

The Department of Theatre and Dance

What do you do when you
think you've crafted the
perfect plan and it just
doesn't go as intended?



Welcome to Dance Ensemble/ACTivate Fall 2015 Exploratorium PLAN B

Director: Celeste Miller
Choreography by Celeste Miller
created from movement generated by the dancers.

FRI./SAT. - DEC. 4 & 5, 7:30 P.M.
FLANAGAN THEATRE, BUCKSBAUM CENTER FOR THE ARTS

GRINNELL COLLEGE



Welcome

Thesaurus: A choreographed dance interrupted by improvisation instructions.

Music: Steve Reich & Russ Hartenberger

Reflection

Second Law of Thermodynamics: Influenced by the growing refugee crisis, the most recent events in Paris, and the anti-Syrian backlash that has resulted.

Music: Zoe Keating

Pair Share

Tigers & Strawberries: Text from a Zen koan interlaced with the poem, "Strawberries" by Edwin Morgan.

Music: Ola Gjeilo

Story Circles

Story Circle: Images Improvisation

Music: Kris Force, Jarboe, Zoë Keating & Aeaea

Advice (working title)

Music: The Section Quartet, The Cinematic Orchestra, Alan Watts, Tom Lehrer, The Instruments, The Low Anthem, Dawn of Midi, Frank Sinatra, Yo La Tengo, Patti Smith.

Post-Show Conversation

Please stay and join us for a conversation.

Special Thanks to the Department of Theatre and Dance:

Erin - TITLES

Erik -

Justin - Chair

Lesley - assoc prof

Ellen - PROF

Gibson - visiting PROF

Ivy -

Joyce - poster and program design

Meet Dance Ensemble/ACTivate Fall 2015

Liana Butchard '18 is from Newton, MA. She is a French and History double major with a concentration in Global Development Studies. This is Liana's second semester with Dance Ensemble/ACTivate. Last spring she danced in *Snow White Retracted*. Liana has spent this semester grappling with what exactly Plan B is and how that translates into movement. She would like to thank her mother for instilling overpreparing tendencies that have rendered her to always be prepared for a Plan B situation.

Jiayun Chen '19 is from Shanghai, China. She did Latin dance for six years and is eager to explore more about dancing by being a member of Dance Ensemble/ACTivate. She is thrilled to have a chance to join this program that she hadn't expected at Grinnell.

Ebony Chuukwu '16 is a Theatre and Dance major from Washington D.C. She has previously been a part of recent productions such as *Hamlet* (Assistant Stage Manager), *Polaroid Stories* (Echo), and *Spring Awakening* (Martha). She is very excited to be a part of Dance Ensemble/ACTivate this fall semester, and would like to thank her family and friends for all their support!

Maddi Danks '18 is in her first semester with Dance Ensemble/ACTivate. She started her experience with dance in pre-ballet at age three and previously danced with St. Croix Ballet in Stillwater, Minnesota and Inspiration Performing Arts in Willernie, Minnesota. She is very excited for this wonderful program Grinnell has to offer.

Rosie Fuqua '16 is a Religious Studies and Theatre and Dance double major from Boulder, CO. This is her sixth semester in Dance Ensemble/ACTivate, and she is so happy to be working and creating with all these fabulous people.

Anna Hicks '17 is a Theatre and Dance major from Vashon Island, Wa. This is Anna's first semester with Dance Ensemble ACTivate and she's incredibly excited to be a part of this experience. As someone who rarely has a Plan A, let alone B, she's thrilled to be learning about the process of making them.

He Jinlin is a second year from Chongqing, China. Several places have shaped her dance experience including her hometown (Chongqing), Singapore, Los Angeles and Grinnell. This is her first semester with Dance Ensemble/ACTivate. She started traditional Chinese dance at a young age and started exploring hip hop dance since high school. The experience in Dance Ensemble ACTivate is liberating for her that she has more understanding of why we dance.

