Uncovering

Christopher Pennix,* choreographer and dancer
Music recomposed by Peter Gregson 1.4 Sarabande, Bach: The Cello Suites

performed by Ben Chappell, Katherine Jenkinson, Peter Gregson, Reinoud Ford, Richard Harwood, and Tim Lowe

Uncovering serves as a movement investigation and as an ongoing journey of self-reflection, self-realization, and a reclamation of my body’s movement through the world. With my body, I search for things I thought were lost or I had abandoned. Creativity. Autonomy. Love of self. On the other side of this journey, I realized that these treasures I’d thought so far away had been within my grasp the entire time. Using my body, I begin to create on and off stage the life that has always been mine.

Special thank you to Jasmine Wiggington and Cointe St. Brice.

hindi pa tapos

danah bella, choreographer and dancer
Salvador Barajas, dramaturge
Music by Stephen Vitiello, Buffalo Bass Delay 1.1

Inspired by short Filipino poems called tanagas, “hindi pa tapos” is an attempt to embody and document this oral tradition.

For You

Ronald K. Brown, choreographer
Music by Donny Hathaway
Diedre Dawkins,* dancer

without with

Kelly Hirina,* Leah Logsdon Carpenter, and Reilly Sheriff, choreographers and dancers
Music by André 3000, BuyPoloDisorder’s Daughter Wears a 3000® Shirt Embroidered
Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart/ Anonymous, Requiem, K.626:I. Introitus

performed by Berliner Philharmoniker, Claudio Abbado, Karita Mattila, Kay Johannsen, and the Swedish Radio Choir

Pierre Desprats, Les odeurs du Cold World
Mushio Funazawa, Opening and 入場行進(Entrance March)

This collaboration delves into the less-explored facets of motherhood, family bonds, and life’s journey as an orphan. This creative endeavor includes Hirina’s struggle with failed IVF attempts and the ongoing yearning for family, and a Sheriff’s unique perspective as someone who navigated life without a maternal figure. Dance emerges as a bridge to fill these voids, bringing their profound stories to life in a personal and evocative performance.

PHOTOGRAPH: | a snapshot of this moment in life

Sophia Perone, choreographer
Music by Arcade Fire, Owen Platt, Song On The Beach and Photograph
Christopher Pennix, dancer

In the quiet moments of self-reflection, we confront the image in the mirror, seeing ourselves as we perceive us. Yet, profound shifts occur when we’re offered the rare gift of viewing ourselves through the eyes of another. This experience unfolded under the guidance of Sophia Perone. In a reversal of roles, the distinction between teacher and student, choreographer and dancer, blurred into ambiguity. Through her lens, I beheld a pivotal moment of metamorphosis in my life with a depth and clarity previously unexplored.

* Faculty
**BIOGRAPHIES**

**danah bella (she/her) BFA Dance chair**

danah bella is an award-winning choreographer who has performed and presented her work throughout the country and internationally. Her dance film work has been screened at the Utah Dance Film Festival, Women in Leadership Dance Conference, Dance Camera North, and International Fine Arts Film Festival. Bella currently serves as the founding chair of the Dance Department at the Peabody Conservatory. Since its launch in 2018, she has led the Bachelor of Fine Arts in Dance program with an intentional focus on interdisciplinary studies, social justice, and a wide variety of movement, performance, and choreography opportunities for every student. She has worked in higher education since 2002, teaching modern dance practice, Functional Awareness® Movement practice, and dance theory. Bella has received many accolades for her arts and education work, including most recently the *Baltimore Sun*’s 25 Women to Watch (2018), Maryland State Dance Educator of the Year Postsecondary Education (2021), and *Musical America*’s Top 30 Professionals of the Year (2022). She holds an MFA in performance from the Ohio State University and a BA in Dance from the University of California in Santa Barbara.

