

*Department of Performing Arts Presents*

**Drexel Dance Ensemble and FreshDance 2022**

# **Drexel Dance Films**

*Five Nights of New Releases*

**March 2-6, 2022**  
**6:00 PM**



 DREXEL UNIVERSITY  
**Antoinette Westphal**  
College of Media Arts & Design  
Department of Performing Arts

*Photo credit to Tori Lawrence*

Available at <https://drexel.edu/performingarts>

DREXEL DANCE ENSEMBLE AND FRESHDANCE  
CORE VALUES

We strive to provide a safe environment where students can be imaginative, explorative, challenged, surrounded by pluralistic ideas, and guided to achieve artistic and technical goals. We value hard work, working as a team, and the communal spirit it takes to achieve a fully produced dance performance. This home – and place of artistry – will serve the students. This is a place for dancers to learn, expand, unite, and be.

Welcome, and thank you for watching this film series by the Drexel Dance Ensemble and FreshDance companies. Though the pieces in these films were originally designed to be performed live onstage, due to safety precautions amid the pandemic, they have been adapted and produced for film. It is exciting to have the opportunity for our students to perform in this alternative medium when we can't perform live in front of an audience. The Drexel Dance Ensemble and FreshDance are led by Olive Prince, and this film series showcases five unique works, reflecting on themes of Afro-Futurism, feminism, life and death, our relationship to nature, and more. Choreographers explore additional elements in these works, including the commissioning of original sound, incorporating natural textures, and interactive wearable technology.

Drexel's Antoinette Westphal College of Media Arts & Design is proud to engage students from all majors through the Department of Performing Arts. For students, this represents an exciting range of performance opportunities both on stage and behind the scenes. Meanwhile, students who participate in music, theatre, or dance have created extraordinary interdisciplinary work, pushed the boundaries of their primary disciplines, and forged careers that leverage their stage experience. The performing arts enrich students' academic success, social lives, and personal growth.

We encourage all Drexel students to get involved, either by performing in or working on the productions, or by taking electives in Music, Theatre, and Dance. You can find out more by calling 215-895-2451 or by visiting our website: [www.drexel.edu/westphal](http://www.drexel.edu/westphal).

We hope you'll enjoy this film series and that you'll join us for our future performances, which are listed at [www.drexel.edu/performingarts](http://www.drexel.edu/performingarts).

Sincerely,

Jason Schupbach  
Dean, Antoinette Westphal College of Media Arts & Design



# DREXEL DANCE FILMS

## FIVE NIGHTS OF NEW RELEASES

### A LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

Welcome to Drexel Dance Films: Five Nights of New Releases! I feel incredibly grateful that our team of professional artists, choreographers, designers, and staff have been able to work with students in a way that felt both safe and artistic in creating these films. As our Winter performance series was upended by the pandemic, we quickly pivoted to a film format for some of the works. Choreographers and film artists had minimal time to shift their medium and thinking surrounding the dance works. Dancers embraced the challenge with enthusiasm and hard work.

I believe these continual times of reconfiguration test our creativity and perseverance. Everyone involved in this project has had to ask what it means to achieve our artistic goals and follow through with our art making process. How do we continue to produce dance that is meaningful, from the inside/out? Dance making in a college setting is also about the community we make, about the dancers feeling inspired, connected, and valued. During unapparelled and unpredictable times, we have been fortunate to lean into the interconnectivity and joy of the community. I am grateful to all who contributed with full, gracious hearts.

Sincerely,

Olive Prince, M.F.A  
Director, Drexel Dance Ensemble and FreshDance

### Sunset Hour

Choreographed by Ama Ma'at Gora  
Film by Les Rivera

Dancers: Maggie Artman, Leila Bakilana-Ritz, Morgan Cruise,  
Alexa Gorman, Quincy Hines, Audrey Kingree, Hannah Kryman

Music: "Circlesong 2" by Bobby McFerrin,  
"Visit Croatia" by Alabaster DePlume

Costumes: Asaki Kuruma  
Lighting: Dom Chacon



## At Last, and Too Soon

Choreographed by Jennifer Morley  
Film by Les Rivera

Dancers: Abby Chirico, Giulia Dostie, Aria Iuso, Lindsay Nakai,  
Kira O'Brien, Ava Pizzi, Lozen Robinson, India Scott, Emily Uhler

