

DANCEWORKS PERFORMANCE MKE IN COLLABORATION WITH APERI ANIMAM

DIXIT DOMINUS

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Danceworks Performance MKE in collaboration with APERI ANIMAM

DIXIT DOMINUS

May 17-19, 2024 | Calvary Presbyterian Church

Choreography by Christal Wagner and Maria Gillespie

Tickets @ Danceworksmke.org

DANCEWORKS MKE

APERI ANIMAM

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DANCEWORKS PERFORMANCE MKE

BIOME

PRESENTED BY
GINA LAURENZI



DPMKE Artistic Director: Christal Wagner
 Biome Creative Director: Gina Laurenzi
 Choreography: Laurenzi with contributions from the dancers
 Musician & Composer: Allen Russell
 Lighting Design: Colin Gawronski
 Projection: Gina Laurenzi *original & licensed stock footage
 Scenic Design: Gina Laurenzi
 Costume Design: Gina Laurenzi, Christal Wagner, and borrowed items courtesy of UWM Dance.

Photo by DPMKE Artistic Director Christal Wagner



A NOTE FROM THE CHOREOGRAPHER:



A crab emerges as surprised to see me as I am him. I mimic his mannerisms, his quirky side-step, while we watch one another. I move away slightly, duck and trickle quickly away. I give him space to dance. After a time, I fall back into the dark, moving to my own drifting thoughts under the night sky. Intentionally daydreaming. I move contorting, distorting, and embodying the memory of creatures I've seen and dream about meeting again. They surprise, delight, and mesmerize. I play with these ideas, movement is both contrasting and complementary. Imagining the weightlessness of the moments surrounded by the bustling underwater world below. Fish swim past,

body seeming suspended in a swirling school. I flow, spiral and try to smoothly, weightlessly, whirl into the next. They creep out between rocks and from corals and retreat as if they were never there at all. I sneak, I peek, I strike out with limbs and pause, alert. Sometimes they scamper, shift, and drift across the bottom other times they stare and you stare right back, caught in their spell. ~ Notebook, October 2023

Welcome to our underwater world of *Biome*.

As a dance MFA candidate at UW-Milwaukee, my current research investigates awe, wonder and world-building in contemporary dance performance. In making dances, I strive to create worlds that the dance both takes shape in and simultaneously informs. I refer to this constructed world as a "choreographic ecosystem" as its design contains multiple elements of the visual and sonic that together, shape the world being experienced.

In preparation for the world of *Biome*, I reflected upon experiences scuba diving and translated the awe-filled experiences, impressions, and sensations into the terrestrial body. On a journey into environmentalism, and fascinated by the ocean, I am particularly interested in the preservation of these ecosystems, coral reef conservation and ocean biodiversity. How can wonder draw us in, connect us and ignite a spark for change? *Biome* is an underwater world, a fusion of ideas, and a culmination of these areas of embodied research. This embodiment of ideas took form in states, shapes, movement quality and direction, and I am excited to share this research with Milwaukee.

I was absolutely thrilled when Christal Wagner (DPMKE Artistic Director) suggested that my MFA thesis concert be the second concert of Danceworks Performance MKE's 2023-24 season. It has been a wonderful experience working with longtime collaborators Allen Russell (Composer), Colin Gawronski (Lighting Designer), Christal Wagner and the artists of DPMKE, to bring the vision of *Biome* to life.

Working out of my garage, I designed the set pieces for the immersive pre-show experience. I longed to have my own take on the concert going experience so we transformed studio B as the entrance into the world, the shallows before you move into deeper waters. Part structured improvisation and part art installation, studio B exists this weekend as a reef bustling with activity, reminiscent of some of my favorite dive experiences. The creatures inhabiting the space, immersed in projection. Follow their curious movements, and playful gestures, as you go deeper into the underwater world with Russell's majestic compositions flooding the space and Gawronski's lighting design enhancing the scene.

Taking your seat in studio A, I invite you to settle in, stash the trash under your seat, and feel free to chat as others finish enjoying the pre-show experience. Perhaps consider your

thoughts on the experience thus far... When you think about the ocean, what emotions come up? What creatures come to mind? What images? A curtain speech will play overhead and that will be your cue that the performance is about to begin.

As the movement and music swirls about, allow it to sweep you into our choreographic ecosystem. We invite you to wonder, to become curious about the creatures you see before you, to become invested in their world as it is yours also. Stay with us as the scenes gently shift and the elements of visual and sonic work together to morph into anew; creatures emerge and then disappear, the environment before you will shift. There is a moment where you will be cued to action. I appreciate you being here, for diving in, and I thank you in advance for your subtle yet impactful choreographed participation. I hope you enjoy the evening's experience.

