

WITH NEW WORKS FROM  
COMPOSITION II AND  
REPERTORY BY  
CHRISTIAN VON HOWARD  
AND ALWIN NIKOLAIS

# HUNTER FALL DANCE



DEC 2,3,4 | 7:30PM  
THOMAS HUNTER  
HALL 601

**Welcome to the Hunter College Dance Department Fall 2021 Showcase performance! These works are the culmination of the Composition II class in our creative track of courses. Professor Alberto Del Saz has worked with these students all semester to guide them through the first public performance of their choreography. In addition to class time, every other Wednesday from 1:00 pm-3:00 pm during Dean's Hours we have showings of the student works with feedback from faculty, guest artists and peers.**

**We are also excited to present two repertory works by Christian Von Howard and Alwin Nikolais staged by Alberto Del Saz.**

**We could not present these works in our beloved Peggy Theatre without our talented Director of Production/Lighting Designer, Burke Brown. More thanks for all the support these projects received from the Student Activity Fund. Finally, thank you to our Dance Department Faculty & Staff. All are indispensable. Congratulations to everyone and again- thank you for supporting Hunter Dance.**



**DANCE  
AT HUNTER**

The Dance Department at Hunter College, located in the heart of New York City at 68th Street and Lexington Avenue, offers a Dance minor, a BA in Dance, a BA in Dance Education, a BA/MA in Dance Education, an MA in Dance Education through the Arnhold Graduate Dance Education Program, and an MFA in Dance.

In addition to technique classes, choreography, and performance on all degree levels, our program is enhanced by improvisation, dance history, musicianship, anatomy and kinesiology, education classes and electives. Performances are held in The Peggy in the fall and the Kaye Playhouse in the spring.

### **Mark Your Calendars**

AGDEP Salon Series

December 11 at 8 pm in The Peggy (Free Admission, RSVP needed)

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Spring Placement Auditions

*Open to newly admitted, transfer and current students*

December 16, 2021 3pm-5pm

January 6, 2022 10am-12pm

Email [dance@hunter.cuny.edu](mailto:dance@hunter.cuny.edu) for more information

# Dance Department Faculty

Paul Dennis.....Professor, Chair of Dance Department  
David Capps.....Associate Professor  
Maura Donohue.....Associate Professor  
Ana Nery Fragoso.....Assistant Professor  
Quilan Arnold.....Adjunct Lecturer  
Burke Brown.....Adjunct Professor  
Lori Brungard.....Adjunct Lecturer  
Andrea Ceasar.....Adjunct Lecturer  
Alberto Del Saz .....Adjunct Lecturer  
Dina Denis.....Adjunct Lecturer  
Francesca Dominguez.....Adjunct Lecturer  
Nina Goldman.....Adjunct Assistant Professor  
Catherine Green-Anthony.....Adjunct Lecturer  
Darvejon Jones.....Adjunct Lecturer  
Maxine Montilus.....Adjunct Assistant Professor  
Jessica Nicoll.....Adjunct Assistant Professor  
Traci Peterson.....Adjunct Lecturer  
Maiya Redding.....Adjunct Lecturer  
Pedro Ruiz.....Adjunct Lecturer  
Randi Sloan.....Adjunct Professor  
Susan Thomasson .....Adjunct Lecturer  
Blakeley White-McGuire.....Adjunct Assistant Professor

## Staff

Phillip "Burke" Brown.....Director of Production/Lighting Designer  
Christina Cetoute.....Administrative Coordinator  
Abigail Kenoyer.....Administrative Assistant

## Credits

Co-Artistic Directors.....Paul Dennis and Alberto Del Saz  
Lighting Designer.....Phillip "Burke" Brown  
Choreographic Mentors.....David Capps, Maura Donohue  
Francesca Dominguez, Darvejon Jones, Jessica Nicoll, Maiya Redding  
Stage Manager.....Lesly Geronimo  
Assistant Stage Manager.....Sima Sadykhov  
Lighting Operator.....Kyla Santiago Figueroa  
Sound Operator.....Christina Solomon  
Wardrobe Staff.....Jenna Pelusio  
Backstage.....Bhutika Bhote, Sophia Stefanopoulos, Jalisa  
Wallerson  
Associate Director of Performing Arts.....Denise Mazzaferro  
House Staff.....Edward Hospedale, Michelle Mantione  
Public Relations.....Christina Cetoute, Abigail Kenoyer  
Videographer/Photographer.....Anne Sofie Nørskov  
Program.....Christina Cetoute, Abigail Kenoyer

### Special Thanks to:

President Jennifer J. Raab  
Acting Provost Valeda Dent  
Dean Andrew Polsky  
Jody Gottfried Arnhold  
Peggy G. Tirschwell-for The Peggy Theater  
The Harkness Foundation for Dance

Special thanks to the Hunter College Dance Department faculty, staff, Hunter College's Office of Facilities Management and Planning, the Performing Arts Office, and the hardworking production crew of this show.

