GONZAGA DANGE



SPRING 2023



GONZAGA DANCE FACULTY & STAFF

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Associate Professor; Dance Director Robert and Marion Oster Endowed Chair of Dance

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Assistant Director of Dance

Nola Petrucelly, PT, LMT

Consultant, Physical Therapist

Leslie Stamoolis, MFA

Associate Professor, Theatre Director

Phil Male, MFA

Production Manager

Kim Heide

Costume Shop Manager

Charlie Monte

Technical Director

Happy New Year!

This past year I was invited by the Seattle International Dance Festival to curate their Spotlight on Seattle Concert in the hopes of finding good guest artists for our residencies. It was quite an honor, and after vetting the applications, I chose four companies to present. From that concert, we selected Ashley Menestrina to join us in September. Our students got to perform her work sharing a split bill with Contemporary Company, Ririe-Woodbury for our Dance Presents! concert in November. More information inside, but the partnership with such organizations reap wonderful benefits for the students, faculty, and our whole program.

You will get to read more about our Dance Science and Wellness Lab, but I also wanted to mention the incredible game changer that was taking over the Dance Annex (previously Human Phys. Building). Between these two buildings, we now have three studios, offices for faculty, and meeting spaces to meet the needs of this ever-growing program. As evidence, this spring we will graduate 15 seniors (7 majors and 8 minors)!

Please stay involved with Gonzaga Dance, as there are so many ways....attend concerts, donate to the endowment, travel with us to Florence in June, read the newsletter and share with a friend!

-Suzanne Ostersmith









Professionals Make an Impact

Ashley Menestrina, a Seattle-based professional choreographer, was selected by Suzanne, at the Seattle International Dance festival, to be our Fall Guest Artist. Menestrina set choreography on the Gonzaga University Repertory Dance Company, and with support from Faculty Director, CarliAnn Bruner, GURDC performed along side Ririe-Woodbury Dance Company, a professional company from Utah, in our annual Dance Presents! concert supported by the Dance Endowment.

Future looks Bright

We welcomed 88 first year students into dance classes this fall, and 34 are interested in majoring or minoring, our biggest class yet! Faculty, Pam Erickson, led a group of students in a course to help them get the most out of the Dance program during their first semester. Nine first year dancers were also selected by faculty to work with Suzanne as dance was invited to be a part of Gonzaga Choir's Candlelight Christmas Concert.





Enrich with Guest Artists

In addition to previously mentioned Ashley Menestrina, the students were also exposed to Mexican Folklorico and traditional Mexican masks with Felipe Horta, Bharatanatyam, a traditional dance from India, with Devika Gates, and Hip Hop with GU Community member Christina Thomas. We also hosted the Dance Educators of Eastern Washington fall conference where dance educators and students participated in a weekend of workshops and lectures on rest, recovery, and resiliency.

<u>Pedagogy in Action</u>

Strategies for Dance Instruction, the course that teaches Zagdance, an afterschool dance program for 4th and 5th graders of local Title I schools, had its biggest class yet with 14 GU students and almost 50 ZagDancers. Pedagogy students are required to take Applied Dance Field Instruction in the Spring where local studios become part of the classroom. Meanwhile, dozens of students are teaching in local studios and for our Boundless Dance classes.

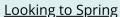




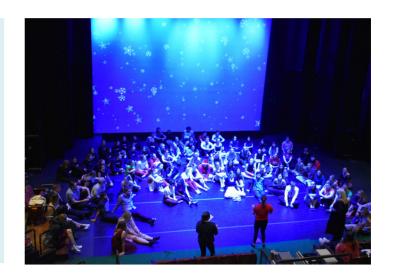


New Faces and Spaces

We were so excited to open our new Dance Science and Wellness lab in the Theatre Dance Studios. We hired Nola Petrucelly, a local Physical Therapist, to work with dancers a couple hours per week. This Spring, she'll be holding weekly drop in hours, giving guest lectures in dance courses, and be available around productions. Dance major, Kate Millet ('24), is shadowing Nola as she prepares to apply to PT School.



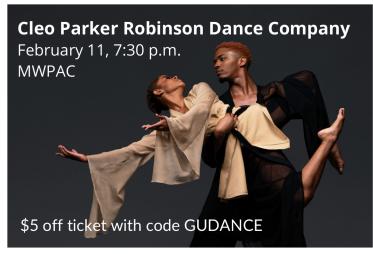
Spring highlights we are looking forward to include student directed Musical Theatre Dance Revue at the end of January and our annual valentines programming, this year titled Celebrate EveryBODY! This year's week of body acceptance programming will feature a performance from professional company, Cleo Parker Robinson Dance and our annual Screendance film festival where two companies, preparing for ACDA will showcase the choreography they will be taking to the University of Utah for our first ACDA trip since we hosted in 2020.





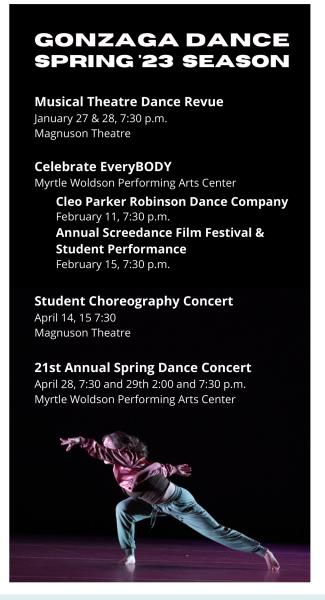












There are multiple funds to contribute to the momentum of Gonzaga Dance at this time. Suzanne Ostersmith Dance Endowment supports world class professional experiences for our students, while other funds can be spent at the director's discretion on enhancing student experiences.

Please consider giving and talking to Suzanne about how you can make an impact. Email dance@gonzaga.edu for information on making a donation or visit us online at gonzaga.edu/dance.