

Grinnell College Department of Theatre & Dance presents

Dance Ensemble/ACTivate

DANCING ABOUT THE ECONOMY: SCARCITY & ABUNDANCE

Choreographic commentary by:

Eva Dawson '14

Rosie Fuqua '16

Ana Novak '14

Sofia Tedesco '14

Jermaine Webb-Stewart '16

Celeste Miller, Director

With guest composer: Caleb Neubauer '13
MAP Students: Ana Novak, Benjamin Zeledon

Decemer 6-8, 2013

Friday & Saturday 7:30 PM

Sunday, 1 PM

Flanagan Studio Theatre, Bucksbaum Center for the Arts

GRINNELL COLLEGE



This performance will run without intermission.

Please turn off all cell phones and pagers.
No photography permitted.

Special Thanks

Special thanks to Galaxy, Inc., Youth Programs faculty, staff and youth, Stephanie Walters, Tillie Woodward, Susan Sanning, the Department of Theatre and Dance, Joyce Bergen, and Stephanie Micetich.



Dance Ensemble/ACTivate

Celeste Miller, Artistic Director
Emma Thomasch '16, Assistant Director

Dancing About the Economy: Scarcity and Abundance

Dance Ensemble/ACTivate Fall 2013:

Anna Banker, Zoe Cronin, Eva Dawson, Rosie Fuqua, Madeleine
Hardt, Alex Hsieh, Melissa Melloy, Chi Nguyen, Kitt Nika, Ana
Novak, Samah Shda, Jermaine Stewart-Webb, Sofia Tedesco, Dilan
Ustek, Anya Vanecek, Jillian Wielgos, Benjamin Zeledon

Repretery Lighting Design
Dancing About the Economy
Lighting Design
Technical Director
State Manager
Light Board Operator
Sound Board Operator
Running Crew
Wardrobe

Justin Thomas
Rachel Andrews '16
Erik Sanning
Emma Thomasch '16
Rachael Andrews '16
Emily Griffith '17
Paulina Campbell '16
Hannah Storch

Program Order

All the dances have been collaged together to form a whole, however the sequence of dances is as follows

Welcome & Introduction

Celeste Miller and the Ensemble

MAP Check-In: A study of Science through Dance

Ana Novak '14

Text & Concept by Ana Novak

Staged by Celeste Miller in collaboration with Ana and the dancers

Special thanks to Galaxy, Inc. youth, faculty and staff

Performed by: Members of Dance Ensemble/ACTivate

7th Inning Stretch

A little participatory break

Music: The O'Jays "For the Love of Money", written by Kenneth Gamble, Leon Huff and Anthony Jackson, on the album *Ship Ahoy*. The song's title comes from the Bible verse, "For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows" (*New International Version*, Timothy 6:10)

Money

Performed and choreographed by Rosie Fuqua '16

Back up dancers: Eva Dawson, Ana Novak, Jermainie Stewart-Webb, Sofia Tedesco

Music: The Flying Lizard's "Money" a cover of the 1959 hit song "Money (that's what I want)" originally recorded by Barrett Strong for Motown Records.

Vous Avez L'argent

Performed and choreographed by Jermaine Stewart-Webb '16

Music: "Money, Money, Money" written by Benny Andersson and Bjorn Ulvaeus. Recorded by ABBA, 1976.



Enjoy Your Worries, You May Never Have Them Again

Performed and choreographed by Eva Dawson '14 and Sofia Tedesco '14

Music: The Books, guitarist and vocalist Nick Zammuto and cellist Paul de Jong.

“Enjoy your worries, you may never have them again” released on the album “Thought for Food” 2002.

The Art of the Future

Choreography by Celeste Miller

Created in collaboration with the dancers

Sound Design: Caleb Neubauer

Text by the dancers from the writing prompt: “*When you think about your life, post Grinnell, what are the questions that keep you up at night?*”

Movement developed in a word=movement process. Source movement words from Los Angeles Times editorial by David Ackert, “Singers and Musicians are some of the most driven, courageous people on the face of the earth.” Jan. 14, 2003

Performed by: Members of Dance Ensemble/ACTivate

Just Follow the Directions

Performed and Choreographed by Ana Novak '14

Text: “How to Achieve Financial Independence”, *Wikihow.com*

Rate of Exchange

Choreography by Celeste Miller

Created in collaboration with the dancers

Text sources: Celeste Miller; “*What the Economic Crisis Really Means and what we can do about it*”, *doingitourselves.org*; “*Feminist Economics: Implications for Education*”, Myra H. Strober; “*Feminizing the Economy: Metaphors, Strategies, Politics*”, Jenny Cameron.

