The Power of Storytelling Through Dance

Written by Ashley H Pollock

Southern Utah University, Cedar City, Utah: Coming to the stage at the Randall L. Jones Theatre, Body Project: An Original Faculty-Choreographed Dance Concert April 12, 13, 14, 15, and 17 at 7:30 p.m. with a matinee performance on April 15 at 2 p.m. Tickets are $10 for adults and $5 for students and children. Southern Utah University faculty, staff, and students are free with a valid ID card. Faculty and staff IDs are allowed one guest. Tickets can be purchased at the door the night of the show or online at www.suu.edu/pva.

Each year, the Southern Utah University Dance faculty prepare a striking dance concert full of diverse choreography. These professors then work with their students throughout the rehearsal process to perfect the technique of each movement.

Kay Andersen, Chair of the Department of Theatre Arts & Dance, said, “In addition to the innovative work of faculty, a piece titled Bach Suite created by internationally renowned choreographer and dancer Murray Louis and taught by Alberto Del Saz, will be performed by our students. It is an honor to present this dance which has been tested by time, and performed throughout the world on prestigious stages.”

Patty Meredith, Assistant Professor of Dance, said, "My piece is about problem solving and using the performing intelligence of the dancers. Choreography is a series of thousands of choices and decisions. Splitting Heirs (a working title) has the dancers making choices while they perform, reacting to each other and the cues/clues they receive. The rehearsal process has been rollicking fun."

Students have the opportunity to audition as performers for the faculty-choreographed dance concert during the school year. Once selected, they work closely with their faculty choreographers to achieve the look and feel of the dance piece in which they are performing.

Mary Newey, a senior in the dance department, said, “I am in a few pieces for the Faculty-Choreographed Dance Concert. Every piece is different; they each have their own life, personality, and story to tell--I'm fortunate enough to get to be the medium it is shared through. I personally think it is the highest honor to get to be someone's vision, to become their art. Each of the processes I've been involved in has been vastly different, however, each has been thoughtful and detail oriented. It is amazing the specificity that is involved in creating these dances.”
Observe the power of dance in *Body Project: An Original Faculty-Choreographed Dance Concert*. For more information, please visit [www.suu.edu/pva/ta](http://www.suu.edu/pva/ta).

**About the College of Performing and Visual Arts**

The Southern Utah University College of Performing and Visual Arts is comprised of nationally accredited departments of Art and Design, Music, and Dance. The College also offers programs in Theatre Arts, graduate programs in Arts Administration and Music, as well as a Center for Shakespeare Studies. The College offers 16 different degree areas, including liberal arts Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Science degrees; professional Bachelor of Music and Bachelor of Fine Arts in art and theatre degrees; and Master of Fine Arts in Arts Administration, Master of Arts in Arts Administration, Master of Music Education and Master of Music in Music Technology graduate degrees. More than 60 full- and part-time faculty and staff are engaged in teaching and mentoring nearly 600 majors in the College. Over 1,100 students enroll each year in over 195 arts classes on the SUU campus. The College presents over 100 performances, lectures, presentations, and exhibitions each year. The College’s affiliate organizations include the Southern Utah Museum of Art (SUMA), Utah Shakespeare Festival and SUU’s Ballroom Dance Company. For more information about the College of Performing and Visual Arts, visit [www.suu.edu/pva](http://www.suu.edu/pva).

**For Calendar Editors: Enjoy the Power of Storytelling Through Dance**

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**Who:** Dance students, College of Performing and Visual Arts, Southern Utah University

**When:** April 12, 13, 14, 15, and 17 at 7:30 p.m. with a matinee performance on April 15 at 2 p.m.

**Where:** Randall L. Jones Theatre, Beverley Center for the Arts, Southern Utah University, Cedar City, Utah

**Tickets:** Tickets will be $10 for adults and $5 for students and children. Southern Utah University faculty, staff, and students are free with a valid ID card. Faculty and staff IDs are allowed one guest. They can be purchased at the door the night of the show or online at [www.suu.edu/pva](http://www.suu.edu/pva).

**Info:** For more information, please visit [www.suu.edu/pva](http://www.suu.edu/pva).

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