Music: "Go in Peace" by Candice Accola, "Broken Chords Can Sing a  
Little" by Silver Mt. Zion, "Army of Me" by Bjork, "Batabid" by Bjork

Costumes: Julie Padovan  
Lighting: Dom Chacon

## When I can't see the Shore

Choreographed by Valerie Ifill and dancers  
Film by Les Rivera

Dancers: Maddie Alberici, Louisa Arnold, Shermeka Brown-Ancrum,  
Giulia Dostie, Alisia Lipsey, Emma Stonehouse, Mia Zlupko

Music: "Wisdom Eye" by Alice Coletrane, "Solo" by Lous and  
The Yakuza, "BRAVA (Carta Pa Tareza)" by ACOLORS ENCORE

Costumes: Rebecca Kanach  
Lighting: Dom Chacon  
E-textiles Design: Raja Schaar and Nicole Feller-Johnson  
Text: GumbsUndrowned: Black Feminist Lessons  
from Marine Mammals by Alexis Pauline

## duality untethered

Choreographed by Britt Whitmoyer Fishel in collaboration with dancers  
Film by Britt Whitmoyer Fishel

Dancers: Morgan Cruise, Quincy Hines, Hannah Kryman,  
Josie Mangano, Nikki Stauffer, Tori Strausbaugh, Sydney Wessner

Music: Original Score by James Reindee

Costumes: Rebecca Kanach  
Lighting: Dom Chacon  
Set/Props: Chris Titora

## Above

Choreographed by Tori Lawrence  
Film by Tori Lawrence

Dancers: Alec Aversa, Shermeka Brown-Ancrum, Hannah Dolen,  
Holly Edwards, Grace Fisher, Anna Gordover, India Scott,  
Kirsten Senske, Christina Strobel, Maddie Vassallo

Music: Original Music by Cole Bjeli, Seth Wegner,  
and features the dancers

Sound Production and Design: Seth Wenger  
Costumes: Louisa Parker  
Rehearsal Assistant: Ellie Goudie-Averill



# DREXEL DANCE ENSEMBLE COMPANY

# DREXEL DANCE ENSEMBLE COMPANY

NAME	MAJOR	PLANNED GRADUATION YEAR
Maddie Alberici	Dance	2022
Louisa Arnold	Nursing	2022
Alec Aversa	Master in Computer Engineering	2022
Shermeka Brown-Anerum	Dance	2023
Abby Chirico	Mechanical Engineering & Mechanics	2024
Emily Cratin	Public Relations	2024
Isabella Diaz-Kelly	Design & Merchandising	2022
Hannah Dolen	Dance	2022
Giulia Dostie	Dance	2022
Holly Edwards	Marketing & Organizational Management	2022
Grace Fisher	Dance	2024
Linda Franceschini	Materials Science & Engineering	2022
Marissa Fuccione	Dance	2022
Anna Gordover	Public Relations	2024
Aria Iuso	Dance	2024
Madison Kim	Health Sciences	2024
Sarah Kitchen	Dance	2023
Alisia Lipsey	Dance	2022
Aislinn McGhee Hassrick	Dance	2022

NAME	MAJOR	PLANNED GRADUATION YEAR
Kara Moran	Health Sciences	2024
Hannah Murphy	Health Sciences	2022
Lindsay Nakai	Dance & Nursing	2024
Kira O'Brien	Dance	2022
Brigid O'Neill	Dance	2024
Alex Pachkowski	Custom Design Major	2023
Ava Pizzi	Dance	2023
Lozen Robinson	Custom Design Major	2025
India Scott	Dance	2024
Kirsten Senske	Animation & Visual Effects	2023
Emma Stonehouse	Chemical Engineering	2024
Christina Strobel	Electrical Engineering	2022
Kaleigh Stuart	Biomedical Engineering	2024
Deanna Telesford	Nursing	2022
Emily Uhler	Dance	2024
Maddie Vassallo	Marketing & Accounting	2022
Jacob Wong	Computer Engineering	2022
Mia Zaia	Dance	2023
Mia Zlupko	Product Design	2024