Sound Design: Caleb Neubauer

Narrator: Anna Banker

Performed by: Members of Dance Ensemble/ACTivate

Too Big is Too Big!

**What's behind "Dancing about the Economy: Abundance & Scarcity"
Artistic Director's Notes**

In October 2012, Lesley Delmenico forwarded me an email from Lisa Brenner of Drew University describing a national project she was hoping to launch: "Each campus would have a professor who would work with a group of students to conduct interviews about this generation's attitudes toward the future (money, opportunity, education, etc.)." Brenner envisioned that we would then "share the data to create individual (yet connected) pieces that would be performed on our respective campuses in conjunction with some form of civic dialogue." The concept of the project intrigued me, while the topic felt daunting.

When I spoke with Lisa, she called the project "Too Big", referring to the "Too Big Too Fail" theory and talked primarily about using this project as a way to interrogate concepts and stimulate dialogue about the economy.

...A headache ensued.

I don't like thinking about Economics, or the topic "The Economy". It makes me feel overwhelmed, powerless, and well, downright depressed.

Economics/the economy as a muse?

Economics/the economy as a source for creativity and inspiration?

"No!" my inner muse screamed. "I need stories! A rush of intriguing visual images!"

My resistance was visceral.

Aha! A clue – something is happening here.

So, I said "yes" and committed myself to finding the muse within this topic. I like to be challenged to rearrange my thinking, discover new things and find the beauty, as it were, in unexpected places.

Lesley Delmenico also said, "yes" as did Mary Elizabeth Anderson at Wayne State University, and Evelyn Cruz-Diaz at University of San Diego. I will devote these director notes to just my participation, but encourage you to discover what the others are up to – especially the work of Lesley Delmenico here at Grinnell.

Art-making is my research methodology. A MAP project with Ana Novak and Benji Zeledon has guided the embodied research with Dance Ensemble/ACTivate. As an ensemble we have explored our personal responses to economic theories and our current economic state. Our weekly rehearsal process included movement workshops to explore concepts, like "want & need", as a way of talking about the economy, and as a source for generating movement material for choreography.

Additionally, I invited Ensemble members to submit proposals for individual choreographic responses, thus the independently choreographed work of



Rosie Fuqua, Jermaine Stewart-Webb, Eva Dawson, Sofia Tedesco and Ana Novak on the program.

Post-Baccalaureate Fellow in Studio Art, Caleb Neubauer, also joined our process. He sat in on the entire creation process for “The Art of the Future” and “Rate of Exchange” composing sound alongside us as I constructed the movement and text with the dancers.

Our performance for you today is the first draft of exploring this topic. We hope that you will share your thoughts, responses, ideas and imaginings about all things “economic” as we continue to explore these ideas. Formats include post show activities, blog postings to <http://dancingwolvesatthedoor.blogspot.com>, email or drop by for a conversation with me.

What's next with TOO BIG?

For the spring semester, Dance Ensemble/ACTivate will reassemble, with returning and new members*. We will further engage in an embodied research and choreographic process to develop our full -scale contribution to the national *Too Big* under the working title, “Wolves and Sacred Cows” with lighting design by Christina Barrigan, scenic design by Melania Lancy and costume design by Erin Howell Gritsch. Our Grinnell performance will be on April 24-27. Lesley Delmenico's *Too Big: Balancing Act* will be performed March 6-9.

But wait! There's more! Another collaboration unfolds!

Dance Ensemble/ACTivate will collaborate with Beloit College dancers through the “Distance Dances” project, and excerpts from “Wolves and Sacred Cows” will be performed at the Ruth Page Center for the Arts in Chicago on April 6.

In closing, I would like to send a big thank you to all my students – who are a never-ending source of inspiration.

*Dance Ensemble/ACTivate, THE 205 is open to dancers of all backgrounds, actors, and other performers. An informational workshop/audition will be held on January 27 from 4:30-6:30PM. At this time you will learn how Ensemble creates work and more about our methodology for generating dance/theatre. Dance Ensemble/ACTivate meets every week, Monday – Thursday from 4:30-6:30. Registration for Dance Ensemble takes place during Add/drop.

TOO BIG: MAP

Too Big is a national project meant to use the arts to spur a dialogue about the economy, access and opportunity. Professors from four campuses across the country are working with their respective students to investigate attitudes towards the future (money, opportunity, education, etc.). Each campus project will share their data to create individual (yet connected) pieces to be performed on the respective campuses in conjunction with varying forms of civic dialogue. At Grinnell, professors Lesley Delmenico and Celeste Miller are each guiding projects. MAP students working with Miller are Ana Novak and Benjamin Zeledon.

