory triggered by something you observe on stage or you might feel the desire to move and dance in your seat. Pay attention to how your body responds to the movement you see and the music you hear.



Photos: Lynn Willis



APPlause!

K-12 Performing Arts Series

Enriching lives, sparking imaginations, and inspiring a love of learning through the arts!

Arts education and outreach programming at Appalachian is committed to connecting university arts resources to a diverse audience of community arts patrons, teachers and learners in the campus community, and in the public, private and home school network across our region. In doing so, the series strives to broaden and deepen arts experiences for audiences of all ages, while ensuring access to the arts for young audiences, building future audiences for the arts, and inspiring a love of learning through the arts.

Every season, affordable music, dance, film, and theatre events are offered to students and their teachers from K-12 classrooms across the region. Students experience everything from high-energy acrobatics and Appalachian music to international dance and literary classics brought to life through theatrical productions. In recent seasons, more than 8,000 students across our region have attended APPlause Series events.

This academic year, the APPlause! Series will be completely virtual and completely free, offering compelling programming to connect to K-12 classrooms, thanks in large part to generous donors who believe in supplying educators with arts programming that will spark creativity and inspire a love of learning.

*Chuck
and Anna
Eyer*

PEAK
GROUP.INSURE

*Steve
and Sue
Chase*

