FROM THE DIRECTOR . . .

Welcome to the beginning of Dance Theatre’s 2009-10 season. We have an energetic company eagerly anticipating our December 5 and 6 concerts in Hall Auditorium. With 8 new apprentice members this semester (2 of them junior apprentices), plus the returning “veteran” dancers, Geoff Fishburn, our lighting designer, a student apprentice lighting technician, a student costume designer, a student vocalist accompanying one of the dances live, 4 student choreographers, 3 guest choreographers, and me all setting dances—we have a terrific concert in the works!

I recently returned from the DT annual NYC trip and while there was able to personally spend time with alumni Karen Eifert, Dan Weltner, Joanna Kotze, Tammy Rowe, Nick Sizemore, Denise Baker and Jenna Green. It is so wonderful to reconnect with dancers who still feel that their DT experiences were some of their best times at Miami!

While in the city we all saw Burn the Floor and Balletto Teatro Di Torino together as well as taking a class at Dance New Amsterdam, formerly Dance Space, and eating in a Cuban Restaurant. What fun…and the dance performances, often emotive, snips like we see on SYTYCD (which I also like, but…).

The December 5 and 6 concerts are free for all Miami University students. We began admitting Miami students in free last semester and found it successful on a number of fronts…so it will continue. Hopefully it will also encourage students, who might not otherwise choose to see the concert, to give the concert a try.

Dance Theatre continues to be a viable force for dance at Miami. Join with me in supporting the company by your presence at our fabulous concert. We’d love for you to feel the excitement with us!

Lana Kay Rosenberg
November 13, 2009

Announcing Dance Theatre’s 2009 Winter Concert

Get your tickets today!
Saturday December 5th, 8:00 pm
Sunday December 6th, 2:00 pm
Hall Auditorium

Miami Students with ID are free! Tickets are $6 in advance at the MU box office in the Shriver Center and $8 at the door for students/seniors. Tickets are $10 in advance and $12 at the door for general admission. For ticket information, contact the Shriver Box Office at 513-529-3200.

Check us out online!
www.muohio.edu/dancetheatre
CAROLINE FARRIS, Sophomore Fine Arts Major . . .

I heard that New York City was the city that never sleeps, but I didn’t believe this saying until I walked through Times Square at 1am and someone tried to sell me an umbrella. Some people think that uptown Oxford, Ohio is crazy on the weekend nights, but the chaos of Times Square really overshadowed Oxford’s minimal chaos. Just navigating my way around New York City taught me more than sitting in class ever could.
I have learned so much in college, but honestly most of the learning has taken place out of the classroom. That is the main reason I think this trip to New York City was such a success.

At first I was excited about the trip, but I felt like there would not be enough time to both attend dance classes and experience the city and all of its sites. I could not have been more wrong. City life was so busy and different from what I was used to that the dance classes acted as an escape and re-energized me. I got back onto the city streets ready to shove my way through the crowd. Shoving and being shoved was new and difficult for me. The aggressiveness of New York City should not be underestimated. I arrived on the first day with "excuse me" on my lips every time I brushed against a stranger. Being from Tennessee, I was raised to stay in my own space and not invade the space of strangers, and when a collision occurs, apologies come second nature. This upbringing was initially hard to break, but I found myself wanting to fit in, and the first shove felt liberating!

LAUREN YAEGER, Freshman Athletic Training Major . . .

New York was an experience I know I will never forget. First off, I don't think I have ever been in a city that has such extremes of the social class spectrum. Traveling to areas such as 5th Avenue where you walk into a store like Chanel and see a scarf for almost $1,000, and then minutes away finding yourself in China Town, where you're scared to touch anything for fear of catching some nasty bacteria from the rusty construction bars, is mind-boggling. While it's one of the dirtiest cities I've ever been to, it's also one of the most gorgeous. Not in a sense where the nature is beautiful and there are flowers in bloom everywhere, but the entire atmosphere of New York and how you can be in Times Square admiring the amazing architecture as well as the shining lights of Broadway, and then suddenly find yourself in Central Park admiring the gorgeous natural sights. What a diverse place to be, it was truly amazing.

