

s p r i n g d a n c e s 2 0 2 6

WE ALSO BLOOM



*Live & Streaming from Kenilworth Square East, Jan Serr Studio
April 30–May 3 | Performances at 7:30 p.m.*

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN

MILWAUKEE



Peck School
of the Arts

We acknowledge in Milwaukee that we are on traditional Potawatomi, Ho-Chunk and Menominee homeland along the southwest shores of Michigami, North America's largest system of freshwater lakes, where the Milwaukee, Menominee and Kinnickinnic rivers meet and the people of Wisconsin's sovereign Anishinaabe, Ho-Chunk, Menominee, Oneida and Mohican nations remain present.

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR'S GREETING

We are delighted to welcome you to Springdances 2026: We Also Bloom in the beautiful Jan Serr Studio. This spring the choreographers and dancers have been in the studio creating diverse subjects that reflect on the challenges of the past, present, and the future. Underlying all these works is the act of creative collaboration that is at the heart of any dance performance. The choreographer may lead the process, but it is through the interplay with the dancers' contributions, that the dance comes to life. These acts of collaboration demand respect and trust, qualities that are at the heart of UW-Milwaukee's Department of Dance.

For this concert we bring together choreographers with deep connections to UW-Milwaukee, and specifically UWM Dance. We are excited to welcome back our guest artist, Karlies Kelley, a graduate of both our BFA and MFA programs, and the Artistic Director of MKE-based dance company, Panadanza. Long time instructor and UWM alum Christal Wagner, the Artistic Director of Danceworks MKE, and current MFA candidate Tiffany Tomiko Kadani are creating original works on our students. Finally, Dan Schuchart, a BFA alum, and myself, an MFA alum, offer new works. You will see the variety and expanse of artistic visions that the choreographers on this program bring to the stage, and the breadth of work that a UW-Milwaukee degree in dance offers.

The Department of Dance is committed to bring amazing guest artists like Karlies to campus every year. These opportunities give students experience with diverse approaches to dance training and performance, create connections for them with professionals in the field, and offer opportunities beyond the boundaries of the classroom. We are asking anyone who may be interested in supporting our ability to bring guest artists to campus to donate to the Dance Fund. This fund helps support all that we do in the department, but most importantly helps our students thrive and prepare for a career as a dance artist. Any amount is greatly appreciated. Please use the QR code on posters outside the studio to make a donation.

We all hope you enjoy tonight's performance, and we appreciate your ongoing support!

Daniel Burkholder, Artistic Director

Chair, Department of Dance

**Recording of any kind, including photography, is prohibited. Please turn off anything that rings, buzzes, or lights up during the performance. Latecomers will be seated at a suitable break. Performers & audience members thank you!*

PROGRAM

Raze Down, Raise Up

Choreography: Christal Wagner, in collaboration with the performers

Performers: Larissa Beckman, Quinn Bednar, Ian Frisch, Sanaa Harper, Layla Hopkins, Abigail Knueppel, Mckenna Kubly, Madison Lower, Kaia Mormino, Ashley Nash, Leah Sodemann, Taylor Vanroy, Gwendolyn Williams

Original Text: Christal Wagner in Collaboration with Ian Frisch

Music: "Chattanooga Choo Choo" by Mack Gordon and composed by Harry Warren, "Java" by New Orleans Jazz Orchestra, "El Gringo" by Alessandro Alessandrone, "La Llorona" by DeVotchKa, "Tico Tico" by Phillip Jones Brass Ensemble composed by Zequinha de Abreu, "A Fistful of Dollars" by Ennio Morricone, "Comin' Home Baby" by Mel Tormé

Costumes: Dana Rochester

Choreographer Notes: In the 1950's, Milwaukee proposed 16 expressway segments meant to ease traffic and move people more easily. Its construction largely impacted lower income and minority neighborhoods previously affected by redlining. The absence of homes and new development remains visible today in portions of the Park East-West sections that were never completed or were torn down. Nearly 20,000 homes and businesses in Milwaukee were razed in this time for urban renewal and highway construction. To learn more about the research for this please visit cwmoves.com/raiseup.