Ana Novak '14 is a fourth year Biology major from Milwaukee, WI who is performing with Dance Ensemble/ACTivate for her third semester. Her performance lecture within the production summarizes her fall MAP work with Celeste, the Dance Ensemble, and the students from the Galaxy Youth Program in Grinnell. Her research has been exploring the ideas of the abundance of scientific information pervading our society at large, yet the scarcity in its understanding and accessibility. She designed workshops that looked at the science of DNA and dance as both distinct fields and as complements to one another in the interest of learning, teaching, and sharing information. Photos, videos, and descriptions of DNA were all used as opportunities to uncover questions, insights, and curiosities about science that were then explored through movement. She plans to continue her research regarding embodied scientific learning through dance in the spring. "It has been an invaluable challenge to explore the issues of abundance and scarcity within science, education, the economy, and dance as both a student and a dancer." She would like to thank Celeste for her incredible support and guidance throughout this exploration, the Dance Ensemble for their dedication and creativity, Zoe and Rosie for their extended assistance, and the Galaxy and Stars kids for their wonderful energy, inspiring movements, and smiling faces! To find out more about Ana's MAP research, visit <http://danscing.blogspot.com>.

Benjamin Zeledon '14 is a fourth year political science major from Miami, Florida. This is his second year in Dance Ensemble/ACTivate. He has spent this past semester working with Celeste Miller and Ana Novak on a MAP for the TOO BIG project. He is exploring questions of abundance and scarcity in relation to the economy as a source for developing questions to create community dialogue; and as a source for movement and text material for choreography for the spring production. His focus has been on the relationship of "want and need" under this broader definition and the binaries that are created when we deal with economic theories and their underlying systems. He has done workshops exploring "want and need" with the Ensemble and is currently working to develop more workshops for the spring. These workshops will investigate the impulse buying part of consumerism. For further reading on his research, view his blog: <http://dothepanictonight.blogspot.com>



Alex Hsieh '14 is a fourth year Theatre/General Science - Chemistry double major hailing from Northbrook, Illinois. He has been an active member of the theatre & dance department at Grinnell College and has participated in both main-stage and student-run productions.

Anna Banker '15 is a third year GWSS/Theatre major with a concentration in Latin American Studies. She hails from the beautiful apple orchards of Harvard, Massachusetts, and desperately misses the spectacle of a New England fall. She has been involved with a number of Grinnell productions in a variety of capacities, including performer, director, and assistant director. She is deeply committed to productions that advocate feminism, which is why she has loved working with Celeste Miller. This particular piece takes a feminist approach to economics, which has been provocative, and exciting on an artistic and intellectual level. Anna has loved the opportunity to explore the intersections between feminism, activism, theatre, and movement and hopes to do more of this work in the future.

Anya Vanecek '14 is a fourth-year Anthropology student who realized this semester that she should have joined the ensemble long ago. Dance has always been an outlet for her, but Ensemble has proved far more liberating than Harris or her living room. Though she has never managed to be as interested in economics as she feels she ought to, expressing money's emotional toll through dance inspired her to consider the way our finances affect our very movement and posture. She would like to thank Celeste, Emma, and the Ensemble as a whole for making this such an empowering experience.

Chi Nguyen '15 is a third year Economics and French double major from Vietnam. She loves cats and dogs equally. She is spontaneous, which is why she was thinking about moving to Francophone Africa after graduation when writing this bio. She wants to work in the financial sector but has constantly questioned her career choice since participating in the "Rate of Exchange" piece.

Dilan Ustek '14 is a fourth year computer science major from Istanbul, Turkey. She joined the Dance Ensemble last spring and has really loved dancing with this fantastic group. She learned that it is fun to connect science with dance. She'll miss it when she leaves!

Eva Dawson '14 is a fourth year English major from Chicago (real Chicago). This is her second performance with Dance Ensemble, a group that she loves working and collaborating with. Her favorite part of rehearsal is watching what happens to a dance phrase after Celeste does her "shopping," or when a selection of different students' choreographed movements are pieced together to form something cohesive and magical. After graduation she plans to stay creative and continue dancing, and may even pursue a yoga-teaching career! She hopes you enjoy the show.