BRIDGETTE RAWLINS, Sophomore Clinical Laboratory Major . . .

I had never heard of Dance New Amsterdam, but Lana Kay arranged for all of us to take a modern class there. This class was probably one of my favorites that I took while I was in New York. I felt like the teacher really tried to make the class less about the steps and more about the way the steps were being executed. This definitely was a class where technique was emphasized and even though the movement was basic, what made it hard was the amount of control needed to do each movement. I also loved how she got to know all our names throughout the class and took the time to give out individual corrections to each one of us, even though we were new to her class. This is a rare trait to find in a dance teacher in New York.

EUNJIN LEE (NEWLY TRANSPLANTED FROM NORTH KOREA), Sophomore Theatre Major . . .

Being on Broadway had been my dream for years and I achieved it successfully with my loving Dance Theatre people. Driving to New York by van took us 15 hours and was pretty tiring. However, when I first saw the NEW YORK CITY sign I found myself smiling with a lot of excitement. Since we couldn’t check in the hotel before three o’clock, we wandered around 42nd street. A lot of skyscrapers and fancy shops caught my eyes. I could definitely feel New York. First night, we all went to the show Burn The Floor, which consists of many kinds of ballroom dance. It was an energetic, powerful, and awesome performance. The dancers motivated me to dance and reminded me of how much I love dancing.

ARIELLE JOHNSON, Junior Health Promotion Major . . .

An amazing part of New York was seeing a show called Burn the Floor. They performed all different types of ballroom dancing ranging from the waltz, to the tango, to the quick step. The dancing was breathtaking. From the beginning to the end of the show I was extremely engaged in watching every single dancer on stage.
This performance opened me up to a whole new way of looking at ballroom dancing. The dances that were performed were so intricate and detailed with movement, filling the entire stage. Watching this exposed me to a whole new style and allowed me to experience even more aspects of what dance is all about.

HAUNA VIOX, Junior Art Education Major . . .

This was my second time going to New York City with DT and I feel that I gained so much more from this trip than the first time. I gained a better understanding of different styles of dance and developed a close bond with each of the girls, a bond I would never have discovered without spending time with all of them for the few days we were there. We all stuck together as one group for the entire trip, which I thought was really great. Taking classes together was a lot of fun because our styles are all so different from each other. It was a challenge for each of us to take what we were familiar with and learn new styles in the various classes we took. It’s such an amazing experience as a dancer to get out into the dance world and take as many classes as you can from other choreographers you may not be familiar with. As a dancer, it helps broaden the horizon on what kind of abilities we are capable of doing.

A L U M N I G U E S T C H O R E O G R A P H E R S
By: Brittany Cummings

LAURA DATTILO . . .

Laura is a Miami 2008 graduate and a former member of Dance Theatre. Dancing since she was four years old, she started teaching dance in high school, began choreographing once she became involved with Dance Theatre. Laura came to Miami and attended the Winter concert her first year. The passion and the emotion on the dancers faces made her realize she couldn’t live without dancing. There was a particular piece that strongly affected her. Laura said, “It was the piece Shannon Vroom choreographed, Requiem for a Dream; it really got to me.”

Laura came back to Miami this fall to begin her second piece for Dance Theatre since graduating, but it’s her fifth piece in total. Her dance is called “Magdalene’s Fallen.” For inspiration to create her movement Laura said, “All I really do is play music on my iPod and dance. It’s the music and connecting with the characters I’m trying to represent that inspires me to move.” Her hope for the dancers in her piece is that they love to perform it. She said, “There’s nothing like dancing in a piece that you’re physically and emotionally attached to and hopefully my girls feel that!”

