

Ohio Wesleyan Dancers, Choreographers
to Premiere 'Orchesis 20/21' Online

TAKING IT OUTSIDE

OCT. 29

Visit www.owu.edu/orchesis
to register for access to the
online event.

Open only to current OWU students and employees,
the dances will be performed live on campus

OCT. 22, 23, 29, AND 30



ORCHESIS 20/21



www.owu.edu/orchesis

*For
details*
↙

*Ohio Wesleyan University Department of Theatre & Dance
presents*

Orchesis 20/21

Taking it Outside

Artistic Director: Rashana Perks Smith *

Videography Consultant: Megan Davis Bushway

Technical Director: Chadwyn Knutson *

Assistant to the Artistic Director: Anne Raspe

Stage Manager: Ernest Chando

dance.owu.edu | facebook.com/owuorchesis

* Indicates member of Theta Alpha Phi

Live Performances outdoors and on campus

Act I - 4pm, Act II - 7pm on:

Thursday, October 22, 2020

Friday, October 23, 2020

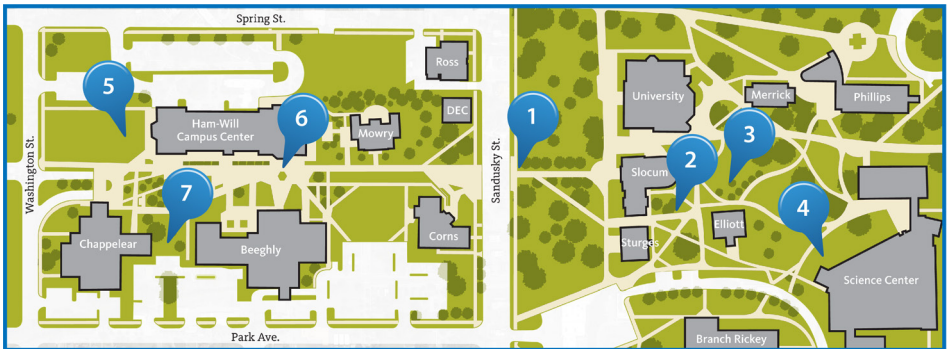
Thursday, October 29, 2020

Friday, October 30, 2020

Online Performance

Thursday, October 29, 2020 at 8pm

*** DUE TO WEATHER - Act II will take place in Chappellear Drama Center - Thurs/Fri, Oct 29/30th**



The dances will be performed live on campus on Oct. 22, 23, 29, and 30.

Act I will begin at location #1 on the map at 4 p.m. each day. The performance will continue, in numerical order, and end at location #6 at approximately 5 p.m.

Act II will begin at location #7, between Chappellear and Beeghly Library, at 7 p.m. Dancers will be using the darkness to create a "Drive-in Screendance" program.

In all instances, campus audience members need to wear facial coverings and maintain at least 6 feet of physical distance from others.

Director's Note

Nothing we have done this semester is how we have operated in the past, unsurprisingly. We moved rehearsals and classes outside as much as possible. Sometimes we rehearsed via Zoom meetings or through watching pre-recorded rehearsal material. We adapted to the constraints of maintaining proper social distances and we wore masks. Spatial relationships and costume choices were limited from the beginning. And yet, with the absence of regular full company showings or a repertory lighting plot for a proscenium stage and all the designers and crew hands that come with that endeavor, we found an abundance of other considerations to redirect our attention. And we found that we had more patience for the unknown than we thought we could initially muster.

We are developing new relationships with space and time. There is a particular significance placed on the space we usually reserve for other dancers and the audience. As we consider our relationships with people across distances, we also seem to be negotiating the past, present, and the future, simultaneously, as we present a program that includes live, outdoor performances in Act I. Ephemerality still exists in this manner, but we are also aware as we rehearse and perform, that many students, faculty, and staff have walked along these outdoor pathways and have also performed their own dances at Ohio Wesleyan. In Act II, after night falls, we dip into recordings of performances that have already taken place for the camera. The Screendance program also includes a live feed across two disparate time zones alongside pre-recorded material. Alumni have also contributed to the program, making this a

look forward for some of us. Do we see ourselves in our OWU alumni?

We have been looking forward to the performances with a certain amount of pride as we were able to dive into the uncertainties while being actively engaged in meaning-making. We have felt the weight of presence and of non-presence, of missing our fellow dancers at times, and of delighting in seeing them again in distances across a field or on a projection screen. This is but one Orchesis production among many; but after having experienced the process of adapting to the restrictions due to a global pandemic, I can say that the possibilities seem to have ironically opened up. In order to create in the midst of restrictions, we have had to re-think operations and processes. New scenarios quickly presented themselves. This was the shortest rehearsal period we have experienced in recent history, and yet, here we are, presenting dance across multiple platforms.