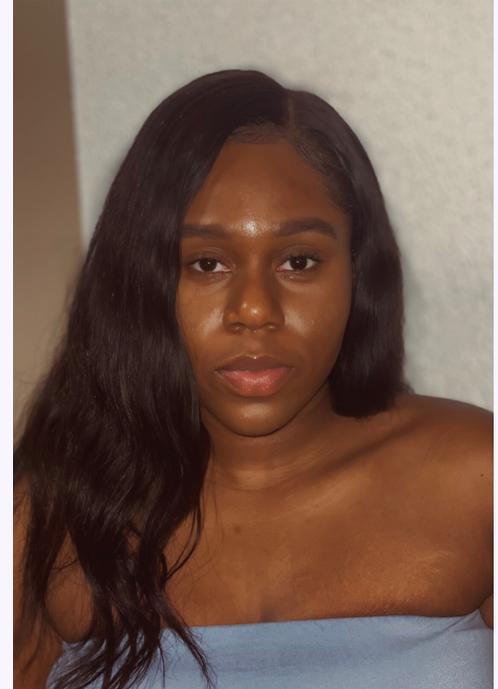
Funding for this event has been provided by the Dance Department, SAF, the Performing Arts and Undergraduate Student Government Funds, and the Harkness Foundation for Dance.

# Choreographer Biographies



**Lesley** is a senior at Hunter College majoring in Clinical Psychology and Dance. She was born in Brooklyn, New York and she is currently 22 years old. Her family migrated from Tlaxcala, Mexico for a better opportunity in the late 1900s. She has been dancing for ten years and focuses on a variety of Mexican folklore dance. She wishes to bring awareness and preserve the traditions in the United States. Recently, the Hunter Dance Department has led her to train in ballet and contemporary styles.

*EcontrandoMe*, is her first choreographic work that dives into the idea of finding one's authentic self, breaking boundaries and the blending of many dance cultures. She aims to continue dancing and choreographing.



**Rachele** began dancing when she was eight years old but has been in love with the art form for as long as she can remember. Introduced to many genres, her professional training initially consisted of Hip-Hop and Afro-Caribbean dance forms but she is now professional training in Ballet, Modern, Jazz, and World Dance. Rachele has been professionally teaching and choreographing for about 10 years beginning as a Freshman in High School. Ranging from Non-Profit organizations, NYC public schools, and private dance studios, Rachele has professionally taught and choreographed many genres of dance to children of all backgrounds from 6 years old through high school.

As a plus size, Haitian-American woman, Rachele advocates for the inclusivity and representation of all bodies despite shape, size, and ethnic backgrounds in the world of dance! Rachele plans to open up her own Dance Education studios for children that will provide nutritional education, physical education and anatomy, and Global Dance History, in addition to technique and performance of many dance genres.



**Angel** is a non-binary senior dance major at Hunter College who recently discovered that they have a unique form of movement that not a lot of people are able to do. Angel has been dancing recreationally since childhood and only within the past 5 years have they been able to dance with a dance team and now in studios on a regular basis. Dancing in New York was a dream of Angel's since they were very young and they're so grateful to finally be able to live that dream here at Hunter.

*Xplore* is the beginning of Angel accepting and realizing their uniqueness as something extraordinary and embracing that while there are some things they have trouble doing because of starting dance technique late, there are so many things that they are able to do because they aren't trying to "stick to technique".



**Taryn Lynch** is a senior at Hunter College double majoring in both Dance and Psychology. She is from Long Beach, New York, where she began her dance training at a local studio in her hometown where she took weekly classes in various styles. Taryn is 20 years old and had begun taking her training more seriously in high school, where she participated in regional dance competitions and continued her training through the summer programs at the Joffrey Ballet School and American Ballet Theater. Taryn hopes to combine her two passions as she moves forward in her career and dreams of being a Rockette. Taryn has really enjoyed being able to work together with her dancers this semester to put together a piece that feels authentic to herself and her style while having fun and challenging herself.



