MAKING WAVES

FEATURING
THE TAMUCC DANCE COMPANY
STUDENTS FROM THE TAMUCC DANCE PROGRAM
&
THE STAGE

TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY
CORPUS CHRISTI
DEPARTMENT OF THEATRE & DANCE
Hello and welcome! I am Sarah Gonzalez, Director of the TAMUCC Dance Company, Assistant Professor of Dance here at TAMUCC, and the proud Artistic Director of this semester’s Island Dance Demo, *Making Waves*.

For those of you joining us for the first time, you may be wondering, “What is a dance demo?” In short, it is a celebration performance and a demonstration of a semester of hard work in dance training and choreographing. Our dance students prepare all semester long for a final showcase of their dedication and growth. For many students, this is their first time ever on a stage! The great thing about our dance program is that it is open to all majors and levels of experience, and each semester we aim to provide the opportunity for all students to be part of the performing arts and a live production.

For this semester’s demo, we are not only showcasing our technique classes and student organization, The Stage, but we are also utilizing the TAMUCC Dance Company to create a flowing movement narrative that takes the audience through various moments in life that each person may experience in their time on this earth. Additionally, the creative process of this production is a collaboration with not only the Dance Faculty, but also our Dramaturg, Tom Oldham (Faculty), and Lighting Designer, Rachel Havlice (Student).

What is *Making Waves*? Think about your experiences right now, the people in your life. Are they the same as they were a year ago? 5, 10, 15 years ago? Often, people impact our lives in ways we may not see. Their time and experiences with us can influence us toward a different trajectory than we may have taken without them. Their waves are invisible, the experiences they are part of can seem intangible, but they shape us into who we are and where we are. We are humans; we all experience the low points, the in-betweens, the new beginnings, the highest joys, and the growing apart. The people around us may not always be the same, the chapters in life will always be different, but we are in the world together; that’s how we must get through it.

These students have put in an immense effort all semester long and it is showcased in this evening’s production. Both the faculty and students are grateful that you have taken the time to join us in viewing what we have all been working on for the last few months. Please join us again April 2023 for our Spring Island Dance Demo!

Thank you and enjoy!

- Sarah G

Special Thanks
Diane Uherek
David Womack
Prologue

Class/Group
The TAMUCC Dance Company

Choreographer
Sarah Gonzalez

Performers
Anna Adams, Madison Cruger, Guadalupe Duarte, Lorraine Escareno, JayJay Getty, Lilly Hernandez, Amaris Martinez Guedry, Julia Massey, Jiahna McAfee, Elise Perry, Hunter Pittman, River Thompson, Jewels Uherek, Katy Womack
Understudies: Olivia Bass, Gillian Jaime

Music
“Forces of Attraction,” “A Game of Croquet,” and “The Whirling Ways of Stars that Pass”
by Jóhan Jóhansson

Chapter 1: Breaking

Class/Group
The TAMUCC Dance Company

Choreographer
Sarah Gonzalez

Performers
Lorraine Escareno, Amaris Martinez Guedry, Jiahna McAfee, Jewels Uherek

Music
“Zero Balance”
by Max Richter
In Flux

Class/Group
Modern 1

Choreographer
Sarah Gonzalez

Performers
Alexis Alvarez, Alexis Ashley, April Bourg, Alexandria Cantu, Axel Delaney, Nicole Detiveaux, Erin Jones, Sabrina Levenson, Obuchi Mgbaraho, Chase Passow, George Miguel Salcido, Viviane Salinas Mejia, Natalie Savinson Valenzuela, Korey Sayre, Maina Yamaguchi, Alexandria Ytuarte

Music
“Steep Hills of Vicodin Tears”
by A Winged Victory for the Sullen

Chapter 2: New Beginnings

Class/Group
The TAMUCC Dance Company

Choreographer
Sarah Gonzalez

Performers
JayJay Getty, Elise Perry, River Thompson, Katy Womack

Music
“Finale” from The Kingdom
by Danny Elfman
Outlook

Class/Group
Jazz 1

Choreographer
Jilissa Cotten

Performers
Raistlin Bailey, Niairia Brager, Shelby Clark, Cora Daniel, Amelia Donahue, JayJay Getty, Lillian Gish, Lauren Labonte, Nico Montalvo, George Miguel Salcido, Nic Sears