Laura attributes Lana Kay as someone who has helped mold her into the dancer and teacher she is today. Lana Kay has had a huge impact on her. She said, “She has greatly affected me in such a positive way, and I owe her so much.” Laura remembers when she first auditioned for Dance Theatre and now she’s been invited back to be a guest choreographer. Laura hopes to continue dancing and being a choreographer as long as she possibly can. “Just to be able to create a piece that emotionally affects even one of my dancers or one of the audience members is a huge accomplishment.”

SHANNON VROOM . . .

Shannon is a 2006 Miami graduate and a former member of Dance Theatre as well. She has been seriously involved with dance since middle school, and began teaching dance in high school. Shannon has had the opportunity to dance with amateur and professional dance companies in the
Parson’s piece and has taken one of her own pieces’ to ACDFA.
The veteran dancer came back this fall to choreograph her third piece for Dance Theatre as a graduate, her sixth piece in total. Zero was inspired by a caption from a book. “While reading the phrase, I immediately pictured a lonely dancer on stage.” She often observes the interaction between pedestrian couples. Shannon expressed, “It’s the most sincere source for partner work and always works the most naturally, and it looks the best on any dancer.” Shannon loves to see how her dancers interpret her movements while watching the finished product from the audience, but she finds it’s always difficult to not be on stage performing with them.

Shannon credits every dancer and choreographer she has ever worked with into making her the dancer and teacher she is today including Lana Kay. Shannon revealed, “I wouldn’t enjoy dance the way I do now if it hadn’t been for the four years I spent with my DT class- Danielle Shoreman, Lindi Bortnik, Margaret Donohue, Jessica Sirucek, Stephanie Rardin, and Rebecca Hoadley.”

NIKKI FEW . . .
Nikki, another Miami graduate, 2002, and a former member of Dance Theatre, has been involved with dance since she was five years old. She danced and taught in high school, and after college had the opportunity of dancing with Judith Mikita at a choreographer’s festival in Cincinnati.

Nikki is back this fall to choreograph a piece for Dance Theatre, the first time since graduating. In To Sleep, Perchance to Dream, Nikki wanted to give the dancers more of a challenge and incorporate props and costumes. Things that occur in everyday life inspire Nikki, but she adds bigger and unexpected movements to make what she creates more interesting. She described choreographing to be similar to painting on a canvas except the choreography can have a life of its own. When she watches her dances performed she said, “It’s weird because you start off with nothing and you tweak it along the way, and when you see the final product it’s great because you made something from nothing.”

Dancing comes second nature to Nikki, and she wants to continue choreographing as long as the opportunities come her way. In the future she hopes to just try and keep dance a part of her life. She also acknowledged Lana Kay as being a major inspiration to her. Nikki expressed, “When I came here I was a studio dancer, and I never did theater before. Lana Kay challenged me to dance a little bigger and brought me out of my shell.”

Guest Performer

MARGARET DONOHUE . . .
About three and a half years ago I graduated from Miami and took one more look at Phillips Hall, room 115. At that time, I knew it wouldn’t be my last look; however, it would be my last look as a Miami student. Now, three and a half years later, I have returned to Miami and Dance Theatre, not as a student but as a staff member of the University.
When I was asked to reflect on how it feels to have returned to Dance Theatre, I began looking for a quote that would sum up my feelings. Edwin Denby’s quote summed it up perfectly—“There is a bit of insanity in dancing that does everybody a great deal of good.” Ironically, it is the insanity in dancing that keeps me sane, and fortunately, Dance Theatre has welcomed me back with open arms and has allowed me to go a little “insane.”

Looking around campus, in the years I was gone, much has changed—new buildings have been built and new faces crowd the streets but the essence of Miami has stayed the same. Much like Miami, Dance Theatre’s appearance has changed. It may have new faces, new attire, new styles, but its essence too has stayed the same. The members of Dance Theatre will always be part of the group George Balanchine was referring to when he said, “I don’t want people who want to dance, I want people who have to dance.”

