

## PRESS



"...Elegant and beatuiful."

TASTE & SIP MAGAZINE, VANCOUVER

"...The company holds our attention with their sensitivity to each other and their meditative focus."

DANCE ENTHUSIAST, NYC

"Chuck Wilt's 'Radiant' is a stunning work."

SAN DIEGO UNION TRIBUNE

"The mood (of COLORING) is one of radical vulnerability" "Eloquent sincerity"

"Dexterous physicality..."
EVA YAA ASANTEWAA, NYC

"UNA's Deserts is a unique mode of dance presentation.... It reads as an EP, or a collection of essays — each segment at once complete and limitless in potential."

EYE ON THE ARTS, NYC

"Wilt's choreography and UNA Projects' movement is compelling; it draws the viewer in..."

HEATHER DESAULNIERS, SF

"Chuck Wilt has managed to hone a singular language of presence, equally amplifying each human inside."

EYE ON THE ARTS, NYC





is a bi-coastal dance production company, founded in 2013 by Artistic Director and Choreographer Chuck Wilt, creating work in CA and NYC.

UNA's mission is to discover and communicate deeply rooted embodiments of human existence through physically powerful dancing and imagery that are evocative and colorful. UNA focuses on individuality and is dedicated to bringing vibrancy and joy to the world.

Artistic Director/Choreographer Chuck Wilt investigates ways to increase people-to-people connections while illuminating the diversity of human experience. UNA has also developed company initiatives to create additional opportunities for performers, facilitate collaboration with choreographers, and provide training and educational outreach to communities. In 2018, UNA added the repertory of House Choreographer Roy Assaf as a part of the company's Extended Family Initiative.



UNA has been presented by the Chutzpah! Festival in Vancouver, Sointula and Alert Bay - performing and engaging in cultural exchange with the 'Namgis First Nation Community, Fusion International (Japan) in Kaga and Tokyo, co-presented by the ODC Theater, presented by the Spectrum Dance Festival at The Launchpad, Movement Research at the Judson Church, 92nd St. Y's FAN and Dig Dance Series, Create: Art at Gallim Dance, Jacob's Pillow Inside/Out, Springboard Danse Montreal, Dumbo Dance Festival, Tisch Summer Dance Festival, Triskelion Arts, Current Sessions, DANCENOW Raw, CPR and more.

In 2015, Wilt began a pop-up a series of informal dance showings, featuring the work of other choreographers, 'SWELL', which featured new dance works and provides choreographers with space, time, shared audiences, and the challenge to show work that is in-progress. The first four showings featured Tisch Alumni at the Jack Crystal Theater.

UNA's 'Extended Family' Initiative involves "House" artists collaborating or setting work on the company. In 2018, Wilt commissioned Israeli choreographer Roy Assaf as the company's first House choreographer. Assaf and Artistic Associate Ariel Freedman set repertory of Roy Assaf Dance on UNA, during a residency in Tel Aviv. The current House Artists also include NYC based performer Catherine Ellis Kirk, Swedish Visual Artist/Poet Mange Hellberg, Seattle based performer Emma Whiteley, LA/NY based cinematographer Jake Saner, performer Ariel Freedman who is based in Israel, Massachusetts based photographer Allie Tsubota, Vermont based Lighting Designer Jennifer Reiser and Rebecca Margolick as a house choreographer.

UNA's Outreach Initiative brings dance to public schools and training programs throughout the country. The company engages in workshops, lecture-demonstrations and Q&A's within various communities in order to further share UNA's mission and to make dance more accessible. Since 2017, UNA has worked with the Theater Development Fund to bring dance workshops to public schools in NYC.

## CHUCK WILT

**Artistic Director—Choreographer** 

Raised in San Francisco CA, Chuck Wilt is the Artistic Director/Choreographer of CA/NYC based dance company, UNA. Chuck holds a BFA in dance from NYU's Tisch School of the Arts.

