

CHARLOTTE DANCE FESTIVAL



Charlotte Dance Festival

presented by



**DANCE
ARTIST
ALLIANCE
CLT**

March 11

8pm

GALA

March 12

6pm

YOUTH GALA

Charlotte Ballet

About Charlotte Dance Festival

Welcome to the 16th annual Charlotte Dance Festival! Over the years, the festival has had different events all with the mission of uniting the dance community through shared experiences. We are thrilled that you are participating with us this year!

The Gala is a curated program that features local and national talent as well as a diverse dance styles. The future of the dance field is important to us, and so we have the Youth Gala that is comprised of local and regional youth programs. Students have the opportunity to take classes from the Gala choreographers and performers, see the Gala show and meet peers in a supportive, non-competitive environment.

Dance is an art form that unites people through our original language - *MOVEMENT*. The mission of Dance Artist Alliance CLT is to enhance and contribute to the equitable growth of the Charlotte region's dance community at the intersection of multiple genres.

Thank you to the Arts and Science Council of Charlotte-Mecklenburg that is supporting the festival and presentation of the CDF Repertory Ensemble choreography by NYC choreographer Yin Yue.

If you enjoyed the festival and want to support our mission, you can make a monetary donation below through our website.

Enjoy the show,
DAACL T Board and Staff

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MEMBER**

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Website**



GALA

March 11

Ember

CDF Rep Ensemble (Charlotte, NC)

Choreographer: Yue Yin (New York, NY)

Stager: Grace Whitworth (New York, NY)

Rehearsal Director: Arlynn Zachary

Dancers: MacKenzie England, Alison Foster, Jaala McCall

Composer: Guo Gan, Set Fire to Flames, Blister Queen, Yat-Kha

Description: Ember was commissioned by Asia Society Museum and premiered in May 2022. The work explores cultural coexistence and interdependence. It dives deeper into the FoCo Technique™ movement vocabulary and discovers the intricate and entwined connection between people and their heritage narrative.

In the Aftermath

Trifecta Dance Collective (Chicago, IL)

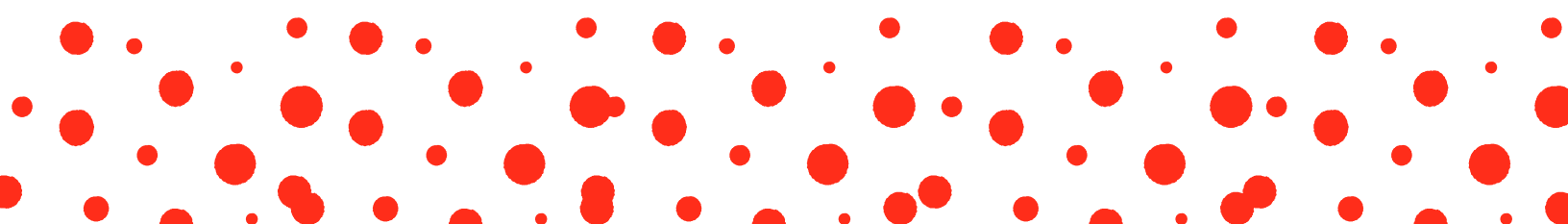
Choreographer: Tori Stewart

Dancers: *Katie Harmon, Andi Learman, Sarah O'Keeffe

Composer: Mario Batkovic

Description: This work depicts an individual facing the expectation to maintain a high level of productivity in the workplace after experiencing a traumatic event.

*dancer appears courtesy of Aerial Dance Chicago



ÌBÀ OBÌNRIN

Moving Spirits, Inc. (Charlotte, NC)

Choreographer: Tamara Williams

Dancers: Suzi Alila, Monique Le'Flore, Eboni Williams

Composers: Luciano Xavier and Leo DeJesus

Costumes: Dinho

Description: ÌBÀ OBÌNRIN is an investigation of the influences of ritual, nature and African American Ring Shout traditions as they relate to community care.

Things I Left

Baran Dance (Charlotte, NC)

Choreographer: Audrey Baran

Dancers: Audrey Baran, Ali Carden, Faith Carder, Rahquelah Conyers, Sharon Dunson, Akilah Edwards, Mackenzie England, Lydia Heidt, Jherryiah Go, Mikaela Laxton, Carolina Quiros

Composer: Jonsi

Description: Things I Left work celebrates continued, new, and future collaborative intersections and the lasting effect of each individual.