NEW MEMBERS, NEW EXPERIENCES
By: Molly Shanks

Dance Theatre is a unique experience. It offers the rigors of dance, yet does so in a laid back and comfortable way. For many of the dancers this year, coming to 115 Phillips is nothing new. Many of the dancers have been with the Company for several years and found themselves back among familiar faces at the start of classes. However, after holding auditions in early September, Dance Theatre and Lana Kay Rosenberg have accepted eight new members. Eight new faces. Eight new dancers. Eight newcomers to the world of 115 Phillips.

Samantha Ackard is a freshman who has been dancing for nearly ten years. “Dance Theatre is much more about making dance an art rather than about winning medals,” Ackard said. “It takes off so much pressure and just allows for me and all the other dancers to dance more freely and actually enjoy what we are doing.” This common bond in the desire to perfect a passion seems to tie these new dancers to older members.

Bridgette Rawlins is another one of the new members. She first learned of auditions while reading a table tent at one of Miami’s dining halls. Rawlins, a dancer since the age of four, was anxious to get involved in an activity that meant so much to her. After a technique class, audition, and callbacks, Rawlins learned she had made the cut.

Rawlins likes Dance Theatre for several reasons, the main being the variety involved. She described all of the experiences she has been able to have so far, ranging from guest choreographers to a karate instructor coming to teach a class.

As to whether or not she felt it was hard coming in to an already established group? Rawlins did not hesitate with her answer. “They were pretty open. And there are a whole lot of new people so we didn’t feel alone in the process.”

Now that she is a member of Dance Theatre, Rawlins is looking towards the future. She says she is excited for a piece she is currently working on, one choreographed by a Dance Theatre alumna. “I just really love this piece,” Rawlins said. “There’s just three of us and it’s really nice. It’s something different from what I’m used to. I like it.”

With a parents’ weekend showcase, flash mob performance Homecoming weekend, and an upcoming show in December, Rawlins, Ackard, and the other six new members are well on their way to becoming established Dance Theatre performers.
ALEXIS MARINA . . .

Looking back, I was apprehensive about auditioning for Dance Theatre. I thought to myself, “Will I be as close with these girls as my dance friends from back home?” and “Are these genres of dance out of my comfort zone? Can I pull this off?” But I auditioned anyway.

I remember the two days of auditions so vividly: Lana Kay studying how well we could curve our stomachs, Liz’s sassy jazz routine, and Kristin’s beautiful ballet combination. I was so nervous that I flubbed the modern phrase on the day of callbacks and needed validation from my future friend, Maria Montag, that my audition had gone well. Later that night, as soon as I popped my retainer in my mouth and went to bed, I heard a knock and giggling at the door. I was an official DT apprentice. Little did I know that it would be one of the best experiences of my college career.

I am so grateful that I had the opportunity to continue dancing in college. Not only did I get to show others my passion for dance, but I have also made some of my best friends. These girls have always been there for me no matter what. I know walking into 115 Phillips Hall for an hour and a half will get rid of my stress, even if just for a little bit. I get to be with the people I love while doing what we all enjoy.

I would like to thank Lana Kay Rosenberg for being my second mother. As a very homesick freshman, she immediately took me under her wing and made sure I was comfortable with my new surroundings. She has such a great passion for this company, and Dance Theatre would not be what it is today without her.

The older company members would always say in their senior reflections that these four years fly by—and boy, were they right. After graduation, when I look back on my college experience at Miami University, Dance Theatre will be the first thing that comes to mind. I will remember EVERYTHING about this amazing company: early morning rehearsals, DT nights out, singing catchy songs, exec meetings, and carpooling. Each and every moment has meant something special to me, and these people (both dancers and choreographers) will always hold a special place in my heart.

CAROLANN CRITTENDEN . . .

Walking into the Career Fair freshman year I had no expectations for a dance outlet here at Miami other than Dance Team. But fortunately I stumbled upon the Dance Theatre booth. This is exactly what I needed. Throughout the past four years DT has been my outlet, for stress, creativity and just all around happiness. Dance Theatre has opened my eyes to entirely new styles of dance and choreography. I have been able to hone and develop my own style dancing with the lovely ladies of DT and I would love to thank all of them for their unrelenting kindness.