Fellowships, Residencies and Awards. Chuck was a selected CUNY Dance Initiative Artist in Residence at Brooklyn College (2019-2020) and a selected Artist in residence at Berkeley Ballet Theater (2020). Wilt was a planned Resident Choreographer for the 2020 Springboard Danse Montreal Program. In 2019, Wilt was the recipient of the Rainin Opportunity Fund - premiering COLORING at and in association with the ODC Theater. In 2018, Chuck was a selected Artist in Residence of Dance Initiative (CO) and an Artist in Residence at the 92nd St. Y's Harkness Dance Center (2018-2019). In 2017, Chuck was a selected choreographic fellow for the Alvin Ailey Dance Foundation New Directions Choreography Lab made possible by generous support from the Ford Foundation. Chuck has also been a selected mentee of KT Nelson's RoundAntennae and Doug Varone's DEVICES. Additionally, he has been an Artist in Residence at Silo/DANCENOW and Lowell High School.

Commissions. In 2020 Wilt created a new work for Berkeley Ballet Theater/Post Ballet- which premiered at YBCA, and Wilt was planned to create new work for the Alonzo King LINES Ballet Professional Training Program and the Springboard Danse Montreal Participants in 2020. Chuck will create new work for the NYU Tisch Dance Second Avenue Dance Company/Class of 2021. In 2019 Chuck created a new work for LITVAK Dance Company in San Diego. Wilt has set senior repertory at Ailey Fordham (class of 2019 and 2020), set repertory on the ODC Youth Company (2018), set solo repertory at Ailey Fordham and SUNY Purchase (2017-2020) and has been an emerging choreographer at Springboard Danse Montreal (2016). Chuck has choreographed and produced two music videos for band Figs Vision, one of which is an official selection for the 40 North Dance Film Festival. He also choreographed and produced ARIEL, a dance film that was an official selection for the Festival Of Recorded Movement in Vancouver.

Teaching. Wilt has taught improvisation and repertory at the Ailey Fordham BFA Program and NYU Tisch Dance BFA Program. He has also taught technique, improvisation and set repertory for the NYU Tisch Summer High School Program for two years.



With UNA company members, Wilt has taught at the LINES Training Program, Velocity Dance Center, Gibney Dance Center, Lowell High School, ODC Dance Commons, SF Arts Institute, LAB Sessions/IATI Studios and Booker T. Washington High School for Performing and Visual Arts. Additionally, the company has done outreach in NYC including lec-dems and workshops with Williamsburg Charter, Brooklyn International, Beacon High Schools and the Professional Performing Arts School and in SF at Lowell High School. Wilt is also a certified GYROTONIC® teacher.





