



SPRING SENIOR THESIS DANCE CONCERT

(un)doing to (be)come

A virtual experience exploring the meaning of transformation from four different perspectives.

NEW WORKS BY
Zachary Farnsworth
Alla Kiperman
Katerina Ramos-Jordán
Shirley Sullivan

Saturday, April 10, 2021 at 1pm EST
YouTube Live

CENTER FOR THE ARTS
Wesleyan University
Middletown, Connecticut
www.wesleyan.edu/cfa

PROGRAM

**Welcome to (un)doing to (be)come, featuring the dance department's 2021 senior cohort:
Zach Farnsworth, Shirley Sullivan, Katerina I. Ramos-Jordán, and Alla Kipperman.
Thank you for joining us. Enjoy the show!**

Please join us for a Q&A with the choreographers after the performance.

Composting Community

Video Composition and Conception: Zach Farnsworth, Chelsie McPhilimy

Videography: Zach Farnsworth, Chelsie McPhilimy

Video Editor: Chelsie McPhilimy

Participants: Annie Kidwell, Sarah Norden, Katerina Ramos-Jordán, Gabrielle Baba-Conn, Lauren Stock, Maya Gomberg, Liz Woolford, Nicole Allina, Eleya Scarbro, Red Wigglers, Squash and Red Pepper Seedlings

Music: Algorithms by Chad Crouch, Moss by Arastoo (*sourced from freemusicarchive.org*)

This video is the story of exploring the metaphor and act of composting in ecology, philosophy, meditation, dance and community. This is part of the first step in designing a community center that I hope to bring into existence. This is also documenting what it has been like to write a dance and philosophy thesis during a pandemic.

Special thanks to Susan Lourie and Elise Springer, my thesis advisors. Thanks to Katja Kolcio, Hari Krishnan, Joya Powell, Doug Elkins, and the dance thesis cohort for support, inspiration, and courage during this process. Thank you Chelsie McPhilimy for co-making this film with me; wouldn't have been possible without you. Finally to my friends, partner and parents who have been incredibly excited and supportive throughout this whole process.

overcome

Choreography/Artistic Director: Shirley Sullivan

Dancers: Pamela Gomez, Keren Lebron Ramos, and Shirley Sullivan

Videography: Shirley Sullivan and Chelsie McPhilimy

Light Design: Chelsie McPhilimy

Interviewees: Anon. 1 and Anon. 2

Sound: "Joyful Ignorance" by John Dankwa, Anon. 1 Interview, "Inner State" by John Dankwa w/beats from "Derelict" by Minimum Syndicat, "Echoing Silence" by John Dankwa supplemented w/Anon. 2 Interview, "Nanfoulen" arranged by Jocelyn Pleasant

When trapped in a system that is designed to keep people revolving instead of rehabilitating, how can one be expected to break the cycle? Through collaboration with two previously incarcerated individuals, 'overcome' brings forth the realities of the justice system in America and the damage it causes on people, their families, and society.

Special thanks to my advisor and mentor Joya Powell for helping bring clarity to my work, Chelsie McPhilimy and Suzanne Sadler for providing me with the advice and resources to bring my vision to life. Further thanks to Anon. 1 and Anon. 2 for sharing their personal experiences that deeply inspired this work. I only hope more will learn about their stories. Lastly, thank you to my closest friends for their continued support, and the largest thanks to my family for believing in my work as an artist.

desembocando

Choreographed, directed, and edited by: Katerina I. Ramos-Jordán

Dancers: Katerina I. Ramos-Jordán, cows from Cayey

Camera Operator/ Collaborator: Claudia Ramos-Jordán

Sound: Katerina I. Ramos-Jordán field recordings in Ocean Park beach, Trujillo Alto, and Charca Barrigona. Excerpts from a conversation with Don Félix from Río Grande, and Fred Moten's lecture "Manic Depression: a Poetics of Hesitant Sociology" at the University of Toronto. Citation of Édouard Glissant's essay "The Black Beach."

Desembocando is a 14 minute-long experimental performance video that is composed of footage from my ongoing improvisation and site-specific movement practice which uses dance, sound recording, and film to deconstruct, listen, and imagine beyond the eroded histories of colonialism and anti-blackness within ecological sites in Puerto Rico. This film dwells in the poetic and spiritual space of desembocaduras, the murky waters where the river ends and meets the ocean.

I extend my deep gratitude to my advisors, Professor Iddri Saaka and Professor Ren Ellis Neyra. Special thanks to the folks that collaborated with me along this journey through conversation and critical responses: Alejandra Ramos Riera, Sarina Hanh, Jumoke McDuffie, Gisselle Yeppes, Ailey Verdelle, and Professor John Hulsey. Gracias to my teachers and mentors in Cuba, where this project started brewing: Maggie Mateo and Natividad Chivas. A special shout out to the rooted support of the Dance Department, especially to Katja Kolcio, Hari Krishnan, Joya Powell, and Shamel Pitts. To my dear senior cohort, for their support and cheers for persevering amidst this strange and difficult time. To my family, forever. To my fellow nature adventures without whom I could have not done this without: Jerika for showing me the magic of rock climbing outside, Rey, the guardian of El Hippie, for teaching me how to trust my feet and speak to rocks, and most of all to my soul friends Mari Isabel, Jorge, and my sister Claudia, for our cosmic encounters in rivers, in which this film emerged from.

