

UNA

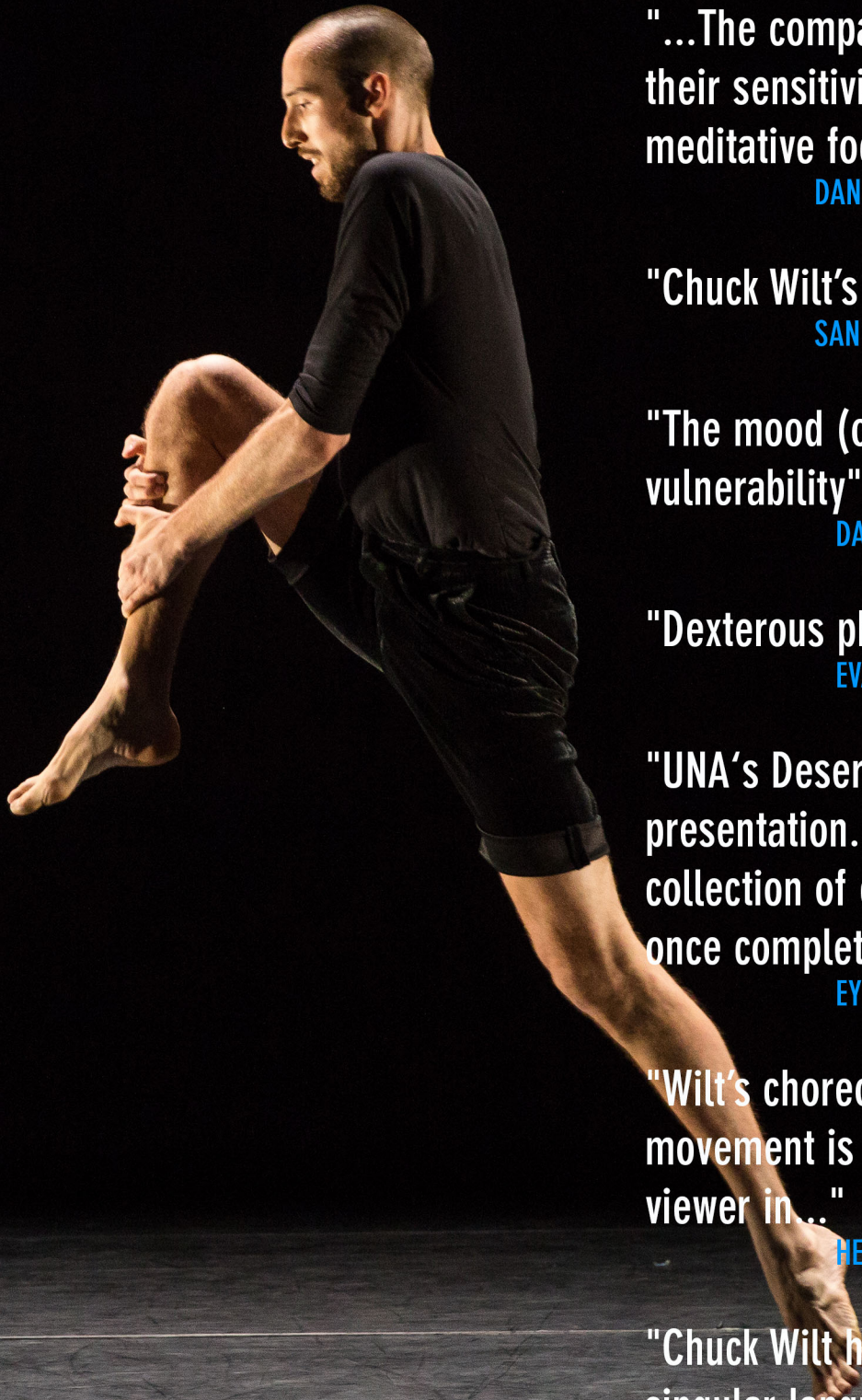


PRESS KIT

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR // CHUCK WILT

WWW.UNA.PRODUCTIONS

PRESS



"...Elegant and beautiful."

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"

DANCE ENTHUSIAST, NYC

"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



UNA PRODUCTIONS

is a bi-coastal dance production company, founded in 2013 by Artistic Director and Choreographer Chuck Wilt, creating work in San Francisco 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. As an artist and choreographer, Wilt's work looks at intersections between queerness, gender, and the natural world.

UNA has also developed company initiatives to create additional opportunities for performers, facilitate collaboration with multidisciplinary artists, and provide educational outreach exchanges with communities. UNA has also performed the repertory of choreographers Roy Assaf (2018-19) and Bobbi Jene Smith (2015).





UNA'S HISTORY

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

(he/him/his)

Raised in San Francisco CA (the stolen lands of the Ramaytush and Ohlone peoples), Chuck Wilt is the Artistic Director/Choreographer of SF/NYC based dance company, UNA.

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 2021, Wilt set repertory on *SALT* Pre Professional Company in SLC, and the University of Maryland Dance Department. In 2020 Wilt created a new work for Berkeley Ballet Theater/Post Ballet- which premiered at YBCA, and a 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 University of Maryland, Alvin Ailey Fordham and NYU Tisch Dance BFA Programs. 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 engaged in 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.

