

The Smith College Department of Dance presents



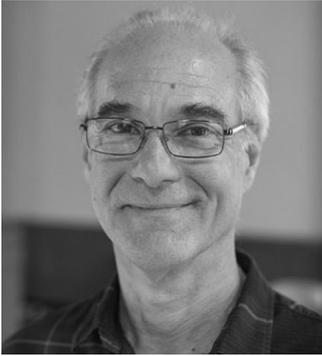
FALL FACULTY DANCE CONCERT

NOVEMBER
21, 22, 23 | 2019
8:00 PM

Theatre 14
Mendenhall Center for the Performing Arts
122 Green Street, Northampton, MA

 SMITH COLLEGE SmithArts

Dedication



**The Faculty and Students of the
Smith College Department of Dance
Joyfully Dedicate the Fall 2019
Faculty Concert to**

Mike Vargas

**Musician/Lecturer in Dance
Technique and Performance
Smith College**

A distinguished musician and lecturer, Mike retires from the college this year. During his time at Smith, Mike excelled as a composer, improviser, accompanist, innovator, teacher, philosopher, mentor and colleague. Many of us are fortunate to count him as a dear friend. His deeply considered and ever changing thoughts on music, sound and dance – their affinities and tensions – are a constant inspiration to students, faculty, and artists not only at Smith, but literally across the globe, as he has travelled, played and taught on several continents. Mike's retirement is anticipated with sorrow by all dancers at Smith. We will always have his recordings, but will deeply miss his daily presence and gentle wisdom. Thank you, Mr. Vargas!

Another World

*But after all
There are such things
And these are the things
Who'll turn your memories back into dreams again.
– Ricky Lee Jones*

Choreography

Rodger Blum

Music

Rickie Lee Jones (1981)

The Returns

Ssing Ssing (2017)

Minyo Medley

Nanbongga (Song of Beloveds)

Saseol Nanbongga (Narrative Song of Beloveds)

Lighting Design

Matthew E. Adelson

Costume Design

Emily Justice Dunn

Dancers

Claire Lane Talia Preis Molly Smith

Cayla Blake Samantha Grossman

Halley Lin-Jones Maya Mizrahi

Nicoletta Consales Camille Crossett

Blanca Martin Becca Soifer

*Alan Schneider constructed the set, with digital assistance from Talia Preis.
The video was compiled by Rodger Blum. All visual elements are adapted
from the work of American artist, Rex Ray, 1956 – 2015.*

Win in Doubt

Choreography

Shakia Johnson

Music

We Fall Down by Donnie McClurkin

Wolf by Losco

Ethereal by Rvdical The Kid

Akwaaba by Guilty Beatz

All the way up Jersey Club remix by DJ Merks

Lighting Design

Matthew E. Adelson

Costume Design

Emily Justice Dunn

Dancers

Daisy Maass

Reem Ibrahim

Jade Farrell

Sarah Maurer

Mayeline Pena

Elizabeth Brison

Allana Scudder

Thanks to Jake Meginsky for putting my music together and taking extra time to go to different campuses and record the students voices. To my dancers, thank you for taking this journey with me. I really appreciate you all and look forward to creating more work with you in the future.

brief intermission

here, before

Choreography

Jeanine Durning

Music

Charles Ives

Tian Rotteveel

Lighting Design

Matthew E. Adelson

Costume Design

Emily Justice Dunn

Dancers

Sarah Konner

Miguel Alejandro Castillo

Chrissy Martin

Alex Springer

Xan Burley

Erin Kouwe

Luca Bogataj

Understudy: Em Papineau

I'm grateful for the opportunity to collaborate with this ensemble who worked with such generosity, curiosity, and rigor toward one another and toward the impossible possibilities I sometimes proposed. Their finely tuned attention and crafted decision-making, both precarious and precise, became the foundation for this dance. Thank you to all the technical and design crew for their creative expertise, support and for always saying "yes."

