

Franki Graham,* Interim Senior Chair for dance,
Contemporary Dance coordinator

Saturday, March 25, 2023 · 7:30 pm Sunday, March 26, 2023 · 3:00 pm
Miriam A. Friedberg Concert Hall

Bright Travel

Zhong-Jing Fang, choreographer

Debra Robinson Deckelbaum* and Lan Zheng,* rehearsal directors

Music by Eternal Eclipse, *Shape of Lies*

Yearning Hearts

Born from Ashes

Theory of Light

Kaya Banerjee, Declan Casey, Salma Hassanein, Helia Hung, Hannah Kehoe, Isabella Pearlstein, Meredith Schatz, Sophie Scherz, Ellis Thompson, and Lizzie Wiggin, dancers

Where to?

Kaya Banerjee, choreographer

Music by Frank Ocean, *Lost (Instrumental version)*

Declan Casey, Ella Moore, Kate Morton, and Krassimira Trainor, dancers

Dancers look inside themselves to figure out where they're going.

**This piece was selected for presentation as part of the adjudication process of the 4th Annual Student Choreography Showcase*

Waltz of the Hours

Lan Zheng, choreographer

Music by Leo Delibes, *Coppelia*

Sophia Chang, Hannah Kehoe, Lorelei Olaru, Isabella Pearlstein, and Tate Wigfield, dancers

a bird's dream

Hallie Hunt,* choreographer in a collaboration of laughter and generosity with the dancers.

Franki Graham, rehearsal director

Music by Arvo Pärt, *Für Alina*

The Flamingos, *Where and When*

Franz Waxman, *Dance and Angela*

Steve Reich and Pierre Bibault, *Clapping Music*

Declan Casey, Salma Hassanein, Helia Hung, Meredith Schatz, Sophie Scherz, Alkinoey Tsapatsis, and Lizzie Wiggin, dancers

This work found its formation through meeting the dance artists and observing with appreciation their unique movement expression, their personalities, and the relationship they have to each other in the dance space. I wanted to create something that allowed them to engage with challenging physical phrase work while giving them plenty of room to delve into the quirky humor of dance theater.

The work begins in the night sky amongst the stars. We meet a flock of starling birds resting on a bough. They show us the camaraderie of community through breath work and flocking movements. Gently one little bird sleeps while whispered observations of human behavior seep into her dreams. What follows is a bird's dream of what humans in their wild weirdness may look like to a bird. Exploring themes of vanity, partnership, loneliness, external validation, and family.

la joie du printemps

Amanda T. Fair, choreographer

Music by Antonio Vivaldi, *Concerto for 4 violins in B minor*

Sophia Chang, Amalia Danai, Brooklyn Davis, Liliana Dobry, Yasna Filatova, Lavender Fu, Talyia Johnson, Nellie Manasyan, Julia Nguyen, Stella San Mateo, Theo Scherz, Zane Webster, Hannah Wu, and Emerald Xu, dancers

This work challenges the dancers to use their ballet technique while working with complex timing and with the challenge of speed. Dancers were encouraged to find joy in the movement and aim to share that with the audience through their performance.

Absorption

Salma Hassanein, choreographer

Music by Brian A. West, *A Ceiling Full of Stars*

Kaya Banerjee, Elizabeth Coulson, Helia Hung, Krassimira Trainor, Alkinoey Tspatsis, and Lizzie Wiggin, dancers

This piece explores the idea of embodying the qualities of small water molecules, something that exists in every living being.

**This piece was selected for presentation as part of the adjudication process of the 4th Annual Student Choreography Showcase.*

The Redwoods

Franki Graham, choreographer

Music by Ensidya, *Oceans*

Lisa Batiashvili, *6 Miniatures: Beethoven: Violin Concerto in D Minor, Op. 61*

Julia Kent, *Dorval*

Kaya Banerjee, Elizabeth Coulson, Salma Hassanein, Hannah Kehoe, Ella Moore, Kate Morton, Ellis Thompson, and Krassimira Trainor, dancers

Reaching astonishing heights of up to 350 feet and living for thousands of years in ancient forests along the Northern Coast of California, the redwoods provide a unique ecosystem found nowhere else on the planet. With imagination and playfulness, the dancers explore the symbiotic relationship these trees hold with the organisms that feed them and depend on them for life.

September 29

Franki Graham, choreographer and music editor

Music by Michael Wall, *Vitruvian Quartet*

Digifffects Sound Library, *Talking on Radio in Police Car*

Taylor Swift, *Bigger Than The Whole Sky*

Saved by Grace, *Amazing Grace*

Declan Casey, Helia Hung, Meredith Schatz, Sophie Scherz, Alkinoey Tspatsis, and Lizzie Wiggin, dancers

Inspired by the tragic loss of my grandmother in 2009, this piece shares a story of grief and illuminates the journey of those that are left behind.