A Portrait of Jenny

Choreography, performance and video editing: Alla Kiperman

Music: "Tango con Leche" Sam Bikov

"How to Tango" Arthur Benson

"Silverware (Instrumental)" Katnip

"Concert Tango" Sam Bikov

"Afternoon in Funchal" Howard Harper-Barnes

"Juliana" Nylonia

"Stuck in Notre Dame" Trabant 33 *

Jenny is a character from "The Threepenny Opera" ("Die Dreigroschenoper") by Bertolt Brecht. In this version, Jenny lives for the cabaret stage and is dangerously in love with "Mac the Knife." The rest shall be history...

**Disclaimer: the original version was choreographed to Kurt Weill's music from "The Threepenny Opera," however due to copyright restrictions, this is the adapted public streaming version that you will be viewing today.*

Special thanks to my wonderful advisor Professor Patricia Beaman for constantly inspiring me, Justin Luchter for helping me with the music, my incredible mom for filming the project from start to end, and the entire Dance Department at Wesleyan University for their continued support and advice!

Please join us for a Q&A with the choreographers after the performance.

PROGRAM

TECHNICAL CREW/PRODUCTION

Stream Manager: Annie Kidwell

Chat Monitor: Christian Denny

Video Operator: Pamela Gomez

Production Designer and Dance Dept. Technical Director: Chelsie McPhilimy

CFA Technical Director: Suzanne Sadler

CFA Technical Associate: Joseph Fonseca

Dance Production Coordinator: Shirley Sullivan

CFA Assistant Director for Programs: Hanna Oravec

Technical Support: Nathan Baron Silvern, Sierra Cervantes, Matthew Cross, Miranda Derossi, Sam Driver, Sam Harris, Adam Kielbasa,

Zoë Paglia, Luciel Sanchez, Emma Singleton

DANCE DEPARTMENT FACULTY/STAFF

Pedro Alejandro, Associate Professor of Dance (on leave)

Patricia Beaman, Artist-in-Residence

Milka Djordjevich, Visiting Assistant Professor of Dance

Doug Elkins, Visiting Associate Professor of Dance

Maho Ishiguro, Visiting Assistant Professor of Dance

Katja Kolcio, Associate Professor of Dance/Director of the Allbritton Center

Hari Krishnan, Professor of Dance/*Chair*

Chelsie McPhilimy, Technical Director, Dance

Michele Olerud, Administrative Assistant

Marcela Oteiza, Associate Professor of Dance

Joya Powell, Visiting Assistant Professor

Iddi Saaka, Assistant Professor of Dance

Nicole Stanton, Provost & Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs/Professor of Dance

CENTER FOR THE ARTS STAFF

Rani Arbo: Campus and Community Engagement Manager

Kyle Beaudette: Assistant Director of Events and Ticketing

Jennifer Calienes: Interim Director

Charles Carroll: Assistant Technical Director/Scenery Specialist

Benjamin Chaffee: Associate Director, Visual Arts

Andrew Chatfield: Director, Arts Communication

Fiona Coffey: Associate Director for Programming and Performing Arts

Jennifer Diglio: Accounting Specialist

John Elmore: Art Director

Joseph Fonseca: Technical Associate

Drew Gray: General Manager

Tony Hernandez: Assistant Technical Director

Rosemary Lennox: Exhibitions Manager and ICPP Program Manager

Ariana Molokwu: Associate Producer, Antiracism Arts Initiative

Hanna Oravec: Assistant Director for Programs

Robert Russo: Assistant Technical Director/Sound and Video Specialist

Suzanne M. Sadler: Technical Director/CFA Theater Manager

UPCOMING EVENTS

CYNTHIA NOVACK LECTURE:

PRESENTER: PATRICIA BEAMAN, ARTIST IN RESIDENCE, DANCE

Aristocratic Posturing: Presenting the "Other" in French Baroque Ballet.

We will be celebrating her book, *World Dance Cultures: From Ritual to Spectacle*

Thursday, April 22, 2:50 – 4:20 PM, Zoom link via CFA reservation

SPRING FACULTY DANCE CONCERT

Presents a triple bill:

Iddi Saaka, *Assistant Professor of Dance* will be presenting his new solo work, *Letting Go to Move On*

Doug Elkins, *Visiting Associate Professor in Dance* will present his new work, **Qualia**, featuring Wesleyan students and faculty and **WesDANCE/WeDANCE** - a video-dance tribute created by Wesleyan dance alumni with

original music by Jace L'Arouet '21

Saturday, May 1, 7:00 PM, A virtual premiere via CFA Reservation

SPRING WORLDS OF DANCE CONCERT

A virtual concert featuring students in Afro-Brazilian, Bharata Natyam, Hip Hop, Introduction to Dance and Javanese Dance.

Sunday, May 9, 1:00 PM, A virtual premiere via CFA Reservation

DANCE AS ACTIVISM VIRTUAL PERFORMATIVE ARTIVIST SHARINGS

Tuesday, May 11th, 5-6:15pm EST

Via Zoom (link tbA)

WEST AFRICAN DRUMMING AND DANCE CONCERT

Assistant Professor of Dance, Iddi Saaka, presents a virtual premiere of our West African Dance I and III with live drumming with John Dankwa and his students.

Friday, May 14, 7:00 PM, A Youtube premier with CFA Reservation

VIRTUAL RESERVATIONS:

Center for the Arts / Wesleyan University

Email: boxoffice@wesleyan.edu

Call: 860-685-3355

Website of information:

www.wesleyan.edu/cfa/boxoffice.html