Dance Ensemble/ACTivate Bios

Jermaine Stewart-Webb '16 is a second year intended English and French Double major from Southern Los Angeles. Dance and performance arts are his passions and he intends to get involved with more theatre and dance productions as the academic year progresses. This is his first performance at Grinnell, and he is extremely excited and blessed to have the opportunity to share his gifts. Throughout this process he has learned the skill of artistic discipline and creativity. He would like to thank Celeste Miller for this opportunity and all participants for making this show a success.

Jillian Wielgos '16 is a second year from Geneva, IL majoring in Spanish and getting licensure in education. She's danced all her life and feels very fortunate to continue dancing at Grinnell. She performed in *Small Elephant Stories* and *When the Elephant Comes Crashing Through the Roof* last year with Dance Ensemble/ACTivate. She would like to thank the members of Dance Ensemble for remaining a steady, fun, and inspirational part of her life. "Through Dance Ensemble's work with the Galaxy program this semester I've learned how empowering movement and creation can be (especially for children) and how proud I feel to be a part of that."

Kitt Nika '16 is a second year soon-to-be Computer Science/English double major from Springfield, Illinois. This is her first year participating in Dance Ensemble. She has no previous dance experience, but has always been close to the theatre. She says the process of learning choreography was new, but exciting and fun.

Madeleine Hardt '16 is a second year from New York. This is her second year with the lovely Dance Ensemble. She hopes you enjoy the show!

Melissa Melloy '16 is from Iowa City and is enjoying her second year as a Grinnellian. She is studying sociology, but seriously considering a dance and theater double major. Dance ensemble was her first exploration back into dance after a few years of hiatus and she could not be happier to be moving again. This excellent group of performers and choreographers has put together a really touching and telling performance. She hopes that you thoroughly enjoy the show.

Rosie Fuqua '16 is a second year intended Religious Studies and Theater/Dance double major from Boulder, CO. This is her third semester with Dance Ensemble/ACTivate, and she is so excited to be back working with this amazing group of people. Of this production, she says, "the enthusiasm of the dancers, paired with such a positive, collaborative environment turned dancing about something as difficult as the economy into an engaging, enjoyable task, with beautiful results."

Samah Shda '14 is a fourth year political science major from Baghdad, Iraq. She joined Dance Ensemble to explore ways of using her body and movements as a representation for issues of social justice and activism.



Sofia Tedesco '14 is a fourth year BioChem major from Maryland. She is so excited to be in her second dance ensemble performance at Grinnell and wants to thank all the wonderful people who have worked together to make this show possible!

Zoe Cronin '14 is a fourth year Psychology major from Austin, Texas. She grew up taking ballet, tap, and jazz and has loved expanding her dance experience in the collaborative and creative environment of Dance Ensemble. Zoe was delighted to have the privilege of dancing and learning with the young people in the Galaxy program. It was a joy to witness, facilitate, and partake in their imaginative insights and movements.

Crew Members/Designers

Caleb Neubauer '13 (Sound Designer) is an artist living in Grinnell, IA after receiving the Post-Baccalaureate Fellowship in Studio Art at Grinnell College. His work with the Dance Ensemble began at the nearby Grin City artist residency this summer, and continued throughout the fall semester. “I used a process for improvisational composition I’d only tried before with acoustic instruments and voice—wherein I’d spend no more than an hour on no longer than a minute of spontaneous, recorded music—but in this case implemented it with synthesized, artificial tones and textures, and expanded the time restraints to fall within the span of each rehearsal.” He would like to thank Celeste and the Ensemble for the opportunity to collaborate on the music for “Rate of Exchange”—and for their tolerance as he poked and twisted the synth keys and knobs on the floor in the corner of the studio. More of his visual and musical work can be found at calebneubauer.wordpress.com.

Rachael Andrew '16 (Lighting Designer/Light Board Operator) is an intended physics and theater double major from Platteville, Wisconsin. This will be her first time working as light board operator, and she is very excited, and pleased to have had the opportunity to work as stage manager for the dance production *Small Elephant Stories* and the mainstage productions *The Pitmen Painters* and *Wit*. She also worked as assistant director on *Waiting for Godot* last fall. She enjoyed working with the Platteville Community Theater and the University of Wisconsin Platteville’s Heartland Festival both on the stage and off. She hopes you enjoy the show!

Emily Griffith '17 (Sound Board Operator) is an intended Physics - Theatre double major from Toledo, Ohio. Emily has had theatre experience from high school where she stage managed many shows and participated in Drama club. She recently was an assistant stage manager in the production of *Wit*.

Crew Members/Designers

Paulina Campbell '16 (Run crew) is a second year from Davidson, North Carolina. She is currently an undeclared major, but plans to double major in Spanish and theatre. She is also a member of the cross country and track teams. This is her first time working a show at Grinnell.

