

Fall 2022

WKU Dance

CREATING | THINKING | ARTISTS



.....DANCE ON THE HILL.....

We were so excited to welcome our dancers back on the Hill this fall semester! This is the first full semester that COVID-19 has not affected us. We were able to start and end the semester mask-free! In addition to this, we have been able to integrate more contact in dance! This semester has been full of great opportunities and we are so proud of all of our dancers' accomplishments. This was a great semester and we cannot wait to see what the next semester brings!

Inquiries about the WKU Dance Program may be directed to Amanda Clark, Dance Program Coordinator, at amanda.clark@wku.edu.

Photo credits go to Jeff Smith, Brinlee Price, and Sarah Jeck



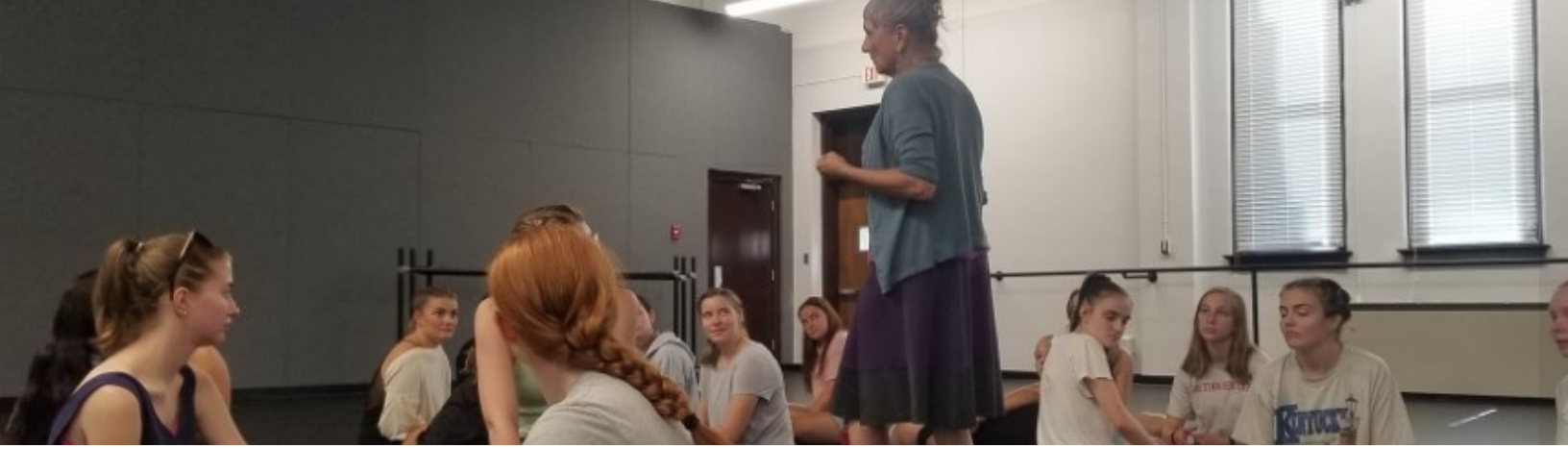
PCAL Collaborations

Our dancers had the amazing opportunity to perform at the **PCAL Fall Fest!** Held in front of the colonnades, the dancers performed various genres of dance, including some snippets of pieces from this year's *WinterDance: Toyland!* Some dancers also showed off their hard work from their technique classes. From classical ballet to fun jazz to upbeat tap, this concert put a swing in everyone's step and provided students across campus an entertaining dance experience!



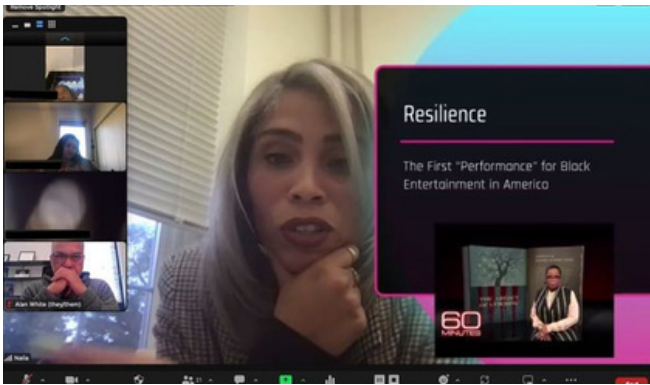
This semester, our dancers had the opportunity to share dance with **Potter Gray Elementary School.** The Modern IV class presented examples of ballet, modern, tap, jazz, and even improv to these young students. Professors Amanda Clark and Meghan Mckinley discussed everything our program has to offer. It was amazing to see young faces experience and enjoy dance! We love dance and PCAL, and it was so special to share what we love. We can't wait to see some of these faces on the Hill in the future.





Guest Speakers

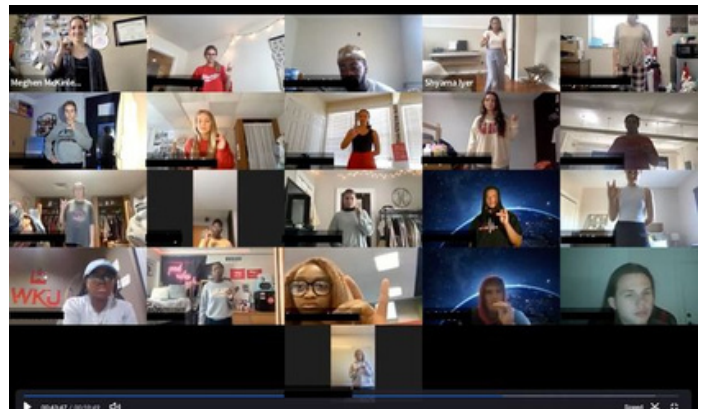
Students in the Dance in Culture class were also able to learn from **Dr. Jill Flanders Crosby**! She was the first dance minor ever at WKU, and she came all the way from University of Alaska, Anchorage. During her few days here, she shared research, experiences, and dance ethnography practices on Cuba, Ghana, and Cook Islands. Students from Modern II and pedagogical courses were also able to learn from her. We were so excited to welcome her back and hear about her experiences!