— INTERMISSION —

Entwined Twins

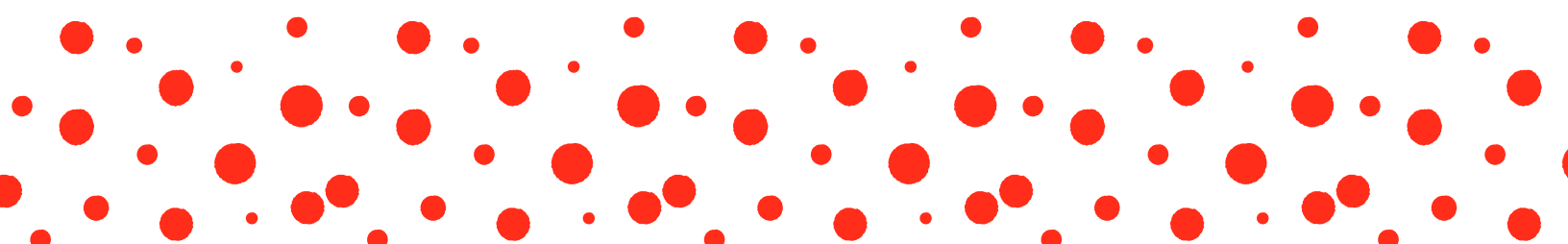
Nritya Dhwani Cultural Foundation (Charlotte, NC)

Choreographer: Priyadarshini Inman

Dancers: Priyadarshini Inman, Sapna Bordoloi, Karabi Bharali, Rumi Chakravarthy, Priyanshi Pande, Jazmine Kathuria, Mythili Kavuri, Rushita, Vibha Neckar, Roja Ramani, Madhura Ambedkar, Sheetal Kathuria

Composer: Bhaskar Jyoti Ojha

Description: This is a piece where two Indian Classical Dance forms are having a conversation to praise "Krishna".



Black Snow

Ballet Inc. (New York, NY / Charlotte, NC)

Choreographer: Aaron Atkins

Dancers: Artists Of Ballet Inc.

Composer: Mozart

Costume: Benjamin Briones

Description: "The day felt so dark and cold as it snowed; the snow looked like black snow of a grey day..." - Aaron Atkins

cover stories (excerpt)

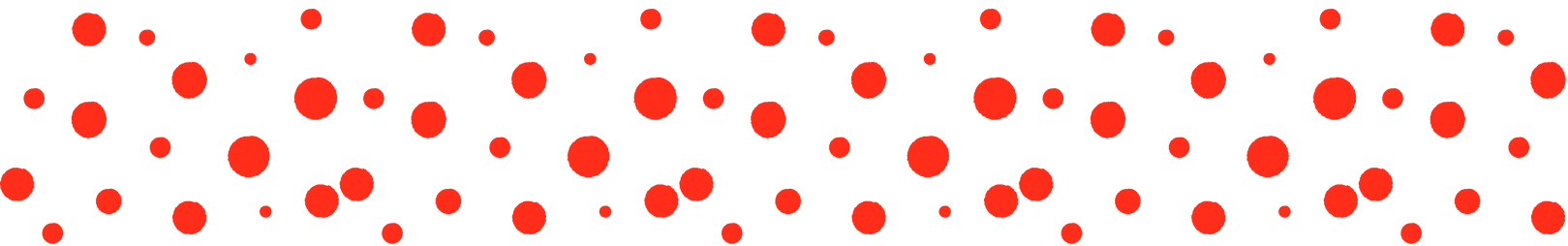
Emily Cargill & Dancers (Neptune Beach, FL)

Choreographer: Emily Cargill

Dancers: Stephanie Bermudez, Katie Garrepy, Mackenna Jacobs, Olivia Lindfors, Caitlin Winkler

Composer: CoH, Cosey Fanni Tutti, Frederic Chopin, Maurizio Pollini

Description: cover stories explores the journey of the birth and death of human relationships and highlights the complexities with the people in our lives.



YOUTH GALA

March 12

Rise

MoveStudio Charlotte (Charlotte, NC)

Director: April Nolan

Choreographer: Jaclyn O'Toole

Dancers: Nyla Beach, Stella Chamberlain, Lucy Foy-Marfella, Maya Hood, Frances Huber, Amelia Johnston, Emerson Nolan, Gemma Scipioni

Music: Rise Up - Andra Day, MSTR ROGERS

A Change Gonna Come

Riverside Dance (Durham, NC)

Director and Choreographer: Kristin Taylor Duncan

Dancers: Alaina Atwater, Chaunessy Atwater, Jazmin China, Palace Leonard, Natalie McClean, Kyla Perry, Keyana Smith, Evan Thorn, Khyler Williamson, Nia Wilkinson

Music: 'A Change Gonna Come' by Sam Cooke

A Somber Afternoon

Dance Project Teen Performance Company (Greensboro, NC)

Director: Lauren Joyner

Choreographer: Elijah Motley

Dancers: Sid Dixon, Amira Gardiner, Sophie Kohlphenson, Clare Scott, Jessica Smith, Madeleine Truhel