"Naturally I would then begin again. I would begin again I would naturally begin. I did naturally begin. This brings me to a great deal that has been begun. And after that what changes what changes after that, after that what changes and what changes after that and after that and what changes and after that and what changes after that." –Gertrude Stein

"The self is a state of time absorbing dissonances." –Lyn Hejninian

"Dance is about the absent or unavailable object of desire." –Susan Sontag

brief intermission

Boats Leaving

Choreography

Doug Varone

Restaged by

Xan Burley
Alex Springer

Music

“Te Deum” by Arvo Pärt

Original Lighting Design

Jane Cox

Lighting Design

Matthew E. Adelson

Original Costume Design

Liz Prince

Costume Design

Emily Justice Dunn

Dancers

Miguel Alejandro Castillo
Benin Gardner
Reem Ibrahim
Sarah Konner
Erin Kouwe
Claire Lane
Em Papineau
Talia Preis

NOTE FROM XAN AND ALEX: Boats Leaving is a work that has left an indelible imprint upon us as artists, movers, and people. Now, we are fortunate to have been deeply impacted by the student casts performing it in the Five Colleges. All of these performers have given generously of themselves, contributing their wisdom, attention, and curiosity. We are endlessly grateful for these remarkable people. We also extend our gratitude to the Five College Dance Department for supporting this special work and to the technical/production staff for bringing it beautifully to the stage. Lastly, our thanks go out to Doug for building such a profoundly meaningful world to inhabit.

A Note About *Boats Leaving*

Photographs in motion is how Doug Varone refers to his masterpiece ***Boats Leaving***. Looking for a new way to approach his creative process, late in 2005 Varone challenged himself to make a dance starting with photographs. From an issue of the New York Times, he selected photographs from the front page and ads, from the arts and sports pages, from the national and international news. In three days of intense work, Varone and his dancers recreated the postures, energy, physicality, lines and shapes of approximately seventy images. This was only the beginning of the creative process. In rehearsals over the next six months, the material morphed into a poignant portrait of humanity set to liturgical music by Arvo Pärt. The mundane photographs evolved into transcendental images. A repertory note in the website of **Doug Varone and Dancers** describes the end result: “***Boats Leaving*** concerns community and an unflinching faith in the triumph of the human spirit. As the work unfolds, the gatherings and brief encounters of strangers convey both isolation and collective solidarity amidst strife; images emerge, linger and disperse, creating a panorama of fleeting humanity.”

Boats Leaving premiered in the summer of 2006 at the American Dance Festival. It won that year’s New York Dance and Performance “Bessie” Award for Outstanding Choreography. Created at the start of this century, in a world shaken by war and terrorism, the piece continues to resonate as a depiction of a community coping with horror and trauma, putting faith in unity and mutual support. As the same repertory note explains, “In today’s global environment, ***Boats Leaving*** is an important dance to re-share, for its universal message crosses diverse boundaries, languages and cultures, creating dialogues that embrace our similarities not our differences.” To watch a short documentary on the piece by Alex Springer, visit vimeo.com/49754148

—Lester Tomé, Ph.D., Associate Professor and Department Chair

Doug Varone (Choreographer, *Boats Leaving*) works in dance, theater, opera, film, and fashion. His New York City-based **Doug Varone and Dancers** has been commissioned and presented by leading international venues for close to three decades. The company has performed in more than 125 cities across the U.S. and in Europe, Asia, Canada, and South America. Commissions include the Paul Taylor Dance Company, Limón Company, Hubbard Street Dance Chicago, Rambert Dance Company, Martha Graham Dance Company, Dancemakers, Batsheva Dance Company, Bern Ballet and An Creative, among others. In opera, Varone is in demand as both a director and choreographer. He has staged multiple premieres for The Metropolitan Opera, Minnesota Opera, Opera Colorado, Washington Opera, New York City Opera, and Boston Lyric Opera. Varone received his BFA from Purchase College where he was awarded the President’s Distinguished Alumni Award in 2007. Numerous honors and awards include a John Simon Guggenheim Fellowship, an OBIE Award, the Jerome Robbins Fellowship at the Boglisco Institute in Italy, two individual Bessie Awards, and a Doris Duke Artist Award. In 2015 he was given the Lifetime Achievement Award from the American Dance Guild.

