

THEATRE.UCSD.EDU

UC San Diego
ARTS AND HUMANITIES
Theatre and Dance

winter WORKS

MANDEL WEISS FORUM

MARCH 15 @ 7:30
MARCH 16 @ 2 & 7:30

NEW DANCE WORKS
CHOREOGRAPHED BY
KARA MACK
ANA MARIA ALVAREZ &
GRACE SHINHAЕ JUN

LINEAGE
COMMUNITY
PURPOSE
HEALING
LIBERATION

Winter Works '24

Directed by Ana María Álvarez

Featuring Choreography by Ana María Álvarez, Dr. grace shinhae jun, and Kara Mack

THE CAST

| | | |
|----------------------|-----------------------|----------------------------|
| Ulises Aguirre* | Vy Doan | Leela Noguchi |
| Yali Alsberg | Ozlem Erdogan | Emmy Nourse |
| Natalia Balderas | Ricardo Espinoza | Fabricio Apuy Novella |
| Alejandro Barajas* | Brenda Estrada | Norma Ovalle* |
| Catalina Bilandzija* | Kaitlyn Fong | Nazia Quadir |
| Jay Brake | Kassidy Gillespie | Nikki Rejai |
| Lula Britos | Katie Gillespie | Valaria Ruiz |
| Majesty Byrd | Mia Jerphagnon | Hope Sato |
| Kelly Callejo | Sage Kowalkowski | Yael Sela |
| Cece Carton | Cinthia Durán Larrea | Yvente Situ |
| Ella Chan | Lauren Lee | Nate Smith |
| Vrisika Chauhan | Safiya Loomba | Mars Stern |
| Aanya Choksi | Hannah Lucas | Gage Stixtrude-Bertelloni* |
| Italy Clark | Kayli Matsuyoshi | Jyzelle Tena |
| Saryah Colbert | Litzy Martinez Medina | Allen Valencia |
| Lynnea Conlay | Itzel Melchor | Carly Villongco |
| Nicole Constan | Hongbin Miao | Mai Wong |
| Valeria Corona | Mira Mitre | Vivian Wu |
| Jillian Curry | Naomi Morrison | Elizabeth You* |
| Alexia Demiroska | Milo Nguyen | Charlotte Yu |

**Dance Captain*

CREATIVE TEAM

| | |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| Director/ Choreographer | Ana María Álvarez |
| Choreographer | Kara Mack |
| Choreographer | grace shinhae jun |
| Production Stage Manager | Alina Novotny |
| Deck Manager | Huai Huang |
| Assistant Stage Manager | Becca Moore |
| Scenic Designer | Frank Seed |
| Costume Designer (Azúcar!) | Ting Xiong |
| Costume Designer (Open Your Eyes) | Anabel Olguin |
| Costume Designer (Can We Kick It?) | grace shinhae jun, the performers, Jan Mah |
| Lighting Designer (Azúcar!) | Elba Emicente Sanchez |
| Lighting Designer (Can We Kick It?) | Vida Huang |
| Lighting Designer (Open Your Eyes) | Taylor Olson |
| Sound Designer | Padra Crisafulli |
| DJ (Can We Kick It?) | Reyrzy |
| Assistant Costume Designer | Kieran Padgett |
| Assistant Costume Designer | Faith Garcia |
| Assistant Costume Designer | Lorraine Lee |
| Assistant Lighting Designer | Stephaney Knapp |
| EDI Advocate | Vanessa Stalling |

A NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR

"I believe it is the freedom that we are longing for, which will never be given to us, which we have to create, the pulsing life force of the collective body we are birthing, the rhythm of a shared heart"

- from emergent strategy by adrienne maree brown

It has been an immense pleasure to share this evening with a group of incredible artists, students, collaborators, staff and faculty. Whether you've been inside of the creative process with us, or are here to witness these works for the first time- we are so glad you are here! Winter Works is a yearly concert produced by the Theatre & Dance Department, where 3 dance faculty members are selected to participate as choreographers. This year Kara Mack, Dr. grace shinhae jun, and I designed, led, and set each of our works with a cast of students (including several alumni/recent graduates and

grad students). Making dance with our students gives us the opportunity to more fully engage and share each of our creative practices. This show is a gift for us all!

How do we learn to accept the humanity of another, not unfairly expecting perfection from our leaders and tearing them down when they fall short? How do we learn to heal with our bodies as our guide? How can the wisdom embedded in our ancestral movement practices help us feel the power of our connection to one another? What are the ways we can access a deeper sense of connection to something bigger than ourselves? How can moving our bodies in community with the groove and with savor, move us closer to this connection? These are just a few of the questions that grace, Kara, our students, collaborators, and I are asking us all to engage with tonight (and beyond). The three works you will see tonight are rooted in choreography as community organizing and converge inside of physical worlds built from purpose, lineage, healing, liberation, and love.