I would also like to thank Lana Kay for her unending patience and encouragement. I am very lucky to have been accepted into Dance Theatre and have made so many lifetime friends. I hope that the dancers of DT continue to push the boundaries and borders of dance and choreography. Some of my favorite pieces I have ever had the privilege of partaking in and watching were performed here at Miami.

Shout outs to Amanda who pushed my strengths and provided some of the best cardio workout routines of my life. Also to Shannon for letting me take part in Zero, which is by far my favorite piece I have experienced in DT, I just can’t get enough of it. And Laura Dattilo, for providing some of the most moving and emotional pieces I have ever had the pleasure of watching, I was deeply stirred every single time. Thank you Dance Theatre for four long wonderful years and letting me continue my wonderful journey through the dance world.

MARIA MONTAG . . .

Wow, is it really my turn to write one of these? It is amazing to think how quickly time has passed by. My years here with Dance Theatre have been awesome, and there are so many memories I have to reflect on. My earliest are of my first auditions into the company when I watched Aimi Toyama perform for callbacks and thought “There is no way I’m making it.” I had no music and was just going to improv some movement I had briefly come up with the night before.
Luckily, the girls came banging on my door later that night and I was in! Some of my fondest memories from my years in college revolve around the time spent with the girls in DT, even if it was just a night in class, performing in our oversized sweaters, or trying to keep each other awake during our drives to and from New York City.

One of my favorite times of the year is during concert week - when all of my class work is due, I’m preparing for portfolios and exams, but yet I still spend each night rehearsing in Hall.

I love joking with the girls about the million things that need to be done while stuck under the warm lights on stage as the lighting crew sets the mood; goofing off and telling stories. There is nothing like concert week for me. I get to watch everyone’s hard work finally pull together and unravel its beauty.

Being a part of this company has been a wonderful experience for me as both a dancer and as a person.

Finally, as I wrap up my last semester here, I think about the lovely dancers, individuals, and ladies around me, and the great times that we have shared. I will miss experiencing this spring semester with you all and the fantastic time I know you will have rehearsing, performing, going out, and reminiscing about past times at the banquet. You are an amazing bunch of women. I will miss you all and your crazy antics.

“Dancing is the loftiest, the most moving, the most beautiful of the arts, because it is not mere translation or abstraction from life; it is life itself.”

– Havelock Ellis

Enjoy your dance!

ALUMNI NEWS

Deborah Peronis Breuleux (1977, 1978 MS) performed with Shawn Womack in a reconstructed Backstroke, which touches on loss, grief and memories at a women's prison, which was an amazing experience for her. “I have never had an audience interact and react with such depth and understanding. Shawn is applying to the Fringe Festival in Cincinnati, so possibly it will be performed there.”

Diana Shelton Scherr (1987) met up with LKR at Miami’s Homecoming and even saw DT participate in a FlashMob at the tailgate.

Jennifer Gross Thompson (1993) is glad to be back in dance class regularly twice a week! Her sons are in first and second grades and her daughter is two and in preschool twice a week (hence the dance classes). She continues to study with Hannah Kahn in Denver and is thinking about getting back into performing again somewhere, somehow.

Liz Cook (1994) is the Executive Producer of Top Chef on Bravo and a new art show they are doing. “Dance Theatre is still my best memory from Miami.”

Suzanne Modica (1996) has had a busy year. “My husband was transferred, so I have been commuting between Chicago and New York, with most of my time still spent in NYC. Despite the commute, I am enjoying reconnecting with my hometown. I continue to work as an art advisor to private clients and in July oversaw the curation and opening of our firm's most recent exhibition in an art cave in Napa Valley. If anyone is interested in viewing photos, please check out stonescape.us.

