

Slippery Rock University
Department of Dance

Newsletter

Fall 2021



SRU DANCE NEWS

THE 2020-2021 YEAR IN REVIEW

SRU Dance Theatre

SRUDT ventured into a digital format due to the nature of the Covid-19 pandemic. Twenty-eight students choreographed for the 2020 season of SRUDT and forty-three pieces were adjudicated (involving over sixty dancers) for the Fresh Moves Concert and the Emerging Choreographers Concert. Due to the virtual nature, audiences were able to attend the showings from anywhere in the world.

Faculty Student Research Grant

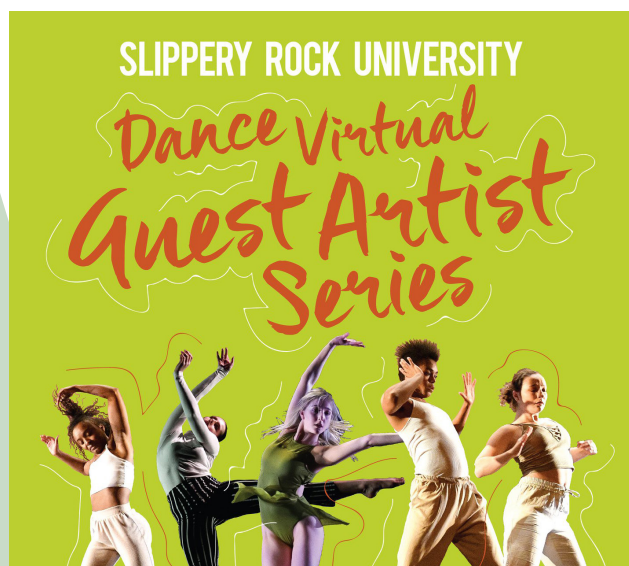
Jennifer Keller, first year students in Improvisation, and senior BFA major Kari Hoglund, met for four workshops with Dr. Nina Martin to explore her movement theories and frameworks called “Ensemble Thinking” and “Re-wire.” Viewable at <https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=278245337310135>

Melissa Teodoro and 7 dance majors were awarded the PASSHE Faculty-Student Research Grant to examine and re-construct the 18th century Colombian Andean dance, Bambuco Santafereno.

Virtual Guest Artist Series

Artists from around the world joined SRU students for virtual artist talks, feedback sessions, and master classes. Some of these artists were:

Ballet Trockadero
Sidra Bell
Archie Burnett
Simone Forti
Guanglei Hui
Wanjiru Kamuyu
Noemie LaFrance
Nina Martin
Karen Nelson



Cassidy Noblett
Staycee Pearl
Marta Renzi
Helen Simoneau
Attack Theatre
Rosie Trump
Cesar Valentino
Emily Wright
Tamara Williams



The 2021-2022

Year Ahead

33 Million Dollar Renovation

The Department of Dance moved into the 32-million-dollar renovation of the performing arts facilities on SRU's campus. Home to Dance and Theatre is the beautiful Pearl K. Stoner performing arts complex, renovated with two dance studios, a studio theater, and a black box theater. Adding to the two dance studios in Stoner are two state-of-the-art studios in Miller. All four studios have natural lighting and Harlequin sprung floors. A renovated 700+ seat theater with state-of-the-art dressing, rehearsal, and green rooms, as well

as a welcoming lobby will host SRU national and international performances.



Events & Happenings

Choreographer Residencies

Commissions by Teena Marie Custer and Cameron McKinney (Artistic Director of Kizuna Dance) provided dance majors with the opportunity to work closely with nationally renowned choreographers. Both dance pieces were performed in the Faculty and Guest Artist Concert on October 23, 2021.



Kizuna Dance Residency

SRU on Tour

Cleveland Dance Festival, OH (Nov 2021)

Participants: Reva Adams (2021), Taylor Andrekanic (2022), Katie Baughn (2024), Olivia Farmerie (2024), Isabel Farr (2022), Kari Hoglund (2021), Jennifer Keller (Faculty), Malena Maust (2018), Maddison Manolis (2018), Emilie Schuler (2018), Austin Shaffer (2023), Olivia Shirley (2022), Natalia Siles (2023), Skylar Smith (2022), Alison Vitale (2018), Kaitlyn Yankovich (2022).

St. Olaf College, MN (Oct 2021)

Taylor Andrekanic (2022), Kelvin Rodriguez (2022), and Skylar Smith (2022) assisted Professor Melissa Teodoro in a 5-day residency at St. Olaf College.