Music: "Ladyfingers"- Herb Alpert & The Tijuana Brass

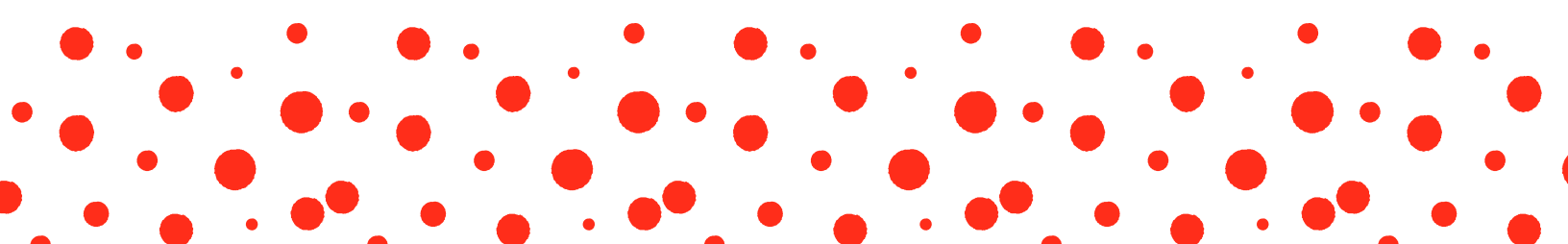
project untitled

Dance Moves Youth Company (Charleston, SC)

Director and Choreographer: Julie DeLizza Clark

Dancers: Maddie Boucher, Ashleigh Boyd, Loulie Dasher, Julia Hartman, Grace Kerr, Bella Lewis, Alice Morgan, Victoria Pinner, Caroline Sessoms

Music: 115 bpm metronome



YOUTH GALA

Growing Up

Fusia Dance Company (Stroudsburg, PA)

Director: Francesca Marinaro

Choreographer: Jade Ryan

Dancers: Arwen Cameron, Maya Ross, Leila Thomas, Jessica Torres

Music: 'Youth' by Daughter

Shadows

ARMES Dance (Greenville, SC)

Director and Choreographer: Rebecca T. Lee

Music: Fink, Warm Shadows

Dancers: Ahna Duncan, Arabella Good, Elizabeth Graves, Mile Hawthorne, Catherine Huskey, and Eliana Parry

Feeling Happy

Charlotte Cirque & Dance Center (Charlotte, NC)

Director: Caroline Calouche

Student Company Director: Nicole Muse-Dennis

Choreographer: Shaun Wilson

Dancers: Edie Pryll, Emerson Kelley, Kiana Pieters, Lydia Ann Schmidt, Mahalia Esposito, Maya Anavim, Payton Kelley, Savannah Wilson and Shay Yara

Music: HAPPY- C2C (Featuring Derek Martin)

A Spring Festival

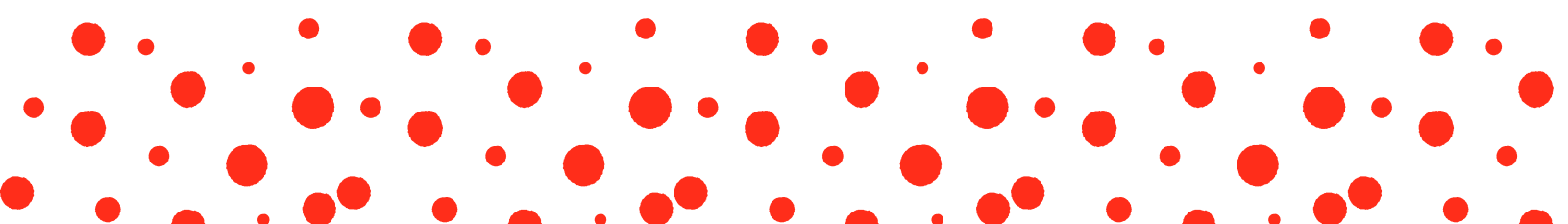
Burlington Academy of Dance & Arts (Burlington, NC)

Director and Choreographer: Virginia Dupont

Dancers: Payton Church, Mary Cooper, Reagan Craig, Larkin Dupont, Abigail Gwin, Callie Jobe, Noelani Nevel, Anna Grace Nicks, Ashley White

Music: Voices of Spring, Op. 410 (Frühlingsstimmen) by Johann Strauss II

Costume Designer: Elizabeth Bailey



YOUTH GALA

Walking Home

BD2 (Charlotte, NC)

Director: Audrey Baran

Choreographer: Lydia Heidt

Music: Seatbelts & Young the Giant

Dancers: Julia Sondee, Emily Neely, Tamra Williams, Sadie Vaughn, Nia Huell-Griffin, Della Scott Michael

one, one, one...

