

# COLLEGE DANCE



## Welcome to the McAninch Arts Center!



Dear Friends,

It is always a joy to welcome you to the McAninch Arts Center. Each season, our stage becomes a home for extraordinary artistry from around the world, and we are thrilled to share these experiences with you. From unforgettable music and breathtaking dance to thought-provoking theatre and laugh-out-loud comedy, our touring performances bring the very best of the arts right here to DuPage County.

Your presence here is more than just attending a show—it is a celebration of the arts and a vital part of keeping them alive in our community. Every ticket purchased, every standing ovation, and every shared moment in this theater helps us fulfill our mission to make the arts accessible, engaging, and transformative.

As you enjoy today's performance, I encourage you to explore everything the MAC has to offer—from our gallery exhibitions and educational programs to our local and international collaborations. Whether this is your first visit or your fiftieth, we are honored to share this experience with you and look forward to making you feel right at home.

If you enjoy coming to the MAC, the greatest help you can offer us is to share your experiences with friends and neighbors. Word-of-mouth is one of the most powerful ways to keep the arts thriving in our community. If there is anything we can do to make your experience more enjoyable, please do not hesitate to let us know.

We look forward to entertaining you this evening, and we thank you sincerely for your support of the MAC.

With warm regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Diana'.

Diana Martinez  
Executive Director  
McAninch Arts Center

## Dance at the MAC

It is with great enthusiasm that we welcome you to College of DuPage's Fall 2025 Catalyst Dance Concert! We are so proud to share the growth of our program and of the students with you this season. We are delighted to share the news that the Dance Program at College of DuPage now offers an Associate in Arts with an emphasis in Dance! If you are interested in learning more about our new AA degree and transfer pathway, please visit our website at [cod.edu/dance](http://cod.edu/dance).

This evening's performance presents a diverse mix of student choreography and original faculty works. Our dance students have been hard at work this semester, maintaining a deep passion for dance and an unwavering commitment to the creative process. Our student choreographers range from beginner to experienced, yet through their own rehearsal processes, they have shown diligence utilizing creative inquiry and movement as research to develop an original dance work. We are thrilled for you to witness their dedication and steadfast commitment to the production of this concert tonight!

This semester, the COD Dance Program saw an addition of two new faculty members, Maggie Vannucci and Kim Gadlin! They both bring an expansive perspective of artistry and expertise in the field of dance that has not only enriched our program, but inspires our students daily. Welcome to COD Dance, Maggie and Kim! We are thrilled to have you!

Tonight, you will also see screendance presented as an alternative viewpoint and medium for dance. We are especially proud to present the screendance part of tonight's performance, as COD Dance is the only community college program in Illinois to offer Dance Technology as a for-credit course. If the screendance films inspire you tonight, or if learning about motion capture technologies and dance is of interest to you, please consider registering for our Dance Technology (Dance 1820-001) course for the Spring 2026 semester!

A special thank you goes to our guest choreographer, Sophie Allen, for setting a beautiful new work on our students this semester titled, *Before I go*. It has been such a privilege to have Sophie with us in the studio this semester. Her movement language and professional expertise in choreography has given our students an opportunity to challenge themselves to grow, and as such they have discovered a deeper satisfaction with the art of dance.

Additional thank you's go to those who have been collaborators and that work continually to support the growth of the COD Dance Program: Dr. Brian Carlson; Dr. Andrew Buckler; Stephen Thompson; Kayla Kurtzweil; Cierra Nizar-Weller; Wellin Chen; Rachel Benzing; Guillermo Leyva Barley; Kim Gadlin; Matt Shevitz; Daniel Millhouse; Amelia Barrett; Jackie Weaver; Tim Arroyo; Katherine Sifers; Mara Baker; Elliot Bowers; Chuck Boone; Nelson Cantada; David Ouellette; Eric Fuertes; David Swope; Elizabeth Gómez de la Casa; Jessica Yoon; Courtney Priest; Sal Garcia and Multimedia Services; Rick Arnold; Kim Morris; Elias Morales; Mandy Rakow; Diana Martinez and the entire staff of the McAninch Arts Center; the staff and faculty of the Arts, Communication, and Hospitality Division; the students of the COD Dance Program; and the Vice President of College of DuPage, Dr. Bradley Lane; and the President of College of DuPage, Dr. Muddassir Siddiqi.