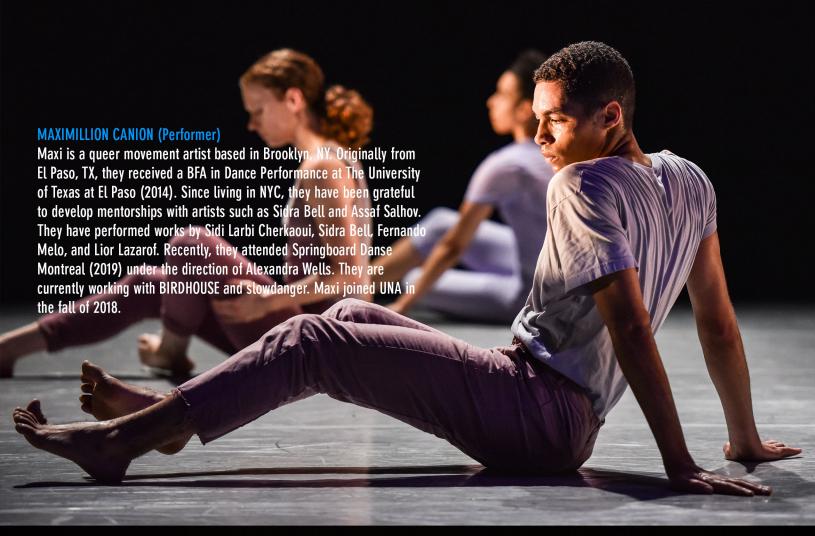
## **COURTNEY MAZEIKA (Performer)**

Courtney is a dancer, choreographer, and educator who received her BFA in Dance from the University of Texas at Austin. Upon graduation, she moved to train with Summer Lee Rhatigan at the San Francisco Conservatory of Dance. As a freelance artist, Courtney has had the opportunity to perform in works by Tom Weinberger, Bobbi Jene Smith, David Harvey, Christian Burns, Marissa Brown, Crossings SF, The Foundry, and UNA Productions. Courtney has had the pleasure of sharing her own work at a number of schools, companies, and festivals including the San Francisco Conservatory of Dance, the University of Texas at Austin, the Alonzo King Lines Ballet Training Program, SALT Contemporary Dance I and II, Chop Shop Contemporary Dance Festival, Austin Dance Festival, Rotterdam International Duet Choreography Competition, and more. Courtney has collaborated with UNA as a quest performer since 2015, and joined as a company member in 2019.

## **DASOL KIM (Performer)**

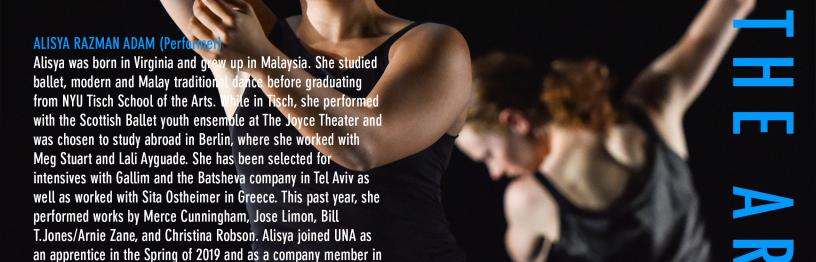
Dasol is a native of South Korea and is currently a movement artist based in Brooklyn, NY. While attending NYU Tisch School of the Arts, she performed with Kidd Pivot at New York City Center and was chosen to study abroad in Berlin, Germany where she worked with Johannes Wieland and Ayman Harper. Along with her training, she has worked with artists including Peter Chu, Emma Portner, and Bret Easterling. Upon graduating Tisch, she has enjoyed collaborating with other freelance artists and has been developing her artistic voice as a movement director for several films. Dasol joined UNA as a company member in 2019.







# KYLE FILLEY (Rehearsal Assistant & Performer) Kyle was born in San Diego, California. He received a BFA in Dance and Psychology from NYU. Kyle also trained at the Salzburg Experimental Academy of Dance. He danced with the Stephen Petronio Company for two years, performing nationally and in Slovakia, Croatia, Bulgaria, Thailand, Vietnam, and Singapore. While in Southeast Asia, through Dance Motion USA, he was a part of many teaching experiences with disabled populations. He also performed with Helen Simoneau Danse. Kyle has shown solo work in NY and NC and was a selected Artist in residence of Fusion International (Japan) in the summer of 2019. Kyle holds a 300 HR certification through the Perri Institute, for teacher training in Hatha Vinyasa Yoga. He has danced with UNA since January 2015 and been assisting Wilt since 2017.



the Fall of 2019.

## **BABATUNJI JOHNSON (Performer)**

Babatunji was born in Portland, Oregon and grew up on the Big Island of Hawaii. Though never formally trained as a child, Babatunji was always moving his body to the beat. At the age of 15, he discovered the art of hip hop. Following over a decade of self-taught hip hop street performance, Babatunji simultaneously trained in ballet, modern, and contemporary, going on to work and perform around the world with Alonzo King LINES Ballet for six years among other inspiring companies. In 2015, Babatunji was awarded a Princess Grace Award, as well as a Chris Hellman Award for his outstanding achievements and promise in the world of dance. Babatunji began working with UNA in the spring of 2020.