St Olaf Residency

Youngstown State University - Hispanic Cultural Celebration (Oct 2021)

Palenque: Colombian Dance Ensemble - cast of 2021-2022.

Open Air Dance Festival, Pittsburgh PA (May 2021)

Participants: Mollie Huey (2019), Jennifer Keller (Faculty), Malena Maust (2018), Maddison Manolis (2018), Olivia Nellis (2019), Emilie Schuler (2018), Alison Vitale (2018).

Palenque: Colombian Dance Ensemble

The Department of Dance touring company will perform in over 10 events throughout the academic year in the Western PA region. Seven of its members will travel to Cartagena, Colombia in May 2022 to assist professor Teodoro in the re-construction of a historic dance.



Palenque Colombian Dance Ensemble

American College Dance Association

Slippery Rock University will be the official venue for the Mid-Atlantic North region for the ACDA conference on March 16-19th. College students and programs from the region will participate in this event that will include performances, adjudicated sessions, master classes, and exchange among students from collegiate dance programs.

Accreditation Site Visit

Faculty are eager to welcome site visitors from the National Association of Schools of Dance in April, 2022.



BEA Dance Major Kaitlyn Falce shot by Ben Viatori

Faculty Spotlights

Nora Ambrosio wrote a chapter for the book “Dance Around the World” edited by Lynn Frederiksen and Shih-Ming Li Chang and published by Human Kinetics titled “Social Dance in the United States: Expression and Socialization.” She recently created a duet titled “This Way, That Way” shown at the 2021 Faculty and Guest Artist Dance Concert. Nora also completed her term as the President of the Board of Directors for the Lincoln Park Performing Arts Charter School. She continues to serve as a site visitor for the National Association of Schools of Dance and as a Presidential Appointee for the Commission on Accreditation.

Jesse Factor recently participated in the Spring 2021 Artist Cohort for Ideas in Motion, sponsored by the National Center for Choreography. Factor shared collaborative forms of devising for the 21st Century Dance Practice class series. Jesse also spoke about his history with the Martha Graham Dance Company and creative process on the “Inside the Dancers Studio” podcast. He currently enjoys continuing education through online classes in Zena Rommett Floor Barre, Dunham technique, and Gyrokinesis.

Andrew Hasenpflug had a virtually successful year. He created several works for video as well as several live streaming performances. Most notably, he won the Best Musical Score award from The Art of Brooklyn Film Festival 2021 for his contribution to the Helanius Wilkins / Roma Flowers film “Dirt”. He is also in the final stages of composing for the SRU / David Skeele horror film, “The Margins”.

Jennifer Keller began a three-year term as chair of the department, embarking with the faculty on an unprecedented year of teaching dance online, offering virtual concerts and a series of virtual guest artists. Having taught Dance Technology for years, the shift to film-making by all the students was an exciting one. Keller directed three films, including “Sweet Sense,” featuring Kari Hoglund (SRU class of 2021); “Pulse,” featuring students from her repertory course; and “Jade,” featuring BFA senior, Hannah Corey. In spring 2021, Keller hosted long-time collaborator, Dr. Nina Martin, for a faculty-student research grant.

Melissa Teodoro was invited as a guest lecturer and commissioned choreographer at St. Olaf University in Minnesota in the spring of 2021. She shared her knowledge about the history of Afro-Colombian dance and set the earthy and grounded “Seresese” on the St. Olaf dance company. She returned to St. Olaf for a second residency in fall 2021 assisted by 3 senior dance majors. Teodoro presented a research paper at the International Council of Traditional Music in the summer of 2021 titled, “Masculinity that emanates from under the skirt: The unveiling of female sexual abuse during the Spanish colonization in Colombia.”

Lindsay Viatori’s dance film SILKEN: EDGE (featuring alumna Tiffany Shrom) was selected for the 2020 Movies by Movers film festival at ADF, Pittsburgh Dance Week, and the Dance Exposure Festival for the Lehigh Valley Dance Exchange. Her research “Decolonizing the Classroom: A Framework for Ethical Jazz Dance Pedagogy” was presented at the International Conference on Arts in Society (Perth, Australia). She was also invited to serve on the Board of Directors for Helen Simoneau Danse.

Ursula Payne had a successful sabbatical leave over the 2020-2021 academic year. She was the movement director for “Obi Mbu” (2021) a 30-minute choreographed dance film by Mikael Owunna and Marques Redd that features illuminated Black dancers under a backdrop of ultraviolet light reenacting the emergence of the cosmos. She was an invited guest on three national and international podcast series related to her expertise as a dance artist, administrator, and educator. Her IRB (SRU) approved research project Exploring Dance Students’ Experiences with Blended Learning in Studio Based Dance Courses was accepted for presentation in the 2021 DSA Conference at Rutgers University. Payne also earned a certificate of completion from the Academy of Inner Science for completing 30 hours of online training in Principles of Collective Trauma Healing.

