



FRIENDS
UNIVERSITY

DANCE SHOWCASE



In partnership with Wichita State University

MARCH 2, 7:30 P.M.

LITWIN THEATRE, HESKETT CENTER, WICHITA STATE UNIVERSITY

Adults \$8 | Seniors & Students \$5

Get tickets at friends.edu/fineartstickets

Thank You

Dr. Amy Bragg Carey
Friends University President

Dr. Nathanael May
Professor of Music; Tim & Gail Buchanan Division Chair of Fine Arts

Bob Hett
Director of Technical Services

Leigh Barton-Green
Fine Arts Events Coordinator

Wichita State University

Lillian Bartlett
Photographer

Program

Lighting Design by Blake Grimsley

Stage Manager: Rebecca Grosselin

Momentum

Choreography: Nick Wetta

Music: "Momentum" by Motoyuki

Dancers: Mia Krebs, Gretchen Otter, Jason Payne

Hurricane

Choreography: Braden Sweet

Music: "Overwhelmed" by Royal & The Serpent, "Chasm" by Tony Anderson

Dancers: Braden Sweet

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Choreography: Gretchen Otter

Music: "Only the Winds" by Olafur Arnolds

Dancers: Gretchen Otter, Nick Wetta

Softening

This dance is the culmination of students' work thus far in this semester's Movement Theory class. The dancing is entirely improvisational, with prompts given by class instructor Heather Eilerts.

Music: "Dub for Cascadia" by Loscil, "Southern Skies" by Chuck Jonkey

Dancers: Ali Kells, Rachel Mullen, Rachel Quinn, Braden Sweet, Nick Wetta

Delayed Reaction

Choreography: Ali Kells, in collaboration with Heather Eilerts and Jason Payne

Music: rain sounds

Dancers: Ali Kells, Jason Payne

What Was I Made For?

Choreography: Rachel Quinn

Music: "What Was I Made For?" by Billie Eilish

Dancers: Rachel Quinn

Our Modern Minds

"When we must fit a mold, adhere to the grind, and finding peace is the ultimate carrot forever dangling in front of our faces"

Choreography: Heather Eilerts

Music: "Ticking Sound" by Clock Ticking & ASMR Therapy, "Waves Sheer Light" by Lawrence English, "Memory Board" by Rachel's

Dancers: Ali Kells, Rachel Mullen, Gretchen Otter, Hailey Parker, Braden Sweet, Nick Wetta

Meet the Choreographers

Assistant Professor of Dance - Heather Eilerts



Heather Eilerts was born and raised in Wichita, Kansas. She has been dancing and performing in Wichita her entire life and just wrapped up her 20th year performing in Metropolitan Ballet's *The Nutcracker* under the direction of Jill Landrith. She earned her BFA in Dance from Wichita State University in 2014 then spent a year teaching and performing before receiving a grant from Kansas Cultural Trust to spend one month in Germany taking class and attending workshops all over the country. Heather then moved to California, first living and performing in San Francisco, then heading to SoCal to earn her MFA in Dance from the University of California Irvine. She returned home to start her own local contemporary dance company called Wheat State Dance Collective, which she created to provide opportunities for local dancers graduating from college. That same year, she began teaching at Wichita State University and local studio Midwest Dance Mechanix before being hired as Assistant Professor of Dance at Friends University in Fall 2022. Her goal is to teach her students not just how to dance, but also to learn how to love themselves through dance. She hopes that her students leave with not only an appreciation for this art form, but an appreciation for themselves as artists and humans.

Student Choreographers



Ali Shea Kells is a Junior here at Friends University. She is a Music Theatre Major and just last semester decided to add a minor in Dance. You may have seen her dance in musicals at Friends University, The Forum Theatre or Roxy's Downtown. She is so excited to debut her own choreography and hopes you enjoy!



Gretchen Otter is graduating this spring with her B.A. in Music Theatre and Minor in Dance. She has performed in the last three dance showcases and is now showcasing some of her own work! Last year, she performed at ACDA in a piece, Elysium Awaits, choreographed by Heather Eilerts. She will be returning to ACDA in a few weeks for the 2024 conference. In addition to concert dance, she has choreographed for and performed in musicals at Friends University and in the community. She would like to give a special thanks to Sheldon Mba, Heather Eilerts, and Mina Estrada. Without their guidance, she would not be the artist she is today. Enjoy the show!



Rachel Quinn is a transfer student enjoying her first semester of junior year at Friends University! Before Friends, she attended Butler Community College, where she began working toward her degree in dance. Now with a change of plans, Rachel is currently majoring in psychology and minoring in dance. She has been dancing and performing since she was four years old and has loved every minute of it. Rachel teaches dance at Paquita Dance Center and choreographs for schools around Kansas. She is also in Singing Quakers, and will start with the dance team in the fall!



Braden Sweet is a senior music theatre major minoring in dance. He has been a part of multiple Friends University productions, most recently in Footloose, where he served as a dance captain for the production. Regionally, you may recognize Braden from Crown Arts Collaborative's productions of Rent or Rocky Horror, or originating the role of Louis in the staged reading of Sure As The Sun. Previously at Friends, you may have seen him as Branton in Catch Me If You Can, or tapping his toes in many different numbers in Symphony of Spring. This is his choreographing debut in a formal setting, and he is anxiously excited to showcase his movement to a public.



Nick Wetta is a junior musical theatre major/dance minor at Friends University. He has been involved in almost all the dance productions at Friends, including 3 dance showcases and taking a piece to ACDA in 2023! He has also danced in the ensembles of various musicals such as Dreamgirls and The Rocky Horror Show with Crown Arts Collaborative, as well as various named roles with Roxys Downtown, Laughing Feet, and the Wichita Grand Opera. He would like to thank Heather Eilerts and Sheldon Mba for pushing him to become the dancer he is today!

THANKS
FOR COMING!

JOIN US AT ANOTHER EVENT!

MARCH

Fauré Requiem

(A Wichita Grand Opera event featuring Friends University Singing Quakers)

March 17, 4 p.m. | Holy Cross Lutheran Church*

Singing Quakers Home Concert - "Why We Sing"

March 22-23 | East Heights United Methodist Church*

Casado Jazz Night | March 27, 7-9 p.m. | Casado Campus Center

* location off campus

TICKETS AND FULL CALENDAR AT
friends.edu/fineartstickets

RINEY FINE ARTS CENTER CONSTRUCTION

As a result of the exciting renovations taking place at the Riney Fine Arts Center, the date and location for performances may be subject to change. Please check online and our social media pages for updates and ticket information.



NEWSLETTER

friends.edu/theweeklyhappenings



SOCIAL MEDIA

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