## FRESHDANCE COMPANY

NAME	MAJOR	PLANNED GRADUATION YEAR
Maggie Artman	Design & Merchandising	2025
Leila Bakilana-Ritz	Psychology	2025
Catherine Citsay	Product Design	2025
Trinity Clow-McLaughlin	Nursing	2025
Eliza Covello	Marketing	2026
Morgan Cruise	Dance	2025
Ellie Engleka	Hospitality Management	2026
Imani Gegner	Dance	2025
Alexa Gorman	First Year Exploratory Studies	2025
Quincy Hines	Dance	2025

## FRESHDANCE COMPANY

NAME	MAJOR	PLANNED GRADUATION YEAR
Ella Karow	Graphic Design	2025
Audrey Kingree	Design & Merchandising	2025
Hannah Kryman	Dance	2025
Josie Mangano	Nutrition	2025
Sabrina Morin	Design & Merchandising	2025
Sara Patterson	Dance	2025
Olivia Racobaldo	Interior Design	2025
Nikki Stauffer	Nursing	2026
Tori Strausbaugh	Philosophy, Politics & Economics	2025
Sydney Wessner	Nursing	2026



## ABOUT OUR PROFESSIONAL ARTISTS

*Olive Prince (Director)* is a veteran Philadelphia performer, educator, and artist. She worked as a company member with Kun-Yang Lin/Dancers, and Merian Soto for close to a decade as well as Cardell Dance Theater and Group Motion. Her performance credits include touring internationally in Taiwan, Singapore, Germany and Indonesia as well as nationally at the Lincoln Center Outdoors Festival, Battery Park Dance Festival, Joe's Pub, and Interlaken Arts Festival. Prince received her MFA in dance and choreography from Temple University where her choreography was chosen for the American Colleges Dance Festival Association's National Concert at the Kennedy Center. She has been commissioned to create dance for many Philadelphia companies and colleges including site-specific work for William Smith College, the Magic Gardens, and the Iron Factory. She was also commissioned by Drexel University to create an original piece for students to perform at the International Night of the Singapore Youth Festival – the only American company ever to receive this invitation. Prince is artistic director of Olive Prince Dance which has been presented at Triskelion Arts Center (NYC), the Philadelphia International Festival of the Arts, the Live Arts Festival (PHL), the International Contemporary Dance Conference, New Dance Alliance's Performance Mix Joyce Soho, the CEC Resident Artist Series, the nEW Festival and as part of the Susan Hess Choreographer's Project where she was a resident artist. OPD's most recent work has been created in collaboration with visual/installation artist, Carrie Powell developing Fringe Arts performances: *Of Our Remnants* (2015) *Silencing The Tides* (2017), and *Courage Systems* (2019). Prince was featured in an interview on her work, on WHY?Y's piece "Articulate with Jim Cotter". As an educator, Prince been teaching as a full-time and adjunct faculty member at Drexel University since 2008, focusing on modern dance, composition, and improvisation. She became the Director of Drexel University Dance Ensemble & FreshDance in 2020. Prince is also the mom to two young boys who continually show her new ways to move.

*Megan Tomey (Producer)* is a nonprofit and arts administrator in Philadelphia. She is a graduate of Drexel University with a Master of Science in Arts Administration and a Bachelor of Science in Entertainment and Arts Management. Megan is currently the Associate Program Manager in Philadelphia at Compass, an organization that offers pro bono strategy consulting services to local nonprofits. She has previously held positions at the Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts, CultureWorks Greater Philadelphia, and the Barnes Foundation, and she has served as the Graduate Assistant in Drexel University's Department of Performing Arts. Megan enjoys supporting Philadelphia's arts and cultural sector, including serving a panelist with the Philadelphia Cultural Fund's grant program. Megan is an alumnus of Drexel Dance Ensemble and FreshDance and is thrilled to serve as Producer for these ensembles.

*Caroline "Collo" O'Brien (Associate Director)* is a moving artist, business owner, and Pharmacy Technician. For the last decade Caroline has followed her passions in both art and science to embrace her desires of collaboration, creation, performance, and connection. With a strong belief in improvisation (both on and off stage) Collo strives to live authentically through her creative work and daily life practice. Caroline is grateful for the opportunity to be making and sharing; and connecting with movers and observers.