Johnson C. Smith Repertory Dance Company (Charlotte, NC)

Director: Jaclyn O'Toole

Choreographer: Anna Edwards

Dancers: Anthony Jones, John Fortune, Kennedy Meador, Zuri Presswood, Amber Wiggins

Music: Jaw Breath by Mike Varga, Colours by Hilmar Orn Hilmarsson, The Beauty of Everyday Things by Hara Node

Open

Range of Motion Dance Ensemble (Charlotte, NC)

Director and Choreographer: Reneé Welsh-Noel

Dancers: Aaryanna Henry, Briahna Waters, Kayla Lenz, Sydney Lin

Music: 'Open' by Regina Spektor

Diamond Desert (excerpt)

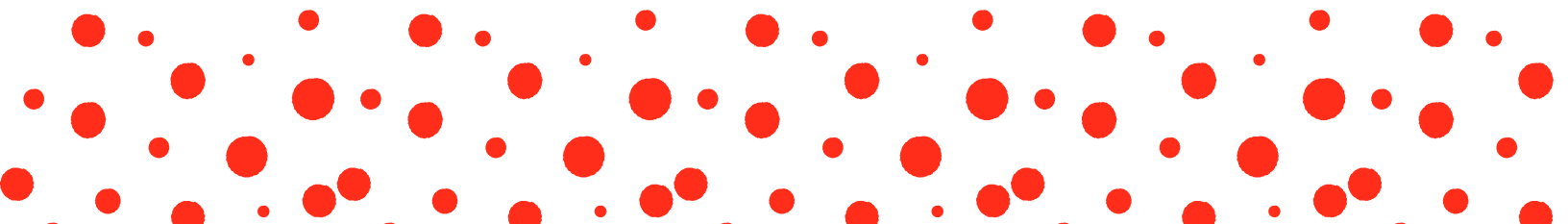
UNC Charlotte Department of Dance (Charlotte, NC)

Choreographer: Audrey Baran

Dancers: Sophia Batista, Ava Drexel, Lilliya Garner, Alani Hamilton, Haygan Haynes, Mico Quijano, Kari Sescourka, Nia Thomas-Wells, Annaelle Torroll Luna

Music: "Black Waters" and "Enough of Our Disease" by Son Lux

Costume Designer: Rachel Engstrom



GALA COMPANIES & CHOREOGRAPHERS

The founder and artistic director of YY Dance Company (YYDC), Yue Yin is an internationally recognized performer and choreographer. Yin studied at the prestigious Shanghai Dance Academy and NYU's Tisch School of the Arts where she received her MFA in 2008.

In 2018, Yin founded YYDC, a NYC-based, non-profit contemporary dance company dedicated to the teaching, production and performance of original choreographic works by Yin. Yin's signature FoCo Technique™ represents a dynamic fusion of folk, ballet and contemporary dance. YYDC's mission is to incorporate Yin's signature movement style into live performances and choreographic commissions as well as educational endeavor.

Under Yin's direction, the company has presented its work to live audiences on U.S. and international stages. The company boasts international touring credits, including Schrittmacher Festival (Germany), SummerStage in New York City, Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival, New York International Fringe Festival, The Open Door Dance Festival in Iowa City, Iowa, DancenowNYC at Joe's pub and many more. In addition, YYDC has performed at venues such as International Choreographic Competition Hanover, BAM Fisher, Joyce SoHo Theater, Peridance Center, Lincoln Center Rose Hall, New York Live Arts and many others. In addition to performance, the company also re-staged repertoires at universities, companies and dance studios around the world.

Yue Yin was recipient of 2021 Harkness Promise Award. This prestigious award recognizes her innovation in choreography and education. She was the winner of Hubbard Street Dance Chicago 2015 International Commissioning Project, winner of the 2015 BalletX Choreographic Fellowship, and winner of Northwest Dance Project's 5th Annual Pretty Creatives International Choreographic Competition in 2013. Through these high-profile successes, Yin has received commissions from all three widely-recognized companies as well as other companies and organizations namely Martha Graham Dance Company, Boston Ballet, Philadelphia Ballet, Aspen Santa Fe Ballet, Limon Dance Company, Alberta Ballet, Balletto Teatro di Torino, Gibney Dance Company, Peridance Contemporary Dance Company, Whim W'him, Bruce Wood Dance, Ririe Woodbury Dance Company, Boston Dance Theater, 10 Hairy Legs, New Dialect, Backhausdance, Tisch School of The Arts, George Mason University, Rutgers University, Point Park University, West Michigan University and Juilliard School for Dance.



