Dance USM! Program [2009]

University of Southern Maine Department of Theatre

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Department of Theatre presents

Dance USM!
Directed by Maria Tzianabos

December 10, 11, & 12 at 7:30 p.m.
December 13 at 2:00 p.m.

Main Stage, Russell Hall
USM Gorham Campus
Welcome to Dance USM! I am excited to be directing the performance this year for a variety of reasons. For the first time since 1997, the show consists solely of faculty choreographers. Secondly, new dance forms are being presented: aerial dance, musical theater dance, and performance art. This experience has been so rewarding in that it allowed the students to celebrate their talents and acquired skills. This student/faculty collaboration has culminated in some very novel and interesting pieces of work. We are all thrilled to present this new format and hope that you enjoy the performance.

Maria A. Tzianabos
Artistic Director

USM Theatre Students and Faculty Shine

USM Theatre students have distinguished themselves with theatre companies throughout New England, such as Portland Stage Company, Maine State Music Theatre, The Public Theatre, The Children’s Theatre of Maine, Good Theater, Mad Horse Theatre, The Company of Girls, and the Two Lights Theatre Ensemble. Many of our alumni go on to perform in L.A., N.Y.C., off and on Broadway.

Emmy Award-winning actor Tony Shalhoub (Monk) and award-winning playwright and screenwriter Lynn Sieffert are USM theatre graduates.

Our professional faculty directors and designers work at some of the best regional theaters in the country such as those mentioned above, as well as The Walnut Street Theatre, The Alabama Shakespeare Festival, The Alley Theatre in Houston, North Shore Music Theatre, and The Seattle Repertory Theatre.

USM students and faculty have worked in several films and TV series including Empire Falls, Hotel Universe, Stephen King’s Pet Sematary and Graveyard Shift, Mermaids, All the Vermeers in New York, Sundowning, All About Steve, and All My Children.

Program

DANCE USM! 2009

Sappho ou Suicide*

Written by Marguerite Yourcenar
Adapted for the Stage by Meghan Brodie
Direction & Ground Choreography by Meghan Brodie
Aerial Choreography by Janette Hough-Fertig
Narrator: Audra Anne Curtis
Sappho: Janette Hough-Fertig
Costume Design: Hannah Brown
Lighting Design: Florence Cooley
Sound Design: Shannon Zura

*Sappho ou Suicide is performed by arrangement with Editions Gallimard. "Sappho ou Suicide" by Marguerite Yourcenar originally appeared in Feux, copyright 1974 by Marguerite Yourcenar and Editions Gallimard.

"Who Knowles What Can Happen In Class..."

Directed by Wil Kilroy
Choreography by Simon Skold
Music by Beyonce Knowles, Laphonia Thaddis Harrell, Terlus Nash, Christopher Stewart
Dancers: Julie Higgins, Alice Hofgren, Clarissa Bergeron-Lawrence, Hannah Perry, Ashley Pettengill, Jericah Potvin, Simon Skold

Costume Design: Alice Hofgren
Lighting Design: Neal Morton
Three
Choreography by Shannon Zura
Dancers: Laura Collard
         Audra Anne Curtis
         Jessica Dumich
         Michael Lynch
Costume Design: Roger Marcotte
Lighting Design: Marcus Ingerson
Sound Design: Marcus Ingerson

Pale
Choreography by Janette Hough-Fertig
Music by Beck, Yoko Ono, Radiohead, & Coldplay
Dancers: Clarissa Bergeron-Lawrence
         Florence Cooley
         Audra Anne Curtis
         Briana Garside
         Mollie Gun
         Alice Hofgren
         Michael Lynch
         Melissa Ngo
         Jericah Potvin
         Simon Skold
Costume Design: Travis Grant
Lighting and Sound Designer: Danny Gay

Me and My Shadow
Choreography by Vanessa Beyland
Music by David Dreyer, Al Jolson, & Billy Rose
Dancers: Hannah Brown
         Audra Anne Curtis
         Michael Frier
         Katie Foster
         Jeremiah Haley
         Michael Lynch
         Caitlin O'Reilly
         Jericah Potvin
         Katie Smith
         Joey Valliere
Costume Design: Kyle Skillin
Lighting Design: Joshua Adams

Biographies
Maria Tzianabos (Director) received her B.F.A. from Boston Conservatory and her M.F.A. from Goddard College. Maria performed several works by Jose Limon as a member of the Boston Conservatory Repertory Company. After graduation, she danced for many Boston choreographers and was a soloist for the Granite State Ballet. Since moving to Maine in 1997, Maria has been on the faculty of the University of Southern Maine where she has continued to teach Contemporary Dance, Repertory and Choreography. She has also held the position of director of Dance USM!, an annual student/professional student performance. Maria has also taught at other universities such as Bates, Bowdoin, and University of New England. For the last ten years, she has choreographed and performed her own work at a variety of venues throughout the state of Maine. In addition, Maria has been an artist in residence, teaching modern dance, ballet, composition and repertory at New Dance Studio and at the Portland High School Arts Academy. Currently, Maria is the Director of her studio, Terpsicore Dance Inc. in South Portland, Maine.

