

# Vassar Dance Department

# Spring 2023 Newsletter



## Save the Date!

**April 21 - 22**

Vassar Repertory Dance  
Theatre Performance

**April 28**

Senior Independent Study  
Performance

**May 1**

Dance Department Spring  
Showings

Reserve all tickets at [vassardance.tix.com](http://vassardance.tix.com)

It's hard to believe the 2022-23 school year is almost over! Read on to learn more about this past semester in the Vassar Dance Department.

Please contact Olivia Gotsch ([ogotsch@vassar.edu](mailto:ogotsch@vassar.edu)) to be added to the email list.

### *On Faculty:*

## Winston Dynamite Brown



Winston Dynamite Brown, dancer/teacher/choreographer, is the founder and artistic director of The DynamitExperience, a dance company based in NYC that serves as a platform for creative investigations and community engagement. Dynamite's professional dance career spans Camille A. Brown & Dancers, Dance Heginbotham, Pilobolus, Sean CurranCo., and Kyle Abraham/ A.I.M. He joins the Vassar dance department as an adjunct instructor for intermediate and upper beginner modern classes.

## *In May: Inaugural Dance Correlate Class Graduates*

We applaud Grace Hall, Olivia Gotsch, Jalene Medina, Danielle Lomi, Lily Gee, and Natalie Junio-Thompson (pictured, left to right), class of 2023, who have completed extensive work in dance technique, performance, choreography, and cross-disciplinary inquiry.



## ***New Works: Yoshito Sakuraba***



Yoshito Sakuraba is an award-winning choreographer and founding artistic director of Abarukas dance company. Originally from Japan, Yoshito began his career in New York City and has expanded to presenting work in

Germany, Poland, Italy, Spain, Israel, Mexico, and nationally across the U.S. including the Joyce Theater, BAM Fisher, Jazz at Lincoln Center, and Jacob's Pillow.

## ***On Faculty: Claire Deane***



Claire Deane received a BFA in Dance Performance from the Dance Conservatory at Purchase College, after having worked with Doug Varone, Alexandra Beller, Sidra Bell, and Kevin Wynn, among others. Claire is the founder and artistic director of A-Y Dancers, a modern dance company based in Beacon, NY. She teaches ballet and modern dance at Ballet Arts Studio Beacon.

## ***New Works: Julian Llanos***

A dance and martial arts educator with M\*POWER - Center for Cultural Fitness, Inc., Julian Llanos joined Vassar dance faculty as their first Hip Hop dance instructor in the spring of 2021. His personal dance style incorporates traditional martial arts skills and may also include House, Pop & Lock, B-Boying and Tutting.



## ***New Works: Mark Morris***

Mark Morris' Polka, a movement from his work Grand Duo, rounds out VRDT's spring repertoire. June Omura, a long-time dancer with the Mark Morris Dance Company and past instructor at Vassar, will stage this work.



## On Campus: Speakers & Workshops

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A workshop in West African Dance with instructor **Souleymane "Solo" Badolo** and percussionist Angel Lau.

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A master class with Guggenheim fellow and Bessie award winning choreographer, dancer, and teacher **Jodi Melnick**.

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A choreography workshop, film screening, and Q&A with Jody Arnhold, founder of Dance Education Laboratory (DEL) at 92Y.

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## Coming Soon: Senior Independent Studies



"Creating with trust during a time of uncertainty is the current focus of my independent work. Pushing the body, the heart, the mind, and the connections between all of us. Seeking guidance, saying goodbye." - **Lily Gee '23**

"This work approaches dance as first and foremost an essential human act, emerging from and engendering community to interweave our many lived realities." - **Olivia Gotsch '23**



"It's Getting Hard To Be Someone' touches on topics like derealization to examine the feeling of helplessness in losing one's sense of self and how our loved ones can be our greatest support system in reminding us who we are." - **Danielle Lomi '23**

"a love letter to asian american dancers: to be held in-between the spaces we carve out for ourselves, for others. the fullness of being enough for me, for you." - **Zoe Mueller '23**

