The School at TU Dance Center presents

Student Spring Showcase

Barbara Barker Center for Dance
Minneapolis, MN
May 21 & 22, 2022

TU DANCE

Founder & Artistic Director: Toni Pierce-Sands
Executive Director: Abdo Sayegh-Rodríguez

Artistic Associate: Laurel Keen

Production Manager/Lighting Supervisor: Garvin Jellison
Backstage Assistant: Aja Wells

ABOUT TU DANCE

TU Dance is known for its diverse artistic performances tackling important questions around gender, race, social justice, history, human resilience and more. Founded in 2004, TU Dance has received dozens of accolades and awards while touring nationwide. Under the artistic direction of Toni Pierce-Sands, TU Dance continues to be a leading dance company in the Twin Cities. Through celebrated performances of the professional company and accessible dance education at TU Dance Center, TU Dance provides opportunities for everyone to experience the connective power of dance.

The School at TU Dance Center was formed in 2011, realizing the vision for an educational program committed to access and excellence. The School shares TU Dance Center with the professional company, providing unparalleled opportunities for students of all ages to learn from working dancers, seasoned faculty, and distinguished guest artists who are frequently in residence with the company. The School is organized in three divisions: the Children & Teen Program introduces the joy of creative movement and beginning dance technique; the Pre-Professional Program trains aspiring dancers up to age 23 who are considering dance careers; and the Adult/Open Program welcomes everyone to join individual classes in a range of techniques including ballet, modern and African dance.

The School at TU Dance Center has served nearly 4,000 students and has provided $690,000 in scholarships through the TU Dance Access Fund and various grants.

For more information go to www.tudance.org.

TU DANCE

EXCELLENCE | BELONGING | CREATIVITY | TRANSFORMATION

These performances are dedicated to former TU Dance Center student, Eddie Demmings who will forever be dancing in our hearts and memories.

PROGRAM

Ballet Demonstration

Teaching Artists: Sa'Nah Britt, Penelope Freeh, Laurel Keen,
Laura Pratt, Abdo Sayegh-Rodriguez, Julia Sutter

Intro to Ballet 7-9: Clara Kline, Madeleine Lavien, Haven Miller, Amy Segarra*

Intro to Ballet 9-12: Niyah Addy, Isa Blons, Berkeley Brooks, Sophia Brewer, Astrid Bruening, Orly Bruening, Mackenzie Davis, Ericka Holt, Tessa Tafanika

Bridge: Liv Anderson, Curran Brooks, Ada Deo, Ayla Diaz, Ramona Schloegel

Level 1, Teen1 & Ballet 13-16: Eliza Bray, Dagu Burbach, Mereti Burbach, Abigail Efa, Antaella Lymas, Ana Moore, Simone Lee Wisgerhof, Sophia Yemaneab

Level 2 & Teen 2: Ingrid Kotnik, Arame Sy, Ella Toso

Level 3: Indria Abdullah, Ezra Mehta, Cayenne Ramirez, Cam Wang

Level 4: Amaija Grussing-Neitzel, Cailyn Harris, Cora Olson

Accompanied by Maria Benson

Modern Demonstration

Teaching Artists: MerSadies McCoy, Daonna Lewis, Jake Lewis, Toni Pierce-Sands, Julia Sutter

Intro to Dance 7-9 : Naomi Everman^, Madeleine Lavien, Amy Segarra, Bess Stegger*

Bridge Level: Liv Anderson, Curran Brooks, Ada Deo, Ayla Diaz, Ramona Schloegel

Level 1, Level 2, Modern 13-16 & Teen 1/Teen 2: Eliza Bray, Dagu Burbach, Mereti Burbach, Ingrid Kotnik, Antaella Lymas, Abigail McKinney, Ana Moore, Arame Sy, Ella Toso, Simone Lee Wisgerhof, Sophia Yemaneab

Level 3 & 4: Indira Abdullah, Amaija Grussing-Neitzel, Cailyn Harris, Ezra Mehta, Cora Olson, Cayenne Ramirez, Cam Wang

Accompanied by Umar Williams

*Saturday and Sunday matinee performances only
^Sunday performance only

Hip-Hop Demonstration

Hip Hop 9-16
Teaching Artist: Mia Johnson
Music: MC Lyte

Abigail Efa, Ericka Holt, Sophia Yemaneab

African Dance Demonstration
Bridge, Teen 1 & 2, Level 1-5
Teaching Artist: Melissa Clark
Music: Mamady Kieta

Bridge: Liv Anderson, Curran Brooks, Ada Deo, Ayla Diaz, Ramona Schloegel

Level 1/Teen 1: Eliza Bray, Dagu Burbach, Mereti Burbach, Simone Lee Wisgerhof, Ana Moore

Level 2/Teen 2: Ingrid Kotnik, Arame Sy, Ella Toso

Level 3: Indria Abdullah, Ezra Mehta, Cayenne Ramirez, Cam Wang

Level 4: Amaija Grussing-Neitzel, Cailyn Harris, Cora Olson

Dancing Spirit (excerpt phrases)
Level 2-5
Choreographer: Ronald K. Brown
Teaching Artists: Demetrius Burns, Joyce Edwards, Breana Moore, and Stephanie Chronopolous from EVIDENCE, A Dance Company
Music: War