### Jessica Kondrath, Maggie Vannucci, and kt williams

Dance Program Adjunct Faculty & Artistic Directors, Catalyst Dance Concert  
[www.cod.edu/dance](http://www.cod.edu/dance) | Follow us on Instagram: @cod.dance

McAninch Arts Center  
at College of DuPage  
presents

# *Catalyst* *Dance Concert*

## **College of DuPage Dance Faculty**

Guillermo Leyva Barley  
Rachel Benzing  
Kim Gadlin  
Jessica Kondrath  
Maggie Vannucci  
kt williams

## **Artistic Directors**

Jessica Kondrath, Maggie Vannucci, and kt williams

## **Student Choreographers**

Rae Hoppszallern, Gabriella Jurinek, Ara Krossovitch,  
Tamron McGee, Isabella Giana Rodriguez, Jalena Smith,  
Mary Szymanski, Hanna Itzel White Ferreya

## **Guest Artist**

Sophie Minouche Allen

## **Lighting Design**

Elias Morales

## **Costume Design**

Kimberly G. Morris

*The use of flash photography is strictly prohibited during the performance.  
Food and beverages are prohibited in the theatre. Please turn off cell phones  
and refrain from talking during the performance. Thank you.*

Friday, Nov. 7, 2025  
Belushi Performance Hall, 7:30 p.m.

The MAC offers all of this for you,  
but we can't do it without you!



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***Boogie to London***

**Choreography:** Hanna Itzel White Ferreyra

**Music:** "Last Train to London" by Electric Light Orchestra

**Dancers:** Peter Akaniroj, Ross Dumont-Snyder, Angelina Enea,  
Stephanie Escobar, Kate Houlahan, Ola Jargilo, Annika Larson,  
Hanna Itzel White Ferreyra

***under the billow***

**Choreography:** kt williams, COD Faculty

**Music:** "Recomposed by Max Richter, Vivaldi, The Four Seasons: Spring I  
- Levitation Mix" by Max Richter, Elena Urioste, Chineke! Orchestra

**Dancers:** Erin Compton, Tamia Johnson, Isabella Rodriguez  
*COD Modern I (Dance 1104)*

***Club JT***

**Choreography:** Jalena Smith and Tamron McGee

**Music:** Beyoncé, Busta Rhymes, Chris Brown, Ciara, Fat Man Scoop,  
Missy Elliott, Nicki Minaj, Tinashe, Lil Wayne

**Dancers:** Kate Houlahan, Ola Jargilo, Annika Larson, Tamron McGee,  
Jalena Smith, Hanna Itzel White Ferreyra

***CASCADE***

**Choreography, Editing, Cinematography:** kt williams, COD Faculty

**Music:** "The Opening" by Beautiful Chorus, "Plan & Elevation:  
V. The Beech Tree" by Caroline Shaw, Attacca Quartet

**Dancers:** Madi Doweidt, Ara Krossovitch, Geneieve Lemaster,  
Aubrey McGee, Jalena Smith

***Music for Pieces of Wood***

**Choreography:** Rachel Benzing, COD Faculty

**Music:** "Music for Pieces of Wood" Steve Reich

**Dancers:** Peter Akaniroj, Gabriella Jurinek, Elizabeth Stark  
*COD Tap I (Dance 1110)*

***Future Together***

**Choreography:** Rae Hoppszallern

**Music:** "Red Future" (Outro) by Snotty Nose Rez Kids,  
"Form of You" by Kehlani ft. Childofnines and Destin Conrad

**Dancers:** Rae Hoppszallern, Ola Jargilo, Dima King, Ara Krossovitch,  
Tamron McGee, Ruby Meza Pineros, Isabella Rodriguez,  
Hanna Itzel White Ferreyra