Nathan Kim '16 is an artist and dancer currently living in Grinnell, Iowa. Nathan's experience moving comes from drawing. He is interested in ways both static and fluid mediums overlap and translate into each other. To him, this correspondence between previously disconnected forms is a means for rediscovering drawing as performance, and dancing as a way of unlearning the body as a controller. He is both humbled and honored to have the encouragement and support of his fellow dancers.

Ivy Kuhn '16 is a Theatre and Dance major from Central Minnesota. This is her fourth semester with Dance Ensemble ACTivate. Last year she studied abroad in London and Southern India and danced with Amici Dance Theatre Company and Euforia Bollywood Dance School. She has experience in musical theatre, ballet, and modern and is a Theater and Dance Instructor at her local community theatre. She loves the community of dance and its power to transform and create.

Madison Marcus '19 is from North Carolina. This is her first semester with Dance Ensemble/ACTivate. She has been dancing since age 11 and has trained in ballet, pointe, jazz, musical theatre, lyrical, and modern. She has enjoyed exploring improvisation and different styles of dance this semester.

Gabrielle Matthews '17 is a Gender, Women's & Sexuality Studies and Spanish double major from Maryland. She has wanted to work with Dance Ensemble/ACTivate since her second semester on campus; this is her first time participating. Her dance background includes quitting ballet as a child, running Drag Show with QPOC and tearing up the dance floor in Gardner. She has dedicated this semester to exploring committed movement and incorporating a feeling of certainty into all of her art.

Charlotte Richardson-Deppe '19 is from Saint Paul, Minnesota. She is undecided in her major, and this is her first semester with Dance Ensemble/ACTivate. Her background in movement includes seven years of circus arts training with Circus Juventas, with a focus on aerial arts, dance, and theater. She has also been involved with musical theater since a young age.

Charlie Rosenblum '18 is an intended Economics/French double major from Minneapolis, Minnesota. This is his first semester of Dance Ensemble/ACTivate and although he has no prior dance experience, he has been involved with cross-country, track, and fencing in high school.

Alia Sajani '16 is a Biology major from Nairobi, Kenya and Houston, Texas. This is her first semester with Dance Ensemble/ACTivate. Her past dance experience includes Professor Miller's Movement for the Performer class, as well as co-leading an Altbreak trip focused on youth enrichment through dance in Atlanta. She is excited to see to create choreography out of improvisations, and explore interpretations of "Plan B" through movement.

Sarah Schlax '17 is a Political Science major from Lewiston, Maine. She is passionate about cute animals, batman, and the Green Bay Packers. This is her first semester in Dance Ensemble/ACTivate and she is excited to be working with such a welcoming, dedicated group of dancers.

Lucia Tonachel '18 is an Anthropology major from Cambridge, Massachusetts. This is her third semester with Dance Ensemble/ACTivate, and her previous experience includes four years of dancing and choreographing with a modern company, as well as training in ballet and contact improv. Lucia is grateful to Celeste, Amanda, the crew, and her fellow dancers for a wonderful semester!

Taylor Watts '16 is an Anthropology and French double major from California. This is her first semester with Dance Ensemble/ACTivate although not her first time working with Celeste. She is interested in learning about all forms of dance which is why she loves the the accessibility of Dance Ensemble/ACTivate. At Grinnell, she helps lead the Latin American Dance Club and attempts to participate in as much dance as she can.

Jill Wielgos '16 is a Spanish major in the teaching licensure program from the Chicago area. She's in her 5th semester of Dance Ensemble/ACTivate, and while she's danced since she was young, she has expanded her performance skills immensely since joining Dance Ensemble/ACTivate. She's proud of the growth Dance Ensemble/ACTivate has seen since her first year, the work it has put into the show this fall, and is excited to see what the spring semester holds!