# MUSICIANS

## **ROSE NYLONS (Drag Queen & Cellist)**

Hailing from the great state of Minnesota, but now based in the Bay Area, Rose Nylons is a Jackie Of All Trades and Master of Puns. Inspired by vintage fashion, 90's nostalgia, and radical faerie ritual, this post-gender, Midwestern dairy queen has been dabbling in visual and performance art since her first bloom. Delicate at first blush, but thorny as hell, she'll reel you in with her sweet smile, pull at your heart strings with her mystic melodies, and captivate your dreams with her alluring aesthetic. Whether you've known her for years or just planted her in the garden, Rose is sure to become your perennial favorite. Rose began collaborating with UNA in the Spring of 2019.



## **MELANIE CHARLES (Vocalist & Flutist)**

Melanie is a Brooklyn-born singer-songwriter, actress, and flutist of Haitian descent, with a creative fluidity spanning jazz, soul, experimental, and Haitian roots music. Charles latest release "The Girl with the Green shoes" established Charles as a progressive voice in Jazz, gaining 2 features in The New York Times, as well as The Village Voice. Charles graduated from the New School for Jazz and Contemporary Music with a BFA in vocal jazz performance, and has worked with Herlin Riley, Jean Grae, SZA, the Gorillaz, Mark De-Clive Lo, and Marc Cary. Her television appearances include Good Morning America, SNL, The Late Show with Stephen Colbert, and HBO's Vinyl. Charles' musical passion project "Make Jazz Trill Again" aims to blur the lines between social classes, cultures, genders, genres, and theories to create a world where opposing elements can co-exist. Melanie met Chuck Wilt as an Artist in Residence of Fusion International, and has been collaborating with UNA since the Fall of 2019.



GRASS IS GREEN (work-in-progress) (2020)

Full length: 60 minutes

Choreographed by Chuck Wilt in collaboration with the performers

Performed by: Maximillion Canion, Kyle Filley, Babatunji Johnson, Dasol Kim, Rebecca Margolick, Jennifer Payán, Courtney Mazeika Alisya Razman Adam, Chuck Wilt Drag queen & live cellist: Rose Nylons

Premiere: TBD

Available in the round (preferred) can be adapted for proscenium setting

Past Showings of Excerpts: May 11, 2019 Passport to Dance, Encinitas Community Center, CA

July 21 & 26, 2019 Fusion International Exhibitions, Kaga & Tokyo, Japan

> March 7, 2020 LITVAK & UNA split-bill, Encinitas Library, CA

March 14, 2020 AIR Showing, Berkeley Ballet Theatre, CA

FOOTAGE: WWW.UNA.PRODUCTIONS/PRESS

Grass is Green has been created with support as an Artist in Residence at the 92nd St. Y's Harkness Dance Center, as an Artist in Residence at Brooklyn College through the CUNY Dance Initiative and as an Artist in Residence at Berkeley Ballet Theatre. The work received additional support from Marta Miller's Certain Bird Residency in Vermont, KT Nelson's RoundAntennae Residency in San Francisco, LITVAKdance in San Diego, and more TBA.

Grass is Green is an evening-length work for nine dancers and drag queen/live cellist, Rose Nylons.

Grass is Green is inspired by cycles of rebirth both within humanity and the land we are a part of. The work reflects on moments of Queer history - including the AIDS epidemic of the 80s/90s - in conjunction with the ongoing destruction from wildfires throughout the world. These particular devastations are considered within Grass is Green in order to further understand what connects us to each other and the land we are a part of, as well as how to honor the continuous cylces of rebirth.



# COLORING



COLORING (2019) Length: 60 minutes

Choreographed by Chuck Wilt in collaboration with the performers

Performed by: Maximillion Canion, Kyle Filley, Dasol Kim Rebecca Margolick, Jennifer Payán, Courtney Mazeika Alisya Razman Adam, and Chuck Wilt Drag queen & live cellist: Rose Nylons Live vocalist & flutist: Melanie Charles Premiere: March 8-9, 2019 ODC Theater, San Francisco