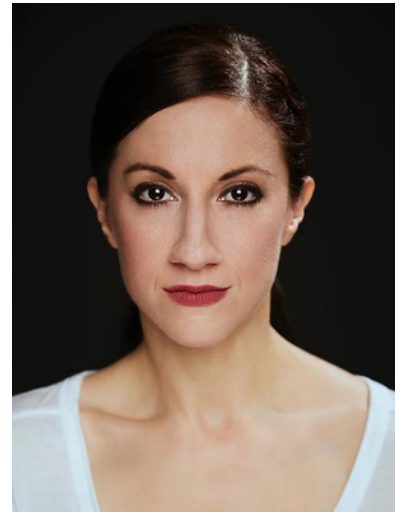
**Yue Yin
(CDF Ensemble
Choreographer)
New York, NY**

**Photo Credit: Paul B.
Goode**



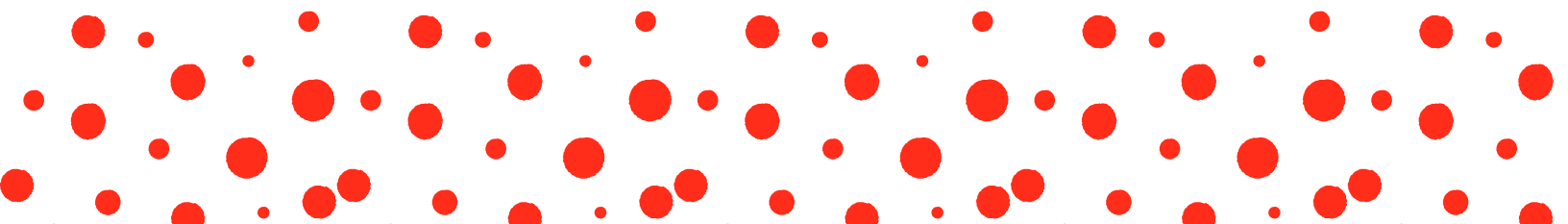
Grace was born near Cleveland, Ohio. She grew up dancing at The Fine Arts Association (FAA) and was honored to receive the Outstanding Senior Award with a scholarship to attend the conservatory of her choice. Grace attended Point Park University in Pittsburgh, PA and earned a BA in Ballet and Jazz studies. She was a proud recipient of the Nicole Marie Falbo Memorial Scholarship. After graduating, Grace moved to Chicago, IL and danced on scholarship at Lou Conte Dance Studio, (home of Hubbard Street Dance Chicago). Grace moved to New York City in 2011 and began dancing for YYDC, LaneCoArts and ABARUKAS. During 9 years with YYDC, Grace has performed in the US and toured internationally to China and Germany. Grace is currently serving as dancer, rehearsal director, stager of Yin's works as well as master teacher of FoCo Elements – a branch of FoCo Technique™ that promotes improvisation within the guidelines of FoCo technique. In the past, Grace has assisted Yin in commissions for Bruce Wood Dance in Taxes, Alberta Ballet in Canada, Boston Dance Theater, Ririe-Woodbury Dance Company in Salt Lake City to name a few. At the collegiate level, Grace assisted Yin during creation for Tisch NYU, Rutgers University, Barnard College, George Mason University and most rewardingly, her alma mater, Point Park University.

She performed with companies such as Winifred Haun and Dancers, Jaxon Movement Arts and Thodos Dance Chicago (New Dances). Grace performed in many festivals, most notably, Dance Chance (Eduardo Zuniga, former Luna Negra dancer), Dance Chance Redux (Autumn Eckman, former Hubbard Street Dance Chicago dancer), and grand-prize winner of The Joyce Soho A.W.A.R.D. Show under Jaxon Movement Arts, DanceNOW at Joe's Pub, Dixon Place, IDACO, Offset Dance Fest, Pan-Asian Dance Festival, APAP at Peridance, 92nd Street Y and City Center, Kaatsbaan International Dance Festival, SummerStage, Jacob's Pillow, FLICfest, Fringe Festival, Battery Dance Festival. Grace is enjoying the dance journey that YYDC has sourced for her.



**Grace Whitworth
(CDF Ensemble Stager)
New York, NY**

**Photo credit: Whitney Browne
Photography**



Ballet Inc. was founded in 2012, Ballet Inc. gives a platform to an array of diverse, talented artists while challenging the performing arts and dance normative. Our goal is provide opportunities to these individuals regardless of race, ethnicity, body type or traditional dancer 'limitations'. Since founding, In 2017, Ballet Inc. was award by the state of New York The Multicultural Award of Excellence for its mission .