Jaya Mani trained 3 students to do their solo performance and dance concert (Arangetram) during the months of 2021. A group of her students performed for a religious festival conducted by Sri Venkateshwara Temple in Pittsburgh. Another group of her students performed at the India Independence Day Celebration in the Cathedral of Learning at the University of Pittsburgh.



Lindsay Viatori shot by Ben Viatori

Student Spotlights

Scholarships and Fellowships

Phi Kappa Phi Fellowship Award for Graduate Studies
Martha Dunkelberger (class of 2021)

Marjorie Stephenson Scholarship
Ericka Morton (class of 2024)

Lukasik Scholarship
Olivia Shirley (class of 2022)

Harry and Lorraine Ausprich Endowed Scholarship for the Arts
Reva Adams (class of 2021)
Karin Hoglund (class of 2021)

Graduates of the Late 60s Scholarship
Kali Booker (class of 2023)

Lucy Isacco Sack Scholarship for Academic Year
Natalia Siles (class of 2023)

Lucy Isacco Sack Scholarship for Diversity
Ericka Morton (class of 2024)
Andrés Ortiz (class of 2023)
Kelvin Rodriguez (class of 2022)
Austin Shaffer (class of 2023)
Natalia Siles (class of 2023)
Elena Turner (class of 2022)

Lucy Isacco Sack Spring Scholarship 2021
Sydney Lewis (class of 2024)
Rachel Male (class of 2023)
Riley Smith (class of 2021)

Lucy Isacco Sack Freshman/Transfer Scholarship
Olivia Blankenship (class of 2024)

Lucy Isacco Sack Intensive Program Scholarship
Katelin Baughn (class of 2024)

Grants

PASSHE Faculty and Student Research Grant
Skylar Smith (class of 2021)
Kathryn Eberhart (class of 2022)
Elena Turner (class of 2021)
Kelvin Rodriguez (class of 2021)
Faythe Lewis (class of 2021)
Ashlin Broody-Walega (class of 2021)
Andres Ortiz (class of 2023)
Faculty Sponsor: Melissa Teodoro

Creative Activities Grant
Taylor Andrekanic (class of 2022)
Faculty Sponsor: Lindsay Viatori
Olivia Barner (class of 2021)
Faculty Sponsor: Jennifer Keller



BFA Dance Major Laura Ardner shot by Ben Viatori



BFA Dance Major Kaitlin Yankovich shot by Ben Viatori



BFA Dance Major Anna DeRubeis shot by Ben Viatori

Alumni Circle

Lindsay (Zipparo) Barnhart, M.ED., graduated from SRU in 2014 earning degrees in Dance, Early Childhood Education, Special Education, as well as a Graduate level Autism Endorsement. Upon graduation, Lindsay was hired at Moon Area School District where she still teaches. She has additionally earned an M.ED in Reading Specialist and Literacy Coach Endorsement from SRU. She also completed her principal certification/first year of her doctorate degree from Point Park University last year. Lindsay teaches dance at Louise by Dance Ink LLC.

Melanie Calhoun, M.A., graduated from SRU in 2013 with a B.A. in Dance and Psychology. In 2016, she earned her M.A. in Clinical Mental Health Counseling from SRU. Melanie is now a Licensed Professional Counselor in the state of Virginia working with youth and their caregivers to support their mental health needs. Melanie is also a professional dancer with Company 360, a contemporary ballet company outside of DC, recently honored at the Kennedy Center, and soon to be featured on the CW network.

Kaitlyn Christensen Sacco, M.F.A., graduated from SRU in 2010 with a B.A. in Dance. After she earned an M.F.A. in Dance from Florida State University in 2014, she moved to NYC and was a company dancer with Megan Lynn Aerial Dance, apprentice with Ariel Rivka Dance, and a guest performer with iKada Contemporary Dance Co. She currently is a dance teacher at South Georgia Ballet, Adjunct Dance Professor at FSU, and Dance Coordinator, choreographer, and performer with the Camerata South Orchestra.

Carrie Langguth, M.F.A., graduated from SRU in 2015 with a B.A. in Dance and a B.S. in Exercise Science. She completed her M.F.A. in Contemporary Dance at Case Western Reserve University in 2018. Currently, Langguth is an instructor of dance at Kent State University and at Lakeland Community College where she is the Department Chairperson for the Physical Education department. Langguth also runs her own online group exercise program, Get Fit GET ONline, LLC.