Today we share with you this process of making; building sets, designing costumes, creating worlds of light and dark, and telling the stories of our bodies and our ancestors. We hope that you can feel each work as a powerful act of imagining futures, reckoning with our pasts, and grounding in the now! Every person on stage that you witness tonight and all of those people who are behind the scenes have been invited to show up as their fullest selves. So tonight we invite YOU into the process with us, join us in moving our bodies together at the end. The dancers will move into the house and you are welcome to get down with us! Let us collectively imagine a future where we are all more free!

with much love and gratitude,



SHOW ORDER

OPEN YOUR EYES BY KARA MACK

Allen Valencia, Brenda Estrada, Catalina Bilandzija, Cece Carton, Elizabeth You, Ella Chan, Fabricio Apuy Novella, Gage Stixtrude-Bertelloni*, Hope Sato, Jay Brake, Jillian Curry, Jyzelle Tena, Kaitlyn Fong, Cassidy Gillespie, Lauren Lee, Lynnea Conley, Maile Wong, Majesty Byrd, Mars Stern, Mia Jerphagnon, Nate Smith, Nazia Quadir, Nikki Rejai, Ozlem Erdogan, Ricardo Espinoza, Saryah Colbert, Vy Doan, Yali Alsberg, Yael Sela, Yvente Situ*

"Open Your Eyes" is a choreographer's personal journey into the internal and external battles of Martin Luther King, Jr. as a man. The man, the leader, the icon is often remembered in a very specific and one-dimensional light. In this work, Mack delves into the internal world of King, a place that we don't often have the opportunity to explore or even consider. Through this work, the performers and audience collectively gain a deeper understanding of the strength and fortitude it took for Martin Luther King, Jr. to make his final speech, before being assassinated the very next day. The work reflects the courage and resilience we all must have when we use our voice for change.

AZÚCAR! BY ANA MARÍA ÁLVAREZ

***Creative Generators and Performers:** Alejandro Barajas*, Carly Villongco, Cinthia Durán, Norma Oralle*, Sage Kowalkowski, Ulises Aguirre, Valeria Corona, Valeria Ruiz, Vivian Wu, Vrisika Chauhan*

***Creative Generators and Voices (recorded):** Ana María Alvarez, Jannet Galdamez, Ruby Morales, Jasmine Stanley, Maria Garcia, Alek Lopez, Edgar Aguirre, Jose Jose Acuesta, Ariela Conde, Kati Hernandez*

***Musical composition, writing and arrangement:** Anaïs Maviel and Rashaan Carter*

***Musicians:** Anaïs Maviel, Rashaan Carter and Robert "Bobby" Wilmore*

"¡azúcar!" is a courageous naming, confrontation of and intentional obliteration of anti-Blackness in latinidad. This framework is embodied through the practice and sharing of Afro-Latine ancestral movement and vibrational technologies. The performers, who come from various lineages and backgrounds, were asked to read and reflect ideas from "My Grandmother's Hands: Racialized Trauma and the Pathway to Mending our Hearts and Bodies" by Resmaa Menakem and 1619 (Chapter 1: Sugar) as embodied source material. Some of the questions that the performers continually embodied throughout the process, as they explored the complicated and brutal history of sugar, colonization, and enslavement, were: What would it look like to exist in a world that centered nourishment, care, and rooted in the body? Can we reckon with our past without losing ourselves in the fight? How do we find wholeness? What does it feel like to individually and collectively heal, what does it move like? Who are the ancestors we are bringing into this work? This work is rooted in and inspired by the sacred feminine and was a process of continuing to choose to show up, to family (as a verb), and to heal as a practice and a choice.

This performance is a 20-minute excerpt of an evening-length work that will be performed by CONTRA-TIEMPO together with this incredible winter works cast on April 11th at the Epstein Family Amphitheater (ArtPower).

CAN WE KICK IT? BY DR. GRACE SHINHAJ JUN

Ulises Aguirre, Natalia Balderas, Lula Britos, Majesty Byrd, Kelly Callejo, Cece Carton, Vrisika Chauhan, Anya Choksi, Italy Clark, Saryah Colbert, Nicole Constan, Alexia Demiroska, Katie Gillespie, Safiya Loomba, Hannah Lucas, Lizzy Martinez, Kayli Matsuyoshi, Itzel Melchor, Hongbin Miao, Mira Mitre, Naomi Morrison, Milo Nguyen, Leela Noguchi, Emmy Nourse, Gage Stixtrude-Bertelloni, Vivian Wu, Carly Villongco, Elizabeth You, Charlotte Yu

Choreography: grace shinhae jun in collaboration with the performers and with contributions from Uli Aguirre, Cece Carton, Vrisika Chauhan, Aanya Choksi, Italy Clark, Saryah Colbert, Katie Gillespie, Gage Stixtrude-Bertelloni, and Elizabeth You.

Original Music: Jesse Mills

Music: Sa-Roc, DJ Unk feat. Andre 3000, Geoffrey C, E-40, Too Short, Gregory Porter

Spoken Word: Ant Black

DJ: Reyrzy

“Can We Kick It?” is a love letter to Hip Hop culture and the Black and Brown communities that have created a space for liberation. This work is an invitation to witness and celebrate a youth culture that has persisted and continued to innovate in spite of the anti-Black racism that attempts to keep our bodies silenced and erased. Hip Hop is a way of living, a way of seeing, a way of embodying, a way of knowing oneself, and a practice of love. As a child of Hip Hop culture, I am grateful for the lessons learned, the people I have met, and the young people like these performers, who come through the spaces at UCSD to give it life and give me life. We cypher, we engage, we practice, and we honor the African-American movement lineages, as well as our own movement lineages. Riffing off A Tribe Called Quest’s “Can I Kick It”, this work uplifts the 50+ years of Hip Hop culture bringing people together. Deep gratitude to my collaborators Jesse Mills and Ant Black for continuing to provide the sound and words for our projects, and to Reyrzy for always being down to mix music.

