



The Choreographers Showcase Re-Imagined
"Dance That Makes A Difference"

Dedicated to the Loving Memory of Wolfgang Baer (1944-2021)

May 19 & 20, 2022

7:30 pm

**Hidden Valley Music Seminars, an Institute for the Arts
Carmel Valley, California**

FEATURING WORKS BY

ANGELA CHAMBERS – SANTA CRUZ, CA
SHANY DAGAN – TEL AVIV, ISRAEL
CAMRIN E DANNELLY – MONTEREY, CA
NATHAN HIRSCHAUT – SANTA CRUZ, CA
RAMYA HARISHANKAR – IRVINE, CA
TRACY KOFFORD – SANTA BARBARA, CA
JONATHAN LIPOW – MONTEREY, CA
FRAN SPECTOR ATKINS – CARMEL, CA
MARGARET WINGROVE – SAN JOSE, CA
ALLEN XING – BALTIMORE, MD

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Thank you for attending this performance and to all the dancers and choreographers for sharing their beautiful work!

ABOUT THE CHOREOGRAPHERS SHOWCASE RE-IMAGINED

Since 1997, SpectorDance's Choreographers Showcase has offered central coast audiences the chance to experience a variety of original, cutting-edge dance works. To date, we have presented over 450 dancemakers, both live and virtually, from around the state, nation and globe.

We are proud to present the newest iteration of this exciting event *SpectorDance's Choreographers Showcase Re-imagined: Dance That Makes a Difference!* We are so grateful to Hidden Valley Music Seminars, an Institute of the Arts for providing their beautiful and inspiring venue.

For the first time, we are featuring a full program of works that focus on the power of dance to inform, promote dialogue, and be a galvanizing vehicle for change. This year's Choreographers Showcase has also given local dancers the opportunity to take workshops from several of the visiting choreographers. We invite you to let yourself be amazed, entertained, and feel and learn something this evening!

PROGRAM

Bhumika

Choreographer: Ramya Harishankar

Music: Bhumi Pranam/Bhumika - Aashray Harishankar

Dancers: Shefali Appali, Nitya Dholakia, Ramya Harishankar, and Vini Sundaram and the Arpana Dance Company

Bhumika tackles the issue of climate change which is in the minds and lives of everyone across the world. Every effort to showcase the importance of awareness and action towards preserving our 'world' is critical.

Dust Between Us

Choreographer and Dancer: Shany Dagan

Music: "There's a Violin in My Heart" (Hebrew and Arabic) by Idan Reichel

This work explores the challenges, the friendships and the lingering hope between Israelis and the Palestinians about living side by side, on the same land. It reminds us that we are people with the hopes and dreams.

The Dangerous Book for Boys

Choreographer: Jonathan Lipow

Assistant Choreographers: Martha and Luna Rodriguez

Music Title & Composer: "Babylon", by Don McClean

Dancers: Carly Burgess, Lane Castro, Peter Church, Devin Ellis, Veronica Gee, Alexis Han-Holdren, Ella Harris, Elinoar Lipow, Gabriel Lipow, Jonathan Lipow, Stephanie Woods

"The Dangerous Book of Boys" represents my attempt to come to terms with the 22 years I spent in the military and gain a sense of closure on that period in my life. The core of the piece is the juxtaposition of the external and internal experiences associated with combat - something I tried to capture by superimposing two separate pieces on one another. One represents what you are doing when you are fighting - and tries to capture the familial intimacy and sense of connection that you

share with your comrades. The other represents what you are feeling, and your attempt to cling on to a sense of connection to your family - essentially a profound longing for your parents, your siblings, your partner, and your children. A secondary theme is how your perception of what you are doing changes as you get older. While the piece is only two minutes, essentially 20 years go by between the opening and conclusion of the piece, and the motivations of the people involved have changed radically over that time. As mine did.

Linger

Choreographer: Tracy Kofford

Music: *Six Breaths: I Breathe, Draw Breath* by Ezio Bosso

Dancers: Adrian Conetreros Gonzalez, Katie Evans

Linger is about the importance of human touch, the need for human interaction, which, after more than a year and a half without, we can see how essential human touch and interactions are.