Vanessa Beyland (Choreographer, Me and My Shadow) is a graduate of NYU’s Tisch School of the Arts with a B.F.A in dance. She was a member of Pennsylvania Dance Theater, has performed with many independent choreographers throughout the country, and has danced in, and choreographed a number of productions here in Maine. She is currently on the faculty of Portland Ballet as well as one of their Principal Dancers, and is also on the faculty at USM, teaching Musical Theatre Dance, and choreographing their upcoming production of The Pajama Game. Behind the desk, she has worked in NYC with Roundabout Theatre Company, the Jose Limon Dance Foundation, and is the Assistant to the Director at Portland Ballet. Vanessa is also the Production Manager for the annual Portland Dances! New Works Showcase in August.

Meghan Brodie (Director, Sappho) is finishing her Ph.D. in theatre at Cornell University and is currently teaching in the theatre department at USM. Her research focuses on the intersections of theatre and feminist, gender, and sexuality studies. She most recently directed an evening of one-acts at the St. Lawrence Arts Center in Portland. Meghan’s previous directing credits include work at the University of Southern Maine, Colgate University, Cornell University, and Ursinus College.

Hannah Brown (Costume Design, Sappho) is a sophomore theater major here at USM, and will be a featured performer in the upcoming Spring Musical The Pajama Game. Hannah has been dancing since the age of 8, and was trained at the Art Moves Dance Studio in
Artistic Director: Maria Tzianabos
Faculty Advisor: Shannon Zura

Production Staff
Costume Shop Director: Kris Hall
Technical Director: Perry Fertig
Stage Manager: Brian Essman
Assistant Stage Managers: Jake Cote, Tony Ennis, Katie Foster, DJ Hutchins

Production Crew
Light Board Operator: Taylor Roussseau
Sound Board Operator: Rob Alan Brookes
Deck Crew: Christopher Ian Ellis, Ian Michael Jones, James Michael McDonald II, Mike Johnson
Wardrobe Crew: Alyssa Albert, Lauren Elizabeth Harkins, Patrick Molloy, Casey Rose Shea, Kyle Andrew Skillin
Carpenters: Dan Bernardini, Teddy Mattson, Jes Dumich, Emily Waller, and Stagecraft Practicum
Electricians: Neal Morton, Danny Gay, Florence Cooley, Marcus Ingerson, Josh Adams, Dylan Rohman, and Stage Lighting Practicum

Administrative Staff
Theatre Promotions Director/Photography: Troy R. Bennett
Arts Events Director: Emmanuelle Chaulet
Administrative Assistant: Lil Campbell
House Manager: Hayley O'Connor
Graphic Design: Jake MacGillivary
Program: Franklin Kendrick

Special Thanks to:
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Florence Cooley (Lighting Design, Sappho) is a third year theatre major from Yarmouth, Maine. Past USM credits include The Baltimore Waltz (light and co-set design), Jack and Jill (light, sound and prop design), Suor Angelica and Gianni Schicchi (stage manager), Dance USM 2008 (light design). She made her main stage debut last spring in her class's staged readings of Carolyn Gage's work. She is thrilled to be back on the main stage and back on the trapeze in her first dance show experience.

Brian Essman (Stage Manager) is a second year media studies major from Waterville, Maine. Past crew credits include Suor Angelica and Gianni Schicchi (Assistant Director), The Bear and The Proposal (Assistant Stage Manager), and Sylvia (Deck Crew).

Perry Fertig (Technical Director) has been working in professional theater for the last twelve years in Philadelphia and around the world. Perry has worked for Ursinus College, Philadelphia Live Arts and Fringe Festivals, the Philadelphia Theatre Company and is a Flying Director for Foy Inventerprises.

Danny Gay (Lighting Design, Pale) is a senior theatre major from Newcastle, ME. Past USM design credits include The Bear and The Proposal (sound design), the Student Performing Artists' The Distance From Here (scenic design), Dance USM's A Constant State of Desire (sound design), Waiting For Godot (lighting design) in the lab theatre, the Student Performing Artists' Five Flights (scenic design), and SPA’s Beyond Therapy (lighting design). Enjoy the show!

Travis M. Grant (Costume Design, Pale) is a fifth year theatre major. Previous design credits include: The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee (Maine Premiere, University of Southern Maine School of Music); Moonchildren (University of Southern Maine (USM), Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival (KCACTF) Region I Barbizon Costume Design Nomination), Dance USM! 2009, Last Easter (New England Premiere; USM, KCACTF Region I Winner - Barbizon National Design Award for Excellence in Costume Design); Leading Ladies (New England Premiere), The Full Monty, Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat (Arundel Barn Playhouse); The Full Monty (Portland Players), The Full Monty, The House of Frankenstein, Picasso at the Lapin Agile, Godspell, Play On! (Waldo Theatre, Inc.); Dance USM! 2006 and 2008 (USM); The Tempest (Camden Civic Theater); No, No Nanette! (Lincoln County Norway, ME under the direction of Debi Irons, learning Jazz, Modern, Ballet, Hip-Hop, Afro-Brazilian and many more styles. In 7th grade Hannah was asked to join the high-level Art Moves Dance Group, performing all over the state. She would like to thank Vanessa for the opportunity to bathe in Fosse goodness, for everyone in the theater department, and to her awesome family and friends!
Community Theater) and many more. Upcoming designs include *Enchanted April* for Oxford Hills Music & Performing Arts Association, Spring 2010.