FREE

*My beloved relations, I stand here  
today*

*A voice for freedom, a call for healing  
I prayed, oh I prayed for freedom  
From the ancestral pain, passed on  
through time*

*I asked for strength to forgive  
To heal the scars, both yours and  
mine*

*I found freedom, my people*

*In the breath of our lands,  
in the strength of our spirit*

*But the battle ain't over, no. No!  
The shadows of colonialism, they still  
linger*

*Hurting, taking, breaking  
But we stand tall, unbroken*

*We are free my relatives!  
We are free my people!*

*We are free!*

-Chief Rueben George of The səliłwətał (Tsilil-Waututh) Nation

***Degas***

**Choreography:** Guillermo Leyva Barley, COD Faculty

**Music:** Bizet

**Dancers:** Aalayiah Brunner, Hannah Campbell, Donna Douglas, Jennifer  
Glowacki, Annika Larson, Amanda Slabik, Jocelyn Velazquez, Alayna Zaro  
*COD Ballet I/II (Dance 1101/1102)*

***The Rule of Three***

**Choreography:** Ara Krossovitch

**Music:** Lady Gaga

**Dancers:** Angelina Enea, Tamia Johnson, Ara Krossovitch

***On Broadway***

**Choreography:** Rachel Benzing, COD Faculty

**Music:** "On Broadway" *Smokey Joe's Cafe* Original Cast Recording

**Dancers:** Peter Akaniroj, Eileen Campion, Samantha Miller  
*COD Jazz I (Dance 1107)*

***Dreaming of Maroon***

**Choreography:** kt williams, COD Faculty,  
with contributions from the dancers

**Music:** "Melt" by Kelly Lee Owens

**Dancers:** Angelina Enea, Sophia Gallovitch, Rae Hoppszallern,  
Kate Houlahan, Gabriella Jurinek, Dima King, Ruby Meza Pineros,  
Isabella Rodriguez, Jalena Smith, Lynn Twarowski

**INTERMISSION**

***regarding time and space and the last time we saw each other***

**Choreography:** Jessica Kondrath, COD Faculty,  
with contributions from the dancers

**Music:** OKRAA

**Dancers:** Ava Arocho, Stephanie Escobar, Rae Hoppszallern,  
Ara Krossovitch, Jalena Smith, Tamron McGee

***Burned***

**Choreography:** Mary Szymanski

**Music:** "Burned" by Grace Vanderwaal

**Dancers:** Peter Akaniroj, Aalayiah Brunner, Annika Larson, Angelica  
Martinez, Theo Sucharzewski, Mary Szymanski

***BLACKOUT HEELS***

**Choreography:** Isabella Giana Rodriguez

**Music:** "Burning Blue" by Mariah the Scientist and  
"Water Vogue Remix" by Meme Reviú, mix by Angel Soto

**Dancers:** Ross Dumont-Snider, Hanna Itzel White Ferreyra,  
Rae Hoppszallern, Ola Jargilo, Tamron McGee, Ruby Meza Pineros,  
Isabella Rodriguez, Jalena Smith, Hanna Itzel White Ferreyra

***Dystopia***

**Choreography:** Gabriella Jurinek

**Music:** Can't Catch Me Now by Olivia Rodrigo

**Dancers:** Abigail Elmore, Angelina Enea, Gabriella Jurinek,  
Ara Krossovitch, Theo Sucharzewski



# SPRING DANCE PROGRAM COURSE OFFERINGS

**1/26/2026 – 5/22/2026**

Dance Appreciation	DANCE 1100	NET/Online	
Ballet I	DANCE 1101	T/Th	1:00 - 2:50 PM
Ballet II	DANCE 1102	M/W	1:00 - 2:50 PM
Modern I/II	DANCE 1104/1105	T/Th	10:30 AM - 12:20 PM
Jazz I/II	DANCE 1107/1108	M/W	11:00 AM - 12:50 AM
Tap I	DANCE 1110	M/W	9:00 - 10:50 AM
Hip Hop	DANCE 1820-002	T/TH	10:30 AM - 12:20 PM
Choreography & Composition I	DANCE 1122	T/Th	1:00 - 2:50 PM
Dance Pedagogy	DANCE 1130	M/W	6:00 - 8:50 PM
Dance & Technology	DANCE 1820-001	T/Th	1:00 - 2:50PM
Dance Production & Performance	DANCE 1120	T/W/Th	3:00 - 5:15 PM