*Hassan Syed (Choreographer and Assistant Director)* is a dancer and choreographer from New Jersey. Starting with Hip Hop dance, Hassan later grew to explore different styles to manifest his own choreography and movement. Hassan has traveled both nationally and internationally performing his choreography in several different countries. Hassan received his BA in Dance from Georgian Court University and his MFA in Choreography at Temple University. Hassan is currently dancing for Cardell Dance Theatre as a principal dancer. Hassan has performed in places such as Canada, Pakistan, Belgium, England, The Dominican Republic, Jamaica, and different parts of the United States. Hassan was awarded the Leadership Scholarship award to attend American Dance Festival in 2019. Hassan was also accepted into Jacob Pillow's first street dance program in 2020. Hassan just completed his first guest choreographic residency at Georgian Court University. Currently, Hassan is on faculty at Drexel University, while still performing as a movement artist throughout the world. Hassan was awarded first honors in Choreography of his graduating class at Georgian Court University. Hassan was also the recipient of the Rosenick Fund Award during his MFA at Temple University.



*Mary Elizabeth Stickney (Assistant Director)* is a graduate of Drexel University with a Bachelors of Science in Dance and a Masters of Science in Elementary Education with a Special Education certificate. She is a Special Education case manager and teacher at Pastorius-Richardson Mastery Charter School in Philadelphia. Mary enjoys freelance performing and choreographing; she choreographed for the Philadelphia Youth Ballet's 2015 Spring Concert. Mary has studied and worked with global and local artists including David Parsons, Boris Charmatz, Tania Isaac, Leah Stein, Antoinette Coward-Gilmore, Beau Hancock, and Caroline O'Brien.

*Britt Whitmoyer Fishel (Choreographer)* is a dance artist, choreographer, dance filmmaker, and educator. She holds a B.F.A. in Dance Performance from East Carolina University and an M.F.A. in Dance (Screendance) from the University of Michigan. Fishel has led company tours throughout New York City, Philadelphia, D.C., Richmond, Asheville, Charlotte, Atlanta, Chicago, London, and Italy. Her screen work has been seen in Greensboro Dance Film Festival, Y'allywood Film Festival, Detroit Dance City Festival, EnCore Dance on Film Festival, DanceBARN, Dance for Reel, FilmFest by Rogue Dancer, Women in Dance Leadership Conference, FringeArts, MashUp Dance's IWD Festival, Florence Dance on Screen, as well as several gallery exhibitions across the country. Fishel currently resides in Philadelphia where she is on faculty at Drexel University as well as Bryn Mawr College. She continues to make both live performance and screendances with Britt Fishel and Artists. BF and Artists explores assimilations of the human experience, democratizing and normalizing socioeconomic, political, and identity driven conversations, anchored in intersectional feminism. Most recently, BF and Artists received the Lorenzo il Magnifico International Award in Performance from the Florence Biennale (IT) in October 2021.

*Valerie Ifill, M.F.A. (Choreographer)* is a dance educator, researcher and performer focused on university-community partnerships, making dance more accessible and embodied storytelling. Associate Teaching Professor of Dance at Drexel University, Valerie's research explores race and power in education; interdisciplinary collaborations; and making movement accessible to communities of color. Through her creative work, Valerie strives to tell non-linear stories supported by values of community building and creating spaces for marginalized people. This process-based creative work is expressed through process-based self-reflective movement workshops on identity; bringing interactive dance experiences into elementary and middle schools in urban communities; creating work for the concert stage; and creating interdisciplinary site-specific performances for non-traditional dance audiences. Valerie earned her Master of Fine Arts degree in Dance from the University of Oregon, completed the Independent Study Program at The Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, and earned her Bachelor of Business Administration degree with a Dance minor from Kent State University.