Joanna Kotze (1998) is still living in Brooklyn, NY with her husband, Jon. She recently performed with Wally Cardona at the Brooklyn Academy of Music (BAM), and has shows coming up with Netta Yerushalmy and Kimberly Bartosik in NYC. She also presented her own work in NYC last May through Movement Research at the Judson Church.

Tammy Rowe (1998) is teaching 3 signature core classes at Exhale throughout Manhattan and loves living in the East Village. She recently learned how to surf in San Diego and is “planning to try my skills again in Maui in December. Loved seeing DT in October! Have a great concert!”
| Melissa Bloch Meier (1998) is currently choreographing *A Christmas Carol* in Milwaukee. It opens in early December and she begins rehearsals right after for *Midlife: The Crisis Musical*. Then, in January, it is *Bye-Bye Birdie* and in February, Oliver. “I'm very busy with choreography and loving every minute of it.” |
|--------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------|
| Megan Mills Ojala (1999) and her husband Kelly are expecting their first child at the end of January, and are sure, based on in-utero activity; he/she is either a dancer or soccer player… or both. “Still loving working with animals and pursuing vet tech certification.” |
| Catherine Cochran (2000) is enjoying her new job as Senior Brand Manager at the Dallas Symphony Orchestra. It has been exciting because Dallas just opened the largest arts district in the country, and because we’ve gotten our pictures taken with Ben Folds, LeAnn Rimes and John Legend. |
| Lindsay Chichester (2001) and Alaina Diamond (2002) met up this summer with LKR for a fund raising event for CDT (Contemporary Dance Theater) in Cincinnati. Lindsay is still working as an immigration attorney at Dinsmore & Shohl in Cincinnati and enjoys serving as a board member for CDT. Alaina is her new neighbor. |
| Amanda Wentworth (2002) has been all over this year teaching in India, Italy, New York, and Nashville. “My new exciting news is that I have been asked to create and teach my own “Yoga Teacher Training Program” in NYC. I will certify students to be teachers at the 200hour level in just a few months!” I am young to take this on and a bit overwhelmed, but am ready for this next stage in Yoga. They say, “to master an art… Teach!” I have been thinking a lot of my DT years lately, especially with the new “Where the Wild Things Are” movie promotions everywhere… ahhh… wonderful memories. |
| Megan Edwards Hoffman (2003) lives in Winnetka, Ill, a suburb of Chicago, with her husband, Geoff and son Henry who is 9 months old. She stays very busy chasing Henry around all day; he is one speedy crawler, and attending playgroups and music classes with her little man! She is also expecting her second baby in April. On her "days off" she attends prenatal yoga classes, pilates classes, etc. If anyone visits Chicago, look us up - We would love to see you! |
| Jessica Vilchis Washington (2004) lives in Los Angeles with her hubby of 1 year and loves every moment of it! Currently working for NBC-LA as their ‘Station Host' doing on-camera promotions, she stays busy with work and enjoying the new addition to their family, Puma, “(our adopted kitten who is absolutely the cutest) who is keeping her constantly on the move! She misses DT a ton and hopes to make it back to the Midwest soon for a Dance Theatre concert. |
| Nick Sizemore (2004) is the Visual Merchandising Manager for Lacoste in NYC. He has been spending considerable time “in the air” as he jet between NYC and Paris for meetings of late. |
| His window design for the Fifth Avenue store, across the avenue from Saks, is quite stunning. His window design for the Fifth Avenue store, across the avenue from Saks, is quite stunning. |
| Denise Baker (2005) is living and working in New York City. She just graduated from New York University's Silver School of Social work with her Masters and since graduation, has been working as a social worker with an agency that provides services to individuals with mental illnesses and/or disabilities and histories of abuse/trauma. Denise continues to enjoy the arts and dance and hopes to get her feet back into the "dance world" now that she's out of school and gainfully employed! |
| Becky Schneider (2005) is still in Chicago and recently got engaged! “I am thinking of coming back for Reunion this year, as it will be five years since graduation. I cannot believe it… I feel incredibly old. Life has been incredibly busy as I recently started a Master's Program at Northwestern while I continue to work full time.” |