Past Performances: October 4-5, 2019 Dig Dance Series at 92nd St. Y, NYC

November 10-17, 2019 Chutzpah! Festival, BC Islands and Vancouver

## FOOTAGE: WWW.UNA.PRODUCTIONS/PRESS

The premiere of COLORING was made possible in part by the Opportunity Fund at ODC Theater supported by the Kenneth Rainin Foundation. Created with support as a choreographic fellow for the Alvin Ailey Dance Foundation New Directions Choreography Lab, made possible by generous support from the Ford Foundation, created (in part) during the Tisch Summer Residency Festival at New York University, with support from KT Nelson's RoundAntennae Residencies and Marta Miller's Certain Bird Residency. Wilt created COLORING, with additional support, while an Artist in Residence at the Launchpad through Dance Initiative (CO) and as an Artist in Residence at the 92nd St. Y's Harkness Dance Center. Excerpts of COLORING have been performed for Movement Research at the Judson Church, The Spectrum Dance Festival (CO), Create: Art (NYC), and for 92nd St. Y's AIRS during APAP.









TWO RIVERS (work-in-progress) (2020)

Length: 15 minutes
Choreographed by Chuck Wilt
in collaboration with Courtney Mazeika
Performed by Courtney Mazeika and Chuck Wilt
(the work will eventually include 4 additional company
artists)

PREMIERE: TBD

FOOTAGE: WWW.UNA.PRODUCTIONS/PRESS

M. (work-in-progress) (2020)

Length: 15 minutes

Choreographed and performed by Chuck Wilt

Rehearsal Assistant: Kyle Filley

PREMIERE: TBD



## DESERTS // 4 DANCES BY UNA (2017)

Length: 75 minutes (including intermission)

Choreographed by Chuck Wilt Performed by 5 company dancers & 6 guest dancers\* 4 Dances: Atacama, Bronco, Cadet, and Fatima

Atacama: 11 minutes
Originally performed by Daniel Alwell, Kyle Filley, Rebecca
Margolick, Jennifer Payán, Maximilion Canion\*, Mitchell
Christie\*, Sarah Esser\*, William Noling\*, Holly Sass\*, and Sherah
Shipman\*

Bronco: (two duets) 20 minutes Originally performed by Kyle Filley & Chuck Wilt, Rebecca Margolick & Jennifer Payán World Premiere: July 14-15, 2017 Jack Crystal Theater, NYC

Cadet: 10 minutes
Originally performed by Chuck Wilt

Fatima: 30 minutes Originally performed by Daniel Alwell, Kyle Filley, Rebecca Margolick, Jennifer Payán, and Chuck Wilt

Works can be performed individually or consecutively as an evening-length performance

FOOTAGE: WWW.UNA.PRODUCTIONS/PRESS

# DESERTS

Deserts is an evening of dances reflecting on human connection. The four works included in Deserts are chapters of a whole and were made within two years.

Atacama is an ensemble work: six guest performers alongside the company. The work was inspired by the Atacama desert, the driest in the world.

Bronco consists of two duets. Each journeys through the development of connection between two people while questioning masculinity and femininity.

Cadet is a solo performed by Wilt that was inspired by Robert Mapplethorpe's book 'Polaroids', and is an exercise for the self on acceptance. Cadet is considered an introduction to Fatima.

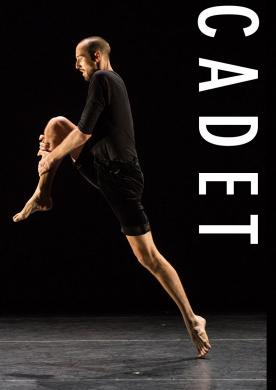
Fatima is a work for five dancers that is inspired by Paulo Coelho's book 'The Alchemist.' The work invites the audience through scenes of play, peace, defeat and power.















A GIRL (restaged in 2018) Length: 20 minutes

Choreographed by Roy Assaf with Rehearsal Assistant Ariel Freedman

Solo performed by: Rebecca Margolick, Jennifer Payan and/or Chuck Wilt

Premiere: TBD

Soloists may perform consecutively for a 40-60 minute version

Available for proscenium

Can be adapted for gallery or museum settings

FOOTAGE: WWW.UNA.PRODUCTIONS/PRESS



