



UMD School of Theatre, Dance, and Performance Studies presents
FALL M.F.A. DANCE THESIS CONCERT



SCHOOL OF
THEATRE, DANCE, &
PERFORMANCE STUDIES

Thursday, October 12–Sunday, October 15, 2022
KOGOD THEATRE
AT THE CLARICE SMITH PERFORMING ARTS CENTER

THEATRE DANCE

THE PROM

Book & Lyrics by Chad Beguelin
Book by Bob Martin
Music by Matthew Sklar
Based on an Original Concept by Jack Viertel
Directed by Nathaniel Claridad '04
Produced by Randall "Randy" W. Lord '77
and Stephen "Steve" Fessler

KAY THEATRE

SEPTEMBER 29–OCTOBER 7, 2023

A BICYCLE COUNTRY

By Nilo Cruz
Directed by Fatima Quander

KOGOD THEATRE

NOVEMBER 10–17, 2023

MEN ON BOATS

By Jacklyn Backhaus
Co-Directed by KenYatta Rogers and

Elena Velasco

KAY THEATRE

MARCH 1–9, 2024

ARE WE AT WAR YET

By Mikhail Durnenkov
Directed by Yury Urnov

KOGOD THEATER

APRIL 19–26, 2024

FALL M.F.A. THESIS DANCE CONCERT

Choreographed by Gerson Lanza
and Javier Padilla

KOGOD THEATRE

OCTOBER 12–15, 2023

FACULTY DANCE CONCERT

Directed by Alvin Mayes
Choreographed by Adriane Fang, Kate
Ladenheim, Ama Law, and Alvin Mayes

KAY THEATRE

DECEMBER 8–10, 2023

SPRING M.F.A. THESIS DANCE CONCERT

Choreographed by Brit Falcon, Mary
Kate Ford and Rebecca Steinberg

DANCE THEATRE

FEBRUARY 16–18, 2024

UMOVES: UNDERGRADUATE DANCE CONCERT

Directed by Ama Law

DANCE THEATRE

MAY 3–5, 2024

FALL M.F.A. DANCE THESIS CONCERT

Choreographed by Gerson Lanza and Javier Padilla

EL BODEGON DE LA BRUJA

Choreographer.....	Javier Padilla
Stage Manager	Erin Sanders
Scenic Designer.....	Shartoya Jn. Baptiste
Costume Designer	Cody Von Ruden
Lighting Designer.....	Scott Monnin
Projection Designer.....	Tim Kelly
Sound Designer.....	Roni Lancaster
La Bruja.....	Christina Collins
La Hija	Isabella Grady
La Niña Menor	Emily Adams
The Son.....	Caleb Wein
The Witch Hunter	Kevin Clark
The Dove.....	Daniel Miramontes
The Crow.....	Javier Padilla
The Barkeep	Britney Falcon
Coven.....	Avital Dreslin, Genevieve Fernandez, Debanshi Chowdhuri
Patrons (Understudies/Swings).....	Charlene Cowan, Emily Sheridan

Music Credits

Sound score featuring Bernard Herrmann, Brady Cohen, El Gran Combo de Puerto Rico, Max Steiner, Celia Cruz, Johnny Pacheco Internazionale, Oxhy, Sophia Domancich & Gilles Pezerat, Midori Hirano, Caterina Barbieri & Kara-Lis Coverdale, Astrid Sonne, Ana Roxanne, Orchid Mantis, Los Tres Caballeros and Toña La Negra.

Mi Vida, in Rhythm

Choreographer.....	Gerson Lanza
Scenic Designer.....	Shartoya Jn. Baptiste
Costume Designer	Cody Von Ruden
Lighting Designer.....	Scott Monnin
Projection Designer.....	Tim Kelly
Sound Designer.....	Roni Lancaster
Stage Manager	Adam Hawley
Performers	Isabella Grady, Lleyton Beinhaker, Gerson Lanza, Ellington Cartham, Charlene Cowen, Delorean Fullington, Josanne Francis
Performer (Understudy/Swing).....	Morgan Smiley

Music Credits:

In addition to original compositions, the sound score features "Chan-Chan" by Compay Segundo; "Bojangles" by Jerry Jeff Walker; "In Walked Bud" by Thelonious Monk; "Cute" by Count Basie; "Rhythm is My Business" by Jimmie Lunceford; "On the Sunny Side of the Street" by Jimmy McHugh; "It Don't Mean a Thing" by Duke Ellington; "Love Me or Leave Me" by Walter Donaldson; "La Comparsa" by Enrique Chia; ""Poinciana" by Ahmad Jamal; "Tricotism" by Oscar Pettiford, arranged by Gerson Lanza; "Los Tres Caballeros"; "Los Tres Reyes"; "Los Panchos" Andy Palacio & The Garifuna Collective "Ámuñegü.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 12--SUNDAY, OCTOBER 15, 2023

KOGOD THEATRE

The performance will last approximately 75 minutes with one 15 minute intermission.

Please take this opportunity to silence your cell phones, and anything else that might beep or buzz. Photography and audio or video recording are prohibited. And finally, please take note of the nearest exit from the venue in case of emergency.

el bodegon de la bruja

I would like to personally thank everyone who has paved the way for this massive undertaking of a project to happen. I'm grateful for the cast to dive in deep into the pits of immersive performance and come out with a new sense of themselves as performers, collaborators, improvisers and co-conspirators. "el bodegon de la bruja" is a project that began with a very different story, very different characters and a very different perspective. Thank you to Adriane Fang for guiding me to my truth; to make something from me, by me, for me. Thank you to Shartoya, Cody, Tim and Scott for the constant push to create something larger, better and deeper rooted in the story. Thank you to Emily Sheridan, wonderful choreographic assistant and Notion wizard, for basically being my second brain.

"el bodegon" invites us all to question the effects of colonizing spaces, of gentrification, of displacement, of the diaspora, of climate injustice. "el bodegon de la bruja" reflects back to us our own societal doing and un-doing. Who gets to claim a space? Who owns what? I made this work in response to recent mass United States lead gentrification in my home of Puerto Rico. This and similar neocolonialist actions have been repeated, and repeated, and repeated throughout the history of the Caribbean through violent colonial mechanisms of displacement of bodies, places and cultural artifacts. Veiled under the mirror of fantasy, witchcraft, magic and fiction, the true pain and power that emanates from the colonized body is put in and around us and it is up to us as audience members to either help or perpetuate. I invite you into the magical world of the Caribbean Ice Factory, overrun by a coven, trying to be bought out by one group. And it's transformation into "el bodegon de la bruja."

–Javier Padilla, Choreographer

MI VIDA, IN RHYTHM

Where there is a slender resonance of language incompetence, instinct quickly reacts to ask “THE” question. Language, alongside race, culture and gender, serve as tools to identify the other. Immigration is political, economic and cultural, but most importantly, it is delicate. The urge to ask “THE” question can explore one’s interest in investing in cultural capital. However, asking “THE” question can also carry the malicious intention to explore one’s weakness and/or to label the enemy.

Immigrants, like tap dancing, are often underrated, misrepresented and misunderstood. Since the 2016 presidential campaign, the resentment targeting immigrants has heightened. Brown and Black people were labeled criminals, drug traffickers and thieves. In tap dance, the tags consist of low art, common and incurious.

In my exploration of movement and music, I seek to demonstrate that immigration and tap dance are a porous way of life that absorb cultural anecdotes, complexity and perspectives, guaranteeing its continuity and contribution to society. My efforts will assert the sophistication and intricacy of these themes surrounding my identity as an Afro-Honduran immigrant living in the United States.

“THE” question “where are you from?” is addressed in “Mi Vida, in Rhythm.” It sheds light on the ongoing living journey and assimilation to cultural and language adversities I faced as a young Latinx immigrant. My refuge in rhythm and movement has given me life, identity and purpose.

Thank you!

Thank you to my family, friends and collaborators who have witnessed and supported my journey from near and afar.