THE CHOREOGRAPHERS

Ana María Alvarez, a 2020 Doris Duke Artist, and an inaugural Dance/USA Artist Fellow, is a prolific choreographer, skilled dancer, masterful teaching artist, and movement activist who has achieved multiple accolades for her dynamic works. Her thesis work explored the abstraction of Latine dance, specifically Salsa, as a way to express social resistance as related to the U.S. immigration battle. This work became the impetus for founding CONTRA-TIEMPO Activist Dance Theater in 2005 in Los Angeles. Her most recent work with the company, *jazúcar!* was commissioned by APAP Arts Forward and NC State Live in Raleigh, NC. She will continue to work with CONTRA-TIEMPO on further developing the work as part of Jacob's Pillow, Pillow Lab, in February 2024 and will work with local dancers as part of WinterWorks 2024. After this, *jazúcar!* will be shared as part of the 20th season of Art & Power at UCSD in Spring 2024. Alvarez and CONTRA-TIEMPO have continued to tour “joyUS justUS” (2017). This signature work is a radical celebration of humanity and the feminine, centering joy as a more loving and just future is imagined. Her work has been presented in theaters across the country and the world, including in Germany, Bulgaria, Cuba, Bolivia, Ecuador, Chile, and El Salvador. She was selected as the 2018 BiNational Artist in Residence, connecting communities in the Sonoran Desert, Phoenix (U.S.), Douglas (U.S.), Tucson (U.S.), and Agua Prieta (M.X.), through leading artistic

workshops, collaborative performances, and public talks, and concluding with a performance at the U.S.-Mexico border. Alvarez and CONTRA-TIEMPO were also invited to represent the best of American Contemporary Dance Abroad through The Obama Administration's U.S. Department of State cultural exchange program, produced by BAM, DanceMotionUSA. In the Fall of 2022, Alvarez was invited to join the UC San Diego Theatre and Dance Department as a tenured faculty member. In this exciting new chapter of her career, Alvarez, in collaboration with her colleagues and students, is imagining and designing a new future for embodied performance and practice at UCSD. Alvarez has been recognized with a number of awards and grants including NEFA's National Dance Project, the National Association of Latino Arts and Cultures, LA City Department of Cultural Affairs, Los Angeles County, and the California Arts Council among others. She is the recipient of the Mujeres Destacadas award from LA Opinion and a Los Angeles Women's Theatre Festival Rainbow Award for her work with CONTRA-TIEMPO called "Agua Furiosa." She received a Bachelor of Arts in Dance and Politics from Oberlin College and a Master of Fine Arts in Choreography from UCLA's Department of World Arts and Cultures. Alvarez lives in Los Angeles with her husband and two children.

Dr. grace shinhae jun is a mother, wife, artist, scholar, organizer, and mover who creates and educates on the traditional and unceded territory of the Kumeyaay Nation. A child of a South Korean immigrant, a North Korean refugee, and Hip Hop culture, she values a movement practice that is infused with historical and contextual education to enrich the corporeal experience in her classes. Her work as an educator and artist is influenced by choreographers Rennie Harris, Ronald K. Brown/Evidence, and Doug Elkins, and critical scholars Dr. Nadine George-Graves, Dr. Brenda Dixon Gottschild, Dr. Imani Kai Johnson, Dr. George Lipsitz, and her husband Dr. Jesse Mills. grace also directs bkSOUL, an award-winning performance company that merges together movement, poetry, and live music. As a collective, they create and conspire as educators, artists, storytellers, and organizers who directly challenge the systems of violence and oppression steeped in anti-Blackness and anti-Indigeneity. She has presented her work in *Trolley Dances*, *WOW Festival*, *Live Arts Festival*, *Philadelphia Fringe Festival*, *Dumbo Arts Festival*, *San Diego International Fringe Festival*, and at Link's Hall. grace has also choreographed for numerous staged plays, most notably for Will Power's "The Seven" at Occidental College. She is a founding core member of Asian Solidarity Collective, a grassroots organization committed to expanding Asian American social justice consciousness, condemning anti-Blackness, and building solidarity for collective liberation and co-conspires with the artists and healers of Street Dance Activism. grace received her MFA from Sarah Lawrence College and her PhD in Drama and Theatre through the joint doctoral program at UCSD/UCI. Her scholarship includes publications in the *Oxford Handbook of Hip Hop Dance Studies*, the *International Association for the Study of Popular Music Journal*, and she is the co-editor for Dance Studies Association's 2022 *Conversations Across the Field of Dance Studies* "Cyber-Rock: A Virtual Hip Hop Listening Cypher." She teaches at San Diego City College where she also serves on the Sankofa Social Justice & Education Conference committee and is an educator with transcenDANCE Youth Arts. grace has been teaching at UCSD for over twenty

years and is the recipient of the 2022/2023 Barbara and Paul Saltman Distinguished Teaching Award.

