

Welcome to the Department of Theatre & Dance 2023-2024 Season!

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National Association of Schools of Theatre and the
National Association of Schools of Dance.

2023-2024 Theatre & Dance Faculty and Staff

Amy Beversdorf
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Indigenous Peoples Land Acknowledgement

The University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point exists upon land inhabited by the original indigenous people of this area, including the Ho-Chunk, Menominee, Ojibwe, Potawatomi, and the many other nations and groups that predate colonial borders.

We acknowledge that with colonization Native American people have been dispossessed of their lands and irreparably changed by the actions of individuals and institutions. We acknowledge our responsibility to understand and respond to those actions. In partnership with the Native American Center, we commit to working together to honor the past, be intentional in the present, and to build our future with truth.

Danstage 2024
Director's Note

Welcome to Danstage 2024. We are so happy to be sharing with you another year of beautiful choreography that celebrates the versatility, range, and artistry of the dancers in our program. This year's concert features five dances by the UWSP dance faculty and special guest artist Monique Haley. These dances are wonderfully eclectic and each one captures something essential to our understanding of the world right now.

As I sat in the theatre this week watching the dancers clarify intention, deepen expressivity, and refine the subtleties of content in each work, I was reminded of how important embodiment is. How deeply knowing and experiencing our own body is profound and transcendent. How this marvelous artform we call dance invites us to know the world differently. Through sensing space, time, energy, motion, and emotion, we (and the dancers) are catapulted into realms of understanding far beyond simple facts and figures. What a gift!

Throughout all the works in the concert, mighty communities are fully realized. The dance faculty has been intentional in crafting a journey for you as you watch the whole concert. We begin with Jeannie's group of rhythm-loving tap dancers wholeheartedly digging into the complexities and power of sonic communication in "Out With A Bang!" The space erupts with sound and physical energy. It is something I can't explain, but something you must experience. The charged vitality of the space carries into my new work, "In C, a vigorous study of time," as the dancers weave between, around, over, under, above and below each other revealing a community that tenderly relies on trust, abandon, patience, and connection.

The intermission will give you a chance to catch your breath before you are ecstatically thrust into our guest artist Monique Haley's "The Light." A community built on the inner presence of each member is highlighted through a demanding Africanist informed movement vocabulary that has challenged our dancers to move in new ways. This community recognizes that joy and celebration of the individual is what bonds us all. We first must love ourselves before we can love another. Honoring our earth and all its glory is at the center of "Inhabitants of Tall Grass", a work I originally created in 2012. You are offered a respite here, an invitation to see yourself as part of the simplicity and splendor of nature while taking in the technical prowess of this stunning trio of dancers. Finally, the concert ends with Sarah's powerful and pulsing "Against the Wall." The group, facing seemingly insurmountable obstacles, does not relent. Instead, they harness their collective energy. They push against, they exhaust, they rely on each other until they find a way. It's radical. It's hopeful – and it's exactly what we need right now.

I'm certain you'll leave the theatre feeling these dances in your own body for days to come. If this is true for you, consider these words by the great German choreographer Pina Bausch, "dance, dance otherwise we are lost" and sit with the knowledge that you know and understand the world a little differently now. Be filled with the long-lasting images, ideas, and messages that the choreographers and dancers have given themselves to so fully and see where it takes you.

Thank you for joining us, for bearing witness to the creative process, and for supporting the arts in our community.



Michael Estanich
Professor of Dance
Chair, Department of Theatre & Dance

**The University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point
Department of Theatre & Dance
Presents**

DANSTAGE 2024

Featuring Choreography by:

Michael Estanich*, Jeannie Hill*, Sarah Olson*,
and Monique Haley**

*UWSP Faculty Member
**Guest Artist

Guest Artist
Monique Haley



Monique Haley is an Associate Professor of Dance and African American and African Studies at Western Michigan University and was recently appointed the Acting Director of the Institute for Intercultural and Anthropological Studies. Monique holds a Master of Fine Arts degree in Dance from The University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee and a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in performing arts, specializing in jazz dance from The University of the Arts in Philadelphia, PA.