Blanca Nuzly Ruiz	Knock on Wood Tap Dance Studio
Karla Herrera	Dance Lab New York
Misael Lanza	Ayodele Casel
Alexzyk Lanza	Torya Beard
Wendy Lanza	Jared Bybee
Gerardo Lanza	Marc Wilson
Maritie Lanza	Betty Scott
Ambrosia Ruiz	Joi Brown
Tia Emilia	Dance Place
Strathmore	2024 UMD MFA Cohort

–Gerson Lanza, Choreographer

Emily Adams (La Niña Menor, *el bodegon de la bruja*) third-year dance and government and politics major, art history minor. Government and Politics Honors Program. Ballet Royale Institute of Maryland, San Pedro City Ballet, McDonogh School. UMD Credits: *When You See Me Leave, Bodily Intelligence.*

Lleyton Beinhaber (Performer, *Mi Vida, in Rhythm*) Growing up in New Jersey, all Lleyton did was dance. from the time she was three, until she graduated high school. She danced competitively 6 days a week and loved every second of it. When she came to college, she thought her years of training and dancing were behind her until she met the brilliant Gerson Lanza who took her under his wing and broadened her tap knowledge and ability to a whole new level. As a journalism major on a pre-med track who is also in a sorority, Lleyton doesn't have a lot of free time but she is thrilled to be fortunate enough to spend the time she does have, tapping with Gerson.

Christina Collins (La Bruja, *el bodegon de la bruja*) Christina is a second-year M.F.A. dance graduate candidate. She has choreographed for kids and adults for five years. She is very excited to be a part of this year's Fall M.F.A. performance with her friends and colleagues.

Charlene Cowan "Char" (Patron, *el bodegon de la bruja*; Performer, *Mi Vida, in Rhythm*) senior dance major. She will be earning her B.S. in Dance at the University of Maryland in Spring 2024. She grew up dancing at her church at the age of 8. After graduating, she is looking to continue using dance through the DMV and eventually to Georgia to become a commercial dancer. But she will continue to use dance to find ways to spread body positivity, and acceptance of diversity in her work.

Avital Dresin (Coven, *el bodegon de la bruja*) is from Baltimore, MD, and is a junior dance and psychology major. She is a Creative and Performing Arts (CAPA) Scholar at the University of Maryland. She trained at The Moving Company Dance Center in Cockeysville, MD. UMD dance credits: performed works by PearsonWidrig, Gaya Shechter, Javier Padilla, Olivia Perkins and Caroline Rocher Barnes.

Shartoya Jn.Baptiste (Scenic Designer) Born and raised in the Caribbean, Shartoya's spark for theatre ignited from an early age. Currently an M.F.A. candidate in scenic design at the University of Maryland, her recent designs include *The Book Club Play* and *By The Way, Meet Vera Stark*. She has worked at other theatres like The Kennedy Centre and Imagination Stage. She enjoys philanthropy, teaching Caribbean dance and merging the worlds of choreography and scenic design.

Scott Monnin (Lighting Designer) is a second-year M.F.A. design student. Current and upcoming design work includes *The Creeps* at Playhouse 46 in New York City and being the Associate US National Tour of *Islander* In Seattle, Chicago, Phoenix, Olney theater here in Maryland and *Florencia en el Amazonas* with UMD Opera. Recent Credits include *24hr Plays* festival at Andy's Summer Playhouse and *Rocky Horror* at Pendragon theater.

Adam Hawley (Stage Manager, *Mi Vida, in Rhythm*) junior theatre major. Creative and Performing Arts Scholar. Recent Credits: Props Carpentry Apprentice (Santa Fe Opera 2023), *The Book Club Play* (Assistant Stage Manager), *Romeo and Juliet* (Stage Manager), *As You Like It* (Assistant Stage Manager),

Gerson Lanza (Choreographer, Performer, *Mi Vida, in Rhythm*) Originally from La Ceiba, Honduras, Gerson first encountered the art form of tap dance after moving to New York City in 2001. He immediately fell in love with the art form after his first exposure. He began tap dance training at Wadleigh Secondary School for the Visual and Performing Arts in the heart of New York's Harlem neighborhood. After nearly two decades of a fruitful career as an educator, performer, and choreographer, Gerson continues to find new ground. In 2021, he was chosen as one of six Strathmore Artists in Residence, featured in Jacob's Pillow 2022 Summer Festival and the Guggenheim Work and Progress Series, Fall For Dance Festival 2022, Vail Dance Festival 2023, where he performed with Leo Sandoval's and Gregory Richardson's Music from the Sole Dance company. Gerson has headlined the Millennium Stage at Kennedy Center with his jazz quartet in Washington D.C. and was most recently reviewed by the New York Times for work he presented at the dance landmark New York City Center during the Artist at the Center series with collaborators Brinae Ali and Cyrah Ward curated by Ayodele Casel. As a dance educator, Gerson has served as a consultant and presenter for the 92 Street Y newest curriculum, "Tracing Footsteps" currently taught by performing arts educators in New York City. In addition to his commitment to his professional career as a dancer, Gerson's scholarly research is based on the African diaspora and its connection to Latin America, using tap dance as the throughline to build community and awareness. Lastly, Gerson is in his last year at the University of Maryland, pursuing a master's in fine arts in dance and performance studies.