Critically as acclaimed nationally and internationally as:
"Hard-hitting...Powerful..Beautiful.." - Broadway World Dance -



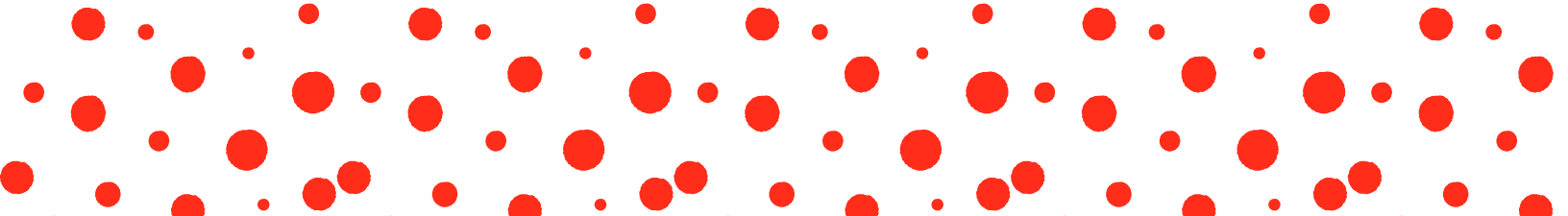
Ballet Inc.
Aaron Atkins
New York, NY/Charlotte, NC

Audrey Baran (she / her) is a Filipina-American dance maker, performer, and educator based in the land of the Catawba people / Charlotte, North Carolina. She holds a MFA in Dance from Hollins University and a BA in Dance and Graduate Certificate in Anti-Racism in Urban Education from the UNC Charlotte, where she is the Visiting Assistant Professor of Dance. As the the founder / director of Baran Dance, she is dedicated to broadening definitions and accessibility of contemporary dance throughout the Southeast by presenting collaborative, multimedia productions in a variety of venues. Baran was a selected choreographer for Joffrey Ballet Academy's Winning Works 2022 and Charlotte Ballet's Innovative: Direct from the LAB 2021. She was the 2019 UNC Charlotte Department of Dance Distinguished Alum, an inaugural recipient of the Creative Renewal Fellowship from Charlotte's Arts and Science Council, and has presented work through Richmond Dance Festival, Sites in the City, FEMMEfest, NDEO Conference, Bill Evans Somatic Dance Conference, NC Dance Festival, Tobacco Road Dance Productions, Triangle Dance Project, Ladyfest CLT, Charlotte Dance Festival and numerous independent and collaborative productions. As a 500-hour Registered Yoga Teacher, Baran thrives on sharing her research on movement and mindfulness throughout the Queen City and beyond.



Baran Dance
Audrey Baran
Charlotte, NC

Photo shot by: Brian Twitty



Emily Cargill is the Founder and Artistic Director of Emily Cargill & Dancers. Her work has been presented at venues and festivals all across the East Coast, including the High Museum of Art, the Mint Museum, Art on the Atlanta Beltline, North Carolina Dance Festival, LadyfestCLT, Skwhirlhaus Theatre, Richmond's Dogtown Dance Theatre's Touring Artist Series, Emory University's Performing Arts Studio, Dance Canvas' Emerging Choreographer Initiative, New Grounds Dance Festival, New Seeds Festival, OneSpark Festival, Modern Atlanta Dance Festival, Detroit Dance City Festival, Boston Contemporary Dance Festival, and the NYC10 Dance Festival.

Emily was a founding member of the Atlanta-based modern dance company, Staibdance, as well as dancing in works by Gregory Catellier, Corian Ellisor, Kathleen Wessel and David Dorfman. Emily has her MFA in Dance Performance and Choreography from Florida State University and her BA in Dance from James Madison University.

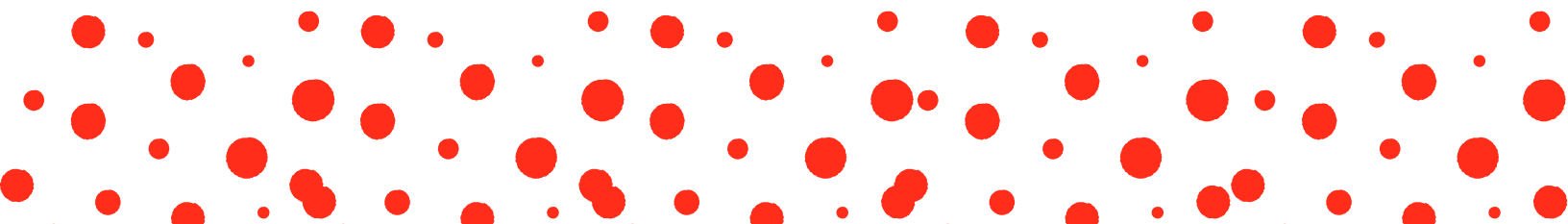
This season, Emily Cargill and Dancers is performing in Boulder, CO as a featured artist at the Versatility Dance Festival, at the Jessie DuPont Center for their Moving the Margins series, at the 1st Annual Women Arts Exchange, (produced by ECD), at The Charlotte Dance Festival and at Emory University's Performing Arts Center.