Indira Abdullah, Amaija Grussing-Neitzel, Cailyn Harris, Ezra Mehta, Cora Olson, Cayenne Ramirez, Arame Sy, Ella Toso, Cam Wang

Dance = Destiny
Intro to Dance 9-12
Choreographers: MerSadies McCoy and Daonna Lewis
Music: Umar Willams

Isa Blons, Berkeley Brooks, Astrid Bruening, Orly Bruening, Ericka Holt, Fiona Walsh

SHE
Bridge
Choreographers: MerSadies McCoy and Daonna Lewis
Music: Sade

Liv Anderson, Curran Brooks, Ada Deo, Ayla Diaz, Ramona Schloegel

- INTERMISSION -

Koronoko
Level 1/Teen1
Choreographer: Julia Sutter
Music: Rokia Traore

Dagu Burbach, Mereti Burbach, Ana Moore, Simone Lee Wisgerhof

Bloom
Level 2/Teen 2
Choreographer: Level 2/Teen 2 students with direction by Penelope Freeh
Music: unknown

Ingrid Kotnik, Arame Sy, Ella Toso

Clear Path
Level 4/5
Choreographer: Abdo Sayegh-Rodriguez in collaboration with students
Music: Leoš Janáček, Nature Sounds, Triple Jo

Amaija Grussing-Neitzel, Cailyn Harris, Cora Olson

- Pause -

Volcano
Level 3 + Cailyn Harris
Choreographers: Gregory Dolbashian, Maddie Hanson, Stephon Williams
Music: Loscil

Indira Abdullah, Cailyn Harris, Ezra Mehta, Cayenne Ramirez, Cam Wang

- Pause -

aims
Level 4/5
Choreographer: Laurel Keen
Music: Nils Frahm, Rival Consoles

Amaija Grussing-Neitzel, Cailyn Harris, Cora Olson

- Pause -

Reset
Level 3/4/5
Choreographer: Marcus Jarrell Willis
Restaging Supervision: Toni Pierce-Sands
Restaging Assistants: Sa'Nah Britt
Music: Duval Timothy

Indira Abdullah, Amaija Grussing-Neitzel, Cailyn Harris, Ezra Mehta, Cora Olson, Cayenne Ramirez, Cam Wang

THE STUDENTS AT THE SCHOOL AT TU DANCE CENTER

Teaching Artists

Leila Awadallah, Sa'Nah Britt, Vittoria Casagranda, Melissa Clark, Kenna Cottman, Penelope Freeh, Tamiko French, Jennifer Ilse, Mia Johnson, Laurel Keen, Daonna Lewis, Jacob Lewis, MerSadies McCoy, Aneka McMullen, Toni Pierce-Sands, Laura Pratt, Abdo Sayegh-Rodriquez, Julia Sutter, Vivian Wolkoff

Guest Teaching Artists

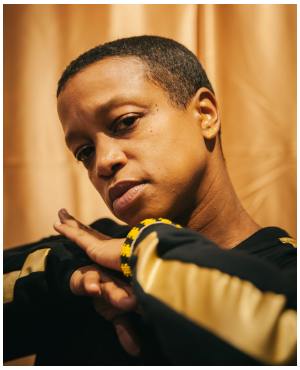
Gregory Dolbashian, Maddie Hanson, Peggy Seipp-Roy, Stephon Williams, Marcus Jarrell Willis

Evidence, A Dance Company Guest Teaching Artists

Ronald K. Brown, Demetrius Burns, Arcell Cabuag, Stephanie Chronopoulos, Joyce Edwards, Breana Moore, Clarice Young

Gratitude to our guest artists and dance organizations for their generous work with the students: Ronald K. Brown, Arcell Cabuag and artists of EVIDENCE, A Dance Company, Gregory Dolbashian and guests from DASH Ensemble, Marcus Jarrell Willis and Peggy Seipp-Roy.

We would like to take this opportunity to recognize and honor TU Dance Center teaching artists Kenna Cottman and Julia Sutter who have, and continue to be an invaluable part of The School and have given so generously with love and compassion to their students and the entire TU Dance community. Aṣẹ!