By A Thread (Thursday only)

Choreographer: Angela Chambers

Music Title & Composer: "Cavalier" by James Vincent McMorrow

Performers: Lisa Brenner, Rachele Chenowith, Violet Forbes, Sonia Harris, Nicolette Kaempf, Alexandra Mannings, Mia Marino, Lyndia McGauhey, Anuja Panthari, Chloe Rosen, Raina Sacksteder, Reba Thomas

By a Thread is a dedication to my students who have opened up about the hard times, uncertainty, and heavy feelings that have ebbed and flowed - especially at the height of the pandemic. It is an acknowledgement of the unseen work, the confusion, the sometimes aimless attempt to piece together a "normal" life now that things are opening back up and resettling. A story about the moments of angst, of yearning for what was, of melancholy and of joy - of feeling as if you are hanging on by a thread as you weave together the fragmented pieces of your experience. *By a Thread* is an ode to the weight of carrying those feelings, to the power of community care and shared experiences, and a hopeful reminder of lighter and joy-filled times ahead. It is a celebration of my student's individual and collective resilience and an acknowledgment of this bizarre reality.

Citizen (Excerpt)

Choreographer: Allen Chunhui Xing

Music: "My Old Life", "Willpower", and "Teach Me to Fight" by Steve Mazzaro

Dancers: Abraham Texidor Aguilera, James Thomas Esquilin, Jovannie Aranzamendi Nieves, Luis Jovanne Medina Velez, and Allen Chunhui Xing

Standing on the street, watching people passing through. They look different, dress different, and sound different. Happy, sad, cold, positive, and stressed...each of them has a story of their own lives. As citizens of a society, country, we are facing many different challenges. Challenges from the living environment, political environment, work... and most impactfully, ourselves. As citizens of society, we receive labels... labels of foreigner, immigrant, gay, white, black, Asian, poor, old, young, rich, etc... people fight for the label they want, fight for the label they don't...we fight for the opportunities, we fight to conquer diseases, we fight for our lives. But what matters? What are YOU fighting for?

The inspiration of *Citizen* was the personal experience of my life in the USA. I have used my own stories and inserted other performer's stories. Standing on the stage, after five dancers share our stories and expose our inner selves, you see skins, muscles, bones lines, movement. Weight shifting, sharing, supporting, we are human bodies. What labels do you actually *see*? We are dancers. Dancers of different colors. Dancers with the same human body structures. Does color still matter? This piece looks at the freedoms that all Americans are entitled to and allows for infinite perspectives. Perspectives that some like, some do not, but are equally protected. This freedom to think differently often encourages people to look at differences. *Citizen* is about the commonality of dancers. Some are black, brown, yellow, white, and every variation imaginable. Gender, sexual orientation, education, class status all define us on the surface. But as a society, if we focus more on what we have in common first, it becomes much easier to understand how we are unique.

~ INTERMISSION ~

Please enjoy a glass of wine from local vineyards!
All proceeds support *SpectorDance's Choreographers Showcase Re-Imagined*

Wildfires (Work-in-progress to premiere in late fall 2023)

Choreographer: Fran Spector Atkins

Interviewee: Tom Little Bear Nason

Filming of interview and integration of words and music: William Roden and Tricia Roden/New Dawn Studios

Video editing and graphic design: Kaeshi Chai

Video footage from Butano State Park and Henry Cowell Redwoods State Park; Scorched Earth hand- Javier Fresquez

Music: "Light Moving" by David Lang, "Memories" by Angelic Negron, "Above the Mother Earth" by Mary Youngblood

Dancers: Kaeshi Chai, Shany Dagan, Nathan Hirschaut, Claire Simmons, Yana Williams

Inspired by an evolving partnership with Tom Little Bear Nason, Chief of the Esselen Tribe of Monterey County, *Wildfires* is currently a work-in-progress, that will premiere in late fall 2023. *Wildfires* looks at the increasing prevalence and severity of wildfires. It brings together scientific and Indigenous knowledge to heighten awareness of best practices for protecting our forests. It honors the past and celebrates our diverse community. It embraces the destructive as well as the regenerative power of fire. *Wildfires* brings forward new perspectives—ones imbued with reverence, reciprocity, responsibility, respect and resilience.