Emily has taught modern and ballet technique, improvisation, dance history, and choreography courses at Winthrop University, Spelman College, Kennesaw State University and Georgia College and State University. Emily has also been on faculty at the Atlanta Ballet, Georgia Ballet, Douglas Anderson School of the Arts, Callanwolde Fine Arts Center, and the Performing Arts Center of Tallahassee.



Emily Cargill & Dancers
Emily Cargill
Neptune Beach, FL

Photo Shot by: Michael Keeling



Moving Spirits, Inc. is a contemporary arts organization dedicated to performing, researching, documenting, cultivating, and producing arts of the African diaspora. Africanistic aesthetics heavily influences our company's repertory. Our work blends modern, ballet, African diaspora dance forms, and contemporary West African dances.

We believe that the creative arts should be used as a vehicle to bring awareness to injustices and obstacles impacting our communities. Moving Spirits' artists dedicate themselves to evolving social change through dance performances and community engagement.

Most recently, Moving Spirits, Inc was commissioned to create a dance film by the National Center for Choreography curated by Cara Hagan.



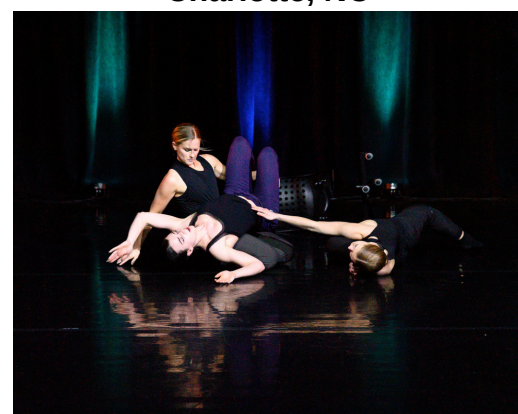
Moving Spirits, Inc.
Tamara Williams
Charlotte, NC
Photo courtesy of: Ohio Dance

Priyadarshini Inman was born and brought up in a small village in India, Priyadarshini has been in Dance for 32 yrs. She has performed not only in India but in different countries. She is trained in Sattriya Dance from Uttar Kamalabari Sattrra under the Guidance of Monk Sri Gobind Kalita Bayan and Anita Tamuly. She founded Nritya Dhvani Cultural Foundation to promote Sattriya Dance & Culture. By profession, a Digital Marketer, she is a proud wife and mother of a son. At present, she is pursuing her Ph.D. in performing arts.



Priyadarshini Inman
Charlotte, NC

Tori Stewart is a choreographer, professional dancer, and instructor based in Chicago, IL. She has been dancing with Trifecta Dance Collective since 2019 and currently is a Principal Dancer and Choreographer for the company. She helped conceptualize TDC 2, Trifecta's second company, and leads both TDC 2 and Trifecta Youth Ensemble as Artistic Director. Tori utilizes contemporary techniques and improvisational practices for movement generation, resulting in thoughtful, athletic, expansive, and experimental choreographic works. Her works have performed across stages in the greater Chicagoland area as well as at festivals and showcases across the nation including Charlotte Dance Festival's Youth Gala (2018), American College Dance Association, Wake Forest Dance Festival, Loose Leaves Showcase, Trifecta Dance Festival, Peridance Spring Choreographers' Showcase, Alluvion Dance Chicago's Emergence, and Detroit Dance City Festival.



Trifecta Dance Collective
Tori Stewart
Chicago, IL
Company Photo & Headshot Credit-
Siglerphotographics

CDF Repertory Ensemble

MacKenzie England is a graduate of Marymount Manhattan College, where she earned her Bachelor of Arts in Dance, with a concentration in media and video production. While at Marymount, she was acknowledged for her work in her concentration and was honored as a Gold Key nominee and graduated Magna Cum Laude. Growing up, she studied under Sadie Roberts-Doughten, Melissa "MJ" Jackson, and Cheryl Klaft. She was a recipient of a NYCDAF college scholarship, and has received awards from the Charlotte Ballet for technique and choreography. MacKenzie has had the privilege to study and work with Twyla Tharp, Elizabeth Roxas-Dobrish, Alberto Del Saz, Nancy Lushington, Laura Glen, and many others. Post graduation, she has had many opportunities to work as a producer and editor for virtual galas with her alma mater. Along with teaching dance, MacKenzie spends her time dancing as a member of Baren Dance Company in Charlotte.