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## SPRING 2026 EMERGENCE DANCE CONCERT

**FACULTY, GUEST ARTIST, AND STUDENT**

**CHOREOGRAPHERS/DANCERS INFORMATIONAL MEETINGS**

**Tuesday and Thursday, Jan. 27th & 29th, 3:00-5:30PM**

PEC Room 145 (Dance Studio)

*Come learn about performing in the Dance Concerts*

*All are welcome to join, no experience required*

Questions or for more information email

Jessica Kondrath [kondrathj@cod.edu](mailto:kondrathj@cod.edu)

## GUEST ARTIST PROFILE

**Sophie Minouche Allen** is a dance artist who performs, choreographs, teaches, and collaborates throughout Chicago and beyond. In addition to her own projects, she has performed with The Seldoms, Bob Eisen, Niko8, Ayako Kato/Art Union Humanscape, Cerqua Rivera Dance Theatre, and many others. Her choreography has been presented by FACT/SF, Thodos Dance Chicago/DanceWorks Chicago, Midwest RADFest, Detroit Dance Exchange, Going Dutch Festival/Side Street Studio Arts, and COMMON conservatory among others. She is on faculty at The Grainger Academy of The Joffrey Ballet, offers open classes throughout Chicago, and has had the pleasure of teaching company class, workshops and/or guest classes for Hubbard Street Dance Chicago, DanceWorks Chicago/Dance360, The University of Chicago, Western Michigan University, Bodies of Water, FACT/SF Summer Dance Festival, DISCO RIOT, Denison University, and University of Michigan/ACDA East-Central Conference among others. Sophie holds a BFA in Dance and BA in Philosophy, Politics and Economics (PPE) from the University of Michigan. She is also a certified Countertechnique® Teacher. [www.sophieminouche.com](http://www.sophieminouche.com)

## COD FACULTY PROFILES

**Rachel Benzing** (she/her), a native of South Elgin, IL, began her dance training at Copeland Dance Academy and continued her dance education studying at Joel Hall Dance Center, Visceral Dance Center, the American Rhythm Center, and as a member of Xtreme Dance Force. Her dance career has led her to learn from and perform for many great teachers and choreographers such as Sarah Burney, Brooke Pierotti, Tony Tzar, Laura Edwards, Lane Alexander, Lillian Barbeito, Rosalynde LeBlanc, Sarah Savelli, and many more proficient teachers from diverse backgrounds and styles. Benzing graduated from Loyola Marymount University (2014) with a Bachelor's Degree in Dance and a Bachelor's Degree in History, where she was able to work with professional dance artists such as Lillian Barbeito (BODYTRAFFIC), Barak Marshall, Tony Czar, and Rosalynde LeBlanc (Bill T. Jones/Arnie Zane Dance Company), and choreographed numerous works, one of which was featured at the American College Dance Festival (2014). Benzing is a graduate of Trinity Laban Conservatoire of Music and Dance where she received a Master of Fine Arts Degree (2016) in Dance: Creative Practice and was able to pursue a performance art based creative process. Benzing has performed on stage in the Chicago Human Rhythm Project Rhythm World Festival with the reunion of the all-female tap ensemble Rhythm ISS (2018) as well as performing with M.A.D.D. Rhythms in "A Journey of the Dance Through Rhythm" (2019) and award-winning tap ensemble Tapman Productions original work "What It's Like to Be Human" (2019). Benzing currently teaches in the Chicagoland area and choreographs for dance studios and competition teams around the country. Her work has won numerous awards for Choreography, Entertainment, Creative Concept, Overall Presentation, and has been chosen as contending nominees

## COD FACULTY PROFILES

for the Industry Dance Awards. Benzing is a writer for SeeChicagoDance.com, writing reviews of professional dance performances in the greater Chicago area and holds a 200-hr level Yoga Teacher Certification from Core Power Yoga.