| Molly Steensma (2005) is back in Grand Rapids finishing up her pre-requisite courses to begin nursing school the fall of 2010. “It’s really nice to be back in Michigan to enjoy the leaves and falling snow in a more suburban area. I'm volunteering at Spectrum Health-Blodgett Hospital in the PACU surgical center and recovery room with patients and their families and I love it. I miss Chicago dearly and will probably move back there upon graduation. I know I've made the right decision to
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<th>Name</th>
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<td>Jen Strickland</td>
<td>2005</td>
<td>is back in school pursuing another Master’s degree at Princeton Theological Seminary and is enjoying it so much. She had another short story published (this time in the Raven Chronicles) just before starting school and plans to continue writing. But for now every spare minute is spent soaking up guest lectures, concerts, art exhibits, and all the other good things Princeton has to offer. “Toffy and I are planning a May 30, 2010 wedding in Mammoth Lakes, CA, where we met 4 years ago.”</td>
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<td>Margaret Donohue</td>
<td>2006</td>
<td>is performing a solo in the Winter 2009 DT concert and a duet with Aimi Toyama (2010). She choreographed the FlashMob performed at Miami’s Homecoming tailgate.</td>
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<td>Rebecca Hoadley Stone</td>
<td>2006</td>
<td>got married in June. She is still teaching third grade in Cincinnati, loves married life, and is looking forward to a move to Winston-Salem, North Carolina in June 2010. Her husband was accepted to his medical residency in orthopedic surgery there and “this Pittsburgh girl is ready to head south!”</td>
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<td>Elise Gardner (2007)</td>
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<td>is still in Charleston at the Medical University of South Carolina. “This is our last semester in the classroom, and then we do six months of clinicals. I'll be in Atlanta at Children's Healthcare for my first one, and then at the Cleveland Clinic in Adult Inpatient Rehab for my second.” Her graduation date is July of 2010.</td>
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<td>Jess Carthen (2008)</td>
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<td>was living in Cleveland, substitute teaching, waiting tables, coaching high school volleyball, and dancing with Morrison dance company, while trying to land a full time art teaching job. So, she accepted a position in Shanghai as the nanny of her ex college roommate’s nephews. Her ex roommate and the boy’s parents are all designing interiors and clothing and she hopes to possibly get a job with the company. For now she will look for work dancing and perhaps pursue yoga certification. Right now, after being here 1 day, “everything is still unbelievable.”</td>
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<td>Maggie Germain (2009)</td>
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<td>finds medical school very exciting thus far. “I just finished gross anatomy which is a big milestone! I love Ohio State and couldn't be happier with my decision to go to school here. I am planning on starting to take a few dance classes because I miss it so much! It is hard to adjust to not having Dance Theatre but I have taken up cycling, which I really enjoy. I recently raised over $2,500 towards cancer research in a 100-mile bike ride to Athens, OH. Special thanks to Liz, Lisa and LKR for your support of my ride!” She plans on attending the December concert. And …&quot;I miss DT so much!”</td>
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<td>Liz O'Connor (2009)</td>
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<td>is working at a Pearle Vision in MN and hopes to attend optometry school next fall. She takes dance classes when she can.</td>
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<td>Hannah Copeland (2009)</td>
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<td>will head to Vancouver, Canada in mid January, and be there for the entire month of February. She will be working for JetSet Sports and will be a part of their hospitality team for the 2010 Olympic Winter Games in Vancouver. Until then, she is in Atlanta working as a waitress at an Italian restaurant down the street from her home and saving money for the future.</td>
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Miami University’s Dance Theatre will present its annual Winter Concert on Saturday, December 5 at 8:00 PM and Sunday, December 6 at 2 PM in Hall Auditorium on the Oxford campus. Dance Theatre’s eclectic style continues to include elements of many dance forms—from modern to modern ballet to jazz. The concert features music that ranges from traditional spirituals to minimalist composer Philip Glass to contemporary and jazz.