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

Rodger Blum (Choreographer, *Another World*) received a BFA in Ballet Performance from North Carolina School of the Arts and his MFA in Choreography from the University of California, Irvine. Before coming to Smith he was ballet/master dancer for the original Raleigh Dance Theatre (now Carolina Ballet) and chair of the dance program at the Performing Arts School in Louisville, Kentucky, where he received an excellence in teaching award from the National Foundation for the Performing Arts. His choreography has been presented by various companies on the east and west coasts of this country and in several countries in Europe. Active in the field of dance and technology, Rodger's dance/theatre video *Embrace* was shown at the FAIF International Film Festival in the Mann Chinese Theatres, Hollywood, CA. Rodger received the Sherrerd Award for Outstanding Teaching at Smith College in 2014.

Xan Burley (Restager, *Boats Leaving*) has been a New York-based dance artist since 2007 and is currently pursuing her M.F.A at Smith College. Her choreographic work with partner Alex Springer has been presented in New York and elsewhere by performing venues including Movement Research at the Judson Church, Danspace Project, and Center for Performance Research, among many others. Burley and Springer have received a number of fellowships, commissions, and accolades including an artist residency at the Marble House Project. Together they have created performance work for university dance departments and repertory companies across the U.S. Burley has been on faculty at Gibney, the University of Maryland, Purchase College, 92Y, USDAN, and BAX/Brooklyn Arts Exchange, as well as many other youth, pre-professional, and undergraduate dance programs. She performed with Doug Varone and Dancers from 2012-17 and has delighted in staging Varone's work at many educational institutions. She has also worked with artists such as Nancy Bannon, Daniel Charon, Shannon Gillen, Angie Hauser, Shannon Hummel, Donnell Oakley, and Tami Stronach, among others. Burley's scholarly research was recently presented at the Dance Studies Association 2019 conference. She is the proud mama of her wild and wondrous child Jasper Aloysius. www.xanandalex.com

Jeanine Durning (Choreographer, *here, before*) is an Alpert Award winning choreographer and performer whose work has been described by The New Yorker as having both "the potential for philosophical revelation and theatrical disaster." She's interested in choreography as a ways and means to mobilize questions about how our basic need for connection and communication aligns, and often misaligns, with how our thinking and feeling come to form and action. Jeanine has an ongoing practice, nonstopping, which has yielded several performance works, including her solo *inging* (based on nonstop speaking). She has performed *inging* more than 50 times across the US, in Europe and Canada. In support of her new project *dark matter, selfish portrait*, Durning has received residencies at Seoul Dance Center, the Rauschenberg Foundation, MANCC, and at DNK in Sofia, Bulgaria. Jeanine has had the privilege to collaborate with many choreographers,

including as a member of David Dorfman Dance (1993-2003) and with Deborah Hay since 2005. Durning has shared some of her practices all over the world and is excited to be guest faculty at Smith College this semester. Upcoming projects include a commission for Candoco/London, *inging* and *dark matter* in Malmo, Big Dance Theater's adaptation of Anne Carson's *Antigonik* (playing the titular role), and a European tour of Deborah Hay's new work *Animals on the Beach*.