**Kimberly (Kim) Gadlin** is a dance scholar, educator, and choreographer whose career spans over three decades of artistic performance, academic leadership, and community-based cultural work. She began her formal dance training at the age of 13 with her first teacher, Tommy Gomez, who introduced her to the Katherine Dunham technique—a foundational influence that continues to shape her pedagogy and choreographic voice. Gadlin was a principal dancer with both the Joseph Holmes Dance Theatre of Chicago (JHDT) and PHILADANCO!, touring nationally and internationally throughout the U.S., Europe, Africa, and the Caribbean. While dancing professionally with JHDT, she was also awarded a Merit Scholarship at The Ailey School, where she continued her technical training and deepened her engagement with modern and diasporic dance forms. She has worked with world-renowned choreographers such as Talley Beatty, Joseph Holmes, Milton Myers, and Randy Duncan and instructors such as Denise Jefferson, Fred Benjamin, Harriet Ross, Joel Hall, Homer Bryant, Thea Barnes, Joan Peters, Joan Myers Brown, Cecilia Martinez, and James Truitt, cultivating a multidisciplinary, somatically informed practice grounded in cultural integrity, rigor, and care.

She is currently completing her Ph.D. in Dance at Texas Woman's University and pursuing certification in Somatic Movement. She holds an M.A. in K–12 Educational Administration (Performing Arts) from Claremont Graduate University and a B.A. in Dance from Pitzer College. Gadlin has served as Director of Educational Programs and Artistic Director of Danco 3 at PHILADANCO!, and has taught at Pomona College, California State Polytechnic University, Pomona, University of La Verne, Cypress College, and Drexel University. Her research explores movement fusion, employability, and equity in higher education, with particular attention to African diasporic traditions, culturally relevant pedagogy, and holistic student development. She is also the founder of Live, Life, Move, where she guides individuals and groups in reconnecting with their bodies and cultivating sustainable, creative communities rooted in embodied transformation.

**Jessica Kondrath**, A Chicago native, holds degrees in dance from UC Santa Barbara (BFA) and California State University, Long Beach (MFA). Her choreography through her company GRAYSCALE has been presented nationally and internationally, recently celebrating their 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary with the evening length work THESE SPACES OF POSSIBILITY presented at Links Hall Chicago; and she's had works commissioned by Moorpark College, Mt. San Antonio College, Cyprus College, El Camino College, Rio Hondo College, CSU Long Beach, Santa Monica College, CSU Fullerton, College of DuPage, Stevenson and Beverly Hills

## COD FACULTY PROFILES

High Schools, and Momenta Performing Arts Company for their 35th and 40th anniversary concerts. She has taught guest classes and lectures at the ACDA Conferences in the Baja and North Central Regions, Loyola Marymount University, Colorado State University-Fort Collins, University of Wyoming-Laramie, CSU Fullerton, the University of Colorado-Boulder, Columbia College Chicago, Joffrey Ballet Academy, and Novia University in Finland. As a dancer, Kondrath has performed the works of Carol McDowell, Liz Hoefner Adamis/ Immediate Action Dance, Sarita Smith-Childs, and Lucy Riner, among others. She was a recipient of the Professional Artist Fellowship Grant from the Arts Council of Long Beach for her work as the Artistic Director of GRAYSCALE, was recently nominated for a Faculty Teaching Award at Loyola University Chicago and listed as an Outstanding Divisional Adjunct Faculty Member at College of DuPage. Over the past twenty years, Kondrath has also worked as a lighting designer for dance, a Pilates Instructor certified at the Kane School of Core Integration, and in arts administration for Baryshnikov Arts Center. She currently serves on faculty in the Dance Departments of College of DuPage as department chair, and Loyola University Chicago. You can find her at [grayscaledance.org](http://grayscaledance.org).