Glimpses

Choreographer and Dancer: Camrin E Dannelly

Music: Alex Ebert

In the summer of 2018, I was pulled into a basement apartment and sexually assaulted. Three days prior, I had stepped off a plane on the east coast where I would be living for the foreseeable future. My rape, moments after my relocation to my new home, shaped the way I lived and perceived life, freedom, and self. I spent many months in isolation and in a solitary so thick I could barely wrap my head around the complexities of day to day existence. I was steeped in such confusion of myself-- not understanding how I was different, just knowing that I was. I look at myself and can admire who is reflected but I remember the 'she' before the one

here now. Everyday, I feel a reminder of who I was and I ask, who am I now? I seek answers to my questions - - why do these moments matter? What about these life experiences changes us irrevocably? Earlier this year, I was fortunate enough to be a part of a training with the Monterey Rape Crisis Center and now volunteer with them weekly to be a support and confidant for other survivors. I feel commonalities in the narratives I hear that are parallel to my own experience and those close to my life. This piece is a reckoning with the past and an acknowledgement that healing is an individual and nonlinear experience. There is no secret to healing. It is deeply personal and there is no formula. This piece has been in the works for a long while. In collaboration with and support from the Monterey Rape Crisis Center, it would be an honor to be able to produce it on a proscenium stage for the community

Seekers

Choreographer: Tracy Kofford

Music: "Hughie Trashes Room" by Christopher Lennertz, "Musical Elements" by Ezio Bosso, arrangement by Tracy Kofford

Dancers: Charlie Brewer, Adrian Conetreros Gonzalez, Katie Evans, Darya Hessami, Riley Meagher, Ella Rotondo, Fenna Roukema, Olivia Swallow, Melissa Vargas

Seekers is about the journey of people to reach their purpose, enlightenment. Our different spiritual and life paths may crisscross with others with brief and meaningful interactions. Through life's trials and ups and downs, we can arrive at a common goal and understand the common need to search for more than earthly possessions and that the human spirit is connected to a greater life's purpose.

Sunflowers (Excerpt)

Choreographer: Allen Chunhui Xing

Music: "A Model of the Universe" by Johann Johannsson / "Emily's Room" by Ezio Bosso

Dancers: Chloe Brown, Carissa Qin, Carolyn Tai, Lindsey Wu and Olivia Xia

In the early days of the pandemic, many Asian-Americans faced random acts of violence. Sunflower, the great American Yellow Flower, that stands tall and follows the sun was my inspiration to showcase immigration stories and those of first-generation Americans. The work is performed by first-generation Chinese-Americans – the seeds of culture for years to come, standing proud as a vital part of our community, embracing the paradox of assimilation and maintaining and preserving connections to their roots.

There is Always Light

Choreographer: Margaret Wingrove

Music: Beatitudes by Vladimir Martynov, Kronus Quartet

Dancer: Mia Glumac

Inspired by the poem "The Hill We Climb"

"For there is always light,
if only we are brave enough to see it,
if only we are brave enough to be it."

(Amanda Gorman)

Political Imprisonment

Choreographer: Nathan Hirschaut

Music: "The Great Dictator, Speech" by Charlie Chaplin, "Smile" by Charlie Chaplin/Nat King Cole accompanied live on cello by Izzy Lion

Dancers: Shany Dagan, Nathan Hirschaut, Emery Morgan

Political Imprisonment explores a character who is dealing with external and internal pressures to choose sides, join the "war", and fight against the "other". Through Charlie Chaplin's speech the character struggles to make decisions and pleads for us to see new ways. After the solo, we transition into a slow-motion food fight in which the political figureheads engage in battle. A moment comes when the perceptions of the figureheads shifts, and the once serious fight becomes a playful tussle between two friends or siblings. Leading into a final deconstruction of the set, the performers walk off stage leaving only the original dancer on stage eating the leftover food and gently humming "Smile" by Nat King Cole. A cathartic release questions our perceived divisions and seeks to remind us of our shared humanity. This piece addresses the root of our inability to make political progress, in a time in which our media is focused on language that further divides us. We must have conversations with people that have different views than ours. In the face of challenge, we must smile at our disagreements. Ultimately *Political Imprisonment* attempts to move us towards a lightness and expansive state of being that frees us from our political prisons.