Emma Thomasch '16 (Assistant Director/Stage Manager) is a second year English – French double major from Muttontown, New York. After devoting all four of her high school years to technical theater, theatrical design, and stage-managing, she is so happy to be continuing her relationship with the theater as a part of Grinnell's Theatre and Dance Department. Last year she worked as run crew for *Hand to Mouth* and Assistant Stage Manager for *When the Elephant Comes Crashing Through the Roof*. She has loved watching the creative process unfold around her this semester, and has is so thankful to Celeste for allowing her to provide creative input and feedback. She hopes that you all enjoy the show.

Celeste Miller (Artistic Director, Choreographer) Celeste is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Theatre and Dance here at Grinnell College. She has made her career as a solo performer, choreographer, writer, community arts *animator* and educator. Her performance style is a combination of spoken word and movement that plumbs narrative for physical imagery in juxtaposed connections with words. Miller toured widely as a soloist from 1983 -2003, creating over fifty-five original text & movement works. During this time her work also included extensive dance in community projects like *The Nurses Project: To Celebrate and Honor the Nurses of Cape Ann*, funded by the Bruce J. Anderson Foundation; and *Big Sky Spinning* funded by the American Festival Project. In 2004 she shifted her focus from extensive solo touring to more extended research on artistic projects, writing, commissions, movement design for theatre productions and teaching. She is pleased to have recently accepted the assistant professor of Theatre and Dance position at Grinnell that allows her to combine her love for teaching with her investigation of dance as a performing art, cultural practice, political act and a method for the embodiment of ideas and beliefs.

Erik Sanning '89 (Technical Director and Engineering) is a graduate of Grinnell College. He spent the first two years after graduation working as the Technical Director/Lighting Designer for Ballet Iowa. In the summer of '91, Erik was able to return to Grinnell as the Technical Director. In addition, he is also one of the founding members of Grinnell Productions, a semi-professional theatre company that was based here in Grinnell. Erik has also been a member of IATSE, the professional stagehands union, since 1990.



Justin Thomas (Repertory Lighting Design) Justin is an Associate Professor of Theatre and Design here at Grinnell College, where he has the ability to focus upon his two great passions: teaching and making theatre. Justin's courses run the gamut of theatrical design and technology, theatre history, and literature. He particularly enjoys teaching his first-year tutorial, "Staging Revolution," which uses dramatic texts as a way to examine human rights abuses in world history. Justin's professional scenic and lighting designs have been featured throughout India, Bangladesh, Russia, France, and across the United States in venues both large and small. Justin designs for a variety of performance styles from modern dance and ballet, to Shakespearean tragedy, children's theatre, and contemporary musical theatre. Such collaborations have offered Justin varied and exciting experiences that enrich the teaching and mentoring of his students.

THEATRE STUDENT STAFF

ADMINISTRATION

Production Stage Manager	Deborah Tillman '14
Assistant Production Stage Manager	Rachel Andrew '16
Assistant to the Chair	Kate Whitman '14
Archivist	Benjamin Zeledon '14

FRONT OF HOUSE

Front of House Manager	Lorraine Blatt '14	
Front of House Staff	Teddy Hoffman '14	Deborah Tillman '14
	Deshaun Peters '14	Lorraine Blatt '14
	Quinninta Bellows '15	Anthony Wenndt '15
	Madeleine Hardt '16	Jack Blais '16
	Joe Kloehn '14	

COSTUME STUDIO

Costume Storage Coordinator	Devon Gamble '15	
Stitchers	Kate Loftur-Thun '14	Courtney Martin '15
	Mary Adams '15	Devon Gamble '15
	Mira Hall '16	Sophie Neems '16
	Daniel Nanetti-Palacios '16	Paulina Campbell '16
		Antoinette Cudney '16

SCENE SHOP

Properties Storage Coordinator	Ian Saderholm '14	
Assistant Properties Coordinator	Daniel Nanetti-Palacios '16	
Scene Shop Staff	Alicia Alexander '13	Alex Hsieh '14
	Colin Wong '14	Ian Saderholm '15
	Zoe Wolter '16	John Brady '16



Balancing Act

directed by Lesley Delmenico

Flanagan Theatre

March 6-8 - 7:30 PM

March 9 - 2 PM

Abundance & Scarcity

Dance Ensemble/ACTivate

Artistic Director Celeste Miller

Flanagan Theatre

April 24-26 - 7:30 PM

April 27 - 2 PM