Naomi Worob '18 is an Anthropology major from Arizona in her first semester with the Dance Ensemble/ACTivate. Her previous movement experience has been sporadic with ballet and yoga classes popping up from time to time. She is grateful for all the wonderfully intrepid ensemble dancers that have created such a supportive and encouraging space for movers of all levels.

CREW

Lauren Acker '19 (Costume Coordinator) is from Park Ridge, Illinois who intends on graduating with a Political Science major and a concentration in Applied Statistics. She loves styling clothes and dancing African Jazz moderately well, so she jumped at the chance to be costume coordinator.

Cameron Chen '19 (Sound Board Operator) is an intended physics major, and this is the first show he is involved in at Grinnell. This is his first time being part of technical crew and he is excited to help put on a great show.

Michael Kelley '16 (Light Boart Operator) is from Boonville, Missouri. He's majoring in theatre, but hasn't partaken in a dance show before this. He's excited to take up lighting, since most of his prior experience has been acting. He's felt destined to do lighting eventually, ever since he flipped a switch.

Amanda Kettell '17.5 (Stage Manager) is a Theatre & Dance and intended English double major from Clifton Park, New York. Past productions at Grinnell include *Hamlet* (assistant stage manager), *Balancing Acts* (assistant stage manager), and *Anna Christie* (run crew). She's also worked as an assistant stage manager with the Not So Common Players in her home town, and as a scene shop intern/run crew for Ocean Professional Theatre Company. She's really enjoyed working with Dance Ensemble/ACTivate for the first time!

Alexa Raasch '19 (Lighting Designer) hopes to double major in Theatre and Dance, and Chemistry. Earlier this year she was an Assistant Stage Manager for *The Boy Who Fell From the Roof* and lighting designer for Neverland's fall performance.

Anna Warm '19 (Assistant Stage Manager) is from Boulder, Colorado and is thinking about majoring in Chemistry. She is thrilled to have her her first show at Grinnell be with Dance Ensemble/ACTivate. Over the last four years she spent a lot of time participating in technical theatre, mostly in props and stage management.

Celeste Miller, M.F.A., Artistic Director, has worked as a solo performer, choreographer and community arts animator for over thirty years. Her original work has been presented in New York City, Los Angeles, Chicago, Miami, Atlanta and other large and small cities. Awards for her work come from the National Endowment for the Arts, the Rockefeller Foundation and state and local arts agencies. Commissions for her work span a wide range, including the Smithsonian Discovery Theatre, Miami Waves Film & Video Festival, American Festival Project and the New Orleans Ballet Ensemble. Born in New York City, where she did most of her early dance training, Miller has also lived in Massachusetts, Washington, DC and Atlanta. In 2011 Miller came to Grinnell College where she is currently an assistant professor in the Department of Theatre and Dance. At Grinnell she continues to explore the intersections between dance and spoken word; and the application of dance/movement as a tool for personal reflection and community building. The latter includes a collaboration at Des Moines University in the Medical Humanities program that is entering its third year as a MAP project.

Dance Ensemble/ACTivate is a pre-professional ensemble engaged in the development, rehearsal and production of contemporary dance works choreographed by faculty and guest artists. Exposure to diverse choreographic approaches provides students with the opportunity to expand their technical, stylistic and interpretive range. Students gain collaborative skills through improvisation technologies and the contribution of movement material to certain choreographic projects. Dance Ensemble performances range from fully produced dance concerts, low-tech concerts and site-specific events.

Students with prior experience in dance trainings (ballet, modern, latin, urban, world, etc.), and martial arts are welcome to join Ensemble. Additionally, novice movers who make a commitment to expand their physical range and imagination are welcome into Ensemble. All Ensemble members make a commitment to building a community of curious, brave and adventuresome movers.

Entry into Dance Ensemble/ACTivate takes place at an Audition/Informational Workshop held at the beginning of each semester. Spring 2016 date: February 2 4:30-6:30PM. Choreographers for Spring: Celeste Miller and Daniel Singh (Phoenix Dance Theatre; southeast Indian and modern fusion)