We hope you enjoy Orchesis 20/21!

Rashana Perks Smith

Cast

Choreographers

Ellie Bearss
Alex Dolph
Taylor Frasure *
Tess Meddings
Anne Raspe
Kayla Rush
Rashana Perks Smith
Margaret Welsh *

Videographers

Editors

Ellie Bearss
Megan Davis Bushway
Alex Dolph
Rashana Perks Smith *
Margaret Welsh *

Editing

Consultant

Megan Davis Bushway

Dancers

Ellie Bearss
Colleen Cornwell
Ali Dix
Alex Dolph
Taylor Frasure *
Cat Giacalone *
Bella Hintzman
Jasmine Lew *
Tess Meddings
Lizzy Nebel
Anne Raspe
Kayla Rush
Elenya Stephani
Wyatt Wells
Margaret Welsh *

Alumni

Cameos

Hayley Glessner *
Jeremy Griffin-Jackson *
Lauren Holler *
Jill Jacobson-Bennett
Mark Goldberg
Alexia Minton *
Rachael Sheets
Michelle Smith *
Savannah Travis



Production Crew

Technical Director - Chadwyn Knutson

Assistant to the Artistic Director - Anne Raspe

Stage Manager - Ernest Chando

Assistant Stage Manager - Fiona Hansen*

Run Crew - Kayla Cox, Patience Savino

Sound and Projection - Catie Hyatt *, Cat Giacalone *,
Sam Miller

Committees

Swag: Ellie Bearss, Alex Dolph, Liz Nebel, Bella Hintzman

Social Media: Anne Raspe and Maggie Welsh *

Outreach: Rashana Perks Smith *, Taylor Frasure *, Ali Dix

Nutrition and Conditioning: Kayla Rush, Jasmine Lew *,
Wyatt Wells, Tess Meddings, Elenya Stephani

* Indicates member of Theta Alpha Phi

Act I

October 22nd, 23rd, 29th, 30th @ 4pm

Living in Phrases

Choreographer: Tess Meddings

Dancers: Alex Dolph, Taylor Frasure, Kayla Rush

Music: *Fragments* by AERØHEAD

Location: Top of the stairs leading from South Sandusky Street to Slocum Hall

A Passage

Choreographer: Kayla Rush

Dancers: Ellie Bearss, Ali Dix, Anne Raspe

Music: *We Move Lightly* by Dustin O' Halloran and *Morpheus Cello Concert III* by Oliver Davis

Location: In front of Elliott Hall and the Science Center

Rhythmic

Choreographer: Taylor Frasure

Dancers: Alex Dolph, Kayla Rush

Location: Amphitheater

You'll Get Through It

Choreographer: Anne Raspe

Dancers: Ellie Bearss, Taylor Frasure, Kayla Rush, Wyatt Wells

Music: *Bouncing Ball* and *Give Yourself To Me* by HoneyHoney

Location: The fountain on the Jay Walk

Act II

October 22nd, 23rd, 29th, 30th @ 7pm

* DUE TO WEATHER - Act II will take place in

Chappelear Drama Center

in this space, at this time

Choreographer/Editor: Ellie Bearss

Videographers: Ellie Bearss, Jasmine Lew

Dancers: Ali Dix, Jasmine Lew, Lizzy Nebel, Anne Raspe

Music: *Dreamers Wake* by Rival Consoles

I Want to Be Well

Choreographer: Alex Dolph

Dancers: Ali Dix, Bella Hintzman, Tess Meddings

Music: *Eudaimonia* and *Climb That Mountain* by Sufjan Stevens and Lowell Brams

Petrichor

Choreographer/Artist/Editor/Soloist: Maggie Welsh

Videographer: Megan Davis Bushway

Music: *Wonder* by Rabbit Theft

Walking Afield

Conception/Technician/Editor: Rashana Perks Smith

Music: *Ritual Reverance and Confessions*, *Clocks and Gears*, *Construct 2*, and *4 158* by Michael Wall

Choreographers/Videographer/Dancers: Ellie Bearss,

Colleen Cornwell, Cat Giacalone, Jasmine Lew, Tess

Meddings, Anne Raspe, Kayla Rush, Elenya Stephani, Wyatt

Wells, Maggie Welsh, and alumni - Hayley Glessner, Jeremy

Griffin-Jackson, Lauren Holler, Jill Jacobson-Bennett, Mark

Goldberg, Alexia Minton, Rachael Sheets, Michelle Smith,

Savannah Travis

Cast & Crew Bios

Ellie Bearss (Dancer/Choreographer/Videographer/Editor) has been dancing for 16 years and this is her third year performing for Orchesis as well as her 2nd year choreographing. She is from Franklin Tennessee with a double major in Dance and Political Science. She hopes you enjoy the show and continue to support the arts!