Her research centers on African cultural values, ethos, and the importance of cultivating ritual in contemporary jazz dance pedagogy. Her chapter entitled, *Cultivating African Diasporic Ethos and Cultural Values in Contemporary Jazz Dance*, is featured in the textbook, *Rooted Jazz Dance: Africanist Aesthetics and Equity in the 21st Century*. Haley has devised the Diasporic Encounter Method (DEM)—a working methodology to focus the Africanist perspective in the classroom, rehearsal, and creative process.

Monique is a celebrated dancer and choreographer. She honors nine memorable years with the acclaimed River North Chicago Dance Company as the first African American female to join the company in 2001. She has choreographed for notable concert dance companies, musical theatre productions, and collegiate dance companies across the country.

Out With a Bang!

Choreographer.....	Jeannie Hill*
Dancers.....	Ariel Birkel, Erin Clementich, Natasha Forrest, Abby Hermans, McKenna Johnston, Aubree Leiterman, Renee McSherry, Grace Meyer, Marcella Schneider, Megan Shields, Ike Smith
Stage Manager.....	Iz Walsh
Costume Designer.....	Kristy LaCount
Lighting Designer.....	Paul Been
Scenic Designer.....	Grace Boley
Sound Designer.....	Paul Been
Additional Drumming.....	Paul Been
Music.....	<i>3rd Street Promende</i> by Ausland Brothers <i>New Jack Hennepin</i> by Ausland Brothers <i>Party on the Plaza</i> by Ausland Brothers <i>Metrodome Bounce</i> by Ausland Brothers

Program Note:

The situation is...a group of rhythm-loving dancers like to gather in the Plaza on nights like this to participate in a TAP JAM SESSION. They take delight in making bold statements and challenging each other to dig into the complexities and power of sonic communication. They will tap on anything they can find and celebrate the joyful act of creating cacophony together.

In C, a vigorous study of time

Choreographer.....	Michael Estanich*
Dancers.....	Amber Cronce, Clara Douglas, Riley Johnson, Jordan Linton, Ellie Meyer, Emily Meyer, Alisha Raflik, Leah Scherer, Josiah Stevens
Stage Manager.....	Cali Grant
Costume Designer.....	Sam Baxter
Lighting Designer.....	Ike Smith
Music.....	<i>In C</i> by Terry Riley, performed by Bang On A Can

Program Note:

Terry Riley is one of the great American minimalist composers. His iconic score, *In C*, has inspired choreographers since its premiere in 1964. My choreographic investigations were informed by the gradual unfolding of layers and textures of sound throughout the score. The dancing is in conversation with the music, and each invite you to consider the power of the human body and its relationship to space and time.

15 Minute Intermission

The Light

Choreographer.....Monique Haley**
Rehearsal Director.....Sarah Olson*
Dancers.....Erin Clementich, Jennifer Grady,
Abby Hermans, Aubree Leitermann, Renee McSherry,
Emily Meyer, Pauline Nikolov, Elizabeth Pischel,
Marcella Schneider, Megan Shields
Understudies: Jason Lopez Martinez, Ellie McGillivray, Toni Wuest
Stage Manager.....Cali Grant
Costume Designer.....Maddie Nikolai
Lighting Designer.....Austin Bomkamp*
Music.....*Ozone Part 1* by Billy Cobham
The Freedom Rider by Art Blakey and the Jazz Messengers

Program Note:

Light, a definition reshaped by the choreographer:

1. the natural agent (Soul/energy) that stimulates sight (one's essence) and makes things visible (an individual's unique spirit).
2. Another definition (proper) is; "an expression in someone's eyes indicating a particular emotion or mood."