Kara Mack is a choreographer and creative director with an expertise in African Diasporic music and dance. Recent credits include COMING TO AMERICA 2 (Assistant Choreographer) as well as Freeform's GOOD TROUBLE. Other notable credits include assisting Industry-Leading Choreographer Fatima Robinson on Kendrick Lamar's iconic performance at the 58th Grammy Awards, Busta Rhymes' performance at the 2021 MTV VMA's, and the upcoming "The Color Purple" Movie. Other television credits include co-choreographing Chance the Rapper's performance on SATURDAY NIGHT LIVE as well as projects with the NBA, Disney, NBC, and Fox and being Margot Robbie's Movement Coach for the movie "Babylon". Kara is the founder of Africa in America®, which serves as a primary resource for professionals and participants of African Diasporic music, dance, arts & culture in America. Her passion and expertise have led her to teach all over the nation including The Debbie Allen Dance Academy. Kara was also an Artist-In-Resident at the renowned Theater of Hearts; a Los Angeles-based non-profit organization focusing on reaching at-risk youth through the arts. As a dancer Kara has performed on several award shows including the Grammys, NAACP Image Awards, The BET Awards, and the Billboard Music Awards.

DANCERS

Ulises Aguirre is a fourth-year theatre and dance double major. He loves dance forms like salsa, merengue, bachata, reggaeton, hip hop and more. The arts have allowed him complete self-expression and have helped him discover who he is as an individual and what he wants to contribute to the world: community, inclusion, and pure unbridled joy.

Yali Alsberg is a second-year from Seattle, Washington, where she trained in competitive studio dance in styles such as ballet, hip hop, and jazz. She has performed in past Fall Works and New Directions shows. Yali enjoys training on and off campus and is so grateful for the opportunities at UCSD!

Natalia Balderas (she/her) is a third-year dance major from Oakland, California. UC San Diego credits: 51 Barrio and New Directions. Big shout out to Dr. G-money for being so loving and providing a fun space for everyone to be themselves!

Alejandro Barajas is an Alum of the SDSU Fowler College of Business and USMC veteran. He is also an avid participant in the Street Style, Salsa, and Modern dance community of San Diego.

Catalina Bilandzija is currently a first-year communication major. She is originally from Altadena, CA, and attended Grand Arts High School where she was a member of the Dance Company, and danced at Pasadena Dance Theater as a Trainee. She has participated in The “Nutcracker”, Paquita, Spring Dance concerts, and more in many roles. She looks forward to exploring her dance career at UCSD and hopes to continue to enroll in dance classes and shows and hopefully join a local company.

Jay Brake is a sophomore majoring in psychology and dance. UC San Diego Credits: Tumbling Down The Spiral Staircase and Student Show Cases.

Lula Britos is a theatre major and dance minor from Buenos Aires, Argentina. UC San Diego credits: Little Amal - Reflecciones Compartidas, Thicker Than..., blu. Additional credits include: Feywild (Company 157), Animal Farm (CCSF). She would like to thank the Can We Kick It cast for supporting her during this process.

Majesty Byrd is a soon-to-be graduate at UCSD for theatre arts and dance and has done record-breaking things throughout her career in singing, acting, and dancing. She has been the first African American female to be featured on the front cover of Gold Coast magazine. She would like to thank her family and friends for their support of her work and is grateful to share her story!

Kelly Callejo is an artist based in San Diego, on unceded Kumeyaay Land. They are super thankful to move in community. Kelly is grateful to the dance and theater community in UC San Diego and beyond, to their mxntors, and family, partner, and friends, for their undying support in their academic, personal, and creative journey and pursuits. (they/them/theirs)

Celia Carton is a third-year dance and psychology major from Philadelphia, PA. UC San Diego credits: 51 Barrio, WinterWorks 2022, FallWorks 2022, and the virtual Fall Show in 2023. She is thrilled to be a part of this performance and wants to thank the choreographers and dancers for creating such an amazing show!

Ella Chan is a second-year business economics major and dance minor from LA. This will be Ella's second UCSD Dance Department performance and she is thrilled to perform with this amazing cast.

Vrisika Chauhan is a third-year double major in clinical psychology and dance. She began her dance training in her hometown Hayward, CA as an Odissi dancer and since then has embarked on a journey as a choreographer with her first original work in New Directions '23. She would like to thank both Dr. grace and Ana María for giving her the opportunity to be in their works and for their continuous guidance in helping her grow as an artist.

Aanya Choksi has been dancing for over 12 years, under a number of incredible teachers and Gurus. She has trained in a number of forms including Jazz, Ballet, Modern Dance, Contemporary, Hip Hop, and Odissi. Most recently, she had her Odissi Solo performance, called Anadi, under the guidance of Smt. Daksha Mashruwala.

Italy Clark is an Astrophysics major and began her dance journey at the age of four. In her 15 years as a dancer, she's competed and performed with Carlsbad Dance Center, Sole Talk, and Reverb Tap Company. Her passion for Dance was sculpted under the instruction of Stephen Boss, Debbie Allen, Jason Holly, Charles Renato, and Chloe & Maud Arnold.