BIOGRAPHIES

ANGELA CHAMBERS attended UCSC, where she developed and expanded her knowledge of and passion for dance as not only an art form, but as a tool for personal growth and a catalyst for social change. Since graduating, she continues to work as a dance artist, director, and producer in Santa Cruz and the Bay Area. Alongside performing, Angela pursues her passion for elevating and supporting youth as Development Director at Tannery World Dance & Cultural Center and a certified Health and Wellness teacher. Angela is also the Programs Manager for the SCC Black Health Matters Initiative. She continues to find new ways to engage her dedication to community organizing, youth empowerment, and the power of the performing arts.

SHANY DAGAN is a proud Israeli-American performer living in Israel and NYC. Before moving to the United States to pursue her performance career, Shany served 3 years in the Israel Defense Forces while continuing her dance training in Tel Aviv. She is a graduate of the American Musical and Dramatic Academy in New York, the Broadway Dance Center, and the Warehouse Circus Intensive Program. Recently she has been lucky to perform nationally and internationally in over 30 states. Her credits include: Little Mermaid (The Fireside Theatre), Christmas Wonderland National Tour/Le Grand Cirque (Dublin Productions), Dancing With The Stars- ISR, The Dreaming (LIC Theatre), France and Holland Jewish community International Tour, Vassy's 'Concrete Heart' video, NBC Red Nose Day, The Collaborators w. Rachele Rack and more. In 2019, Shany joined SpectorDance Company, and under Fran Spector Atkins has performed in *Ocean Trilogy*, *East West*, and is now working on *Wildfires*. Shany is a passionate choreographer and has presented her own works at many venues in NYC, Israel and CA including Steps On Broadway, Gibney Development Project, Martha Graham Studio, Alvin Ailey and *SpectorDance's Choreographers Showcase*. Her vision is to create her own company in the future.

CAMRIN E DANNELLY walks a balance beam between two worlds. By day, she is a market manager. By night, she is an artist intent on putting Monterey's dance scene on the map. A locally known dancer and choreographer, she has been blessed with opportunities to produce original works for dance and theatre companies such as Monterey Bay Dance Company, the Western Stage, Forest Theatre Guild, Hurdy Gurdy Project, One Billion Rising, Carmel Delights Dance Company, and the Erotic Eclectic. After returning from New York where she studied at Gibney

Arts Center, Camrin was resident choreographer for Paraphrase Productions. Performing is her first true love. What a thrill to be back.

RAMYA HARISHANKAR is artistic director of the Arpana Dance Company (ADC), a premier school of Bharata Natyam in California. She has taught several hundred students since 1982. Her solo performing career of five decades has taken her to India, Asia, Europe, Australia, and N. America. She received the *Kala Seva Bharathi* (India) award for her contribution to Indian arts abroad. Since 2020, Harishankar has been sharing the intricacies of *abhinaya*, nationally and internationally online. She also premiered a digital series, Dance Conversations, documenting her four-decade journey in the Diaspora through the ‘lens & voice’ of her mentors, colleagues, and collaborators. Short ‘dance films’ [Bhumika](#) & [Aasha](#) have been critically acclaimed. ADC’s has performed in the US, Europe, India, and Japan in aid of charities. Harishankar is a 2-time NEA’s Choreographic Fellow and with ADC has been the recipient of prestigious grants from California Arts Council, and Alliance for California Traditional Arts.

NATHAN HIRSCHAUT is a performing artist who graduated from The Juilliard School for Dance in 2020. Over the past 15 years, Nathan has studied from the world's best in dance, yoga, and artistic ideology, creating the basis of his spiritual, unconventionally creative, and wild performance art. His mission is to make and perform in projects that connect people to their Nature and Power, a space beyond the limitations of their minds. Since graduating school, Nathan has been commissioned and independently produced several cross-disciplinary projects, retreats, intensives, workshops, and classes. Nathan's work has been featured in The Washington Times, NPR, and the LA Post as a pioneering artist and thought leader in performance art.

TRACY R. KOFFORD holds a BFA in Dance from University of California of Santa Barbara and an MFA from New York University, Tisch School of the Arts. Tracy has performed and choreographed nationally and internationally with his own work and Jennifer Muller/The Works, who he danced with for over 10 years in NYC. He has studied and worked with some of the world's most influential choreographers, performers and dance companies. He also performed with Disney Cruise line, featured as Tarzan. Mr. Kofford was featured in photographer Lois Greenfield: Still Moving. He has received numerous honors include the McCallum Choreography Award in 2016, the ACDA Gala recognition. the Audience Choice award at the Red Rock Dance Festival. His choreography has been presented at Lincoln Center in NYC, Switzerland and has toured nationally and international. He is currently Director of Dance at Santa Barbara City College and Artistic Director of SBCC Dance Company.