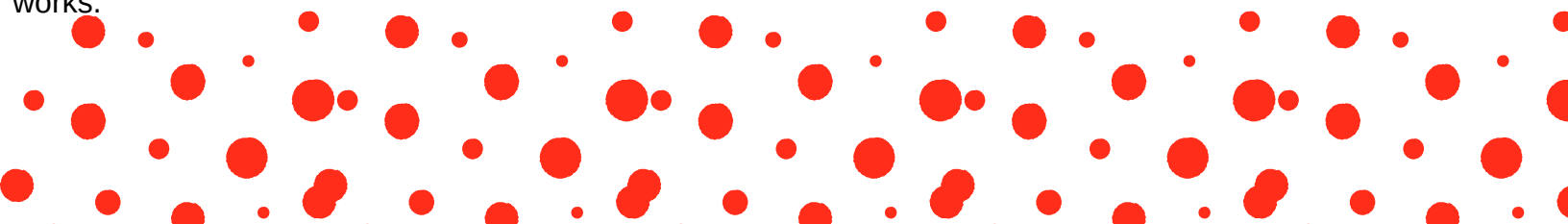


Alison Foster is a NC based dancer and aerialist. She began dancing at age 12 and went on to earn a dual degree in Dance and Child & Family Development from the University of Georgia and later a Masters in Public Health from UNC Charlotte. She trained and performed professionally as a main company dancer and aerialist with Caroline Calouche & Co. through 2018. She has also trained and performed with Martha Connerton KineitcWorks, The Mark dance company, 4thright dance, Elevate, Imagine Circus, SOAR Aerial Dance, Upside Aerial, and Aerial Arts Studio. She currently teaches aerial at Upside Aerial Arts & Fitness in Burlington and Aerial Arts Studio in Belmont.



Photo: Arlynn Zachary

Jaala McCall is a multidisciplinary artist from Fort Mill, SC. Jaala has trained extensively in multiple styles of dance, as well as danced competitively in her early training years. She has also been involved in other performing art forms such as musical theater and piano. As her passion for dance grew, she spent a summer at the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater before beginning her training in the Academy at Charlotte Ballet in 2017. Shortly after, her professional training took flight at the University of North Carolina School of the Arts in 2018. Performance highlights from her time at UNCSA include works by Robert Battle, José Limón, Trisha Brown, Kira Blazek-Ziai, Yoshito Sakuraba and more. Since graduating, Jaala works as a dance instructor, and is motivated to create works of her own inspired by her passion for social justice and human rights. She hopes to be an advocate in both her choreography and performance works.



Festival Crew

Rick Moll.....Gala Lighting Designer
Taylor Eagle.....Gala Stage Manager and Light Board Operator
Stephanie Moore.....Gala Sound Operator
DJ Cook.....Gala Backstage Manager
Caroline Calouche.....Youth Gala Lighting Designer
Stacy Fernandez.....Youth Gala Stage Manager and Light Board Operator
Brenné Frost.....Youth Gala Sound Operator
Marcus Powell.....Youth Gala Crew
Shaun Wilson.....Youth Gala Backstage Manager

DAACL T Board & Staff

Co-Chairs: Arlynn Zachary and Stephanie Moore

Co-Secretaries: Joy Fine and Shaun Wilson

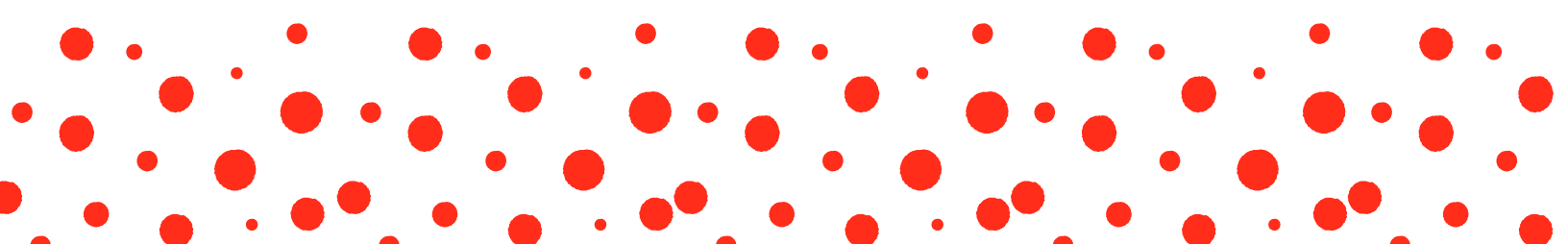
Co-Treasurers: Caroline Calouche and Reba Bowens

Board Members

Brenné Forst, Camerin Watson, Elizabeth Mendieta, Elizabeth Roach-Paulus, Elsie Mufuka,
Emily Toye, Gabrielle Tull, Phillip McRorie

Events Committee (CDF Organizers)

Caroline Calouche (Chair), Elizabeth Mendieta, Phillip McRorie,
Shaun Wilson, Arlynn Zachary
Cheaslei Weathers, Administrative Coordinator



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