Megan Davis Bushway (Editing Consultant) is a dance and movement educator based in Columbus, OH. Megan is on faculty at BalletMet Academy and Momentum, an organization whose mission is to transform children's lives through dance, music, and performance. Previous teaching appointments include Wittenberg University, VSA, and the Columbus Modern Dance Company. She regularly offers Pilates Mat and Reformer classes and is a Teaching Artist for OhioDance, where she shares movement practices in a community setting. Megan currently dances with Sea↔Bus, an improvisation-based company. Past performance credits include collaborations with Megan Yankee and works by Leslie Dworkin, Susan Rethorst, Melanie Bales, Susan Hadley, Fritha Pengelly, Cynthia Nazzaro, and Paige Phillips. In addition to her work as an educator and performer, Megan also specializes in dance film and documentation. She has been commissioned by local artists and serves as the videographer and editor for OhioDance and the Virtual Dance Collection. Megan received an MFA in Dance from The Ohio State University and a BA in Art Therapy and Dance from Springfield College.

Ernest Chando (Stage Manager) is a sophomore at Ohio Wesleyan University. Actor, Playwright, and Inventor of the wheel, he has decided to try his hand at managing the incredible dance production known as "Orchesis 20/21."

Every dancer, choreographer, and crew has worked very hard. He hopes you enjoy the performances and come back to see more!!

Colleen Cornwell (Dancer) is a junior from Mount Vernon, Ohio. She is double majoring in Dance and Psychology with a minor in Theatre. Before coming to OWU she had never danced before, this is now her 2nd year performing in Orchesis and she is very excited!

Ali Dix (Dancer) is a freshman Dance major from Marion, Ohio. She has been dancing for fifteen years, which makes this her first year in Orchesis. Ali is very excited to start her journey at OWU and continuing her dance education. So here's to a great freshman year and a beginning in Orchesis!

Alex Dolph (Dancer/Choreographer/Videographer/Editor) is a sophomore Psychology and Dance double major, with minors in Theatre and French from Middletown, OH. This is her second time performing in Orchesis and first time choreographing and doing video work. She has previously been seen in *Eurydice* (Loud Stone), "Orchesis 19/20" (Dancer), "Inter/Sect" (Ensemble, Dancer, Writer) and can be seen in "Woyzeck, Inc." as The Doctor. She hopes you enjoy this unconventional show!

Taylor Frasure (Dancer/Choreographer) is senior Special Education and Dance double major with a minor in theatre from Galloway, OH. This is her fourth year performing in Orchesis and her third time choreographing for the show. On campus, Taylor is involved with Terpsicorps, OWU Rhythms, Delta Zeta, OWU Teaching Fellows, and the Creative Arts House. She would like to thank her family and the entire cast for all of their continuous love and support.

Cat Giacalone (Dancer/Crew) is a senior Theatre and Creative Writing double major, Film and Dance double minor from Franklin, MA. This is her first time dancing in

Orchesis, but previously she has been Sound Head (18/19) and Lighting Designer (19/20). Her other previous credits include *The Country House* (Stage Manager), *Eurydice* (Lights Crew), *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Snug/Fairy), and *Henry V* (various roles). Catch her in her senior project, "Time to Feast," next semester!

Fiona Hansen (Assistant Stage Manager) is a Junior Theatre/English double major from Groveport, OH. She has been involved with the department in the past as the Stage Manager for *The Secret Garden* (the show that never was) and as a director for "One Acts 2019." She is also the director of the upcoming senior project *Medusa's Tale* and the Historian of Wesleyan Players. She hopes everyone stays safe and has a great time with the show.

Bella Hintzman (Dancer) is a Theatre and History double major and Political Science minor from Fremont, CA. This is her first time performing for Orchesis, and she is so grateful for the chance to Dance, Learn and Make Art with such a kind community. So far this year, she has been cast as Little Red/Ensemble in "Opera Scenes," Margaret in "Woyzeck, Inc.," Stage Manager for "Time To Feast" and as Secretary for Wesleyan Players. She hopes you enjoy the show!

Chad Knutson (Technical Director) received his MFA in design from Wayne State University and Bachelor of Arts from Moorhead State University. This is his sixteenth year at OWU, where he has worked as both lighting designer and scenic designer.

Jasmine Lew (Dancer) is a junior from Fremont, California with a major in Theatre and minors in Education and Spanish. This is Jasmine's third Orchesis. Favorite recent credits include: *Eurydice* (Stage Manager), "One Acts 2019" (Director), "Orchesis 19/20" (Dancer/Lighting Designer), "Scenes! 2019" (Director), *Home Free!* (Joanna),

A Midsummer Night's Dream (Puck), and *Cloud 9* (Edward/Betty). Jasmine would like to thank her resistance band for giving her shoulder stability, as well as Camy and Aaron for their love and support. She'd like to thank you for coming out and supporting live dance during a pandemic!!

