

What's Happening with Dance on the Hill

Welcome Anna Patsfall!

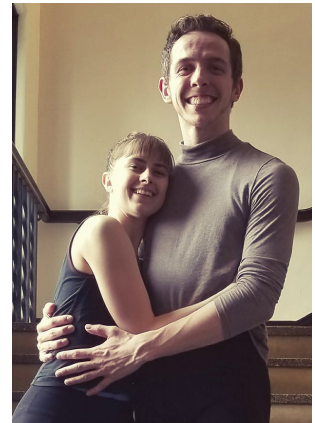


We welcomed Assistant Professor Anna Patsfall to our dance faculty this year. Anna grew up in Cincinnati, OH, where she graduated with a BFA under University of Cincinnati's College Conservatory of Music. She then spent twelve seasons at the Kentucky Ballet Theatre in Lexington, KY. She has served as co-artistic

director at the Winchester Ballet with her husband. She has also been on faculty at different universities. We are so happy to have Anna as a part of our dance family.

The Student Research Conference

Four WKU dance majors participated in the 48th Annual WKU Student Research Conference, presenting their research and creative projects sponsored by the WKU FUSE grant. Two dance majors, Trevor Edwards and Lilly Comstock, were each recognized as session winners. Trevor presented his creative work *The Lunar Effect: A Study of Choreographic Storytelling and Dance on Film*, which explored the integration of film to support a dance narrative. Lilly presented her research and creative work *Gaga: A New Approach to Movement*, which featured a very unique style of movement, Gaga from Omad Naharin, which she learned. The Dance Program is extremely proud of all of our FUSE recipients!



NDEO- WKU Student Chapter

The National Dance Education Organization- WKU Student Chapter, has remained busy this past year. The organization supported several Dance Craze events, including a Beyonce Dance Craze, an Israeli-based Movement Study, and a Back to the 2000s Dance Craze. These community classes allowed the chapter to reach outside of the Dance Program and interact with the WKU community. The student chapter reached out to the Bowling Green community by presenting events with Best Buddies and the Greenwood Nursing Home.



The National Honor Society of Dance Arts- WKU Student Chapter inducted the following students this year: Mimi Burrow, Lilly Comstock, Abby Lutts, Jill Terry, and Elise Wilham. Also, Miriam Gaines, Hannah McCarthy, and Bernadette Turnage are graduating in Spring of 2018 with honors under NHSDA.





Collaborating on the Hill

Guest Artist Residency



Robert McKee, Artistic Director of Inside Dance Chicago, completed a dance residency this spring sponsored by the Potter College Dean's Office, Mahurin Honors College, and the Department of Theatre & Dance. He taught master classes and created his original choreography, *QUEENS*, for performance by the WKU Dance

Company in Evening of Dance. His unique style of jazz movement brought an interesting element to the spring performance.

Professional Auditions

Two professional dance schools, the Joffrey Ballet School and Deeply Rooted Dance Theatre, held auditions for their summer programs on the WKU campus. Many WKU students, as well as those from surrounding areas, participated in these auditions and several were awarded scholarships to attend these summer programs.

Pilobolus Workshop

In February, Pilobolus, a dance theatre company, used the Department of Theatre & Dance facilities as a rehearsal space while in town for a performance at SKyPAC. This was an amazing opportunity, as students were able to sit in on their rehearsals and observe firsthand how a company functions. Pilobolus also led a master class for departmental students, which consisted of exploratory movement exercises and improvisational techniques. This impromptu visit by Pilobolus was a truly wonderful and engaging experience for our students.



Gotta Dance Fridays

The Department of Theatre & Dance hosted four Gotta Dance Fridays. In Fall 2017, we welcomed Keith Fitzpatrick from H3 Dance in Nashville, TN. Fitzpatrick taught a hip hop class, pushing the students to try a dance genre not offered at WKU. In Spring 2018, Robert Sifontes taught a ballet partnering technique class that tested the students' ballet strength. Caitlin Abraham taught a theatre jazz class featuring combinations from *I Wanna Be a Dancing Man* from *Fosse* and *Lady Marmalade* from *Moulin Rouge*. The final Gotta Dance Friday of the year was taught by Laura Valentine and Alex Murphy, from the Nashville-based company, Numinous Flux. Laura Valentine, the founder, director, and choreographer of the company, taught an improvisation class that challenged the dancers to move in different ways, while Alex Murphy, development director and dancer of the company, taught a ballet technique class.



Summer Dance Intensive

The WKU Dance Program Looks forward to engaging with a younger group of students this summer. June 17-23, 2018, dancers in grades 9 through 12 have the opportunity to participate in the WKU Summer Dance Intensive. The intensive includes daily technique and dance theory classes with WKU dance faculty and guest artists. The featured guest artist this year is Jon Lehrer. One WKU Summer Dance Intensive student said, "The intensive introduces you to many of the dance faculty that you may work with in the future and helps you to transition from high school to college dance."