This work reflects how one's 'Light' can empower and change a space, like an energy shapeshifter. When someone embraces their inner light wholeheartedly, it is powerful; as a collective, it moves and ignites a particular ethos that is colorful, unique, and necessary. When the light takes hold of you, the options are endless, and the collective energy magnifies within and as its most authentic nature. Let them show you.

*UWSP Faculty Member

**Guest Artist

Inhabitants of Tall Grass

Choreographer.....Michael Estanich*
Dancers.....Jenny Beck, Paige Hoover, Natalie Shrock
Understudy: Kaitlin Kopp-Winowski
Stage Manager.....Cali Grant
Costume Designer.....Emily Bustamante*
Lighting Designer.....Sami Hill
Scenic Designer.....Elliot Cross
Music.....*Cantus In Memory of Benjamin Britten* by Arvo Pärt
Violin Sonata No. 2 in D (Praeludium)/Aria e Variation/Finale
by Heinrich Ignaz Franz Biber

Program Note:

I originally created *Inhabitants of Tall Grass* in 2012 for three amazing UWSP dancers. I am thrilled to revisit this work at this particular time with these three equally mesmerizing dancers. *Inhabitants Of Tall Grass* is inspired by a drive I take from Wisconsin to North Dakota each year. The open sky, wide plains, and the creatures that live within offer me the opportunity to pay homage to our planet and all who inhabit it. It is a love letter to nature’s gloriousness and its necessity in our lives.

Against the Wall

Choreographer.....Sarah Olson*
Dancers.....Erin Bohn, Sarah Dickinson,
Scarlett Hildebrand, Paige Hoover, Bella Jaeger,
Karissa Lambert, Jason Lopez Martinez, Genevieve Lotzer,
Nicole Marki, Grace Meyer, Hannah Petersen, Elizabeth Pischel,
Alisha Raflik, Graceanne Rendernick, Ike Smith, Josiah Stevens
Understudy: Averi Yezek
Stage Manager.....Ivy Welch
Costume Designer.....Kelli Wonsmos
Lighting Designer.....Rachel McCulloch
Scenic Designer.....Spencer Czajka
Music.....*The Look* by ori lichtik,
Child II: Sweet Air by David Lang
The End by Paul Tinsley
Curious Yellow by CoH feat. Little annie

Program Note:

When facing seemingly insurmountable obstacles and structural problems, it can feel like our backs are against the wall and we are out of options. It can be tempting to turn to despair and resignation. *Against the Wall* explores the power of radical hope and collective action in the midst of daunting circumstances. Straddling the divide between optimism and pragmatism, we search for ways to pull together and keep the spark of hope alive.

2023-24 Season Production Staff

- Costume Design Mentor**.....Emily Bustamante*
- Costume Shop Assistants**.....Sam Baxter, Tierney Detter,
Sarah Dickinson, Cali Grant, Nessa Grant,
Stephanie Hogan, Sophie Pitsch, Martha Ruona,
Emily Ruth, Kelli Wonsmos
- Deck Crew**.....Luke Calaway, Ashlee DeGrave,
Dana Godfrey, Vanessa Guillen,
Hayden Hoffman, Nora Perugini
- House Manager**.....Ellie Paynter
- Light/Sound Shop Mentor**.....Austin Bomkamp*
- Scenic/Paint/Props Mentor/Prop Shop Manager**.....Sarah E. Ross*
- Scene Shop Assistants**.....Serena Alexander, Paul Been,
Cali Grant, Mark Radtke, Ike Smith
- Sound Engineer & Board Operator**.....Paul Been
- Paint Shop Manager**.....Mic Frommelt
- Prop Shop Manager**.....Kayla Price
- Technical Director**.....Ann Warren
- Theatre & Dance Student Office Assistants**.....Erin Clementich,
Ryan Niedenthal, Stephanie Skemp,
Lenna Magdeline Wren
- Wardrobe Crew**.....Ryan Bouchard, Katelyn Geier,
Amelia Gibbons, Emily Hoepfner, Sophie Pitsch

Meet the Company

Baxter, Sam (*Costume Designer, They/She*) Fifth-year Theatre Design & Technology major from Milwaukee, WI. Recipient of the Sentry Scholarship in Theatre & Dance.