GOSEI

Choreography: Tiffany Tomiko Kadani

Performers: Max Arellano, Minah Bektessi, Jalen A Boettcher, Lou De Courcy-Bower, Dylan John Erwin, Victoria Anne Franz, Hayden Marie Gruenberg, Melissa Henningsen, Hayley Koblitiz, Chloe Carol Marietta Lamb, Ellianna Grace McElwee Sr, Orion Napper, Amaya Yasmin Esteves Ramos, Maggie Marie Roth, Maria Anne Shanklin, Manny Wilke

Music: Section I *Buddha in the Attic* by Julie Otsuka, read by Aillie Snyder/ Section II "Like Some Enormous Music (Temple of the Golden Pavilion)" from *Mishima* Soundtrack by Kronos Quartet/ Section III "1962: Body Building" from *Mishima* Soundtrack by Kronos Quartet/ Section IV "Zoku" by Kodo, sound design by Paul Westfahl/ Section V Excerpt from the Rachel Maddow Podcast *Burn Order*, featuring words spoken by Satsuki Ina of Tsuru for Solidarity with sound design by Paul Westfahl

Costumes: Azure Parmentier

Choreographer Notes: Following the attack on Pearl Harbor, FBI agents detained Japanese American men across the country on suspicion of espionage. Many returned traumatized and silenced, some not reunited with their families until after the war. Although the government knew there were no spies within the Japanese community, the entire population was put into prison camps. What followed was a generational silence: no words for what happened in those rooms, no words for the camps, no language passed down to their children.

Kadani is Yonsei which is fourth generation Japanese American. This work is made for the Gosei, the fifth generation, and for everyone who has ever inherited something they were never given words for.

Drift

Choreography: Daniel Burkholder, in collaboration with the performers

Performers: Calla Beverly, Angelique Delval, Deanna Feil, Angelina Garcia, Meg Gourley, Isaac Robertson, Autumn Schiffer, Adelaide Wateski, and Madelyn Witt
Music: Nils Frahm and Sananda Maitreya

Sound & Video Design: Chad Speed

Choreographer's Note: Drawing inspiration from the driftless area of Wisconsin, we imagined the accroaching glaciers, asking "What do you take with you?" and "What do you leave behind?". Special thanks to the dancers for their fearlessness and commitment to the process.

Intermission

The Push

Choreography: Dan Schuchart, in collaboration with the performers

Performers: Kady Cowart, Mallory Ebbens, Greta Hanson, Fiona Josephs, Clara Kilian, Kelsey Myers, Abigail Pasmore, Ailie Snyder, Meredith Starr, Shelby Thompson

Music: Original composition and performance by Paul Westfahl

Costumes: Marites Guarin

Choreographer Notes: The Push emerges from questions of when to join and when to leave; what it means to stand for something, against something, or alongside others. It considers the vulnerability of stepping forward and the shifting pressures that accompany those choices. The dance unfolds in a landscape of uncertainty, where external forces disrupt balance and demand constant recalibration. The sandbag functions as a kind of wrecking ball, a tangible embodiment of risk, danger, and unpredictable impact. It evokes personal, political, and environmental threats that linger and sometimes collide directly with the body. Its presence demands attention in stillness and motion. Each performer contends with it individually while shaping conditions others must respond to. Balance remains provisional. Through force, persistence, and care, they carry on together.

I am deeply grateful to the dancers for their commitment, focus, and generosity, and to Paul for the percussive drive and joyful openness in collaboration.

Gira + Sol =

Choreography: Karlies Kelley, in collaboration with the performers

Performers: Janiya Carter, Delilah Cardiff, Lina Conchi, Amarion Herbert, Phairra Jones, Kasey Eckhardt, Ebony Lewis, Jojo Pizarro, Serena Vasquez, Hadassah Warner, Alyna Williams

Poem & Narration: Amarion Herbert

Sound Design & Music Arrangement: Kiran Vedula

Music: "Primogenio" -Ruben Blades, "Farafina Mousso" -Lubiana, "Saloma" -Los de Azuero, "Camerata en Guaguancó" -Camerata Romeu, Guido Lopez Gavilan, Zenaida Romeu

Costumes & Fabrication: Karlies Kelley

Choreographer Notes: "Who has the right not to explain themselves? The people who don't have to. The ones whose subjectivities have been naturalized." -Miguel Gutiérrez

Too often, marginalized people are asked to narrate their suffering or justify their joy. This work resists that demand. It creates a space where existence itself is enough. Like the sunflower (girasol), this piece turns toward light. It stands tall, expands beyond borders, and continues to grow through radical belonging, sacred geometry, and authentic joy.