**Guillermo Leyva Barley** trained at the Professional School of Arts in Camaguey, Cuba. After graduating, he began dancing professionally at the Ballet de Camaguey under Fernando Alonso's direction. He was with the Ballet de Camaguey company for 11 years as a principal dancer where he danced several classic roles. Later he danced for three years with the Ballet de Monterrey in Mexico, under the direction of Ann Marie D' Angelo, Fernando Alonso, and Fernando Bujones. He also danced as a principal dancer with Joffrey Ballet of Chicago, Lexington Ballet, Lyric Opera of Chicago, Illinois Ballet, Cincinnati Ballet, Ballet de Santiago, Chile and Ballet Royal de Wallonie in Belgium. Leyva-Barley has worked with renowned choreographers, Alberto Alonso, Frederick Franklin and danced under the direction of Alonso King and Randy Duncan. He is co-artistic director of Alma Dance Theater, NFP. Leyva-Barley has coached students for The Youth America Grand Prix Regionals and Finals resulting in his students placing and winning in both the junior and senior divisions. He was awarded Outstanding Teacher in 2014 at the Youth America Grand Prix Indianapolis Regional and in 2019 at the Chicago Semi-Finals. Leyva-Barley's dream as a child was to direct his own classical ballet company and to be a successful choreographer. He also dreamed of having his own Art Ballet School to help children from low-income areas to get out of the streets and become professional dancers. One of his goals is to keep passing on to his students all of his knowledge and experience, which he has always done with deep love.

**Maggie Vannucci** (she/they) is a Chicago-based dance artist who works collaboratively and thrives in multi-media performance spaces. Chicago

## COD FACULTY PROFILES

collaborations include work with Erin Kilmurry, The Seldoms, INSEKTA, Fever Dream Dance Collective, Amalia Wiatr Lewis, Tina Diaz, Deandra Alaba, and Braden Barnes. Vannucci has devised original works for Steppenwolf's LookOut series, SANCTA, and Northwestern's dance department Danceworks concert. She is on faculty at Northwestern University, College of DuPage, and a guest lecturer at the University of Chicago, along with teaching weekly open classes at The Rooted Space. They earned their MFA from the VERVE program at Northern School of Contemporary Dance and their BFA from London Contemporary Dance School (The Place).

**kt williams** is a contemporary movement artist, choreographer, dance filmmaker, and Safety Release Master Teacher based in Chicago, IL. Originally from Oak Park, IL, williams earned a BFA in Dance Performance from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, where she received the Donald Carducci Memorial Scholarship Award for overall excellence in dance performance. She earned an MFA in Dance/Choreography from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro, where she studied Safety Release Technique (SR) intensively and worked closely alongside B.J. Sullivan, the founder of SR. kt is one of three Safety Release Master Teachers in the world, and her intensive study with this work has supported her integration and specialization of somatic practices expertly enveloped within a rigorous and full body contemporary dance technique class. In addition to teaching on faculty in the COD Dance Program, williams also leads seasonal SR workshops for advanced/professional dancers across the Chicago dance community. She choreographs independent projects under the name, "kt williams + artists" and is the co-artistic director of collaborative duo, "DanSeries Collective," with creative colleague, Caitlyn Schrader. williams has also performed in dance works by Renay Aumiller, Michael Estanich, Sara Hook, Rebecca Nettl- Fiol, Megan Rhodes, Lucy Riner, B.J. Sullivan, Sheldon Smith, and Abby Zbikowski, and currently, she performs with RE|Dance Group in Chicago, IL. williams considers dance as a site for collective transformation, as she genuinely believes working in community fosters the wellbeing and sustainability of the artist-citizen.

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## STUDENT CHOREOGRAPHER PROFILES

**Gabriella Jurinek** has been dancing for 20 years, since she was three, with experience mainly in tap, hip hop, and jazz. This is her choreography debut, and she couldn't be more excited! For this piece she created a visual representation of the internal struggle of facing what seems to be an impossible situation and making it through with resilience and determination. She would love to continue choreographing as another fun and creative outlet for herself. She will always have dancing in her bones and she's so glad she gets to share it with the world and especially her friends and family!