Javier "Javi" Padilla (Choreographer, *el bodegon de la bruja*) is a movement based artist whose artistic vocabulary stems from deep improvisational research involving writing, movement, sound creation and more. His choreographic work has been shown at Judson Memorial Church, The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, the Inside/Out Stage at Jacob's Pillow among others. His choreographic project, The Movement Playground, has been awarded multiple residencies and commissions through New Dance Alliance (LiftOff!), Gibney Dance (Work Up 5.0), Mana Contemporary in collaboration with Gibney (New Voices), and a two-time CUNY Dance Initiative Awardee with Hostos Performing Arts Center. Javi has danced professionally with Falcon Dance and Summation Dance based in NYC.

Erin Sanders (Stage Manager, *el bodegon de la bruja*) is a junior theatre major concentrating on stage management and lighting design. UMD credits: UMoves (Stage Manager), *Vera Stark* (Assistant Stage Manager), *SMFA 2022* (Assistant Stage Manager), *Shared Grad* (Lighting Designer). Outside Credits: *Percy Jackson The Lightning Thief* (Lighting Designer), *Krea* (Stage Manager), *Heathers: The Musical* (Assistant Stage Manager).

Emily Sheridan (Patron, *el bodegon de la bruja*) is a third-year student pursuing dual degrees in dance and computer science. Emily received her honors citation as part of Design, Cultures, and Creativity. UMD Credits: *When You See Me Leave*, *Persephone Reconsiders Her Fate* (PearsonWidrig DanceTheater), *FIXED: A Dance Drama* (LiviJanae).

Morgan Smiley (Performer, *Mi Vada, in Rhythm*) is a junior dance major. Morgan has been dancing since the age of two and competing since the age of fifteen. She has touched in just about every style, but is classically trained in ballet. Throughout her years of dance she has taught kids from the age of five up to college-level adults. She is currently the president of her dance team on campus; Forward Motion Dance Company. She is most excited to have the opportunity to be a part of this year's M.F.A. thesis, especially with it being her first audition into the major.

Cody Von Ruden (Costume Designer) third-year M.F.A. candidate in costume design. Regional Credits: *King Of The Yeas*, Signature Theatre (Associate Costume Designer); *Don Giovanni*, Wolf Trap Opera (Costume Design Assistant). UMD Credits (Costume Designer): *The Book Club Play*; *By The Way*, *Meet Vera Stark*; *Un Espectro Real* (Covid Cancellation), *Risk of Play* (Co-Costume Designer).

PRODUCTION MANAGEMENT

Assistant Director of Production & OperationsJennifer Schwartz
 Production and Operations Coordinator Devin Kohn
 Production and Events Coordinator..... Kate Wander

PRODUCTION

SCENIC

Technical Director Michael Driggers
 Scene Shop CoordinatorReuven Goren
 Lead Carpenter..... Earl Browne
 CarpentersOlivia Dijulio, Keshav Gulati, Kelley Li,
 Gabriella Loshin, Sarah Mack, Zach McKay,
 Terence Ngwafor, Ryan Nock, Sophia Tiedt
 Carpenter Graduate Students Trey Pope, David Wilson
 Student Carpenter Preston Jones

SCENIC PAINTING

Scenic Charge CoordinatorAnn Chismar
 Graduate Students Thea Luo, Margarita Syrocheva
 Scenic Artists Andrea Ball, Tifani T. Carnes, Bobbie Carter Dewhurst,
 Aiden Galbraith, Sherri Howells, Nicole Panebianco
 Student Scenic Artists Mars Burggraf, Kayla Harvey-Ali,
 Guinivere Roberts, Harshal Shirsath

PROPS

Prop Shop Manager..... Timothy Jones
 Prop Shop ArtisanTyra Bell, Mercedes Blankenship
 Props Graduate Student.....Amanda Lee Henney
 Prop Shop Student Artisans..... Adam Hawley, Robert Pang,
 Sabrina Rachel Lenett