Saryah Colbert is a powerhouse, Oakland native, trained in West African, Hip Hop, Haitian & Dunham, Jazz, Tap, and Ballet since a youth at the Dimensions Dance Theatre's Rights of Passage program. She is a Global health major, dance minor at UCSD & shares a passion for science and art. Saryah's passion for dance allows her to explore, express her creativity, and grow in the art and gifts that radiate her spirit. She loves sharing this gift with the world.

Lynnea Conlay is a first-year dance and clinical psychology double major from Huntington Beach, California. Winter Works will be Lynnea's first UC San Diego show. Outside credits: Creative Forces 2021-2023, Fusion 2021-2023, Newsies, Synergy 2021-2023, and the Surf City Arts Festival at Huntington Beach Unified High School District Academy for the Performing Arts; Aladdin, Alice in Wonderland, Beauty and the Beast, Hercules Saves the Rainbow, The Jungle Book, The Nutcracker 2011-2022, and The Sleeping Beauty at Ballet Etudes of Huntington Beach. (she/her) Instagram: lco_arts

Nicole Constan is a second-year majoring in sociology and minoring in dance. She grew up in Orange County, California and has a gymnastics background. This is her first dance production and she is excited and grateful for this opportunity.

Valeria Corona is a first-year dance major. UC San Diego credits: Azucar, winterWorks!
(she/her)

Jillian Curry is a third-year undergraduate majoring in environmental systems. UC San Diego credits: FallWorks 2022 and New Directions 2023. She would like to thank her lovely parents, friends, roommates and teachers for all their support.

Alexia Demiroska is a third-year student majoring in business psychology and dance. Her first and only previous show at UCSD was New Directions 23', which she was able to participate in thanks to the encouragement of her friend Patrick.

Vy Doan is a freshman studying biochemistry in Seventh college. She took interest in joining Winterworks' Open Your Eyes piece under Kara because she wanted to push herself into exploring different fields and opportunities.

Ricardo Espinoza is a dedicated and passionate undergraduate student pursuing a degree in human developmental sciences and a minor in dance. Currently in his second-year, he is deeply engaged in exploring the intersections on growth and changes in biology, behavior, and environment that occur over the human lifespan, what causes them, and their impacts. His academic journey has been characterized by a strong curiosity and a desire to delve into the complexities of biology, cognition, and socio-cultural, along with a genuine interest in dance movement.

Brenda Estrada is currently a business economics major. UC San Diego credits: Fall works, Winter Works, New Directions, Heathers: The Musical. Additionally, she has been in short films create by students on campus.

Kaitlyn Fong is a second-year human biology major with minors in dance and business from Redwood City, California. UC San Diego credits: New Directions last spring and WinterWorks.

Kassidy Gillespie is a first-year biochemistry major. She has been dancing for 11 years and is a member of Aequora Ballet Company, but this is her first production at UCSD. She wants to thank her family and friends for their support, including her sister Katie, who is also performing in this production.

Katie Gillespie has been dancing for 13 years, although this is her first production at UCSD. Katie is a double major in Warren College, with cognitive science with a specialization in machine learning and neural computation, and dance. She wants to thank her mom for always supporting her, and her sister Kassidy who did this with her.

Mia Jerphagnon is a third-year business economics and data science student. When not in class, you can usually find her on the water paddling for dragon boat or in the dance studio. Having just started dance classes last year, she's excited to go on a journey of self-exploration through dance. No matter what career or life choices she makes, she knows that dance is something that purely makes her happy, so she looks forward to continuing dancing. She hopes what she has learned shows in Open Your Eyes, and enjoy the show!

Sage Kowalkowski is a second-year dance and political science double major with a minor in theatre.

Cinthia Durán is an Ecuadorian activist, scholar, teacher, and latin social dancer. She earned her MA in anthropology of Dance at the Choreomundus Consortium in France, Hungary, Norway, and England, and she is currently pursuing a PhD in Critical Dance Studies at the University of California Riverside. Her current research focuses on Latin Social Dances as resource-sharing and resource-building latinx technologies, that carry the potential of advancing local social justice agendas.

Lauren Lee (she/her) is a senior undergraduate public health major and dance minor. Growing up in Singapore, Lauren discovered her love for movement through modern and contemporary forms. She has since supplemented her training through intensive programs with A.I.M by Kyle Abraham and at the American Dance Festival. UC San Diego credits include: fallWORKS ('22), New Directions ('23).

Safiya Loomba is a first-year neurobiology major. She danced competitively throughout high school and is well-versed in ballet, jazz, and contemporary dance. In her free time, she enjoys teaching young dance students in her hometown. This is her first hip-hop piece and excited to try something new!

Hannah Lucas is a first-year physics major and dance minor.

Kayli Matsuyoshi is bringing the NYC energy to SD as a Physical Oceanography PhD student studying water waves, feeling sound waves, and making body waves. She is grateful to be surrounded by individuals sharing their love for others and dance.

Litzy Martinez Medina is a fifth-year sociology with a concentration in law and society major. It is their first year being part of the Theatre and Dance department at UC San Diego but has been dancing since 2015.

Itzel Melchor is originally from Escondido, California. She is excited to participate in her first production here at UC San Diego. She has performed in quite a few shows back in high school. She would like to thank her friends and family who have come to support her!