Beck, Jenny (*Dancer, She/Her*) First-year Dance and Arts Management major from Roscoe, IL. Recipient of the First-year Theatre Arts Scholarship in Dance.

Been, Paul (*Sound/Lighting Designer, They/Them*) Fifth-year Theatre Design & Technology major from Kimberly, WI.

Birkel, Ariel (*Dancer, She/Her*) Junior Dance and Psychology major and Music minor from Rubicon, WI. Recipient of the First-year Theatre Arts Scholarship in Dance and the Susan Gingrasso Dance Education Scholarship.

Bohn, Erin (*Dancer, She/Her*) Sophomore Arts Management major and Dance minor from Norwood Young America, MN. Recipient of the Susan Gingrasso Dance Education Scholarship.

Boley, Grace (*Scenic Designer, She/Her*) Senior Drama major from Mondovi, WI. Recipient of the Arts Bash Scholarship and the Vorland James Technical Theatre Scholarship.

Clementich, Erin (*Dancer, She/Her*) Junior Dance and Arts Management major from Devils Lake, ND. Recipient of the Kathryn Bukolt Memorial Dance Scholarship and the First-year Theatre Arts Scholarship in Dance.

Cross, Elliot (*Scenic Designer, They/Them*) Junior Theatre Design & Technology major from Green Bay, WI.

Cronce, Amber (*Dancer, She/Her*) Junior Dance major from Appleton, WI. Recipient of the James and Linda Martin Moore Dance Award.

Czajka, Spencer (*Scenic Designer, He/Him*) Senior Drama and Art major from South Milwaukee, WI.

Douglas, Clara (*Dancer, She/Her*) Sophomore Dance and Arts Management major and Business minor from Ashland, WI. Recipient of the First-Year Theatre Arts Scholarship in Dance.

Meet the Company

- Dickinson, Sarah** (*Dancer, She/Her*) Sophomore Dance and Arts Management major from Stratford, WI. Recipient of the Susan Gingrasso Dance Education Scholarship.
- Forrest, Natasha** (*Dancer, She/Her*) Senior Dance and Elementary Education major from Wauwatosa, WI. Recipient of the Kathryn Bukolt Dance Scholarship and the Crosby Scholarship in Technical Theatre.
- Grady, Jennifer** (*Dancer, She/Her*) Junior Dance major from Germantown, WI. Recipient of the Anne Gilfry Schierl Fine Arts Award in Dance and the James & Linda Martin Moore Dance Award.
- Grant, Cali** (*Stage Manager, She/Her*) Junior Theatre Design & Technology major and Arts Management minor from Ripon, WI. Recipient of the First-Year Theatre Arts Scholarship in Design & Technology.
- Hermans, Abby** (*Dancer, She/Her*) Senior Dance major from Middleton, WI. Recipient of the Kathryn Bukolt Memorial Dance Scholarship and the First-Year Theatre Arts Scholarship in Dance.
- Hildebrand, Scarlett** (*Dancer, She/Her*) Sophomore Dance major from Milwaukee, WI. Recipient of the First-Year Theatre Arts Scholarship in Dance.
- Hill, Samantha** (*Lighting Designer, She/Her*) Fifth-year Drama major from Berlin, WI.
- Hoover, Paige** (*Dancer, She/Her*) Senior Dance major and Business Administration minor from Lake Bluff, IL. Recipient of the First-Year Theatre Arts Scholarship in Dance and the Kathryn Bukolt Memorial Dance Scholarship.
- Jaeger, Bella** (*Dancer, She/Her*) First-year Dance major and Creative Writing minor from Wausau, WI.
- Johnson, Riley** (*Dancer, She/Her*) First-year Dance major from Manitowoc, WI.
- Johnston, McKenna** (*Dancer, She/Her*) First-year Dance and Marketing major from Mount Horeb, WI. Recipient of the First-Year Theatre Arts Scholarship in Dance.
- Kopp-Winowiski, Kaitlyn** (*Dancer, She/Her*) Junior Dance and Business Administration major and Accounting minor from Wausau, WI.