Shakia Johnson (Choreographer, *Win in Doubt*) is a choreographer, performer, and dance educator whose work is rooted in the African Diaspora, focusing on Hip-Hop, modern, and traditional African dance forms. She is an MFA Choreography candidate at Wilson College, she holds an associate's degree in dance and psychology from Dean College, a bachelor's in liberal arts from Westfield State University, and, she received the National Dance Institute's teaching artist certificate in 2009. Her other dance training includes the Bates Dance Festival, Jacob's Pillow, and Pioneer Valley's Performing Arts Charter School. Johnson has choreographed and directed more than 50 Hip-Hop, modern, African and lyrical works that have been performed at Trenton Educational Dance Institute, Rider University, the Princeton School of Ballet, and the Bates Dance Festival. She has performed for numerous Hip-Hop events and has opened for concerts by Fat Joe, Jadakiss, 112, Charlie Baltimore, and Kima from "Total" and Omarion. In 2005, she choreographed a Hip-Hop number for the Celtics/NBA half-time show. Johnson has toured nationally and internationally, dancing with Face Da Phlave Entertainment and Illstyle and Peace Productions. And recently, she made a guest appearance with Rennie Harris PureMovement. As a dance educator, Johnson spent four years teaching at the Bates Dance Festival and this past year teaching community classes at Jacob's Pillow. Her recent work *Our House* was selected to be performed for Community Day at Jacob's Pillow this past summer. Prior to joining the Five Colleges program as a full-time faculty member, she served as an adjunct at Mount Holyoke, Smith, and Connecticut colleges. Johnson was also the 2019 Arthur Levitt Jr. '52 Artist-in-Residence at Williams College.

Alex Springer (Restager, *Boats Leaving*) has been a New York-based creator, performer, teacher, and video artist since 2007. He was a member of Doug Varone and Dancers from 2007-17 and has also performed with Alexandra Beller, Adriane Fang, Angie Hauser, Heidi Henderson, the Metropolitan Opera Ballet, among others. During his tenure with Varone, he acted as the rehearsal director, company manager, and still serves as the company's archivist. Alex has staged Varone's work for various companies and universities and has been on faculty at Gibney Dance, Mark Morris Dance Center, the University of Maryland, Purchase College, USDAN and the Bates Dance Festival. Additionally, Alex creates work with Xan Burley and their collaborative choreography has been presented at the American Dance Festival, Jacob's Pillow Inside/Out, Center for Performance Research, Danspace Project, Movement Research at the Judson Church, Brooklyn Arts Exchange, and the 92Y, among others. He is currently an M.F.A. teaching fellow at Smith College and father to Jasper Aloysius. www.alexandxan.com

PRODUCTION

Artistic Director	Rodger Blum
FCDD Production Manager	Matthew Adelson
FCDD Assistant Production Manager	Achaetey Kabal
Concert Administrator	Melinda Buckwalter
Technical Director	Amy Putnam
Technical Director for Dance	Alan Schneider
Lighting, Sound Supervisor and Video Engineer.....	David Wiggall
Costume Shop Supervisor	Emily Dunn
Costumer/Cutter	Nancy Horn
Theatre Production Manager	Nikki Beck
Publicity Manager	Shelley Latham
Box Office and House Manager Supervisor	Alicia Guidotti
Photography	Derek Fowles
FCDD Production Office Assistant	Sophia Pan
Master Electrician	Cathy Kennedy, Eva Shannon-Dabek
Stage Manager	Michelle Erard
Assistant Stage Manager	Porter Kemp
Light Board Operator	Catherine Davis
Sound and Projections Operator	Lila Rosendorf
Fly Operator	Dana Barry
Stage Crew.....	Sophia Botran, Trice Lu, Veroniza Pickard, Emily Uss, Mackie Zhou
Dance Floor Crew	Elizabeth Brison, Samantha Grossman, Reem Ibrahim, Sarah Maurer, Em Papineau
Costume Assistant	Indie Beare, Aliza Horowitz, Miriam Pellegrino
Costume Shop Crew	Lyza Fennell, Jenine Jacinto, Anais Main, Rachael Wein
Electricians	Miriam Boardman, Elizabeth Brison, Lauren Chang, Yu Chen, Rachel Huggett, Phoebe John, Anathiel John-Charles, Cathy Kennedy, Alexis Kilayko, Cara Krupnikoff-Salkin, Anais Main, Jamie Mastrogiacomo, Arris Moise, Caitlin Ong, Georgia Pharris, Drew Rivera, Eva Shannon-Dabek, Jamaya Smith, Rebecca Soifer, Lesley Tilghman, Katherine Van Green, Rebecca Warholic, Elaine Yan, Yichen Zhou
Shop Intern	Nancy Gregory
Shop Assistants	Abigail Dustin, Rosalind Lao-Brooks, Anais Main, Ketsia Nannay, Rachel Wells
Shop Crew	Maggie Landis, Anathiel John-Charles, MJ Prentis, Ethelind Santagio
Publicity Intern	Jenine Jacinto
Production Intern	Eva Shannon- Dabek
Box Office Manager	Genel McLean
Box Office Assistants	Sara Elmourabit, Leap Kasten, Clarissa Po, Asha Reed-Jones, Lauren Tinglin, Madison VanDeurzen