**Alyssa Madden** began her dance career at age 3 at a local studio in her hometown of Westchester, New York where she trained in various styles throughout her childhood. She soon fell in love with the art and began to take her training more seriously. Alyssa competed with her studio in various regional and national competitions throughout high school. By age 13 Alyssa was running classes on her own and choreography pieces to bring to completion. Alyssa is currently a senior at Hunter pursuing her BA in Dance and hopes to continue her performance career after graduation. Alyssa is a member of Kinnections Dance Group, a contemporary pre-professional group in New York City. Alyssa is also the President of the Hunter DanceNOW Club and works at Epic Dance Center, a studio located in Putnam County, NY where she teaches weekly classes and helps run two of their competitive teams. Alyssa has enjoyed the creative process and working with her dancers this semester to create a piece that feels authentic, engaging, and unique to her style.



**Imani Massicot** is a senior at Hunter College majoring in Anthropology and Dance. Her latest Choreographic work *Realm 7* invokes ideas of enlightenment and finding peace. Born to parents from the United States and the West Indies, Imani was able to experience “Blackness” across its rich spectrum. Imani was raised in Southeast Queens, Her Love for the arts was a seed planted by her Grandmother, a retired NYC School teacher and former member of the Black Panther Party. Her Grandmother grew up dancing Salsa and West African Dance and wanted Imani to have a similar experience. Imani took lessons in Ballet, West African, Afro Caribbean, Hip Hop and Modern dance throughout her grade school years.

Imani continued her Education at Queensborough Community College and Hunter College, majoring in Dance. During her junior year, she decided to take on Anthropology as a second major. Her focused study in Anthropology relates to the fieldwork of Katherine Dunham and Pearl Primus; African roots in Black dance, Black dance as an art-form and Black identity. Imani graduates with her BA in Dance, May 2022 and plans to go back for her Master’s in Dance Education to teach in NYC Public Schools.



**Kristina** is the Owner/Director of Power House Dance Academy in Howard Beach, Queens. She graduated from Queens Borough Community College where she received a degree in Fine Arts. She is currently in Hunter College's Dance Education Graduate Program on a Scholarship where she will obtain her Masters in 2022. She performed in two pieces choreographed by Robert Battle; Kristina has also performed in a piece by Urban Bush Women's Dance Company, and another piece by Sidra Bell called *Humane Encounter* in the Spring of 2021. Kristina has been teaching Jazz, Tap, Lyrical, Ballet, Hip-Hop, and Nursery classes for the past 18 years and has won many prestigious choreography awards for her work throughout the tri-state area. She is very excited and proud to bring her Power House students to Hunter College to showcase her piece about mental illness.

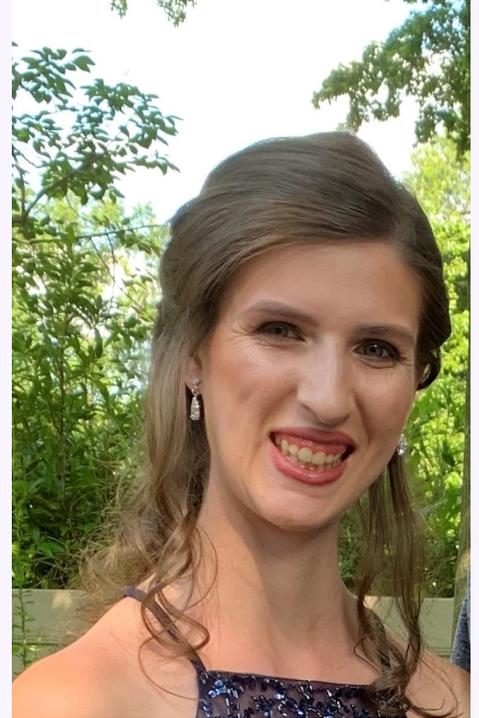


**Ruth Montoya**, 19, was born and raised in Queens, New York, and began dancing in 2015, prior to attending Benjamin N. Cardozo High School. While in high school, Ruth spent two fall semesters participating in the Fall Insider dance program at the Brooklyn Academy of Music. From her participation in the program, she was awarded the Samuel H. Scripps Scholarship, granting her the opportunity to pursue her B.A in dance and obtain her Arts Management and Leadership Certificate at Hunter College. As Hunter College Muse Scholar and a previous Hunter College Arts Ambassador, Ruth strives to continue exploring the arts within today's society and implementing her observations within her own creations.