This is **Rae Hoppszallern's** second semester dancing at COD. This semester, they are excited to be more involved in Dance 1120, sharing a space that so warmly encourages movement and expression. Hoppszallern is choreographing an alternative Hip-hop piece, inspired and in reference to the value they place in community, social support, and sense of belonging. They hope to express the reverence they feel towards the power that radical love and acceptance can have and explore how community can exponentially amplify these forces for healing and growth. They hope that in this way they can give a little bit of all the love and support they have received back to the faculty and dancers of 1120, their family, and friends, and all the people who have supported them in their journey of living. They are so grateful to be here to share something so close to their heart with all of you.

**Ara Krossovitch** is a sophomore at COD. She loves choreographing with different props because they add a dimension to the dance which is not there when only working with the body. Her background in choreography began with color guard; she wanted to create a piece that combines what she's learned through her experience from three years in this movement form with the rest of her dance training. Krossovich typically enjoys choreographing for large numbers of people, so she had fun going the opposite direction and using a small group. This piece was inspired by her interest in science fiction and occult related imagery, portraying themes of power, control, fanaticism, and betrayal.

**Tamron McGee** (COD class of 2028) is pursuing a degree in dance, a passion that has defined her life since childhood. Her early years were spent immersed in performance, participating in dance shows, summer camps, and theatrical productions. Her mother affectionately recalls that she was dancing from the moment she could walk. This dedication led to a significant milestone at age 15, when she was selected to serve as captain of a majorette team, an experience that fueled her development. Inspired by celebrated artists like Chris Brown, Aaliyah, and Beyoncé, McGee envisions a future dancing on stage for millions. Her experience in the COD dance program has been transformative, broadening her perspective on various dance styles and movement techniques. She expresses profound gratitude for her teachers' commitment and guidance, which have been invaluable to her training.

## STUDENT CHOREOGRAPHER PROFILES

**Isabella G. Rodriguez** is a COD student with plans to pursue a degree in dance. She has trained extensively in Latin, Hip-Hop, and Heels, and has choreographed Quinceaneras while also performing in various showcases and events across the Chicagoland area and out of state. Her choreography is deeply influenced by her mentors Brandon Avery, Rafa Gonzalez, and Lawrence Powell Jr, whose guidance has shaped her artistic journey. Rodriguez aspires to continue creating, performing, and sharing her love of dance while building a career in both dance and education.

**Jalena Smith** has been dancing since the age of four and has trained in a variety of styles, including jazz, ballet, tap, hip hop, and modern. She is currently in her third year with the COD Dance Program, where she continues to expand her artistry as both a performer and choreographer. She has choreographed three original works and is honored to have the opportunity to share her creative vision on stage. Her passion for dance continues to inspire her growth, and she looks forward to seeing where her dedication to the art form will lead her next.

Performing on stage is one of **Mary Szymanski's** favorite things in life. She'd love to perform for as long as she can in her life, no matter what that looks like. Szymanski has performed pretty much her whole life, and now she is excited to be a part of the creative team choreographing for stage for the first time!

**Hanna White** is in her third year in the COD Dance Program, and this is her first time choreographing a piece. Tonight, we dance like it's 1979! She wanted to create something that vibes with joy and community - full of vibrant color, movement, and energy, all flowing to a beat that makes you wish the night could last forever.

## MAKE MUSIC WHERE MUSIC THRIVES

College of DuPage brings 50 years of training and supporting musicians like you in whatever it is you want to do. With a staff of 25 private music instructors, nine ensembles, and four degree and certificate programs, COD is the first choice of serious musicians from the western suburbs and beyond.

**For more information** Contact Thomas Stark at (630) 942-2391 or [starkt1620@cod.edu](mailto:starkt1620@cod.edu).



## DESIGNER PROFILES

**Elias Morales** (Lighting Design) is excited to be working as the Lighting Designer for another amazing production at College of DuPage! For over 18 years he has worked professionally as a freelance lighting designer and stage manager around Chicago. In addition, he has also had the pleasure of traveling across the US on tour with dance and sketch comedy companies. While working with so many individuals throughout the US has been fun, it is a pure delight to be working with all the passionate and talented individuals at the MAC on tonight's show!