Meet the Company

LaCount, Kristy (*Costume Designer, She/Her*) Senior Drama major and Arts Management minor from Verona, WI. Recipient of the James Vorland Technical Theatre Scholarship.

Lambert, Karissa (*Dancer, She/Her*) Sophomore Dance major and Arts Management minor from Pulaski, WI.

Leiterman, Aubree (*Dancer, She/Her*) Sophomore Dance and Athletic Training major from Kimberly, WI. Recipient of the Susan Gingrasso Dance Education Scholarship and the Elizabeth Bukolt Family Scholarship.

Linton, Jordan (*Dancer, He/Him*) Junior Musical Theatre and Dance major from Daytona Beach, FL. Recipient of the After the Flags Scholarship, the First-Year Theatre Arts Scholarship in Musical Theatre, and the Baruch/Bridgeman Outstanding Player Award, and the Kathryn Bukolt Memorial Dance Scholarship.

Lotzer, Genevieve (*Dancer, She/Her*) First-year Dance and Health Science major from Plover, WI.

López-Martínez, Jason (*Dancer, He/Him*) Senior Health Sciences Major and Dance minor from Rio Grande, Oaxaca, Mexico.

Marki, Nicole (*Dancer, She/Her*) First-year Dance major and Arts Management Minor from Stevens Point, WI.

McCulloch, Rachel (*Lighting Designer, She/Her*) Junior Drama major and Arts Management and Media Studies minor from Gurnee, IL. Recipient of the Arts Bash Scholarship

McGillivray, Ellie (*Dancer, She/Her*) Sophomore Dance major and Business minor from Willmar, MN. Recipient of the LEAD Program Scholarship, the Susan Gingrasso Dance Education Award, and the Pointer Scholarship.

McSherry, Renee (*Dancer, She/Her*) Sophomore Biology major and Dance minor from St. Louis Park, MN. Recipient of the Kathryn Bukolt Dance Scholarship and the Presidential Gold Scholarship.

Meyer, Ellie (*Dancer, She/Her*) First-year Dance major from Marshfield, WI.

Meyer, Emily (*Dancer, She/Her*) Senior Drama, Dance, and Arts Management major and Media Studies minor from River Falls, WI. Recipient of the First-Year Theatre Arts Scholarship in Drama, the Kathryn Bukolt Memorial Dance Scholarship, the Arts Bash Scholarship, the COFAC Excellence Award.

Meet the Company

Meyer, Grace (*Dancer, She/Her*) Sophomore Dance and Early Childhood Education major from Caledonia, MN. Recipient of the Kathryn Bukolt Memorial Dance Scholarship, the Susan Gingrasso Dance Education Award, and the Presidential Gold Scholarship.

Nikolai, Maddie (*Costume Designer, She/Her*) Junior Graphic Design major from Wausau, WI.

Nikolov, Pauline (*Dancer, She/Her*) First-year Dance major and Business Administration minor from Lakeville, MN. Recipient of the First-Year Theatre Arts Scholarship in Dance.

Petersen, Hannah (*Dancer, She/Her*) Sophomore Health Sciences major and Dance minor from Crystal Lake, IL. Recipient of the Invest in Your Purpose Scholarship, the Destination Wisconsin Scholarship, the Susan Gingrasso Dance Education Award, and the CPS Deans Award Scholarship.

Pischel, Elizabeth (*Dancer, She/Her*) Senior Dance major from Marshfield, WI. Recipient of the Kathryn Bukolt Memorial Dance Scholarship.