Tess Meddings (Dancer/Choreographer) is a junior from Marion, Ohio who is a Dance and Spanish double major and a Film Studies minor. She has always loved to dance. She is choreographing for Orchesis for the second time and dancing in the show for the third time. She would like to thank her family, friends, and instructors for pushing her to her full potential and always supporting her! She looks forward to the show and hopes everyone enjoys it!

Lizzy Nebel (Dancer) is a sophomore with an undecided major who is looking into Communications, International Studies, Entrepreneurship, and Film, with a minor in Dance. Her favorite style of dance is hip hop and jazz funk, this is her second year in Orchesis which has provided her with an awesome opportunity to practice other styles. She loves to travel and before she came to college she lived in China and trained at a Shaolin Kung Fu school. Besides dance, Kung Fu martial arts is her favorite kind of physical activity! Lizzy is also a Theta, loves Harry Potter, attended a Waldorf school when she was younger, and her favorite flavor of ice cream is mint chip!

Anne Raspe (Dancer/Choreographer/Assistant to the Artistic Director) is a junior Dance major from Chicago, IL. She has been dancing for 15 years and this is her third year performing in Orchesis; as well as her second year choreographing for Orchesis. Anne is currently the dance representative on the TheaDance student board, the Terpsicorps President, as well as this year's assistant to the director for Orchesis. She is very passionate about the positive role that the arts has in everyday life and

encourages everyone to support the arts whenever they can.

Kayla Rush (Dancer/Choreographer) is a sophomore Biology and Dance double major from Pittsburgh, PA. She has been dancing for 17 years, this is her second year of Orchesis and her first year as a choreographer. Kayla serves as the sophomore representative for the Theatre and Dance Department board, Vice-President of OWU Rhythms, Secretary of Terpsicorp and on the marketing committee of the Campus Programming Board. She is very excited to present this year's Orchesis and hopes you enjoy the show, either virtually or in person!

Rashana Perks Smith (Artistic Director/Choreographer/Editor/Technician) is a dance artist and educator creating and facilitating performances in the greater Columbus, Ohio area. Her research straddles choreography and curation within the realms of neighborhood art projects and higher educational institutions. Collaboratively, Smith creates work with artists from a range of disciplines and facilitates projects that reflect human connections and community with an emphasis on non-traditional performance spaces. She holds a BFA in dance from University of Texas at Austin and an MFA in Dance at The Ohio State University with a focus on Choreography and Technology. At Ohio Wesleyan University, she teaches dance composition; dance history; contemporary, jazz, and social dance techniques; and the Honors Tutorial: *Dance Film: A Calculated Framing of Bodies*. She also directs the annual dance production.

Elenya Stephani (Dancer) is a senior Strategic Corporate Communications major and Dance Minor at OWU and is very excited to be back for her third year in Orchesis! Elenya has been dancing since she was 3 years old, with experience in tap, jazz, ballet, pointe, lyrical, modern, musical theater, and contact improvisation. She has done

intensive dance training at The School for Creative and Performing Arts in Cincinnati, Ohio. She has also performed her own spoken word poetry with the Performing and Time Arts Series. Elenya hopes you enjoy Orchesis as much as she has and she can't wait to see you for opening night!

Wyatt Wells (Dancer) is a sophomore from Marion, Ohio double majoring in International Business and Spanish. This is his first time being a part of Orchesis but has been dancing since the age of 5. He recently has been in *The Secret Garden*, "One Acts 2019", and "Scenes! 2019". Outside of the Department of Theater & Dance he is a pole vaulter on the track team, in the choir, marketing club, and EMF. Wyatt has loved being a part of such a great group of dancers.

Margaret R. Welsh (Dancer/Choreographer/Editor) is a senior Theatre and Dance double major and Fine Art minor from Ashville, OH. This is her fourth time performing in Orchesis, second time choreographing, and first time making dance for film. She would like to thank Rashana and Megan for all their help with her piece, and, as always, her mother Jean Welsh for her continued love and support.

Chappelear Drama Center Staff

Office Manager - Andrea Ryan

Office Staff - Ginny Faeth, Valerie Helenburger, Carrie Henderson

Technical Assistants - Ernest Chando, Caitlin Hyatt, Jack Jones, Garrick Bostwick, Sam Miller, Desiree Thompson, Maggie Welsh, Lucy Webb

House Manager - Pascal Fraiere

Acknowledgements

Special thanks to the Office of University Communications for their assistance and to Eugene Rutigliano with Library Services for archival information regarding campus locations.