**Leah Logsdon Carpenter (she/they)**

Originally from New Orleans, Leah Logsdon Carpenter is a dance artist that aims to bring people together through community engaged works. They have performed works by Ronald K. Brown and Kevin Iega Jeff and is currently a company member of Dow-Dance Company directed by Caleb Dowden. Logsdon Carpenter will be graduating from the Peabody Conservatory in May 2024 with a BFA in Dance.

**Diedre Dawkins (she/her)**

Diedre Nyota Dawkins is a 2003 NYC Bessie Award winner for outstanding dance performance and a 2016 recipient of the President Obama Lifetime Achievement Award for National and Community Service. She is an accomplished dancer and educator who has received numerous awards for her contributions to the arts and community service. She is the founder of the mentorship program “Dance is Healing” and has been recognized as an outstanding teacher. Dawkins has an extensive background in dance, having performed and taught in various countries. She currently holds positions as associate professor of dance at the Peabody Conservatory BFA program and the dance director at ConneXions: A Community Based Arts School. Dawkins is also actively involved in AILEYCAM Baltimore, where she serves as the camp director. Her passion lies in using dance as a tool for improving the lives of children and her community.

**Kelly Hirina (she/her)**

Currently an assistant professor of dance at the Peabody Conservatory, Kelly Hirina enjoys teaching technique, choreography and improvisation. Hirina is certified to teach Countertechnique and Double Skin/Double Mind, both of which she encountered and trained in while living and dancing professionally in Amsterdam, The Netherlands. In the 20 years overseas, she worked with ICKamsterdam (Emio Greco & Pieter C.Scholten), Dansgroep Amsterdam (Krisztina de Châtel), Jakop Ahlbom, and freelance choreographers stemming from the Batsheva and Nederlands Dans Theater companies. Hirina received an MFA from the University of Michigan and is a 500-hour fully certified Pilates and Vinyasa Yoga instructor.

**Christopher Pennix (he/him)**

Christopher Pennix’s journey into the arts began with his ballet training at the North Carolina School of the Arts under esteemed mentors Melissa Hayden, Warren Conover, and Christine Spizzo. Upon leaving NCSA, he joined Charlotte Ballet (formerly known as North Carolina Dance Theatre) working under the guidance of ballet legends Patricia McBride and Jean Pierre Bonnefoux. There his repertoire spanned an impressive array of works by renowned choreographers such as George Balanchine, Alvin Ailey, Twyla Tharpe, Alonzo King, William Forsythe, and Dwight Rhoden among others, showcasing his versatility and mastery of both Neo-classical and contemporary styles. Beyond the classical and contemporary realm, he has also graced the opera stages. Pennix has worked with LA Opera, Lyric Opera of Chicago, and Opera Carolina as well as performing principal roles at the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts with the Washington National Opera. His career is a testament to his versatility and artistry across disciplines.
Sophia Perone (she/her)
Sophia Perone is a graduate of Johns Hopkins University and the Peabody Conservatory, where she obtained a BA in Political Science and a BFA in Dance. She is currently a collaborator with Mignolo Dance and her choreographic work has been performed at Baltimore Theater Project, Palm Springs International Dance Festival, and the Peabody Conservatory. Perone’s mission is to ignite inspiration and provoke thought, challenging conventional norms through her art. She views dance not merely as performance but as a gateway to political discourse, societal development, community building, and cultural preservation.

Reilly Sheriff (he/him)
Hailing from Santa Barbara Reilly Sheriff is currently engaged in hind legs, a dance collective, directed by Ben Green. He has performed works by Kevin Iega Jeff, Ronald K. Brown, Ben Green, and Dolly Sfeir. Sheriff has been influenced by the Gaga Movement Language and has spent time in Tel Aviv studying with the Batsheva company. Alongside dance, Sheriff experiments with fibers and clothing structure/design as well as film making and cinematography. Sheriff will graduate this spring with a BFA in Dance from the Peabody Conservatory.