Kenna Cottman

Julia Sutter

Accompanists

Maria Benson, Richard Erickson, Pat Lyles, Eric Jensen, Karl Jones, and Umar Williams

Students

Pre-Professional Program

Level 1: *Solveigh Bratulich, Dagu Burbach, Mereti Burbach, Ana Moore, Simone Lee Wisgerhof*
Level 2: *Arame Sy, Ella Toso*
Level 3: *Indira Abdullah, Ezra Mehta, Cayenne Ramirez, Cam Wang*
Level 4: *Amaija Grussing-Neitzel, Cailyn Harris, Jamie Kraft (Fall), Cora Olson*, Aja Wells* (Fall)*
Level 5: *Sa'Nah Britt*

Children & Teen Program

Dancing Together: *Hazel Allen, Skye Bentley, Gwen Greene, Juniper Hollinsworth, Olivia Larson, Eliza Murphy, Lia Peterson*
Creative Movement (ages 3-5): *Cassius Crow, Leeloo Davies, Luka McCarthy, Margreta Peterson, Eleanor Schacht*
Creative Movement (ages 5-6): *Dinah Bliss, Brooker Bentley, Lila Clifton, Marielle Golberstein, NoraLee John, Maya Moreno Jacobson, Pyrrha Obrien*
Creative Movement (ages 6-7): *Matilda Collins, Grace Goar, Dorothy Kingstrom, Nora Wesenberg*
Intro to Dance (ages 7-9): *Naomi Everman, Madeleine Lavien, Amy Segarra, Bess Stegger*
Intro to Ballet (ages 7-9): Kate Bryson, *Clara Kline, Madeleine Lavien, Haven Miller, Amy Segarra*
Intro to Dance (ages 9-12): *Isa Blons, Berkeley Brooks, Astrid Bruening, Orly Bruening, Ericka Holt, Fiona Walsh*
Beginning Ballet (ages 9-12): *Niyah Addy, Isa Blons, Berkeley Brooks, Sophia Brewer, Astrid Bruening, Orly Bruening, Mackenzie Davis, Ericka Holt, Tessa Tafanika*
Beginning Ballet (ages 13-16): *Abigail Efa, Antaella Lymas, Sophia Yemaneab*
Beginning Modern (ages 13-16): *Eliza Bray, Antaella Lymas, Abigail McKinney, Sophia Yemaneab*
Hip Hop (ages 9-16): *Abigail Efa, Ericka Holt, Talia London, Tilda Will, Sophia Yemaneab*
Bridge Level: *Liv Anderson, Curran Brooks, Ada Deo, Ayla Diaz, Ramona Schloegel*
Teen 1: *Eliza Bray*
Teen 2: *Ingrid Kotnik*

DANCE TRANSFORMS LIVES

(click the text above to watch the video)

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Rafina Larsen, Sara McGrane, Neeraj Mehta (Vice Chair), Steven Nelson, Anne Parker, Toni Pierce-Sands (Ex-Officio), Abdo Sayegh-Rodriguez (Ex-Officio), Andrew Troup (Secretary), Julia Yager (Chair), Joseph Zachmann (Treasurer)

TU DANCE STAFF
Founder & Artistic Director: Toni Pierce-Sands
Executive Director: Abdo Sayegh-Rodríguez
Artistic Associate: Laurel Keen
Development & Marketing Coordinator: Kari Mosel
Administrative Associate: Daonna Lewis
Administrative Associate: Mia Johnson
Social Media Specialist: Maxine Yamazaki
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Facility Manager: Greger Svensson

ADVISORS TO THE ARTISTIC DIRECTOR
Judith Jamison, Ronald K. Brown, Arcell Cabuag, Gregory Dolbashian, Colette Howkins, Sharon Luckman, Silvia Waters

TU Dance is grateful to the following institutions and foundations for their invaluable support:

THE McKNIGHT FOUNDATION
SAINT PAUL & MINNESOTA FOUNDATION
3M
SAINT PAUL STAR PROGRAM
F. R. BIGELOW FOUNDATION
THE INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF BLACKS IN DANCE

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CLEAN WATER LAND & LEGACY AMENDMENT
MINNESOTA STATE ARTS BOARD

Additional general operating support has been provided by the CARES Act, implemented by the Small Business Administration with support from the Department of the Treasury, and the Shuttered Venue Operators Grant (SVOG) established by the Economic Aid to Hard-Hit Small Businesses, Nonprofits, and Venues Act.

We are very grateful for the generosity of individuals for their support of TU Dance. To view a list of our donors please click here. For information on how you can support TU Dance, please visit tudance.org/giving or contact Abdo Sayegh Rodríguez at 651-724-9708 or abdo.sayegh@tudance.org. TU Dance is a non-profit organization participating in the Thrivent Choice Dollars, PayPal Giving Fund and Amazon Smile programs.

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Special Thanks to all of our parent/guardian volunteers for their planning, hard work and in-kind contributions to TU Dance Center.

IN-KIND & ADVISORY SUPPORT

Kyle Alexander, Leif Anderson, Chris Andersen, May K. Boyd, Michelle Horan, Maryann Johnson, Sarah McGrane, Alanna Morris, Brad Moser, Bill Parker, Carol Patrikakos, James Peitzman, Lela Pierce, Krsity Pierce, Ruth Saulsberry, Pramila Vasudevan, Carol Marie Webster.

TU Dance is a member of The International Association of Blacks in Dance (IABD) and Dance/USA.

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PHOTO CREDITS

Photos (top to bottom):
The School at TU Dance Center Students by Laura Kane Scher Photography
Eddie Demmings by Laura Kane Scher Photography
Kenna-Camara Cottman by Aja Gildersleeve
Julia Sutter courtesy of Julia Sutter
Students during performance by Laura Kane Scher Photography