JONATHAN LIPOW holds a PhD in Economics from the UC Berkeley, and is currently a professor at the Defense Resources Management Institute located at the Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey, California. Prior to his academic career, Jonathan served as a combat engineer/sapper in the Israel Defense Forces. As part of his current work, he has conducted numerous overseas assignments for the Department of Defense, and in 2014, he was awarded the Secretary of Defense Medal for the Global War on Terror. Jonathan studied dance as an undergraduate at UCLA during the 1980s, and resumed dancing in 2015 at Monterey Peninsula College, where he takes class with Deanna Ross, Pam Keindl, and Jared Phillips.

FRAN SPECTOR ATKINS is the Director and Founder of SpectorDance. She has directed venues in NYC, Cleveland, and Monterey and has been a guest artist throughout the United States and abroad. Some of her outstanding experiences include presenting her work at the Smithsonian in Washington, D.C and at Stanford University and in Denmark, Italy, Egypt, England, Israel, the Island of Guam and Taiwan. Fran has created numerous socially-relevant works and has received numerous honors. She was featured in Carmel Magazine for making “altruistic contributions to the community” and in the film *Luminaries of Monterey County*. She has twice presented at TEDx Monterey. SpectorDance was selected by The Arts Council for Monterey County as the *Outstanding Arts Organization in Monterey County* and as a national finalist for the Ovation TV award for Excellence in the Performing Arts. In 2020, she received the Florence Haspel Zevé Award for Outstanding Female Artist in Monterey serving Women, Families and the Arts. Fran founded the Choreographers Showcase in 1997.

MARGARET WINGROVE is the Founder and Artistic Director of Margaret Wingrove Dance Company (MWDC), as well as a frequent guest choreographer for companies such as Palo Alto Ballet, Berkeley Ballet, sjDANCEco, San Jose Taiko, Opera San Jose, and the Symphony Silicon Valley. She holds a BFA in Dance from San Jose State University, a MFA from University of San Francisco, and performed and studied ballet and modern dance extensively on both the east and west coasts. Her original work, *Shatterings*, created in tribute to her son, John, who died of AIDS, appeared at the Timpany Center's televised "A Celebration of Courage"; and the Names Project at the Santa Clara Convention Center. Her works have also been presented at Jacobs Pillow Dance Festival in Massachusetts, David Howard Showcase in NYC, San Francisco Dance Festival at Herbst Theatre, and seven of her original works have been performed across England. In 1993, Wingrove received the Women of Achievement Award for the Arts and in 1998 was honored by SJSU's School of Music and Dance for her contributions to the Field of Dance. She was the recipient of Silicon Valley Creates 2009 Fellowship Award for Choreography. In 2016, Wingrove celebrated 35 years as Artistic Director of MWDC and, to date, has created over 140 original works.

ALLEN CHUNHUI XING holds a BFA in Dance from Shanxi Academy of Arts, a M.Ed. from Salisbury University, and a MFA in Dance from University of Maryland. He currently is the Artistic Director of Xing Dance Theater and City Dance Festival in Baltimore. He is a former member of Huajin Dance Drama Ensemble (China) and performed in the production *Forbidden Fruit Under the Great Wall* which internationally toured from 2007-2011. His work has been presented nationally and internationally including at the Dance Gallery Festival NYC, Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival, NextNow Festival, Maryland Campaign, Washington DC Global Perspectives Festival, Maryland Dance Festival, Beijing Dance Festival, the Kennedy Center, Baltimore Dance Invitational, Richmond Dance Festival, Detroit Dance City Festival, Japan SAI International Dance Festival, Finland Joy Of Dance OY International Gala, Seoul Choreography International Festival, Asian Contemporary Ballet Festival, Mexico International Contemporary Dance Festival, Dance Place, DC Choreography Dance Festival. Xing is the Baltimore and Maryland State Independent Artist Award awardee, Baker Artist Award recipient, and Russian Season School Government Choreography Grant recipient.

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For more information about the Choreographers Showcase, please contact Fran Spector Atkins at franspector5@gmail.com

We welcome all donations large or small in support of the future of the Choreographers Showcase!