-Heartfelt thanks to UWM, my Dcestors, and the BRILLIANT, playful, and generous performers. And to all who witness—thank you for completing this circle with your presence.

BIOGRAPHIES



Daniel Burkholder (Artistic Director/Choreographer) Chairs the Dance Department at University of Wisconsin Milwaukee's Peck School of the Arts, where he has been a faculty member for over 10 years. His work spans theatrical performances, site-specific events, media, and screen dance. His current project, "Embodied Truth: Finding Ways to Move Together," explores race and gender through parenting, collaborating with NYC artist Kimani Fowlin. They've presented workshops and performances in Milwaukee, Cincinnati, Beirut, and at various festivals. He also hosts "act/re/

act," a podcast exploring improvisation across artistic forms through conversations with artists. Burkholder has created over 60 dance works presented at major venues including The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, Tribeca Performing Arts Center, and 92nd Street Y, as well as across North America and internationally. He has been a resident artist at Djerassi, taught at Cirque du Soleil, and served as artist-in-residence at Georgetown University Hospital for five years. He holds degrees from Sarah Lawrence College, American University, and University of Wisconsin Milwaukee, along with certifications as a Guild Certified Feldenkrais Practitioner and MNDFL Certified Mindfulness Instructor.

Marties Guarin (Costume Designer) is a UWM alum who recently graduated class of 2025 with a BFA in Theatre Production. Since graduating she has worked on Skylight Music Theatre's *A Rockin' Midsummer Night's Dream* (Stitcher), Amadeus (Wardrobe Crew), and Milwaukee Repertory Theatre's production of *Come From Away* (Wardrobe Crew).



Tiffany Kadani (Choreographer) grew up in Sacramento, California. She trained at Pamela Hayes Classical Ballet Training before earning her degree at Brigham Young University, where she focused on the interplay of ballet, modern dance, and biomechanics. Her professional career spans performing with Dangerous Lorraines Dance Theatre and Lorelei Bayne Dance Projects, choreographing for prominent figures and institutions in Washington, DC, and teaching at

esteemed schools like The Washington Ballet, Milwaukee Ballet, and UWM. Since moving to Milwaukee in 2018, Tiffany has prioritized injury prevention and sustainability for dancers, blending her technical expertise with a commitment to fostering long-term health in the dance community.



Karlies Kelley (Choreographer) is a Panamanian-born and raised multidisciplinary movement artist based in Milwaukee. Her “spiritual-social” approach to performance and education has developed over 15 years through work with youth and adults, collaborations with professional artists, and advanced study, including a BFA and MFA from UW-Milwaukee. Her training is grounded in international travel and cultural exchange in Cuba, Brazil, Côte d’Ivoire, Japan, Mexico, Panama, and Colombia.

These experiences shape her practice of movement as a living expression of memory, resilience, and joy. Karlies founded Panadanza Dance Company in 2008 with a mission to use dance as a pathway to healing, belonging, and cross-cultural understanding. Her work—including *Canal Builders*, *Ola de Memorias*, and *Soy De Aqui Ahora*—moves between traditional, modern, and postmodern forms, engaging diverse communities through dance, music, and storytelling. Throughout the school year, Karlies leads residencies in elementary and middle schools and facilitates weekly workshops and performance opportunities beyond the classroom, cultivating confidence, discipline, and collaboration in her students. For adults, her most popular program, *Magic Mondays*, is a live music dance class open to all levels, centering women while welcoming all participants. She encourages participants to explore the “in-between” space where music and movement become one. She was named the 2025 Wisconsin Dance Council Choreography and Performance Artist of the Year.



Kyle Norris (Stage Manager) is a local stage manager and the UWM Peck School of the Arts’ Box Office Manager. He has had the pleasure of working not only with local theater/arts organizations but many other companies across the country throughout his 19-year career. He is also a card carrying Local 18 Stagehand member.

