through ‘dipping my toes in the water’ of something different, I’ve been affected.

ALISON RHOADES (BFA ‘13)

“...Last to Know by Leila Henry (BFA ‘11)
As our Dance Artists work to posit choreographic–thinking, movement based research and embodied theoretical inquiry as critically important to the cultural, political and environmental issues of our time, we have chosen to frame Pivot and our upcoming season on the concept of hybridity.

Hybridity at its most basic is a notion of mixing. It is the combining of disparate components, to create another anew. The articles in Pivot this year focus on this concept; the collision of visual and performing arts as Tere O'Connor, Jennifer Monson and Renée Wadleigh wrestle with it. Big Tiny Little Dance, our upcoming November Dance, will be an exploration of this. Our resident faculty, many of whom regularly delve into the frameworks of hybridity, are planning to perform Big Tiny Little Dance, "A Man to Dance," in New York in January. This New York premiere is the result of a four-long-year-in-the-making, complex choreography created by four of the faculty, each regarding the final product under the directive to "wreck, erase, or extend" each other’s contributions.

Our student body, many of whom regularly delve into the frameworks of hybridity, are planning to perform Big Tiny Little Dance, "A Man to Dance," in New York in January. This New York premiere is the result of a four-long-year-in-the-making, complex choreography created by four of the faculty, each regarding the final product under the directive to "wreck, erase, or extend" each other’s contributions.

Media artist John Boutique and fashion designer Guett Bharat will lead student design artists through a similar process. Guest Artist Jennifer Monson and Visting lecturer Elijah Shimony will also create new dances from the combining of multiple ideologies, elements, and points of entry. With roots in the traditions of hip-hop, jazz, and contemporary dance, we look forward to these articles as they come into view.

Please enjoy Pivot 2013.

LOOKING BACK: 2012-2013

Once is a life time celebration of global connections passed from body to body, and students of all disciplines at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (UIUC) taught courses in our department, Paige Cunningham (BFA '10), Grace Chiaramonte (BFA '11), William McLellan (BFA '10), and Karin White (BFA '11) choreographed and/or were on our BFA teams, and Kate Fournet (BFA '11), a representation of Broadway Dance Center (NYC), auditioned our students for scholarships.

Looking forward 2013-2014

With experience in jazz, hip-hop and tap, Elijah Shimony, former dancer with Gus Giordano in Chicago will bring a new vibrancy to our students. Chicago based Jennifer Archibald, Maggie Gibson, capoeira expert, and our long history with Taipei National University of the Arts was renewed through the exchanges of Laura Chiaramonte and Shayne Mcleod, BFA ’07 and Yi Han Chen. We were also fortunate to engage with some of our alumnae who returned to campus, Trina Widmeyer (BFA '12), Laura Chiaramonte (BFA '10) and Janet Panetta, Visiting Professor (BFA '03), Laura Chiaramonte (MFA '09) and Katherine Rauy (BFA '11), a representative of Broadway Dance Center (NYC), auditioned our students for scholarships.

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Choreographer/Writer/Director/Performer Cynthia Oliver created BOOM!, a 17-minute duet with alumna Leslie Cuyjet (BFA 03), which premiered in Ishmael Houston-Jones Parallels in Black Series at Danspace Project at St. Mark’s Church, 2012 and at New York Live Arts, 2013. Photo, Julieta Cervantes.

Undergraduates Skylee Trimble (BFA ’16) and Abby Brandolino (BFA ’13) created work for elementary and high school students from local studios Art in Motion and Twist and Shout. Pictured: Dancers from Art in Motion Dance Studio, Champaign, IL.

Our mission statement promotes the idea of “integrated approaches to choreographic, performance and scholarly research.” To what does that mean? When teaching and learning have become a web of activity, the academic and professional worlds collide with an explosion of possibilities. There are only a few of our examples:

Jennifer Mirek & Friends/WI/Vivo premiered at La Mama in NYC this summer featuring work created and performed by faculty, undergraduates and graduate students and artists who shared artistic lives in both New York City and Urbana. A mix of faculty and students from the 60’s, 90’s and 2000’s created a finale that showed how this intergenerational, international collaboration continues to be a powerful force. Each of these artists brought a breadth of physical and intellectual rigor to their work as they shaped energetic forces in multiple scales.