Jessica Madden, M.F.A., graduated from SRU in 2012 with a B.A. in Dance and a B.S. in Elementary Education. Upon graduation, Jessica worked for five years for Hubbard Street Dance Chicago in their Education, Youth, Community, and Adaptive Dance Programs. In 2021, Jessica completed her M.F.A. in Choreography at The University of Iowa, and has focused her research on dance as a catalyst for human connection and empathy. In fall 2021, Jessica joined the faculty of St. Lawrence University as a Visiting Lecturer in Dance.

Ryan P. McMullen, M.F.A., graduated from SRU in 2015 with a B.A. in Dance. Ryan has presented choreographic works at Dixon Place, Dogtown Dance Theatre, Koresh Dance Festival, NewGrounds Dance Festival, among others. In 2018, Ryan received his M.F.A. in Dance from Florida State University and was a three-time recipient of the Men's Provost Scholarship. Ryan served as the Director of Dance at Louisburg College for three years, and danced with Elevate in Raleigh, NC. Ryan is currently a Visiting Professor at Bucknell University.

Abigail (Hewitt) O'Rourke, B.A., graduated from SRU in 2015 with a B.A. in Dance. Following graduation, Abigail moved to NYC where she performed as an apprentice for Bryn Cohn & Artists. Under the agency Total Talent Entertainment, she performed in fashion shows, music videos, and commercial events. During her time in New York, Abigail worked as an intern at Gibney Dance Center and Peridance Capezio Center. In 2018, Abigail became co-owner of the Sue Hewitt Dance Studio in Indiana, PA, a family business.

Mary (Regney) Sherman, B.A., graduated from SRU in 2014 with a B.A. in Dance. After graduation, she moved to NYC for one year and performed with Touch Theory Dance Project. She later moved to Chicago where she performed with BISI dance company at various events and was a teacher and director at All About Dance Chicago. Mary now resides in Ohio where she continues to share her love for teaching at the Nan Klinger Excellence in Dance School.

Sally Sherman, Ph.D., graduated from SRU in 1999 with a B.A. in Dance. She is now a professor in the Department of Health and Human Development at the University of Pittsburgh where her research focuses on the many health outcomes of yoga and meditation. After 15 years of working in dance, she obtained her M.S. in Health and Physical Activity, a M.Ed. in Teaching, and a Ph.D. in Exercise Physiology.

Nichelle Suzanne Strzepak B.A., graduated from SRU in 1999 with a B.A. in Dance. Following graduation, she was an adjunct dance instructor at Penn State's Altoona campus, and an Allied Motion dance company member. In 2002, Nichelle relocated to Texas, where she taught as adjunct faculty at Lone Star College. She has performed with Suchu Dance and appears in several dance films by Frame Dance Productions. In 2008, she launched DanceAdvantage.net, a blog covering all things related to dance training and instruction. She is currently working as the Web and Social Media Team at Rice University.

Samm Wesler, M.F.A., graduated from SRU in 2015 with a B.A. in Dance where she received the "Excellence in Choreography" award, served as a student director of SRU DT, and was president of Sigma Rho Delta. She then went immediately on to receive her M.F.A. in Performance and Choreography from the University of Colorado in 2018. Samm is now teaching faculty in theater and dance at Phillips Exeter Academy, serving as Curriculum Director and contemporary teacher at Kathy Blake Dance Studios, and has a new consulting business for Gender and Sexual Identity Diversity training in dance studios.

CREDITS

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SLIPPERY ROCK UNIVERSITY
DEPARTMENT OF

Dance

REACH
YOUR
POTENTIAL

AUDITIONS

BACHELOR OF ARTS
BACHELOR OF FINE ARTS
DANCE MINOR

fall
2021

Saturday, Oct. 23, 2021

VIRTUAL 9 a.m.

Saturday, Oct. 23, 2021

FACE-TO-FACE 2 p.m.

Saturday, Nov. 20, 2021

FACE-TO-FACE 9 a.m.

spring
2022

Saturday, Feb. 12, 2021

VIRTUAL 9 a.m.

Saturday, Feb. 12, 2021

FACE-TO-FACE 2 p.m.

Saturday, March 19, 2021

FACE-TO-FACE 9 a.m.

Those students wishing to be considered
for a dance major scholarship must
audition face-to-face in Fall 2021.

Slippery Rock University is an accredited member
of the National Association of Schools of Dance

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

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www.sru.edu/dance

SlipperyRock
University™
of Pennsylvania

EXPERIENCE THE DIFFERENCE

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