*Jennifer Morley (Choreographer)* is an Associate Teaching Professor and the somatics coordinator in the Drexel University dance program. She is the Director of both the Drexel Pilates studio and the 450-hour Drexel Pilates training program. She is the coordinator of the somatics minor. Her scholarship is highly focused on both existing and emerging embodied practices and the cultures and value systems from which they emerge. Jennifer's choreographic research is focused on the development of archetypal movement modes as a starting point for the creation of inhabited landscapes. Utilizing the Jungian understanding of archetypes as energies that reflect innate tendencies that mold and transform individual consciousness that live in all humans across time, space, and culture, she works to develop movement motifs that connect to lived experiences. Her work was most recently presented at the Somatic Dance conference in Geneva New York, the Cardell Dance Studio in Philadelphia, and the American College Dance Festival in Maryland. She has had a two-year choreographic residency at Philadelphia's Community Education Center and been the recipient of multiple New Stages for Dance grants through Dance USA Philadelphia and the Pew Center for Arts and Heritage.



*Tori Lawrence (Choreographer and Filmmaker)* is a Western Massachusetts and Bay Area-based choreographer, filmmaker, and educator who creates site-specific multimedia performances and digital/analog dance films. Her environmentally-based work inspires an imaginative and sustainable way of looking at, thinking about, and using space. She is a lecturer at Bennington College and Smith College, and was the 2019-20 Artist-in-Residence at Middlebury College, where she taught courses in Movement & Media, Improvisation, and Contemporary Technique. She has been a lecturer at the University of Kansas and a guest artist at Franklin & Marshall College, Connecticut College, Trinity College, and Drexel University. Tori graduated from Franklin & Marshall College and received her MFA from the University of Iowa, where she was a recipient of the Iowa Arts Fellowship. She has been awarded artist residencies from Lademoen Kunstnerverksteder (Trondheim, Norway) and USF Verftet (Bergen, Norway), where she'll create a new screendance project with Jennifer Nugent in 2022-23. Other awarded artist residencies and fellowships include: Yaddo, Djerassi, Playa, Brunakra (Sweden), Chez Bushwick, Ucross Foundation, Charlotte Street Foundation, Dance Ireland, and Workshop Foundation (Budapest). Tori's choreography and dance films have been presented by Philadelphia Dance Projects, Dance Films Association's Dance on Camera Festival, Movement Research at the Judson Church, Fresh Festival, Bodies in Motion Festival, Stockholm Screendance Festival, Cape Town International Film Festival, Portland Maine Film Festival, Agite y Sirva, San Francisco Tiny Dance Film Festival, Lisbon Screendance Festival, Oklahoma Dance Film Festival, Cyprus International Film Festival, amongst others. She is currently collaborating with dance artist Sara Shelton Mann on a new performance installation with residencies at Space 124 (San Francisco), Counterpulse (San Francisco), Fresh Festival @ Joe Goode Annex (San Francisco), and SCDT (Northampton). She is also working with dance artist Jennifer Nugent on a project being presented by Triskelion (NYC) and Gibney (NYC) Spring 2022. [www.torilawrence.org](http://www.torilawrence.org)

*Ama Ma'at Gora (they/we) (Choreographer)* is a black, queer, multidisciplinary artist, educator, and choreographer. They received their BFA in Dance from Georgian Court University and their MFA in dance from Temple University. They have had opportunities to work with choreographers such as, Kariamuw Welsh, Lela Aisha Jones, Earl Moseley, Sidra Bell, Gregory King, Silvana Cardell and more. From 2019 until present they worked at Drexel University where they have had many roles including — community-based learning director of dance, adjunct faculty member and Fresh Dance choreographer. An avid believer in collaboration, they worked alongside Lela Aisha Jones as a co-teacher at Bryn Mawr College in 2020. Outside of their collegiate role they lead and direct Ma'at Works Dance Collective, a project-based dance company focused on storytelling. They began Ma'at Works in hopes of putting more black femme, queer, trans and fat folk on stage. Their works revolve around identity, trauma, restoration, and reimagining. Adamant about building safe spaces, they are the co-founder of The Juba House, a transient co-creation space for black queer artist. They have been recognized as a dance artist dedicated to serving the community. Receiving the 2020 Transformation Award from the Leeway Foundation. As they continue to create work they are excited to announce their participation in the 2022 New Dance Alliance Black Artists Space to Create Residency.