Professor Linda Lehovec returns to Chile to choreograph a second work for Duoc UC, a professional theater/dance school, directed by alumna Francisca Silva (BFA ’02). Alumni and students from Duoc and Dance at Illinois will perform in Santiago and Champaign as Lehovec creates an evening length work for this international mix of artists. Professor Sara Hook created a solo with Racy Brand (BFA ’12), which continued to develop at Bates Dance Festival 2012 where Ms. Hook was on faculty, which was then performed by Racy at Dance at Illinois’ 7th Production in Brooklyn in 2013.

When 5 Come Together was created by Professor Kirstie Simson in collaboration with graduate students Nico Brown (MFA ’14), Steven Moses and Rhea Speights (MFA ’15).

Professor Renée Wadleigh and graduate student Renée Archibald (MFA ’13) collaborated with media wizard John Boesche to create "--- --- ----. L to R: Rhea Speights (MFA ’15) and Tiffany Norris (BFA ’13)."

Dance students are intimately involved in campus activities, ranging from registered student organizations, the FAA ambassador program, which helps with new student recruitment, to being active members of sororities and fraternities. Senior Alison Rhoades received the Senior 100 Award for her work on campus:

NewsFlash: Nico Brown, MFA candidate, received the Kate Neal Kinley Award, a $20,000 project award given to one student nationally.
Illinois gave us the tools to think about and approach dance, movement, and teaching in a new way and that has made all the difference in our studio."
dance at illinois

NewsFlash: Mallory Rubin and Alison Rhoades received the Bronze Tablet, ranking in the top three percent of students in their graduating class.

NewsFlash: Professor Jennifer Monson premiered Live Dancing Archive at the Kitchen (NYC) in February 2013 to rave reviews by the NY Times.

Left: Lauren Vermilion (BFA ’13), Bridget Grissom (BFA ’14), and Kristin McCoy (BFA ’14) in Color of Day by Renée Wadleigh and Renée Archibald (MFA ’13).

Middle: Members of the BFA Class of 2013 in Darrell Jones’ bpm.

Right: Jasmine Wilson (BFA ’13) in The Aftermaths of Mr. Jones by William McClellan (BFA ’00).
This year’s graduating BFA students will be heading to NYC, Atlanta, Chicago, Salt Lake City, Louisville (KY), Greeley (CO), and as far as Taipei, Taiwan! Their plans include performing at the American Dance Festival, supported by the Illinois Department of Commerce and Community Development. Their dedication, passion, focus, and discipline on stage, in the classroom, and in command central (the dance office) are inspiring. I deeply appreciate the generous donors who contribute to the Illinois Department of Commerce and Community Development. As I look back, it is clear that the seeds of each of their individual artistic missions were specified and re-ignited during their three years here. These seeds of each of their individual artistic missions were embedded in this experiment. As I look back, it is clear that the seeds of each of their individual artistic missions were embedded in this experiment.
Through small and interactive gatherings, salons, and fortifying the historically important guest artist program.

Enhance the national exposure of our already intimate and playful experiences to achieve the pivotal force—donate now!

Assist the Dance Department in raising funds and public awareness of the particular form of critical thinking that the experience of dance brings to our collective benefit.

We look forward to meeting you and having you be a pivotal force—donate now!

Contributors

DANCE PARTNERS

Through small and interactive gatherings, salons, and unique events with dance critics, educators, and students, the Dance Partners will create intimate and playful experiences to enhance the following goals:

1. Raise public awareness of the particular form of critical thinking that the experience of dance brings to our collective benefit.

2. Assist the Dance Department in raising funds and fortifying the historically important guest artist program.

3. Enhance the national exposure of our already intimate and playful experiences to achieve the pivotal force—donate now!