A reception following the Sunday performance in the Bank of America Lounge.

BIOGRAPHIES

Amanda T. Fair

Amanda T. Fair, a graduate of The Baltimore School for the Arts, is a full time artist living in Baltimore Maryland and working in the Maryland and D.C. area. She is a performer, choreographer, dance educator, dance coach, and a mentor to children and adults in her community. She received her BFA in Ballet Performance from The University of the Arts in Philadelphia and spent her senior year in New York City on internship at The Dance Theatre of Harlem (DTH) School as a full scholarship recipient and assistant teacher in DTH's Community Outreach Program. Fair has additional training from the MFA dance program at The University of Maryland, College Park and has performed with a number of different companies that include The Washington Reflections Dance Company, which was under the direction of the late Fabian Barnes. She is also founder and director of Poetic Xpressions Dance Company. Fair is in her 27th year of teaching and teaches ages 3 to 65 in all levels and a variety of techniques. She has taught in Baltimore City Public and Private Schools (preK-12th grade), in community outreach classes, after school programs, at numerous studios and at community colleges and universities in Maryland, Philadelphia, D.C. and Virginia. Some of those include The University of the Arts, The Dance Institute of Washington, Morgan State University, The University of Maryland, College Park, The Community College of Baltimore County, Howard County Ballet, and Metropolitan Ballet Theatre. She is currently on faculty at The Washington School of Ballet, The Baltimore School for the Arts, The University of Maryland Baltimore County, Howard Community College, and Peabody Preparatory. She enjoys teaching dance technique and other dance related courses to movers of all ages, genders, and abilities. She is a lifelong student of the art form and a proud mama to an amazing 11 year old boy.

Zhong-Jing Fang

Born in Shanghai, China, Zhong-Jing Fang began her ballet studies at the Shanghai Ballet School where she trained for seven years. She then attended the Performing Arts College of Shanghai Drama University, and graduated with a major in ballet. Fang has won many prestigious ballet competitions including the Prix de Lausanne, Paris international ballet competition, and won gold medals in Fenland Helsinki and Shanghai International ballet competitions; she joined the ABT studio company after graduating her university and soon became a member of the main company. In 2018 she was promoted to soloist with ABT. Fang has choreographed many ballets in the past 10 years. During the pandemic she created her latest works *Perception* for ABT's first dance film festival, The Unforeseen ABT Incubator project. She also created ballet on film *Letters to my younger self* with Northern Ballet for the Burberry Project.

Franki Graham

Franki Graham (she/her) is a Baltimore-based dancer, choreographer, and educator who believes in the transformative power of movement. Graham has danced locally, regionally, and internationally in many traditional and non-traditional spaces, with various artists and companies, including a European tour with Transitions Dance Company. Graham's creative practice is rooted in the company she co-founded and directs, LucidBeings Dance, which has been described as "...straddling the line between sensible and visceral" (*BMore Art*, 2018). Her work has been presented widely across the DMV and has been commissioned for professional and student companies. As a dance educator, Graham has worked within the public school system, in private institutions, and in higher education. Her certification as a Functional Awareness Movement Educator informs her teaching practice. Graham holds a Masters in Dance Performance from the Trinity Laban Conservatoire of Music and Dance in London, England, funded as a Leverhulme Scholar, and a Bachelors in Dance with an Education Certificate from the University of Maryland Baltimore County, funded as a Linehan Artist Scholar. Graham is currently adjunct faculty at the University of Maryland Baltimore County, coordinator for Contemporary Dance at the Peabody Preparatory, on the board of the Maryland Dance Education Association, and a teaching artist for the Maryland State Department of Education Centers for Creative Classrooms.

Hallie Hunt

Hallie Hunt is from California where she was raised on a houseboat in a slough off the San Francisco Bay. Hunt is a dance artist, choreographer, educator, and movement researcher. She has lived and worked in Maui for the past 12 years. She is a co-founder and the co artistic director of Adaptations Dance Theater where she also serves as a resident choreographer and a dance artist.

Hunt received her early training with Western Ballet, Ballet San Jose, and Lines Ballet school. She went on to study with Summer Lee Rhatigan at the San Francisco Conservatory of Dance. She has performed with Ballet San Jose (San Jose, Calif.) under artistic director Dennis Nahat, Alonzo King's Lines Ballet (San Francisco, Calif.), CRAFT Dance Series, and the Ali McKeon Dance Project (Palo Alto, Calif.)