Music
“Clocks”
by Berryman/Buckland/Champion/Martin
as performed by Eklipse

Carried by the Current

Class/Group
Ballet 2-4

Choreographer
Jilissa Cotten

Performers
Anna Adams, Ally Cook, Madison Cruger, Megan Ellis, Calissa Vasquez, Amaris Martinez Guedry, Gillian Jaime, Elise Perry, Ileana Ramirez, Luciana Calderon Saavedra, Bella Salem, Asia Thiem, River Thompson, Jewels Uherek, Maina Yamaguchi

Music
“Divenire”
by Ludovico Einaudi

-INTERMISSION-
Chapter 3: Aligned

Class/Group
The TAMUCC Dance Company

Choreographer
Sarah Gonzalez

Performers
Anna Adams, Hunter Pittman

Music
“Don’t Worry”
by Zoë Keating

Collaboration

Class/Group
The Stage

Choreographer
Victoria Contreras

Performers
Alexandria Ytuarte, Genrieta Kozlova, Harper Lee,
Jenni Rodriguez, Nycol Carreon, Raye Bailey, April Bourg,
Danielle Russell

Music
“I 2 I”
by Patrick DeRemer
Sooner or Later

Class/Group
Jazz 2-4

Choreographer
Sarah Gonzalez

Performers
Anna Adams, Ally Cook, Guadalupe Duarte, Amaris Martinez Guedry, Elise Perry, Hunter Pittman, Ileana Ramirez, Korey Sayre, Olivia Stanton Moretzzo, River Thompson, Jewels Uherek, Katy Womack

Music
“Iris”
by John Rzeznik

Chapter 4: Drift

Class/Group
The TAMUCC Dance Company

Choreographer
Sarah Gonzalez

Performers
Madison Cruger, Guadalupe Duarte, Lilly Hernandez, Julia Massey

Music
“Tomorrow’s Song”
by Ólafur Arnalds
Moving On

Class/Group
Ballet 1

Choreographer
Sarah Gonzalez

Performers
Alexis Alvarez, Raye Bailey, Madison Grubbs, Jules Hill, Jiahna McAfee, Hunter Pittman, Brooke Reyes, Genevieve Vale, Alexandria Ytuarte

Music
“Happiness Does Not Wait”
by Ólafur Arnalds

Ebb and Flow

Class/Group
Modern 2-4

Choreographer
Jilissa Cotten

Performers

Music
“Tetrishead”
by Zoë Keating
Next Chapter: Seeing

Class/Group
The TAMUCC Dance Company

Choreographer
Sarah Gonzalez

Performers
Anna Adams, Madison Cruger, Guadalupe Duarte,
Lorraine Escareno, JayJay Getty, Lilly Hernandez,
Amaris Martinez Guedry, Julia Massey, Jiahna McAfee,
Elise Perry, Hunter Pittman, River Thompson, Jewels Uherek,
Katy Womack
Understudies: Olivia Bass, Gillian Jaime

Music
“The Path”
by Zoë Keating

Program Image Credits
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Pina Bausch’s The Rite of Spring: Josep Aznar, CC BY-SA 4.0 <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/4.0>, via Wikimedia Commons.
Jilissa Cotten: Edgar de la Garza.
PRODUCTION STAFF

Artistic Director  
Sarah Gonzalez

Dramaturg  
Thomas A. Oldham

Stage Manager  
Kat Cunningham

Assistant Stage Manager  
Kennedy Alexander

Lighting Designer  
Rachel Havlice

Faculty Lighting Advisor  
Alex Mason

Lighting Technician  
Joshua Sneed

Recording Technician  
Nathaniel Verdin

Rehearsal Assistants  
River Thompson, Katy Womack

Technical Director  
Jordan Bohl

Scenic Build Crew  
Jordan Bohl, Rachel Havlice, Brandon Bankston, Shameka Cobb

Additional Scenic Construction Crew  
Brooklin Alexander, Zoe Candelas, Abby Corbett, Rylee Crayton, Emily Delaney, Ben Domingue, Eddie Edwards, Robert Garza, Drake Landrum, Mary Leal, Gabriella Lopez, Ranger Nolen, Aurora Usai, Madeline Wade