Our Dance in Culture class and the WKU Dance Company had the opportunity once again to hold a Zoom lecture with guest speaker **Naila Ansari**. She shared her research and work in conversations of race and Black Performance. This was all made possible due to the Mahurin Honors College, and we are so glad that we could have the chance to learn from her.



Students in our Dance in Culture class, as well as members of the WKU Dance Company, were also given the opportunity this semester to learn about the classical Indian dance form Bharatanatyam from our guest lecturer, **Shyama Iyer**. Iyer is a recent graduate of WKU's Musical Theatre Program and is now pursuing doctoral work at Yale. We were so lucky for her to be able to guest lecture/demonstrate Classical Indian Dance and Bharatanatyam via Zoom!





Guest Artists

This semester, we enjoyed a master class with Tyler Gilstrap from Nashville! The class was a Robert Battle style master class. In addition to having a technique class with her, our dancers got to learn a part of some Robert Battle repertoire. It was such a great experience, and we are so glad we got to take from her.

Tyler Gilstrap earned her BFA in Dance from Southern Methodist University. She was a founding member of Battleworks Dance Company (2001-2010), under the direction of Robert Battle. In 2014, she was the associate choreographer for the Sochi Winter Olympic Games Opening Ceremony. She was also the assistant choreographer for the film; 'Love And Other Drugs' and for the Italian San Remo TV Award show for three years in a row. She has choreographed music videos for music artists Andrew McMahon, Son Lux, Skyes, FireHorse and SENIT. Her company TunanuT has created events for Panorama Music Festival, Figment Festival NYC, The Blue Bus Project, Big Data's fall tour 2015, Un(Scene) Art show, Ballroom Marfa, The Feast, and The Windmill Factory. As a dancer, Tyler has been featured in such films as 'Across the Universe', 'The Wackness,' and the Italian TV show 'Amici.' She has been a guest artist with the Bavarian State Opera, Irish Modern Dance Theater, The Windmill Factory, Azure Barton, New York Theater Ballet, Corbin Dances, and Amy Marshall Dance Company. She has taught improv, contemporary, and modern dance in Russia, Germany, Hungary, Italy and throughout the USA. She also has been on faculty at Montclair State University, Joffrey Ballet School, New York Dance Project, and Peridance Capezio.



This semester's guest artists were funded in part by the **Mahurin Honors College** and the **Potter College Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Grant**.



Performances on the Hill

WinterDance

Throughout the fall semester, we worked on our winter production, *WinterDance: Toyland*. Held in Van Meter Auditorium, this show told a story of magic and joy. In this faculty-choreographed, family-friendly show, dancers took the audience on a trip through Santa's workshop. From greedy elves to fairy dolls, this show had all kinds of fun. The production sponsored a Toys for Tots drive, which encouraged audience members to donate a toy for a child this holiday season.



Last Chance to Dance

Last Chance to Dance is an informal, student-choreographed showcase that occurs at the end of each semester. Every fall semester, the choreography II class individual work to present at this student-led show. Besides choreography, each choreographer is responsible for their own music, costuming, and lighting. Every year, choreographers show off creative, new ideas, and we are always so excited to see their hard work pay off!





NDEO

The National Dance Education Organization (NDEO) WKU Student Chapter executive board was led by President Chelby Woods and Vice President Sophie Jones.

Throughout the year, officer Grace Becker and the rest of the marketing committee organized several successful fundraisers, including Tie-Dye night, Halloween Trivia night, a flower sales during *WinterDance*, the raffles held during *WinterDance*, and partnerships with surrounding businesses, such as **Chipotle**, **Stakz Frozen Yogurt**, and **Raising Cane's Chicken**.

The money raised helps provide guest artists and residencies to enrich our dancers' educations, as well as pay for the Winter Banquet hosted at the end of the semester to celebrate the Department of Theatre & Dance!



In order to achieve our goal of spreading our love of dance across campus, NDEO participates in several festivals throughout the year that cater to both current and prospective students of all interests. This semester we took part in the **Potter College of Arts and Letters' Fall Fest**.

Additionally, we hosted our semesterly *Kick the Clocks*, which were a huge success! **Kick the Clock** is a twenty-four hour dance festival in which dancers are tasked to create a dance to be performed in just twenty-four hours. *Kick the Clock* is open to students of all majors and levels of dance experience, and we were so excited to welcome students from an array of departments to share in the love of dance!

Finally, some of our members were able to visit and share their love of dance to about 100 young students at SCAPA at Bluegrass! They taught multiple dance classes to high schoolers and middle schoolers. We are so proud of them!

Additional NDEO member events included:

- **Yoga Craze with recent alumni Allie McDaniel**
- **a contact improv class with Meghan Mckinley**
- **a contemporary ballet class with Anna Patsfall**
- **a Salsa class with Roberto Sifontes**
- **a jazz class with Kylene Stephens**