**Kimberly G. Morris** (Costume, Hair and Make-up Design) is pleased to continue her work at College of DuPage. Prior to joining the crew at COD, she spent 13 years as a freelance costume, makeup, wig and properties designer throughout Chicago and the east coast. She is a company member of Babes with Blades Theatre Company where she has designed for many of their productions. She has also designed for Stage Left Theatre, Fox Valley Repertory, Ball State University, American Shakespeare Center, Shenandoah Shakespeare Express, Heritage Repertory Theatre, Tecumseh!, Wilmette Arts Center, NWHS and MEHS.



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# Friends of the MAC

The Friends of the MAC is a family of those who have decided that a world-class performing and visual arts center should reside in their community. Ticket sales provide only 42 percent of our \$4 million operating budget. It is through the support of College of DuPage and through the generous gifts from patrons and local businesses that we can keep art in our museum and on our stages.

## Your Gift to the MAC

- Brings nationally and internationally renowned artists to our community
- Supports our SchoolStage program that annually offers affordable arts experiences to thousands of schoolchildren
- Provides students and community members the opportunity to interact with artists
- Enhances quality of life in our community

Without the generous support of the Friends of the MAC, we would not be the beacon for the arts in DuPage County. We gratefully thank our friends, and we invite others to join them.

## Arts Center and MAC-tastic Treat Seats Endowments

Donor may choose to direct gifts to the Arts Center Endowment or the MAC-tastic Treat Seats – Tickets for Kids & Families Endowment. Donations made to these MAC Endowments, our “savings accounts,” go into principal secured, invested accounts that will provide ongoing support for arts programs and arts accessibility for years to come.

The McAninch Arts Center and the College of DuPage Foundation can also provide you with information on planned giving options, gifts of stock, IRA Charitable Rollovers and other giving opportunities.

**For complete details, visit the MAC Box Office or contact the College of DuPage Foundation at (630) 942-3088 or [foundation@codfound.org](mailto:foundation@codfound.org).**

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We are always looking for enthusiastic, dedicated, reliable and customer service-oriented people to become volunteers serving as ushers, greeters and docents at our events. Volunteers provide invaluable service by assisting guests to their seats, answering questions and most importantly creating a welcoming environment for our guests. Volunteers are unpaid, but that doesn't mean you won't be rewarded. The cultural perks you'll enjoy as a volunteer include vouchers for every shift worked offering discounts to use at the MAC Box Office and invitation to our annual volunteer appreciation dinner including prizes and gifts.

Visit [AtTheMAC.org/Volunteer](http://AtTheMAC.org/Volunteer) to fill out an online application and for more information on requirements and qualifications. Applications accepted year-round.

For more information, contact Volunteer Coordinator  
Rob Nardini: [nardinir@cod.edu](mailto:nardinir@cod.edu) | (630) 942-3705.

## HOUSE NOTES

- Cameras and recording devices are not allowed in the theater and are prohibited by our contracts with the artists.
- Smoking is not permitted in the theater or on campus.
- For your comfort and security, all backpacks and large bags must be checked.
- Please turn off all cell phones and any other alarms while in the theater.
- Emergency phone number at COD Police Department for after-hour calls is (630) 942-2000.
- Latecomers seated at discretion of the House Manager.
- Groups of 10 or more may contact (630) 942-3026 or [grouptix@cod.edu](mailto:grouptix@cod.edu) to arrange for group discounts.
- If you notice a spill in the theater, please notify an usher.
- McAninch Arts Center volunteers are people who assist the house staff in areas of ticket taking, ushering and general management during performances. To get involved, call (630) 942-3705.
- For **Americans With Disabilities Act** accommodations, call (630) 942-2141 (voice) or (630) 858-9692 (TDD).
- **Infrared Assistive Listening Devices:** For audience members who desire audio amplification of performances, headsets with individual volume controls are now available. You may check out the headsets at the Box Office with a driver's license. *Underwritten by a generous gift from The Knowles Foundation.*

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