**Isabella O'Connell** began dancing at the age of 6, learning styles such as ballet, tap, lyrical, and Irish step. Around age 10, she began to primarily study Irish step dance at Solas an Lae, and then later at the D'amby project and has performed at numerous Irish festivals including, Hooley on the Hudson, and festivals in New York City and Boston. She has danced with renowned Irish musicians at numerous Irish Festivals supporting Irish culture, like dancing with “The Wild Cat Creek Band” and Dylan Foley. She has presented contemporary choreographic work at, "Choreography on the Edge," from 2016-2020, and at Wappingers Falls, Earth Day Festival, in 2015, as well as Dutchess Community College's Fall preview show in 2018. O'Connell has been teaching at two studios in The Hudson Valley for the past five years.

Isabella has also completed master classes with Parson's Dance Company, Katherine Duke, in association with the Erik Hawkins Dance Company, Joel Hanna and Leighann Kowalsky. Her hope is to continue to teach, choreograph and perform in a professional capacity, inspiring her students and continuing to spread her voice through her movement. She is a senior at Hunter College, and is so thankful for her time here, especially this fall semester. She hopes to graduate this Spring.



**Erin Peske** is a junior at Hunter College majoring in Dance Education. She was born in the United States and is 20 years old. Erin has danced at her studio Leggz Ltd in Long Island since she was three years old. While she still dances at her studio, she also teaches lyrical classes. She trained most of her life in ballet, hip-hop, tap and contemporary. When she got to Hunter she continued her training in mainly ballet and contemporary. After college, she would like to become a regular teacher or a dance teacher.



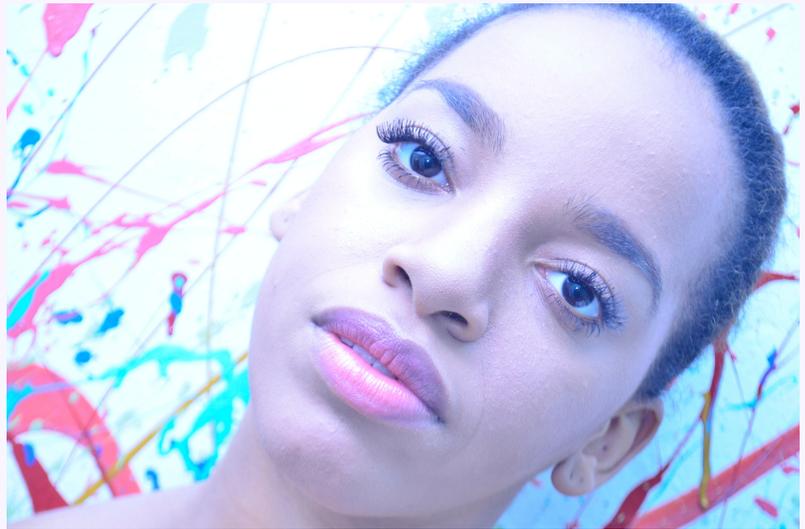
**Jeremy Rosario** is a native of Manhattan, New York specifically Harlem. Jeremy fell in love with dance when he saw his own sister perform for the first time at one of her school recitals. He realized dance was his only escape route to his happy place even when he faced several challenges growing up as a kid. He started dancing at the age of 12 for fun and realized dance had found meaning in his heart. At the age of fourteen, he started his formal training and attended Urban Assembly School for the Performing Arts High School in New York City. In Spring of 2018, Jeremy began the Arnhhold Dance Education Program (AGDEP) at Hunter College. He anticipates graduating with a Masters of Arts in Dance Education in the Spring of 2022. His love for dance has transformed into becoming a role model for his future students, for those who are in need of guidance and to continue to devote himself to the teaching of tomorrow's leaders. He's able to be vulnerable by sharing his studies of dance with his own students. For the past four years, Jeremy continues to work for ACDP, an after school program in the Bronx, district I.S 254, teaching middle schoolers dance. He aspires to make a name for himself, travel the world, and join one of the top dance companies in New York City.



**Aieyla Santaella** is a Senior at Hunter College majoring in Dance and minoring in Theater. She is 26 years old and has been dancing since the age of 6. In 2018 Aieyla moved to Los Angeles, California and pursued a professional career in commercial dance where she was featured in music videos such as "Ozuna" and TV shows such as "All American" and more. The global pandemic brought her back to Hunter to further her technical training in ballet and contemporary. Her piece Lamia portrays ideas of overwhelming emotion and vulnerability. She aims to graduate in spring of 2022 and continue her professional career out in Los Angeles.



**Taylor Simpson** is a Senior at Hunter College majoring in Dance. She has been training in dance for over 10 years in a variety of dance forms. This 23-year-old Atlanta native resides in New York City and plans to graduate in the spring of 2022.