*Chris Totoro (Production Manager and Scenic and Prop Designer)* is the Technical Director/ Production Manager for the Mandell Theater. Outside of Drexel, Chris is a freelance Scenic Designer, Director, Performer and Technician. Chris serves on the Board of Directors for the Vineland Regional Dance Company. He holds a BA in Theatre and a MA in Arts Administration from Rowan University.



*Dom Chacon (Lighting Designer)* is a Lighting Designer and Production Manager based in Philadelphia. He has been working in Philadelphia since he arrived here in 2002 from the University of Iowa. Taking a small break to get his MFA from Temple University he has been involved in many projects around the East Coast. He is also an Adjunct Professor at Drexel University and the Lighting Coordinator for the Lang Performing Arts Center at Swarthmore College. In Philly he has designed for Walnut Street Theatre, Azuka, People's Light and many more. Outside of Philly his work has been seen at Capital Fringe, Edinburgh Fringe, Bowery Street Theatre and Long Wharf Theatre. He is dedicated to making theatre a collaboration as well as a learning experience. In addition to his theatre work he is very passionate about his civic duties volunteering for Planned Parenthood, The Trevor Project, and the ACLU. Some of his favorite collaborations have been Peter and the Starcatcher (Walnut Street Theatre), Nes Quitez Pas (Opera Company Philadelphia as an ALD), Blood Wedding (PAC), Dido+ (Curtis Opera). To find out more check out his website [domchacon.com](http://domchacon.com)

*Asaki Kuruma (Costume Designer and Costume Shop Manager)* is originally from Japan, and she is a multi-disciplinary artist who has been working professionally with many theater companies and artists in the Philadelphia area. Recent costume design credit includes; Marisol (Arcadia University), Pericles (Shakespeare in Clark Park), and Man of God (InterAct Theatre). Asaki is also a Costume Shop Manager at Drexel's Department of Performing Arts, as well as a Resident Artist at Power Street Theatre <https://www.powerstreettheatre.com>. MA -Villanova University. Next up: Backing Track at Arden Theatre Co.

*Julie Padovan (she/her) (Costume Designer)* is a 2021 graduate of the University of the Arts where she majored in Theater Design & Technology with a focus in costume design. Her upcoming credits include Assist. Costume Designer for TJ Loves Sally 4Ever at Theater Horizon. Some of her past costume design credits at the University of the Arts include Men on Boats (2021), Promenade (2020), A New Brain (2019) and An Incomplete List (2018). She has also interned at The Wilma Theater (2019-2020) and Central City Opera (2021). Visit her website to learn more at [juliepadovan.com](http://juliepadovan.com).

*Abby Toll (Stage Manager)* is a stage manager from Ambler, PA. Since graduating from Drexel University in 2018 she has enjoyed bringing theatre to life in Philadelphia and the surrounding areas. While not stage managing, Abby enjoys baking, marathoning tv shows, and following way too many dog accounts on Instagram.



## ENSEMBLE STAFF

Ensemble Director: Olive Prince  
Producer: Megan Tomey  
Associate Director: Caroline O'Brien  
Assistant Directors: Hassan Syed, Mary Elizabeth Stickney

## THEATER STAFF

Mandell Theater Technical Director: Chris Totora  
Stage Manager: Abby Toll  
Master Electrician: Kyle Russo  
Sound Technician: Drew Mangione  
Deck Crew: Jimmy Batty, Maya Epstein, Mark Melkumyan, Iz Patrizio  
Costume Shop Manager: Asaki Kuruma

## PRODUCTION STAFF

Production Assistant: Claire Landis  
Graphic Design: Emily Gioacchini  
Program Design: Kirsten Senske  
Program Support: Holly Edwards, Kira O'Brien

## COVER IMAGE

Front/Back Cover Photography: Tori Lawrence

## DEPARTMENT OF PERFORMING ARTS

Department Head: Miriam Giguere, PhD  
Department Administrator: Amanda Melczer  
Department Assistant: Galen Blanzaco  
Dance Program Director, Interim: Blanca Huertas-Agnew  
Music Program Director: Luke Abruzzo  
Theatre Program Director: Nick Anselmo  
Graduate Assistant: Ren Rosenberg





DREXEL UNIVERSITY

# Antoinette Westphal

College of Media Arts & Design

*Department of Performing Arts*