Raflik, Alisha (*Dancer, She/Her*) Senior Dance major from Stevens Point, WI. Recipient of the Susan Gingrasso Dance Education Award.

Rendernick, Graceanne (*Dancer, She/Her*) First-year Dance and Arts Management major and Art minor from Rochester, MN. Recipient of the First-Year Theatre Arts Scholarship in Dance.

Scherer, Leah (*Dancer, She/Her*) First-year Chemistry major and Dance minor from Loyal, WI. Recipient of the Pointers Promise Scholarship, the Presidential Purple Scholarship, the Trytten Chemistry Scholarship, and the Melvin R. Laird Youth Leadership Scholarship.

Schneider, Marcella (*Dancer, They/She*) Sophomore Dance major and Drama minor from Neenah, WI. Recipient of the Anne Gilfry Schierl Fine Arts Award in Dance.

Shields, Megan (*Dancer, She/Her*) Senior Dance and Elementary Education major from Port Edwards, WI. Recipient of the Kathryn Bukolt Memorial Dance Scholarship, the Anne Gilfry Schierl Fine Arts Award in Dance, the Susan Gingrasso Dance Education Award, the Presidential Purple Scholarship, and the First-Year Theatre Arts Scholarship in Dance.

Meet the Company

Shrock, Natalie (*Dancer, She/Her*) Sophomore Dance and Studio Art major from Rhinelander, WI. Recipient of the Presidential Purple Scholarship, the Susan Gingrasso Dance Education Award, the First-Year Theatre Arts Scholarship in Dance, and the Invest in Your Purpose Scholarship.

Smith, Ike (*Dancer/Lighting Designer, He/Him*) Junior Drama and Dance major from Madison, WI. Recipient of the James and Linda Martin Moore Dance Scholarship and the Peet-Faust Drama Scholarship.

Stevens, Josiah (*Dancer, He/Him*) Sophomore Dance major from Reedsburg, WI. Recipient of the Kathryn Bukolt Memorial Dance Scholarship.

Walsh, Iz (*Stage Manager, They/Them*) Sophomore Musical Theatre major from Altoona, WI.

Welch, Ivy (*Stage Manager, She/He*) First-year Musical Theatre major from Wausau, WI.

Wonsmos, Kelli (*Costume Designer, She/They*) Senior Theatre Design & Technology major from Mankato, MN. Recipient of the Mary Lou Holls Costume Scholarship.

Wuest, Toni (*Dancer, She/Her*) First-year Dance and Pre-Dental Hygiene major from Apple Valley, MN.

Yezek, Averi (*Dancer, She/Her*) Junior Dance major from Apple Valley, MN.

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Department of Theatre & Dance
School of Performing Arts
University of Wisconsin - Stevens Point

The mission of the [Department of Theatre and Dance](#) is to serve:

- Its majors and minors through curricular offerings and performance/production activities that heighten intellectual, artistic, cultural, and humane sensitivities.
- The general student population through curricular offerings and stage productions that engender an appreciation and understanding of the performing arts and their contribution to the cultural and aesthetic enrichment of life.
- The university community and general central Wisconsin population through the production of quality stage performances.

STAGES TO EQUITY SCHOLARSHIP

In an ongoing effort to broaden and enrich our Equity, Diversity, and Inclusivity practices in the Department of Theatre & Dance, we've established the new *Stages to Equity Scholarship*. This award supports students who come from historically under-represented populations within the theatre, dance, and arts management student body at UW-Stevens Point. This academic year, we hope to grow the Stages to Equity endowment to support two annual scholarships for our students. We hope you might consider a gift to the endowment today! Scan the QR code with your mobile device, or visit give.uwsp.edu/stages-to-equity. If you are interested in receiving more information about the scholarship, you can reach out to Professor Tyler Marchant at tmarchan@uwsp.edu or at 715.252.8012 and he will be happy to assist you.



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