Hongbin Miao is a fourth-year undergraduate majoring in mathematics-computer science. Dance became one of his hobbies after taking Beginning Hip-Hop with Dr. grace Jun on Winter 2023.

Mira Mitre is a second-year philosophy major and dance minor from Rockville, Maryland. UC San Diego credits: New Directions '22, '23, In Flux (Aequora Ballet), Into the Woods (Muir Musical), and fallWORKS '22.

Naomi Morrison is a third-year literature/writing major. This WinterWorks is her first appearance in a UC San Diego performance. (she/her)

Milo Nguyen is a fourth-year computer science major with thirteen years of dancing experience. Before immigrating to the U.S., she was a competitive dancer and had won many hip-hop and dance cover contests in Vietnam, her home country.

Leela Noguchi is a first-year cognitive behavioral neuroscience major.

UC San Diego credits: FKO XXIV, 2023 Fall Quarter Dance Department Showing.

Other credits: Life is Beautiful by Eriko Tsuruoka, The Lightning at Dance Stadium, Rainbow from Rain at Dance Stadium, Conflict at Dance Stadium. (she/her)

Emmy Nourse is a local from Carlsbad, CA, and an ABT Gillespie School Graduate, which is located in Costa Mesa, CA. She has performed in numerous shows such as various Nutcrackers, Alice in Wonderland, Cinderella, etc, as well as summer intensive performances at ABT NYC, Joffrey NYC, The Joffrey Ballet Chicago, Bolshoi Ballet Academy NYC, and Gelsey Kirkland Academy. She is excited to be a first-year dance major at UCSD and a part of Winter Works.

Fabricio Apuy Novella is a fifth-year undergraduate theatre major who transferred from Antelope Valley College. Fabricio comes from Palmdale, California, and sends out his gratitude to all the mentors and artists that he has learned from. He thanks his family for their support during this new journey in his life. UCSD credits include: Napoli (Ciappa), Late - a Cowboy Song (Crick), Hope (Playwright, LAB Series), Dracula - A House of Lies (Playwright, Company 157), A Flea in Her Rear (ASD), The Promise (ASM), Limp Wrist on the Lever (AD). Fabricio is grateful to have had the opportunity to work on this production and wants to thank the amazing cast and crew!

Norma Ovalle* is a UCSD Alum with a B.A. in psychology. Norma has devoted her time to the dance styles of Salsa, Afro-Cuban, Cumbia, Merengue, Banda, and Whacking. She is currently researching dance as a source of healing, joy making, community building, and connection.

Nazia Quadir is a first-year linguistics major from Northern California. Her dance experience includes training in classical ballet, modern and jazz, competitive dance, and hip hop. Nazia's passion to perform inspired her to join WinterWorks, and she's grateful to her newfound friends in San Diego for their love and support.

Nikki Rejai is a fourth-year mathematics-computer science major. UC San Diego credits: Performance Director of the UCSD Tritones a cappella group.

Vale Ruiz is a 19-year-old mover/artist from Los Angeles, California. She would like to thank her ancestors, family, and community for supporting her through this process.

Hope Sato is a first-year undergraduate student majoring in cognitive science and minoring in dance. She comes from Culver City, California, where she used to dance and choreograph for her high school's dance department, One Body Dance Company. She is thrilled that you have the opportunity to see the result of her hard work in this production, and she hopes that you enjoy the show!

Yael Sela is a second-year visual arts student from LA with a passion for dance. She would like to thank her fellow dancers and choreographer who made this experience so memorable! Yael is so proud of the work this class has done and is excited to share it on stage.

Nate B Smith is a third-year theatre and dance double major. UC San Diego credits: winterWorks!, The Promise. Other credits: "N" at Point Loma Playhouse, Amélie (Nino Quincompoix), Spring Awakening at El Camino College (He/Him) Socials: @natebsmith03

Gage Stixrude-Bertelloni is a fourth-year dance major and Spanish literature minor. UC San Diego credits: 51 Barrio and New Directions '23. He would like to thank Sleepless Collective for the constant love and support throughout his dance journey in college.

Jyzelle Tena is a first-year bioengineering: biotechnology major. She helped to put together her flag work and tosses during this piece. UC San Diego credits: TDMV 130, Open Your Eyes at Forum Theater.

Allen Valencia is a first-year dance major originally from Riverside CA. Although new to dance, it is something he is truly passionate about. He'd like to thank Ana Maria and Kara Mack for the amazing opportunity to be a part of this piece; it has been an unforgettable experience, thank you.

Carly Villongco is a second-year linguistics major from the Bay Area and she is super excited to be a part of WinterWorks this year! She wants to thank her amazing friends and family for their support, Ana María and Dr. grace for giving her this opportunity, and the incredible cast and crew that made this show come to life. :)

Maile Wong is a second-year EBE biology major. UC San Diego Credits: FallWorks '22, New Directions '23, Muir Musical's Into the Woods.

Vivian Wu is a competitive ballroom dancer, she then further her studies of hip-hop, contemporary, jazz, and ballet dance. She would like to thank Ana Maria and Dr. grace for giving her the opportunity

to perform in this Winter Works. In addition, she is grateful towards both of them for their support in helping her to improve as a better dancer.