**Kayla Sharon Smith** was born and raised in NYC and believes that dance is one of the most important expressions of the arts. She is currently in the BA/MA Dance Education program at Hunter College. She's co-founder of the praise dance group Advocates for Christ and taught dance workshops at Bronx Community College since 2018. When Kayla is not dancing she spends her time mentoring youth in their professional and personal endeavors. Her passion in youth development led her to find her purpose in life; Empower with faith, guide with integrity, and renew with indiscriminate love.



**Elizabeth Vielot** is a 21 year old senior at Hunter College majoring in Dance. She danced recreationally from a young age, but at 16 started her training towards a professional career at Perfection Dance Center in 2016. For the future, Elizabeth wants to pursue a career in both the commercial and concert-style of dance.



**Kristal** is a dance major at Hunter College. She is 21 years old and was born and raised in Staten Island, New York. She currently works for Center Stage Dance Company as a choreographer for the competition team. Although she loves performing, she hopes to pursue a career as a professional choreographer. Her Composition piece, *¿*, explores the concept of whether there is a god or not, and how you may not be as alone as you think in your quest for enlightenment.

**Fall '21 Hunter Fall Dance:**

**December 4th at 7:30 PM**

**The Peggy Theatre at Hunter College**

**There will be no intermission during this performance.**

**CYPHER**

Choreography by Christian Von Howard, in collaboration with  
performers

Rehearsal Assistant: Tracy Dunbar

Music by Caroline Shaw, Johan Sebastian Bach, Meara O'Reilly,  
Steve Reich

Lighting by Burke Brown

Costume Design by Oriana Sophia Lineweaver

Assistant Costume Designer: Chikako Murakawa

Performed by Brianna Barefoot, Lydia Jean Crozier,

Darvejon Jones, Rhiannon L Guella, Meghan J Horsford, Michael  
Peterson, Diana K Pettersen (process only, Julieta Rodriguez-Cruz,  
Jeremy Rosario, Elena Lily Sundick

**وظيفة "Wazifa"**

Choreography by Taylor Simpson

Music by Gunna, Summer Walker, Eve mixed by Aiyela Santaella  
and Taylor Simpson

Lighting by Burke Brown

Costume Design by Taylor Simpson

Performed by Aieyla Santaella, Rachele Domond, Taylor Simpson

## **EncontrandoMe**

Choreography by Lesley Cuapio

Music by Linda Rosalia, La Romana, Bad Bunny Mixed by Shiori

Kitakoga and Lesley Cuapio

Lighting by Burke Brown

Costume Design by Lesley Cuapio

Performed by Shiori Kitakoga, Isabella O'Connell, Kristal Walters

## **Theory**

Choreography by Ruth Montoya

Music mixed by Wim Sadmojo

Lighting by Burke Brown

Costume Design by Reyna Montoya

Performed by Kayla Sharon Smith, Michael Peterson

## **Lamia**

Choreography by Aieyla Santaella

Music by Wesley Schultz, Suzanne Collins, Jeremiah Fraites mixed

by Aieyla Santaella

Lighting by Burke Brown

Costume Design by Aieyla Santaella

Makeup Artist: Elizabeth Violet

Performed by Simmone Eichelsderfer, Kirsten Killeen,

Shiori Kitakoga, Taylor Simpson

Understudy: Alyssa Madden

## **Succumb**

Choreography by Kristina Miceli

Music by Woodkid

Lighting by Burke Brown

Performed by Millie Costantino, Gabriela Daza, Brianna Perez,  
Gianna Richardson, Emy Xhari

## **Mechanical Organ (1983)**

### **Excerpts**

Choreography by Alwin Nikolais

Staged by Alberto Del Saz

Music by Alwin Nikolais and David Gregory

Lighting by Burke Brown

Costume Design by Hunter Dance

## **Doll With a Broken Head**

Performed by Ashley Cortes-Ose and Sophia Stefanopoulos

## **The Hop**

Performed by Ashley Cortes-Ose, Lesley Cuapio, Rachele Domond, Shiori Kitakoga, Taryn Lynch, Alyssa Madden, Michelle Mendez, Ruth Montoya, Isabella O'Connell, Michael Peterson, Aieyla Santaella, Taylor Simpson, Kylie Solomon, Sophia Stefanopoulos, Jalisa Wallerson, Kristal Walters

Understudy: Angel Kinney

**DANCE**  
**AT HUNTER**