

# DANCE PROGRAM

The UW Dance Program prepares the next generation of performers, educators, arts advocates, and cultural leaders. At its core lies the recognition of art as the confluence of theory, practice, and creativity. With a commitment to respecting the individual, the Dance Program fosters inquiry and engages the community in open-minded exchange.



## Education

Students entering the award winning UW Dance Program discover a learning community where artists/scholars thrive in an environment that promotes access, inclusion and excellence. We offer a diverse and stimulating educational experience, rooted in the liberal arts, and dedicated to connecting theoretical inquiry to experiential learning. Students considering careers in performance and choreography, dance education, dance related fields such as arts administration and physical therapy, or those interested in pursuing graduate studies in dance may choose from a variety of options culminating in a Bachelor of Arts degree with a major in dance.

The undergraduate curriculum provides rigor and a breadth of experience, including courses in: ballet, contemporary, jazz/musical theatre techniques, tap, world dance and culture, social dance forms, somatic practices, anatomy, teaching methods, dance history, aesthetics, research methods, ethnography, music for dance, creative process, improvisation, partnering, composition, repertory and production. Many of our students double major. Our recent BA revision enables students to use a broad range of electives in order to help support particular interests and career goals.

Undergraduate alumni are employed at some of Seattle's most influential local arts organizations such as Pacific Northwest Ballet, On the Boards, and Velocity Dance Center. Graduates also work as private studio and public school instructors, choreographers, and performers with nationally recognized companies, as well as physical and occupational therapists and somatic practitioners.

The Dance Program offers one of the most respected and innovative Master of Fine Arts degree programs in the country, developed to serve professional dancers seeking to transition into higher education positions. MFA candidates receive full financial support during the two-year course of study. In exchange, they teach an array of studio and theory courses to majors, minors, and general education students at the UW, including Dance 100, a course that has set the bar for transformative online instruction. We boast an outstanding job placement record, with alumni in tenure track teaching and upper administration positions at colleges and universities across the nation. Graduate alumni have also garnered prestigious awards as choreographers, performers, company directors, and filmmakers, including the Bessie Award, Fred Astaire Award, the Guggenheim Fellowship, and NEA and National Dance Project grants.

### STUDENTS (Autumn 2014)

- 45 Undergraduate majors
- 85 Undergraduate minors
- 7 Graduate students

### DEGREES AWARDED (July 2013-June 2014)

- 30 Bachelor of Arts degrees
- 7 Master of Fine Arts degrees

### STUDENT AWARDS (Since 2008)

- 2 Mary Gates Leadership Scholars
- 8 Mary Gates Research Scholars
- 1 A&S Dean's Medalist in the Arts
- 5 A&S Undergraduate Research Awards
- 12 Annual Dean's List



Right: Bliss Kohlmyer dancing in Jane Dudley's *Harmonica Breakdown*. Photo by Steve Korn.

## Faculty

Recent Dance Program faculty honors and grants include:

- 1 Brotman Award for Instructional Excellence
- 2 UW Distinguished Teaching Awards
- 1 Floyd and Delores Jones Endowed Chair in the Arts
- 3 Donald E. Petersen Endowed Fellowships
- 1 Donald E. Petersen Endowed Professorship
- 1 Thomas L. and Margo Wyckoff Endowed Faculty Fellowship
- 7 NEA/Dance USA National College Choreography Initiative Awards
- 1 Fulbright Foundation Senior Specialist Award
- 1 Conference on Research in Dance (CORD) Outstanding Publication Award

## Outreach

The Dance Program produces four concerts annually:

- ▶ The Chamber Dance Company (CDC): contemporary and historical modern dance works performed by the UW's resident professional dance company, founded in 1990. The annual concert is presented in Meany Theatre; CDC also presents several outreach performances and community auditions each year in the Dance Program studios.
- ▶ The Dance Faculty Concert: performance and choreography by UW Dance faculty and guest artists.
- ▶ The Dance Majors Concert: choreography by and for undergraduate dance majors.
- ▶ The MFA Concert: choreography for undergraduate dancers created by MFA candidates in dance (in collaboration with graduate students from other disciplines).

Dance Program graduate students and faculty provide pre-performance lectures for UW World Series Dance audiences.

## Research

Faculty choreograph and perform nationally and internationally, and present research at scholarly conferences, including the International Association for Dance Medicine and Science, National Dance Education Organization, Conference on Research and Dance, and the Society of Dance History Scholars. Recent faculty scholarship includes articles and essays in *Dance Research Journal*, *The Journal of Dance Education*, *Theatre Research International*, *International Dictionary of Modern Dance*, *Ballet Review*, and in the books *I See America Dancing*, *The Routledge Dance Studies Reader 2nd ed.*, *Writing About Dance*, *Glamour Addiction: Inside the American Ballroom Dance Industry*, *Experiential Anatomy in Dance Technique* (DVD), *Spinning Mambo into Salsa: Caribbean Dance in Global Commerce*, and the *Chamber Dance Company Archive Collection* (DVD Documentary Series).

## FACULTY (Autumn 2014)

- 2 Professors
- 2 Associate Professors
- 1 Adjunct Associate Professor (Department of Philosophy)
- 1 Assistant Professor
- 2 Lecturers
- 1 Emeritus Professor

## PROFESSIONAL STAFF (Autumn 2014)

- 1 Production Manager
- 1 Music Director
- 1 Administrator
- 1 Advisor/Program Manager
- 1 Marketing/Communications Manager

## AREAS OF SCHOLARSHIP

- Experiential Anatomy and Biomechanics
- Community Dance Practice
- Dance Pedagogy
- Ballroom and Latin Dance
- Choreography and Performance
- Interdisciplinary and Site Specific Performance
- Cultural Studies
- Dance History, Theory and Criticism
- Dance Ethnography
- Dance Preservation and Reconstruction
- Performance Aesthetics
- Dance and Writing

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