Elizabeth You* is a fourth-year dance major. UC San Diego credits: WinterWorks (Can We Kick It?, Open Your Eyes)

Charlotte Yu is a second-year theatre major and education studies minor. This is her debut in UCSD dance department performance! UC San Diego credits (theatre): Comedy of Errors (Puppetry Designer), A Flea in Her Rear (Guanli), Best Years, Family Dinner. Yay. Other Credits: Salty Water (Blindspot Collective), She Kills Monsters (Taipei American School), Almost, Maine (Taipei American School), Little Shop of Horrors (Taipei American School) @charlottedyu99 (She/her).

CREATIVE TEAM

Frank Seed (Scenic Designer) is a fourth-year theatre major. UC San Diego credits: Grippy Sock Vacation, Boxed, Just The Two Of Us, X(Assist.), The Promise(Assist.), Machinal(Assist.). Other Credits: I__ You(Company 157), Ember's Adrift(Company 157), Small Mouth Sounds(Company 157), Xanadu(Coronado Playhouse), Feywild(Company 157), Twenty-Fifth Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee(Muir Musical). (He/Him/His)@frank_is_set

Ting Xiong (Costume Designer– Azúcar!) is a second-year MFA student from Wuhan, China. UC San Diego credits: I Found a Zipper (Costume Designer/WNPF'23), Production X (Costume Designer/W24), Bunny Bunny (ACD), and Machinal (ACD).

Anabel Olguin (Costume Designer– Open Your Eyes) is a second-year MFA costume design student from Phoenix, AZ. UC San Diego credits: The Promise, नेहा & Neel (WNPF '23), blu (Assistant Costume Designer), and Dance Nation (ACD).

Elba Emicenter Sanchez (Lighting Designer– Azúcar!) is an artist and lighting designer from Mexico currently based in San Diego, CA. She has focused her career on dance, theater, music, opera, and live performance worldwide, principally as a lighting designer and technical director. Since 2016, Elba has been integral to Ballet Incluyente, advocating for inclusivity in the arts. She is currently the lighting director of Contra-Tiempo, an activist theater dance company founded and directed by Ana Maria Alvarez, and she is pursuing an MFA in lighting design at UC San Diego. UC San Diego credits: X, Blu, The Four Note Opera, Promithes- Promithes (WNPF), Nonna Kills The President (WNPF), New Directions 22', Somewhere Out There, The Before. Other credits: Stoneheart (Diversionary Theatre), El

Huracán (Cygnet Theatre), Paradise TBD (Project Blank), Gravebirth (LAMP), Is it Thursday yet? (ALD, La Jolla Playhouse), The Fall of the House of Usher (PA). Portfolio: emicentelighting.com

Vida Huang (Lighting Designer– Can We Kick It?) is a second-year MFA lighting design student at UC San Diego. She was originally from Taiwan, and she earned her BA from California State University of Long Beach in technical theatre. After graduating, she got hired by the National Theatre and Concert Hall in Taipei, Taiwan. She worked as an assistant stage manager and lighting technician for two and a half years. As a result, she gained much experience in all performance genres. She also learned a lot about managing a venue and maintaining different lighting equipment. She hopes one day, she can gather all her interest into her design. UC San Diego credits: Winterwork24 (LD), X (ALD), The Promise (LD), 900 Years (LD/WNPF23), Blu (ALD), Dance Nation (ALD), Late: A Cowboy Play (LD) Other credits: The Glass Menagerie (LD, Diversionary Theatre), Trade/ Mary Motorhead (ALD, REDCAT), 2022 Mini Organ Concert: The Golden Age of the Organ (LD, National Theatre and Concert Hall)

Taylor Olson (Lighting Designer– Open Your Eyes) is a second-year MFA student from San Diego, California. She received her B.A. in Theatre Arts for Design and Production from California State University, Fullerton. She is the Technical Director and Resident Lighting Designer for Disco Riot, an organization all about building a movement through movement to make art culture in San Diego more relevant, impactful, and collaborative. Taylor has worked with Fresh Congress, Malashock Dance, FACT/ SF, La Jolla Playhouse, California Ballet, and collaborating with choreographers and artists throughout Southern California. UCSD Credits: Orlando (LD), I Found A Zipper (LD), Bunny Bunny (ALD), Machinal (ALD) Select credits: For A (LD, FACT/SF), Cenotas (LD, DISCO RIOT), Bhangin' It (ALD, La Jolla Playhouse)

Padra Crisafulli (Sound Designer) is a second-year MFA student. UC San Diego credits: X (SD), Orlando (SD/C), I Found a Zipper (SD/C), Boxed (SD/C), Mortal Digits (co-creator), blu (SD), As You Like It (LJP, ASD), FallWorks '22 (AS+VD). Other selected design credits: Iphigenia in Splott (Hollywood Fringe), Purgatorio (Edinburgh Fringe), One Day Down (Kelly Connelly), The Reporter's Mixtape (Park Avenue Armory), Frozen Fluid (National Women's Theatre Festival, Director + SD). They received their BFA in directing from Carnegie Mellon University in 2020. (They/them). padracrisa.com

Reyzy (pronounced 'rey-reezy') (DJ: Can We Kick It? is a music producer and DJ from San Diego, CA, and UCSD alum. A lover of all kinds of music, Reyzy strives to create and express music he loves in hopes that others will resonate and connect with it as well. He has been producing music for over 10 years, and is one of the most well-known producers in the world for the freestyle dance community, with over 2 million plays on SoundCloud and 10 million plays on YouTube, and has worked with the likes Fatman Scoop, Les Twins, and Red Bull Dance. He specializes in hip-hop music, but no genre is

off limits for Reyrzy when it comes to creating great music. This is Reyrzy's second collaboration with Dr. grace for winterWORKS.