She performed and toured extensively with The Foundry (San Francisco, Calif.) under artistic directors Alex Ketley and Christian Burns. While dancing with The Foundry, she completed art residencies at Ucross Art Residency in Wyoming, Santa Fe Art Residency in New Mexico and Headland Center for the Arts residency in Marin, California. Independently Hunt had the honor of being the inaugural artist in residence at the Merwin Conservancy on Maui, Hawaii. And choreographer in residence at the Maui Arts and Cultural Center for the RARE art residency.

In addition to concert dance she has performed in multimedia, film and site specific works. Hunt had the pleasure to dance with Artship Dance Theater (Belgrade, Serbia) under artistic director Slobodan Dan Paich. While with Artship she had the opportunity to teach and serve as a cultural liaison to high school art programs in Belgrade.

Hunt has worked with choreographers Dennis Nahat, Alonzo King, Alex Ketley, Christian Burns, Gregory Dawson, Ali Mckeon, Nathaniel Hunt, Amelia Couture, Sarala Dandekar, Akari Ueoka, Florian Lochner and Alice Klock of Flockworks, and Mark Kanemura. She has performed work by William Forsythe set by Thomas McManus and work by Jiri Kylián set by Glenn Edgerton.

Hunt has created work for Alexander Academy of Performing Arts, Maui Academy of Performing Arts, Momentum Dance Maui, and Seabury Hall Dance Program.

Hunt believes any wild, whimsical, terrifying, or hilarious choice is welcomed into dance. Any space can hold dance, all bodies can dance in their own unique way and every audience member is a valued component of the dance. During the creative process she works to build and maintain a supported environment for all participating individuals. Each human has an irreplaceable presence and power that shall be welcomed and uplifted. She practices creating a collaborative space that encourages artists whether 5 years old or 50 years old to honor themselves and create and contribute responsibly.

Lan Zheng

Born in China, Lan Zheng started dancing at the age of 9. At age 10, she was one of only fifteen girls in all of China selected by the Beijing Dance Academy for its prestigious pre-professional ballet program. She trained there for seven years under the guidance of Shu Xiang Wang and Sin Ron Cao, studying classical ballet technique as well as Chinese Folk Dance, Russian and Spanish Character Dance, and modern dance. Upon her graduation in 1999, Zheng was hired by Shanghai Ballet Company, one of the five national professional ballet companies in China. She rose through the ranks in the Shanghai Ballet Company and became a Soloist Dancer in 2004. During her 13-year tenure at the Shanghai Ballet Company, Zheng performed in productions directed by Jose Martinez and Pierre Lacotte of the Opéra National de Paris, Derek Deane of the English National Ballet, Ben Huys of the New York City Ballet, and Bertrand d'At of the Opéra National du Rhin. As a result, although trained under the Vaganova style, Zheng has been influenced by the French and English styles as well. She performed internationally in Australia (2002), Spain (*Coppelia*, 2003), Japan (*Swan Lake*, 2006), United States (*Coppelia*, 2007), Thailand (*Romeo and Juliet*, 2009), and Finland (2010). In 2011, she was recognized as a master dancer by the Chinese government.

Zheng began her teaching career in 2007 at the Xiao Ying Xing Dance School in Shanghai, China, where she taught ballet for young children. In 2012, she moved to New York City and joined the Ballet des Amériques as a company dancer and teacher. There, she taught advanced ballet technique to the School's students enrolled in the preprofessional program. She relocated to Baltimore in 2013.

PEABODY PREPARATORY DANCE DEPARTMENT

Franki Graham, Interim Senior Chair for Dance, Contemporary Dance Coordinator

Debra Robinson Deckelbaum, Pre-Professional Program Ballet Coordinator

Adrienne Duckett, Primary Ballet Program Coordinator

Darion Smith, Estelle Dennis/ Peabody Dance Program Coordinator

Samantha Rolon, Academic Program Coordinator

FACULTY

Nicole Bealand

Diedre Dawkins

Debra Robinson Deckelbaum

Adrienne Duckett

Kristen Faraclas

Amanda T. Fair

Franki Graham

Kate Goldstein

Lisa Green-Cudek

Tabitha Hitchye

Gail Melfi

Darion Smith

Paul Wegner

Lan Zheng

ACCOMPANISTS

Hannah Mayer

Mark H. Williams

PEABODY PREPARATORY STAFF

Maria Mathieson, Executive Director of the Preparatory

Edward Hinkie, Senior Manager Business Operations Services

Michelle Feracci, Business Services Supervisor

Matt Williams, Registration System Coordinator

Cody McVey, Academic Program Administrator

Sherry Berlow, Academic Services Specialist

Carolyn Davies, Administrative Coordinator

SHOWCASE PRODUCTION STAFF

Franki Graham, Showcase Direction

Ben Young, Production Manager

Natalie Colony, Stage Manager

Brian Jones, Lighting Design

Paul Wegner, Photography

JD Mack, Videography