UPCOMING DANCE EVENTS

December 6 at 12:00 PM in the Crew House

Dance at Noontime

Dance works from *Choreography & Creative Process* class with guest artist Jeanine Durning. Work by Xan Burley, Toni Craige, Alex Springer & Luca Bogataj.

Free and open to the public (bare feet or socks only, shoes at the door) first come first serve seating.

December 13 at 8:00 PM in Scott Dance Studio

Fall Grad Dance Event

This year's Grad Event features new works by MFA candidates Miguel Castillo, Sarah Konner, Erin Kouwe, and Chrissy Martin

\$1.00 at the door, general admission, RSVP recommended, email: ffcdance.reservations@gmail.com

December 13 at 8:00 pm in Scott Dance Studio

Celebrations Dance

Celebrations Dance Company's annual end of semester showing, directed, choreographed, and performed by Smith College students.

\$ by donation at the door.

February 7, 8, 9 at 8:00 PM in Theatre 14

MFA Thesis Dance Concert

Featuring original performances and cutting-edge choreography by second-year graduate students from the Smith College Department of Dance: Xan Burley and Alex Springer, former principal dancers from the acclaimed Doug Varone Dance Company and Toni Craige, whose work sources specialties in contact improvisation, social work, and Body Mind Centering.

\$10 general admission, \$5 students and seniors

April 9, 10, 11 at 8:00 PM in Hallie Flanagan Studio Theatre

Senior Dance Concert

Featuring works by graduating seniors Elizabeth Bryson, Reem Ibrahim, Claire Lane, Kelly Lincoln, and Em Papineau.

\$10 general admission, \$5 students and seniors

For a complete list of Performing Arts events (Dance, Music, Theatre)
please visit our website:

www.smith.edu/smitharts

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SMITH COLLEGE DANCE FACULTY

Professor

Rodger Blum, M.F.A., *Director of M.F.A. in Dance*

Associate Professors

Chris Aiken, M.F.A.

Angie Hauser, M.F.A.

Lester Tomé, Ph.D., *Department Chair*

Professors Emerita

Susan Kay Waltner, M.S.

Yvonne Payne Daniel, Ph.D.

Five-College Lecturer in Dance

Shakia Johnson

Lecturer/Musician in Dance Technique and Performance

Mike Vargas, B.A.

Lecturers

Onalie Arts

M'bewe Escobar

Jeanine Durning

Shakia Johnson

Andrea Olsen

Teaching Fellows in Dance

Xan Burley

Miguel Alejandro Castillo

Toni Craige

Sarah Konner

Erin Kouwe

Chrissy Martin

Alex Springer

The Smith College Fall Faculty Dance Concert is made possible in part by the Sharonjean Moser Leeds Endowment, a generous fund created by Sharonjean (SC '67) and Richard Leeds for the Smith College Department of Dance.

FIVE COLLEGE DANCE DEPARTMENT

Smith College is part of the Five College Dance Department, which was formed for the mutual benefit of all member institutions (Amherst, Hampshire, Smith, Mount Holyoke and the University of Massachusetts at Amherst). The faculty operates as one department unifying its educational mission to include a well-balanced curriculum emphasizing a broad integration of technical, creative, historical, and analytical aspects of dance and a wide variety of philosophical approaches to teaching. The FCDD is a nationally recognized model for excellence in dance in higher education. <https://www.fivecolleges.edu/dance>

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