Faith Garcia (Assistant Costume Designer) is a fourth-year theatre major and dance minor. She is from Los Angeles, California, and has received her Associate's Degree at Long Beach City College. UC San Diego credits: नेहा & Neel (Assistant Costume Designer), Production "X" (Assistant Costume Designer), Blu (Wardrobe crew). (she/her/hers)

Lorraine Lee (Assistant Costume Designer) is a theatre major from Arcadia, California. UC San Diego credits: Bunny Bunny. Her passion and interests mostly involve specializing in SFX makeup on stage.

Stephaney Knapp (Assistant Lighting Designer) is a fourth-year theatre and psychology major. UC San Diego Credits: Studio Shakes - Comedy of Errors (LD), WNPF 23 One Acts - Grippy Sock Vacation, Just the Two of Us (LD), The Promise (ALD), The Winter's Tale (ALD), Baal (ALD), Hell's Canyon (ALD), The Elaborate Entrance of Chad Deity (ALD).

Jesse Mills, Ph.D. (Original Music: Can We Kick It?) has been writing and playing music since age 11. His musical influences range from Jimi Hendrix to Nina Simone, Jeff Buckley to Maxwell, B. B. King to Megadeth, Guns N Roses to Public Enemy. Jesse has sung with the New England Conservatory Gospel Choir, the Coro Alegro Italian folk choir (Santa Rosa, CA), and has performed solo and in ensemble settings in schools and coffee shops in Northern and Southern California. As a guitarist and singer, he has been collaborating with bkSOUL, cellist Loren Dempster, and percussionist Don Nichols. Currently Associate Professor in the Ethnic Studies Department at the University of San Diego, Jesse proudly serves the community as an artist, activist, and scholar. With degrees in African American Studies and Ethnic Studies his research and teaching challenges racism, imperialism, and injustice to contribute to collective social transformation.

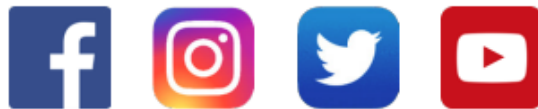
Anthony Blacksher (Ant Black) (Spoken Word: Can We Kick It?) is a distinguished poet, professor, and avid vinyl collector, holding a Ph.D. in cultural studies with a focus on Africana Studies from Claremont Graduate University. His academic expertise spans sociological practices, ethnic studies, Hip Hop studies, and digital humanities. At San Bernardino Valley College, Blacksher has significantly impacted leadership, notably in the Sociology department and the establishment of the Ethnic Studies program. He has been actively involved in diversity, equity, and inclusion initiatives and contributes to academic research with publications in respected journals. Furthermore, he plays a crucial role in enhancing teaching practices among community college instructors through the Puente Program. As a celebrated poet, Blacksher has led a poetry slam team to national stages, is a key member of the performance collective bkSOUL, and supports poetry and the arts as a publisher and board member, all while cherishing music that embodies the spirit of social justice and liberation.

Alina Novotny (Production Stage Manager) is a second-year MFA student originally from San Jose, CA. She earned her BA from Chapman University in Technical Theatre as well as two minors in Dance and Integrated Education Studies. After graduating in 2016, she started her career freelancing as a Stage Manager and ASM in both the Bay Area and Southern California while also teaching stage management and theatre tech to high schoolers. Alina has had the unique opportunity to work in a wide range of performance mediums including immersive theatre, musical theatre, aerial arts, dance competitions, and opera. UCSD Credits: Orlando (ASM), Thicker Than...(PSM), Bunny Bunny (ASM), Dance Nation (ASM). Other selected credits include the world premiere of Jake Heggie's If I Were You (Merola Opera Program), The Goddess Project (Peter Sellers, UCLA), Meet Us Quickly With Your Mercy (Flyaway Productions), and The Speakeasy SF (Boxcar Theatre Co.)

Huai Huang (Deck Manager) is a second-year MFA candidate. She is a stage manager and technical translator, has experience working in Japanese, Chinese, and English-speaking countries—} UCSD credits: Machinal, A Flea in her Rear, 900 Years, Orlando. Outside credits include: I Am From Austria (Takarazuka Revue), Ocean's Eleven (Takarazuka Revue), On The Twentieth Century (Takarazuka Revue), Phantom (Takarazuka Revue), Elisabeth (Takarazuka Revue), Cabaret (the Old Globe Theatre), Aphrodite (The cultural Taiwan foundation).

Becca Moore (Assistant Stage Manager) is from the San Diego area. UC San Diego credits: Orlando as a PA. Other credits: All in The Timing as the PSM at Grossmont Community College.

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