VENUE OPERATIONS

Stage Crew LeadsSteven Bronocco, Alexix Hayes, Cole Owens

TECHNOLOGY

Technology Shop Manager Jeffery Reckeweg

LIGHTING

Lighting Coordinator..... Carrie Barton
 Technology Shop Technician..... Cameron Smith
 Lead Electricians Max Abramovitz, Eli Bendel-Simso, Alex Bryan-Taff,
 Buruk Daniel, Isaac DeMarchi, Malory Hartman,
 James Newman, Liza Raney, Trey Wise
 Student Electricians Briana Bush, Mariah Faulkner, Jady Fine,
 Ella Gammel, Alana Isaac, Jerran Kowalski, Mel Mader,
 Royal Miller, Drew Okoye, Emily Pan, Erin Sanders,
 Ronak Shah, Pranav Shinde, Dylan Speiser, Amelia Talbot

PROJECTIONS

Projections Coordinator..... Zachary Rupp
 Projections Technician..... Cassandra Saulski

AUDIO

Assistant Manager of Audio..... James O'Connell

COSTUMES

Costume Shop Manager.....Jen Daszczyszak
 Assistant Costume Shop Manager & Crafts Lisa Burgess
 Costume Tailor & Draper Tessa Lew
 Costume Drapers.....MJ Hromek, Steven Simon
 First Hand Dennis Kitmore
 Costume Graduate Assistant..... Olivia O'Brien
 Costume Technicians Mackenzie Gardiner, Ilana Mongilio, Jasmine Voon
 Costume Student Crew Gabrielle Loshin, Emma Meisel,
 Layla Nordrum, Wendy Saltzberg
 Wardrobe Crew Heads.....Viola Costen, Carissa O'Neill

SHOW CREW

Light Board Operator Kathleen (Kate) Connolly
 Projection Board Operator.....Cassidy Henning
 Sound Board Operator Sole Cala
 Dresser..... Nairika Amini
 Dresser..... Caroline Bailey
 Deck Crew Brooke Melton

FACULTY

Jennifer Barclay
 Amith Chandrashaker
 Andrew Cissna
 Dan Conway
 Sam Crawford
 Crystal Davis
 Carla Della Gatta
 Adriane Fang
 Leslie Felbain
 Frank Hildy
 Helen Huang
 James Harding
 Misha Kachman
 Kate Keeney
 Kate Ladenheim
 Ama Law
 Maura Keefe
 Alvin Mayes
 Jared Mezzocchi
 Lisa Nathans
 Sara Pearson
 Kendra Portier
 Fatima Quander
 Scot Reese
 KenYatta Rogers
 Van Tran Nguyen
 Patrik Widrig

STAFF

Gabrielle Ching
 Crystal Gaston
 Isiah Johnson
 Devin Kohn
 Renee Nyack
 Jenn Schwartz
 Susan Miller
 Catalina Toala
 Kate Wander
 Teri Zillmer

GRADUATE STUDENTS

Ronya Lee Anderson
 Bailey Hammett
 Breeanah Breeden
 Christina Collins
 Britney Falcon
 Colin Franz
 Mary Kate Ford
 Marissa Kennedy
 Mher Kandoyan
 Kevin Clark
 Luis Garcia
 Christian Henririquez
 Mariah Faulkner
 Leo Grierson
 Tim Kelly
 Jerran Kowalski
 Gerson Lanza Ruiz
 Rashonda Lazar
 Kaela Lawrence
 Margaret Lapinski
 Gianinia Lockely
 Thea Luo
 Sofia Olivar
 Brandon Roak
 Jalen Rose
 Mike Riggs
 Javier Padilla
 Peter Pattengill
 Doni Rotunno
 James Sivert
 Christina Smith
 Rebecca Steinberg
 Melissa Sturges
 Patrik Saunders
 Margarita Syrocheva
 Sophia Tepermeister
 Caitlin Woods
 Zoe Walders
 Cody Von Ruden
 Rebecca Janney
 Amanda Henney
 Shartoya Jn.Baptiste
 Gavin Mosier
 Scott Monnin
 Matre Grant
 Mina Kawahara
 Eran Eads
 Yasmin Eubanks
 Kristopher Pourzal
 Atiya Dorsey