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www.dance.illinois.edu/support-dance-at-illinois/how-to-donate

12–13 scholarship recipients

Verna L. Unger Memorial Scholarship (Est. 1994)
Mimi Symonds (BFA ’12) & Maree Barnes (BFA ’12)
Awarded in recognition of outstanding performance.

Roy Family Dance Award (Est. 1994)
Katharine Valley (BFA ’14)
Awarded in recognition of potential for unique, continued contribution to the profession.

Maria St. West Prize for Student Choreography (2009)
Nina Brown (BFA ’10)
Awarded in recognition of outstanding choreographic ability.

Patricia Graver, Sara and Jack Strand Award (Est. 2004)
Angelica Angulo Soledad (BFA ’15)
Awarded for an outstanding MFA candidate to be provided travel and study that deepens his/her artistic life.

Beverly Blossom and Carey Erickson Alumni Award (Est. 2007)
Shepherd Smith (BFA ’08)
Awarded in recognition of her contribution to alumni relations.

Moe Family Dance Award (Est. 1996)
Nico Brown (MFA ’14)
Awarded to a graduating senior who has shown the most growth and development through his/her four years.

Alumni Outreach Award
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Awarded in recognition of her contribution to alumni relations.

Lisa Carducci Memorial Scholarship
Laura Marshall (BFA ’12)
Awarded in recognition of a senior project.

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Dance Partners Co-Founders Fran Ansel and Diane Baker

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Fran Ansel

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— Diane Baker

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performance calendar 2013–2014

November Dance
November 14-16, 2013

February Dance
February 6-8, 2014

StudioDance I
March 6-8, 2014

StudioDance II
April 24-26, 2014

Senior Concert
May 2, 3, 2014

Audition Dates
BFA Program:
November 16, February 8, March 3

MFA Program:
February 12 & 13

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November 14-16, 2013

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February 6-8, 2014

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Dance Faculty
Jan Erkert, Professor, Department Head

Denis Chiaramonte, Visiting Lecturer

Laura Chiaramonte, Visiting Lecturer

John Dayger, Visiting Lecturer

Sara Hook, Professor, MFA Program Director

Philip Johnstone, Lecturer

Kate Kuper, Visiting Lecturer, Community Engagement Co-ordinator

Linda Lehovec, Associate Professor

BFA Co-Director

Tere O'Connor, Professor

Jennifer Monson, Professor

Rebecca Nettl-Fiol, Professor, BFA Co-Director

Tere O'Connor, Professor

Cynthia Oliver, Professor

Ahalya Satkunaratnam, Andrew W. Mellon Post-Doctoral Fellow

Kirstie Simson, Assistant Professor

John Toenjes, Associate Professor, Music Director

Renée Wadleigh, Professor

Patricia Weidmann, Visiting Lecturer

Guest Artists 2012-2013
Grace Cavatorta (BFA '13)

Adelita González (BFA '13)

Dry Fun

Kevin Young Dancer

David Jones

Dance Hall

Bobbi Miller Company

Mark Morris Dance Group

Mark Howland, Lighting Designer (BA '11)

Nakatani Skantze Duo

Sheldon Smith (MFA '91)

Meryl Tankard

Ni'Ja Whitson

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Meryl Tankard

Ni'Ja Whitson

Accompanists
Brian Behrns

Jason Finkelman

Beverly Hillmer

Niall Jones

Cody Rose

Kathryn Scott

Special Thanks to:
Pam Alston

Diane Baker

Krannert Center for the Performing Arts

Dart FT

Magazine Credits
Jacqueline Kinsman, Editor

All photography by Natalie Fiol, unless otherwise noted.

SURFACE 51, Design – www.surface51.com

Cover Image – Jazmyne Thomas (BFA '13) in her Walking a Thin Line

Back Cover – Ashley Cizmar (BFA '13) in When I Find it, You’ll be the Last to Know by Leila Henry (BFA '11)

NewsFlash: Rebecca Nettl-Fiol and Jan Erkert travelled to England in July 2013 to give a keynote speech to the Somatics and Dance Conference.


Dance at Illinois named “hotbed of choreographic innovation” by the New York Times, June 2013.

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