Photography  
Kevin Schuster, of Schuster Studios

Videography  
Larry Cashion, of Expressions On

Marketing / Graphics Designer  
Alison Frost

Box Office Faculty Supervisor  
Meredith Melville

Box Office Student Supervisor  
Megan Bain, Mac McLendon

Front of House Student Workers  
Megan Bain, Luke Jackson, Naomi Medina, Preston Sneed
FACULTY AND STAFF
Alison Frost, Department Chair of Theatre & Dance
Kevin Loeffler, Director of Theatre
Jilissa Cotten, Director of Dance
Rosa M. Lazaro, Professor of Theatre
Kelly Russell, Professor of Theatre
Sarah Gonzalez, Assistant Professor of Dance
Alex Mason, Assistant Professor of Theatre
Meredith Melville, Assistant Professor of Theatre
Marco Muñoz, Assistant Professor of Theatre
Thomas A. Oldham, Assistant Professor of Theatre
Jason Tate, Adjunct Professor of Fight Direction
J. Don Luna, Professor Emeritus of Theatre
Jordan Bohl, Technical Director
Alexandra “Alex” Shaw, Costume Shop Supervisor
Christina Maher, Administrative Assistant
Megan Bain, Student Box Office Assistant
Mac Mclendon, Student Office Assistant
Brandon Bankston, Student Shop Assistant
Shameka Cobb, Student Shop Assistant
Elijah Galvin, Student Shop Assistant
Sarah Garcia, Student Shop Assistant
Ernest Green, Student Shop Assistant
Samantha Ortega, Student Shop Assistant

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Dr. Kelly Miller, President and CEO of TAMUCC
Dr. Clarenda Phillips, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs
Dr. Shawnrece Campbell, Director of SAMC & Dean of College of Liberal Arts
Dr. David Gurney, Associate Dean of SAMC
Dr. Yndalecia Isaac Hinojosa, Interim Associate Dean of College of Liberal Arts
The Marketing and Communications Department of TAMUCC

CONTACT US
Website: http://theatre.tamucc.edu
THE TAMUCC DANCE COMPANY

Anna Adams
Madison Cruger
Lorraine Escareno
JayJay Getty

Lilly Hernandez
Amaris Martinez Guedry
Jiahna McAfee
Elise Perry

Hunter Pittman
River Thompson
Katy Womack
Jewels Uherek (apprentice)

Olivia Bass (apprentice)
Guadalupe Duarte (apprentice)
Gillian Jaime (apprentice)
Julia Massey (apprentice)
THE CHOREOGRAPHERS

Sarah Gonzalez, M.F.A., is a dance educator, choreographer, mover, administrator, and arts enthusiast from Corpus Christi, Texas. Ms. Gonzalez received her Masters of Fine Arts in Dance at University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee and her Bachelors of Fine Arts in Dance from Sam Houston State University. She has been an educator throughout the Corpus Christi community for over 15 years, teaching early childhood through the collegiate level. Gonzalez has performed and trained nationally and has been recognized for her creative narratives in the medium of dance-making. Her mission of ensuring growth and sustainability of the dance arts in South Texas drives her forward as she pursues her continuous objective of creating low-cost and highly accessible visual performance art to increase dance appreciation, and to cultivate future, well-rounded artists and educators in the field. Gonzalez is currently in her fifth year with Texas A&M University Corpus Christi and is excited to produce her first major work as the Artistic Director of the TAMUCC Dance Company. She is also a proud mommmy to her wonderful son, Greyson.