Azure Parmenter (Costume Designer) is a sophomore pursuing a BFA in Theatre Production. Previous UWM credits include *The Good Doctor* (Stitcher/ Deck Crew), and *Songs For A New World* (Stitcher/ Wardrobe Run Crew). After graduation, Azure hopes to work on costumes, props and makeup for film, television, and theatre.



Ellie Rabinowitz (Lighting Designer) enjoys a multiplicity of lighting applications: from dance (too many to choose), to theater (*Souvenir* at Milwaukee Rep, many plays with The Constructivists), art (*Emily Mast* at LACMA), to some dabbling in stop-motion (*Robot Chicken* season 6), & music (Indradevi, LA Grand Ensemble), as well as teaching lighting design. These days she’s likely to be found herding cats as one of Wisconsin’s three regional contacts for Burning Man.



Dana Rochester (Costume Designer) has been an instructor and costume designer at UWM since 2012. She is also an alumnus of the UWM Theatre Department-Costume Production BFA. She has designed costumes and wigs for the Theatre, Music, and the Dance Department's Winter and Spring Dances many times and is delighted to join them once again. Some favorite past work at UWM include ALL MY SONS, TROJAN WOMEN, 9 TO 5, INTO THE WOODS, HAMLET, MACBETH, CYMBELINE, SCAPINO!, THE MARRIAGE OF FIGGARO, DIDO & AENEAS. She is also an

active designer and artisan within the local theatre community. Most recent works include Wig Designer for BOSWELL at Next Act Theatre and Wig and Makeup Designer for AMADUES at Skylight Music Theater (currently running).



Dan Schuchart (Choreographer) is an interdisciplinary artist and teacher. Since 2002, he has worked with Wild Space Dance Company as a company member and choreographer and is now Artistic Director. Schuchart earned BFA degrees in Dance and Painting/Drawing from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, an MFA in Experimental Choreography from the University of California-Riverside, and a Graduate Laban Certificate in Movement Analysis at Columbia College Chicago. He has choreographed over 40 dances for professional companies and

universities across the US. Schuchart is currently Teaching Faculty at UW-Milwaukee Department of Dance, and outside of dance, has worked as a scenic painter for the movie Public Enemies, and scenic charge for the Milwaukee Ballet, Milwaukee Chamber Theatre, Florentine Opera, and Skylight Music Theatre.



Christal Wagner (Choreographer) is an Alumna of the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee dance department (BFA) where she is also adjunct faculty. She is a screendance artist and has produced work as a cinematographer, performer, editor and director for Joe Goode, Josh Halverson, Maria Gillespie, Danceworks Inc, Milwaukee Dance Theatre Network, Milwaukee Opera Theatre, UWM Dance, The Saint Kate Arts Hotel, The Cactus Club, and Li Chiao-Ping Dance where she was a 2020 SEED Creation Fund grant recipient. Christal is the artistic director

of Danceworks Performance MKE and has danced for Your Mother Dances, Gina Laurenzi Dance Project, Dawn Springer Dance Projects, Skylight Music Theatre and spent 14 years as a company member with DPMKE. Christal is a cofounder of the music and dance trio Cadance Collective, co-creating pieces through processes where music and dance are worked on simultaneously through improvisational practices and original soundscapes. In 2020 Christal Wagner became the Saint Kate Art Hotel's FIRST artist in co-residence. She is the recipient of 8 Wisconsin Jerry Awards for her work in musical theatre and has choreographed over 20 musicals in the city of Milwaukee. Christal's mission is to support and elevate the voices of her community, collaborators, and fellow artists.



Phil Cruise Warren (Production Manager) is grateful to be a part of Peck School of the Arts and Production Manager for UWM-Dance Department. Phil has been the Master Electrician for Skylight Music Theatre and the Broadway Theatre Center, as well as having worked for Long Wharf Theatre in New Haven, CT; Signature Theatre in New York City; and was the Lighting Director for Big Top Chautauqua in Bayfield, WI. Phil has designed lighting for a number of Wild Space Dance Company productions, including Acts of Discovery and Into the Garden. He holds a BFA in Theatrical Production and Design from Minnesota State University, Mankato.