THE PROGRAM

Pre-show immersive experience:
DPMKE & Russell

Descent
Soloist: Gina Laurenzi

Inhabitants
Soloist 1: Jessica Lueck
Soloist 2: Gabi Sustache
Soloist 3: Katelyn Moore
Featured duet: Gabi Sustache & Katelyn Altmann
Soloist 4: Cuahtli Ramirez Castro
Soloist 5: Elisabeth Roskopf
Trio: Katelyn Altmann, Ashley Ray Garcia & Zoe Glise

Swirling by
Featured soloist: Halle Sivertson
Trio: Halle Sivertson, Cuahtli Ramirez Castro & Ashley Ray Garcia
Soloist: Jamie Riddle

Living fossils
Featured soloist: Zoe Glise
Group: Zoe Glise, Gina Laurenzi, Kaitlyn Moore, Cuahtli Ramirez Castro, Ivy Robertson, Halle Sivertson, Gabi Sustache

Along the sandy bottom
Group: Katelyn Altmann, Greta Jenkins, Jessica Lueck, Ashley Ray Garcia
Duet: Jessica Lueck & Ashley Ray Garcia

Into the school
Featured duet: Kaitlyn Moore & Elisabeth Roskopf

Nine brains & 3 hearts
Featured trio: Katelyn Altmann, Gina Laurenzi & Ivy Robertson

Vertebrate - Invertebrate
Trio: Zoe Glise, Kaitlyn Moore & Halle Sivertson

Group: Greta Jenkins, Jessica Lueck, Ashley Ray Garcia, Cuahtli Ramirez Castro
Duet: Gina Laurenzi & Elisabeth Roskopf
Soloist: Jessica Lueck

Exoskeletons & jointed appendages
Soloist: Ashley Ray Garcia

Outer space / night dive
Quartet: Katelyn Altmann, Zoe Glise, Greta Jenkins & Jessica Lueck
Soloist 1: Cuahtli Ramirez Castro
Duet: Jessica Lueck & Ashley Ray Garcia
Soloist 2: Gabi Sustache
Soloist 3: Greta Jenkins
Trio: Katelyn Altmann, Kaitlyn Moore, Ivy Robertson
Soloist 3: Halle Sivertson
Quintet: Zoe Glise, Greta Jenkins, Jessica Lueck, Cuahtli Ramirez Castro, Jamie Riddle
Soloist 5: Elisabeth Roskopf

> at the limit >>>>>>
Soloist 1: Gabi Sustache
Group: Zoe Glise, Gina Laurenzi, Kaitlyn Moore, Cuahtli Ramirez Castro, Ivy Robertson, Halle Sivertson, Gabi Sustache
Duet: Kaitlyn Moore & Ivy Robertson
Soloist 2: Katelyn Altmann

14 million tons
Soloist: Gina Laurenzi
Duet: Zoe Glise & Gabi Sustache

...
Trio: Cuahtli Ramirez Castro, Ivy Robertson, Gabi Sustache
Duet: Zoe Glise & Jessica Lueck
Soloist: Ivy Robertson

DANCEWORKS
PERFORMANCE
MKE



KATELYN ALTMANN



GRETA JENKINS



JESSICA LUECK



KAITLYN MOORE



CUAUHTLI RAMIREZ
CASTRO



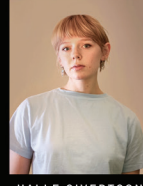
ASHLEY RAY GARCIA



IVY ROBERTSON



ELISABETH ROSKOPF



HALLE SIVERTSON



GABI SUSTACHE

GUEST
ARTISTS



ZOE GLISE



JAMIE RIDDLE



ALLEN RUSSELL



COLIN GAWRONSKI

CHOREOGRAPHY
& CREATIVE
DIRECTOR



GINA LAURENZI

ARTISTIC
DIRECTOR



CHRISTAL WAGNER



Open your camera or QR
code app to scan the code
and view Artist Bios:



Please share your BIOME
reflections by taking the
post-performance survey.
Thank you!

SPECIAL THANKS

Thank you to UWM Dance and Phil Warren for borrowed items and support of this project. Thank you to Simone Ferro, Dan Schuchart, Maria Gillespie, Mair Culbreth, Deb Loewen, Daniel Burkholder, Ferne Yangyeitie Caulker-Bronson and Dawn Springer for your mentorship, support and guidance over the past two years and beyond. Thank you to the hardworking Danceworkers for all the work done behind the scenes to make this event possible. To Christal, Allen Russell, Colin Gawronski and the fabulous cast of *Biome*, an epic thank you for your trust in the process, all the magic you bring, and your willingness to create the world of *Biome*.

FEELING INSPIRED?

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Our mission to 'Drive local action for global ocean conservation' is carried out through citizen science, public policy, and community grants. For over 30 years, PADI and AWARE have built a truly unique voice for the protection of the underwater world. Together, we have set ambitious ocean conservation targets through a shared Blueprint for Ocean Action that provides the framework to tackle key threats to the ocean and create ocean change in our dive communities around the world.

Learn more about many great ways to become involved in ocean conservation efforts through PADI AWARE Foundation: <https://www.padi.com/aware>

PROTECT THE REEF



Reef Renewal Foundation International is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that is doing great work to protect coral reefs.

Scan the QR code for more info
or to donate.

www.reefrenewalcuracao.org

The mission of Reef Renewal Foundation Curaçao is to protect and restore coral reefs in Curaçao and around the world. We seek to train, engage, and inspire the local and international community through volunteering, educational events, and outreach. We are working to develop new and innovative ways to restore reefs with the support of research collaborators and then sharing these methods with restoration projects worldwide. We aim to demonstrate that through combined efforts, there is still hope for coral reefs.

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Open your camera or QR code app to scan the code and view Artist Bios:



Please share your BIOME reflections by taking the post-performance survey. Thank you!