WKU SUMMER DANCE INTENSIVE 2018
Featured Guest Artist, Jon Lehrer
WKU Dance Faculty

June 17—23

Ballet / Jazz / Modern / Tap
Improvisation / Choreography
Dance History / Special Topics
Performance Showcase

Registration opens January 2018!
Visit us online for more information or to register:
www.wku.edu/theatre-and-dance/summer-dance-intensive/

Follow us on social media:
Facebook: Western Kentucky University Dance Program
Instagram: @wku_danceprogram
WKU Website: <https://www.wku.edu/theatre-and-dance/>

Performances on the Hill



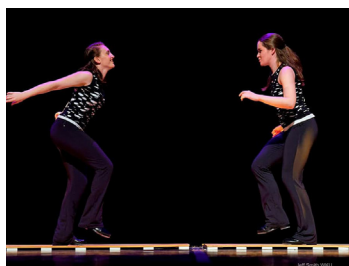
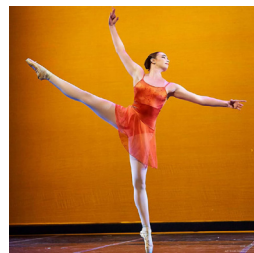
WinterDance: 'Tis the Season

To celebrate the holiday season, the WKU Dance Company performed *WinterDance: 'Tis the Season* from November 17 - 19, 2017. The concert included holiday-themed pieces, ranging from Black Friday shopping to the decorative Christmas lights. The concert featured a variety of dance styles, showcasing the program's full range of talent. The production included original choreography of WKU dance faculty in the genres of ballet, jazz, tap, and modern dance.



Evening of Dance

During the spring semester, the WKU Dance Company presented *Evening of Dance*, April 27-30, 2018. This concert also featured a wide variety of musical styles, dance genres, and choreographic themes. A highlight of the production was a piece entitled *QUEENS*, which featured original choreography by guest artist Robert McKee, Artistic Director of Inside Dance.



The Dance Project



WKU presented *The Dance Project* on February 9 -11. This annual performance features adjudicated student choreography. This performance included original works from seven departmental students, including Trevor Edwards, a senior dance major, who presented his work *The Lunar Effect*, which included a mix of choreography and original video and was the culmination of his WKU FUSE research. Each piece within the concert was unique and displayed an array of dance genres and styles, including influences from the Gaga technique, Classical Indian dance, and western theatrical dance forms.



Last Chance to Dance



Last Chance to Dance was an informal student showcase that featured pieces choreographed by students. It took place on May 1, 2018. The showcase included works from students in the Choreography I course, NDEO- WKU Student Chapter's collaboration with Gatton Academy, and many other student-choreographed pieces.

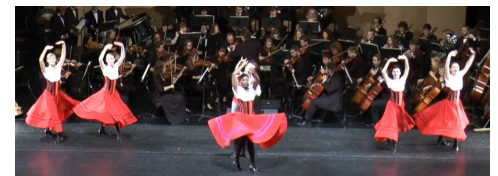
Holidays on the Hill

Holidays on the Hill, conducted by Baker Professor of Music, Dr. Brian St. John, is the WKU symphony's annual holiday concert. Once again, the WKU dance program collaborated with them and performed selections from *The Nutcracker*, which was choreographed by WKU dance faculty.



Three Cornered Hat

On September 22, 2017, some WKU students performed *Three Cornered Hat* along with guest artist Brian Grant. The piece was choreographed by Faculty Artist-in-Residence Christa St. John and was a part of WKU Symphony's concert Latin Inspired conducted by Baker Professor of Music Dr. Brian St. John. It was a Spanish dance infused ballet based on the novel by Pedro Antonio de Alarcón, featuring music composed by Manuel de Falla. "Since *Three Cornered Hat* premiered early in the semester, the dancers and musicians had a short amount of time to learn the complicated work. They did a great job learning quickly and really brought the piece to life," said Christa St. John.



Slaughter on 10th Avenue



The students also had the opportunity to perform a version of *Slaughter on 10th Avenue* with the Orchestra Kentucky this past spring semester. Faculty Artist-in-Residence, Christa St. John, choreographed the original version, and she included WKU Dance Company members in the cast, which also featured professional dancers Briant Grant and Abigail-Rose Crowell. "I decided to steer away from the traditional story line while staying true to the musical intent of the piece," Christa St. John said. "My version of *Slaughter on 10th Avenue* is a gruesome and tragic love story sprinkled with a touch of humor."