Jilissa Cotten, M.F.A., Professor and Director of Dance at Texas A&M University Corpus Christi, began her dance training under the direction of Nancy Sulik and Corpus Christi Concert Ballet. She received her Bachelor’s degree in Spanish with a minor in Russian from the University of Texas at Austin and holds a Master of Fine Arts degree in Choreography and Performance from Sam Houston State University. She has choreographed over thirty musicals, most of which have been produced at the Harbor Playhouse Community Theatre, Oklahoma, Cats, and West Side Story, to name a few. She is producer of the Bailando International Dance Festival, which showcases the work of choreographers and professional companies. Ms. Cotten owned her own dance studio, InStep Dance Studios, for eight years, and has worked at TAMUCC for the past 14 years. Her choreography her nationally recognized with the American College Dance Festival in Washington D.C., and internationally through the Island Dance Company, which she started in order to serve her students and give them opportunities to perform throughout the community.
Senior Capstone: 
Lighting Designer Rachel Havlice

Rachel participated in this show as a lighting designer for her senior capstone to graduate in the spring with her bachelor's in theatre with a tech concentration.

These photos are part of her research and examples of her past work.
A Note from the Dramaturg

Some of you may be wondering, “What’s a dramaturg doing working on a dance show?” Some of you may also be wondering, “What’s a dramaturg?” Typically, a dramaturg is a literary or historical adviser on a play, and there doesn’t seem to be anything “literary,” “historical,” or “play-like” about *Dance Demo 2022: Making Waves*. Dramaturgs have been working with dance, however, since at least as far back as the 1970s, when Pina Bausch, the legendary Germany choreographer started working with one to assist with the sequencing of raw material into a larger structure. Other renowned choreographers from William Forsythe to Anne Teresa de Keersmaeker have also employed dramaturgs (and if those names don’t mean anything to you, just google “Keersmaeker” and “Beyonce”).

Dramaturgs work with dance in a number of different ways: brainstorming, editing, clarifying, keeping an eye on continuity, etc. Perhaps the most impactful thing a dramaturg can do is to ask questions. My work on *Making Waves* began in an informal conversation with my colleague, Sarah Gonzalez, and I haven’t stopped asking her questions since. The first thing she told me was that she wanted this to be something other than a collection of largely unrelated dances. Instead, she wanted a throughline to carry over the course of the evening. I was excited to help her find that spine.

The choreographers and dancers you see before you tonight created a series of pieces that had strong emotional content and a rough arc that touches on the many different types of relationships we have in our lives. As these pieces and ideas became fleshed out, I would be a regular sounding board, helping to finetune the shape, the transitions, and the way that all the pieces fit together. While I cannot take any credit for what you are about to see (after all, the bulk of my work was simply having conversations), I am incredibly proud of what our dancers and choreographers have created. As the saying goes, the whole is greater than the sum of its parts.

-Thomas A. Oldham

![Pina Bausch’s The Rite of Spring](image)
THE THEATRE & DANCE SEASON FOR 2022-2023

FALL 2022

THE HÉCTOR P. GARCÍA NEW PLAY PROJECT
BY IRAISA ANN REILLY
SEPT. 27-OCT. 2

THE BAILANDO INTERNATIONAL DANCE FESTIVAL
OCT. 6-9

FALL INTO THE BREAKERS: IMPROV SHOW
OCT. 15

PRONOUN
BY EVAN PLACEY
OCT. 21-22

ROMEO & JULIET
BY WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE
NOV. 10-13 & 17-19

ISLAND DANCE DEMO
NOV. 21-22

10-MINUTE PLAY FESTIVAL
DEC. 2-3

SENIOR CAPSTONE FESTIVAL
DEC. 7-9

SPRING 2023

THE BREAKERS IMPROV SHOW
FEB. 11

PRISCILLA, QUEEN OF THE DESERT
BY STEPHAN ELLIOTT & ALLAN SCOTT
MARCH 7-11

THE SEED PROJECT
MARCH 31-APRIL 1

LIFE SUCKS
BY AARON POSNER
APRIL 18-23

ISLAND DANCE DEMO
APRIL 25-27

40-MINUTE PLAY FESTIVAL
MAY 4-6

CAMP ON THE COAST
JUNE 18-30

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