Paul Westfahl (Music Coordinator/Composer) is a Milwaukee-based drummer, percussionist and educator. He received a BA in Percussion Performance from the University of Wisconsin-Parkside in 2012. As a performer, he has performed all over the city and greater Milwaukee/Madison/Chicago area - more notably with: The Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra, Milwaukee Repertory Theater, Skylight Music Theater, Fireside Dinner Theater, First Stage and Milwaukee Children's Choir. He also maintains a demanding freelance schedule working with dozens of groups crossing genres from early & modern Jazz, Fusion and Pop, to Neo-Classical, to 1920s Swing and American Roots music, to World Music and to punch-you-in-the-gut Rock&Roll. Since 2019, Paul has found himself engaging with the Milwaukee dance scene and works as an accompanist and composer for the UW-Milwaukee Dance Department, Danceworks, Wild Space Dance and the Young Dance Academy. Paul also teaches privately and is a frequent clinician for Milwaukee area schools through the Arts and Community Education (ACE) program. He currently holds an adjunct faculty position at the Wisconsin Lutheran College, Ronald Reagan High School and with the Wisconsin Conservatory of Music. Since 2015, Paul has dedicated himself to studying tabla and is a disciple of Pandit Hindole Majumdar.

SPECIAL THANKS

UWM Dance offers a special thanks to all the choreographers – Karlies, Christal, Dan, and Tiffany – for sharing their exceptional talents with our students and audiences. We also thank all the faculty who has supported our students in their training, and being role models on how to be thoughtful, engaged, and exceptional educators and artists.

We also offer special thanks to our amazing artistic production team Kyle Norris, Mischa Premeau, Ellie Rabinowitz, Phil Cruise Warren and Paul Westfahl.

PRODUCTION TEAM

Daniel Burkholder	Artistic Director
Ellie Rabinowitz	Lighting Designer
Phil Cruise Warren	Production Manager/Master Electrician
Paul Westfahl	Music Coordinator
Marties Guarin, Azure Parmentier, Dana Rochester	Costume Design
Kyle Norris.....	Stage Manager
Zen Granger.....	Assistant Stage Manager
Mischa Premeau	Deck Crew
Hailey Marie Dadap Kanderski	Lighting Board Operator
William Thomas Stypla	Sound/Projection Operator
Jalise Kerkenbush.....	Livestream Technician
Maties Guarin, Cuauhtli Ramírez Castro.....	Wardrobe Crew
Mark Frohna, Christal Wagner.....	Photographer
Korporate Media	Videographer

DEPARTMENT OF DANCE FACULTY & STAFF

Daniel Burkholder	Chair, Associate Professor
Maria Gillespie	Professor
Mair Culbreth.....	Associate Professor
Ishmael Konney	Assistant Professor
Paul Westfahl	Music Coordinator
Ferne Caulker-Bronson, Simone Ferro, Darci Brown Wutz	Professor Emerita
Annie Melchior, Dan Schuchart, Dawn Springer	Teaching Faculty
Alex Hansen, Tracey Radloff, Kris World	Senior Lecturer
Melissa Anderson, Rich Ashworth, Angela Blahnik, Bhumi Patel	
Monica Rodero, Christal Wagner.....	Lecturer
Meg Gourley, Tiffany Kadani, Carly Vanderheyden	Graduate Teaching Assistant
Christal Wagner	Recruitment & Outreach Coordinator
Sydney Mattmiller.....	Recruitment & Outreach Assistant
Karlies Kelley Vedula, David Rousseve	2025-2026 Guest Artists*

*Support provided by Differential Tuition funds, administered by the Peck School of the Arts Black and Gold Committee.

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

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Gillian Rodger, *Music*

Nathaniel Stern & Glenn Williams, *Art & Design*

Jesse McLean, *Film, Video, Animation & New Genres*

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Justin Kunesh, *Art Director & Web Specialist*

Upcoming Events

MAY 13

African, Salsa/Merengue & Hip-Hop Showcase

JULY 30

UpStart - MFA in Dance Research Concert

JULY 23 - 26



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