Lana Kay Rosenberg, Dance Theatre Director choreographed *Aguas da Amazonia* with music by Philip Glass. Two soloists, who also perform a duet, utilize each other’s strength as they work separately and together to push the envelope on the ways one might be physically supported. Just as the waters of the Amazon can be swift, strong, and treacherous at times, it also supports many forms of life and can be breathtakingly beautiful. Glass’s music is enhanced by the instrumentation of the Brazilian ensemble Uakti who construct their own exotic instruments using everyday materials, even water.

Using the solo voice of Sarah Iverson, sophomore Biochemistry major from New Hope, PA, 9 women explore their environment with 7 foot poles as part of the challenge. Then, in the second section with the poles gone, the dancers work closer as a group and support one another instead of using the poles for personal support and security. *We can…*, choreographed by Lana Kay Rosenberg, has costumes designed by sophomore Theater major Charlotte Stauffer from Roswell, GA.

Zero will be Shannon Vroom’s sixth piece for Dance Theatre and third since graduation from Miami in 2006. This piece is centered on an excerpt from Thomas Pynchon’s “Gravity’s Rainbow” about someone who simply sees nothing in the outside world and each time she looks “takes a little more of the Zero into herself.” The dancers constantly move through and around each other on stage while hardly noticing the other's presence. Thomas Newman’s music from “Road to Perdition” compliments the methodic and sometimes eerie movement.

*To sleep, perchance to dream* documents the travels of the sleeping mind, from bedtime until morning, and explores how the mind translates our thoughts and experiences into dreams that do not always make sense, utilizing a full bedroom set. Choreographer Nicole few Hunter graduated from Miami in 2002 and from the University of Dayton School of Law in 2006. Currently a practicing attorney in Cincinnati, she also teaches dance at Contemporary Dance Theater in Cincinnati.

Laura Dattilo, Miami 2008, choreographed *Magdalene’s Fallen*, using music from PJ Harvey and Cat Power. It tells the story of 3 victims of the Magdalene Laundries in Ireland and England (the last one closed in 1996), which began as refuges for prostitutes and abused women in the 18th C., where they could work for food and lodging. Slowly and viciously they turned into places where single mothers (normally through rape or incest), high spirited, or beautiful young women were sent. The 3 dancers give the victims a voice.

*Sweet Honey Suite* is a dance about passion and displays a range of emotions. It is choreographed by Caroline Farris, a sophomore Fine Arts major from Knoxville, TN, and sung by Sweet Honey in the Rock, a female African American group whose voices are strong in their beliefs. The dancers support each other whether they are celebrating or mourning.

Arielle Johnson, a junior Health Education and Health Studies double major from Chicago, IL is setting her first piece for Dance Theatre. *Set Me Free* explores the struggles people face in daily life that weigh on them and bring them down. Whether these issues are difficulties with friendships, relationships, addictions, or temptations, this piece reflects the on-going battle within each of them; the battle to rise above whatever is bringing them down and holding them back.

Disabilities, whether short or long term, can inhibit even the strongest of individuals. It is those that overcome the pain and struggle and continue to do what they love that are truly untouchable. *Fortitude*, choreographed by Abby Morris, junior Exercise Science major from Amherst, OH explores how, with the help of others, one might conquer their fear and insecurities stemming from a disability.

Aimi Toyama, senior Microbiology and Clinical Laboratory Science double major, with a minor in Molecular Biology from Union, KY, has choreographed *Lost and Found* using music from the soundtrack *Amelie*, as well as a song from the group, Iron and Wine. Four types of relationships between two people are portrayed; all where one is helping the other overcome an obstacle in her life.
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**Join Us After the Show!**
After the Saturday concert, DT will offer a Talkback session where audience members will have the chance to meet the choreographers and dancers, discuss the performance, ask questions, and offer feedback.

All studio photography by Jeff Sabo