**Kris Hall (Costume Director)** Kris is happy to be at USM for her 9th season. Upcoming costume designs include *Inook and the Sun* at USM in April, and *Hansel and Gretel* at the Merrill Auditorium with PORTopera in July. Previous costume design work appeared most recently in Portland Stage's production of *Third* by Wendy Wasserstein. Other design credits include *Julius Caesar* at Portland Stage; *Pump Boys and Dinettes* at Maine State Music Theatre; *Doubt* and *Almost Maine* at the Public Theatre in Lewiston; *Suor Angelica* and *The Tempest* at USM as well as the feature length independent film *Mr. Barrington*. Kris received her BA in Political Science from USM and her MFA in Studio Art from MECA. She also attended the Skowhegan School of Painting and Sculpture with a full scholarship in 2006.

**Alice Hofgren** is a freshman theatre major from Waterville, ME. Past roles include “Oliver” in *Oliver!*, and “Mother Abbess” in *The Sound of Music*. Alice has received two one-act All Festival Cast awards and was runner up in the state Poetry Out Loud recitation contest.

**Janette Hough-Fertig (Choreographer, Pale)** presently teaches aerial dance and theater at USM, Acorn Productions in Westbrook, and Terpsicore Dance in South Portland. She has performed physical theatre with Pig Iron Theatre, puppetry and dance with Sebastienne Mundheim, children's theatre with Theatre Cire, among others. Her performance career started in 1995 as a company member of TRAPEZIUS Aerial Dance. Keep an eye out for her new company- Apparatus Dance Theatre.

**Marcus Ingerson (Lights and Sound for Three)**, originally from Millinocket, is a sophomore theatre major with an emphasis in design. He is thrilled to be making his Lighting and Sound design debut at USM with *Three*. Previous credits include assistant light design for *The Bear* and *The Proposal*, assistant sound design for *Tea and Sympathy* and assistant stage manager for *Jack and Jill*. He was also involved in *Moonchildren*, *The Man Who Came to Dinner* and *Baltimore Waltz*. Additionally, he is the year long sound engineer and electrician for the USM Theater Department. Enjoy the show!

**Roger Louis Marcotte (Costume Design)** This is Roger's first costume design ever. He has worked in the costume shop in the past and would like to thank Kris Hall for inspiring a love of costuming in him. He is a musical theatre major here at USM in his fourth year, and has performed here in Russell and Corthell, most recently as "William Barfee" in USM's Maine premiere of *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*. He will be directing the Student Performing Artists' production of Christopher Durang's *Titanic*, and hopes to see you all there!

**Neal Morton** (of Manchester, Maine) is a third year theatre major here at the University of Southern Maine. This is Neal’s first lighting design for a dance piece. Last year he was the lighting designer for the Student Performing Artists’ production of *The Distance From Here*. He would like to thank you for coming.

**Kyle Skillin** is a junior theatre major from Standish, Maine. He is very excited to be doing his first costume design on the Russell Hall Mainstage. You may have seen his name in the program as assistant designer in *The Baltimore Waltz* (SPA) and Asst. Hair and Makeup design for *The Chekhov one-acts* earlier this year. This past summer Kyle was a wardrobe apprentice at Maine State Music Theater and currently volunteers in their costume rental division.

**Simon Winslow Skold** is a transfer third year. This is his first year as a theatre major, originally from the Bronx. He has since left his home at Fordham University to join the community at USM. Dancing is not a trained skill of his, just a passion he practices in his own room. He hopes to hang out with high schoolers for the rest of his life.

**Shannon Zura** recently designed the lights for Portland Stage Company's production of *The Gin Game*, the lights & sound for Bloomsburg Theatre Ensemble's production of *Leading Ladies*, the lights for Opera House Arts' *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, and the sound for the world premiere of *House, Divided* at InterAct Theatre Company. Additional design credits include the sound and lights for InterAct Theatre Company’s productions of *Kiss of the Spider Woman* and *American Sublime* and the sound designs for Philadelphia Shakespeare Theatre’s *The Complete Works of William Shakespeare (Abridged)*, *Romeo and Juliet*, and *Taming of the Shrew*. In March 2005, Shannon was featured in Stage Directions Magazine’s salute to outstanding women in theatre. Shannon holds an MFA in Lighting Design from Temple University and is currently an Assistant Professor of Theatre at the University of Southern Maine.
UPCOMING IN RUSSELL HALL...

The Pajama Game
Music/Lyrics by Richard Adler/Jerry Ross
Script by George Abbott/Richard Bissell
Directed by Wil Kilroy; Musical Director Edward Reichert
March 5-14, 2010

Inook and the Sun
by Henry Beissel
Directed by Assunta Kent
April 23-May 2, 2010

www.usm.maine.edu/theatre
Tickets: (207) 780-5151
Season Flex Pass: $40 for 6 tickets