Chuck graduated from NYU's Tisch School of the Arts.



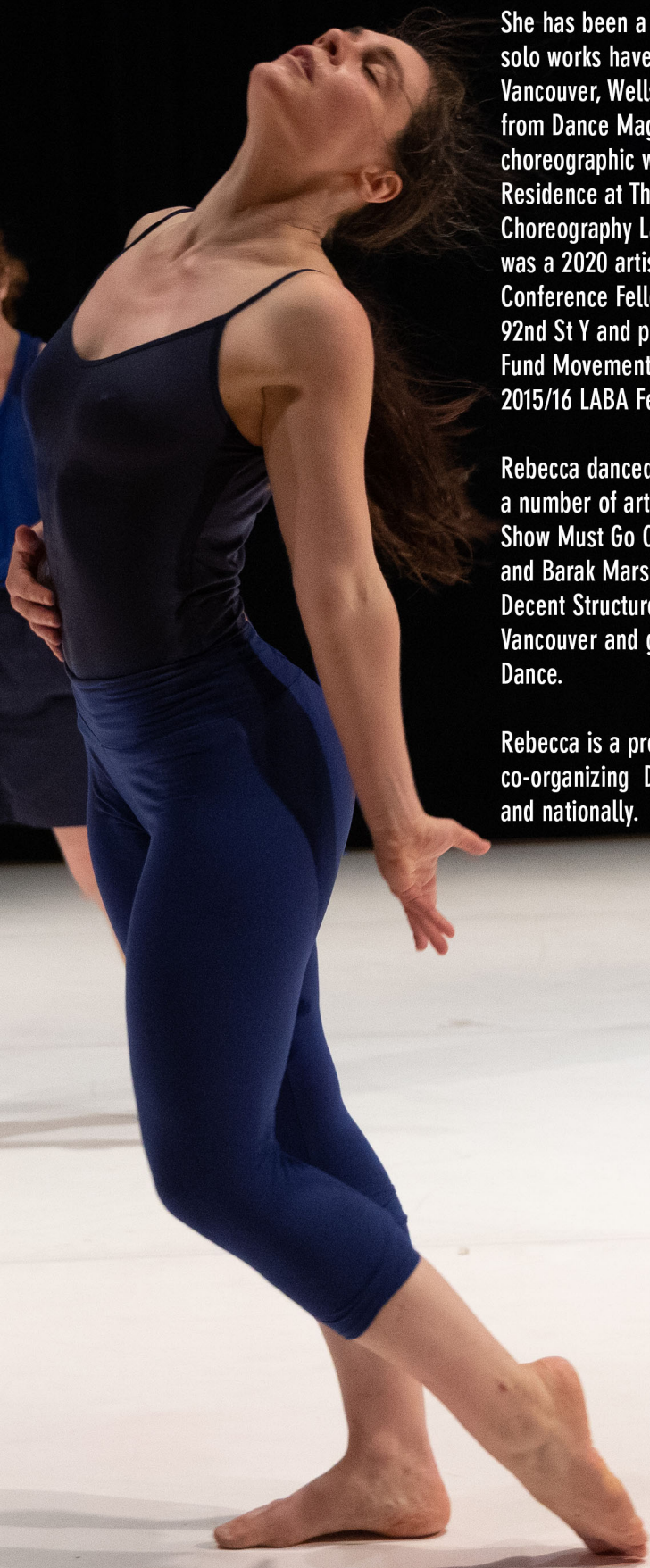
THE ARTISTS

REBECCA MARGOLICK (Rehearsal Director, House Choreographer & Performer) (she/her/hers)

Rebecca is a dancer and choreographer based in New York and raised in Vancouver, Canada. She has been a company member of UNA Productions since 2014. Her multi-disciplinary and solo works have been presented in Poland, Bulgaria, Israel, Seattle, San Diego, Montreal, Vancouver, Wells BC, Mexico City and NYC. She was recently named "Top 25 To Watch in 2021" from Dance Magazine. Her solo Bunker + Vault won the Jury Prize for "best indoor choreographic work" at the 2019 Festival Quartiers Danse in Montreal. She was a Dance Artist in Residence at The Banff Centre for the Arts in December 2019 and a 2020 New Directions Choreography Lab Fellowship at the Ailey School under the mentorship of Gus Solomons Jr. She was a 2020 artist in residence at the Dance Deck in Vancouver. She received the Conney Conference Fellowship to study the archives of the Clara de Hirsch Home for Working Girls at 92nd St Y and presented her research at the 2020 Conney Conference. She was a 2017 GPS Fund Movement Research Artist in Residence at Derida Dance Center in Sofia Bulgaria, and a 2015/16 LABA Fellow at the 14th St Y in NYC.

Rebecca danced with Sidra Bell Dance New York and as a freelance dancer she has worked with a number of artists including Kayla Farrish, Allen Kaeja, Patricia Norowol, Jerome Bel (The Show Must Go On), Derrick Belcham, Emily Terndrup, Maya Orchin, Shay Kuebler, Donald Sales and Barak Marshall, among others. Upcoming projects include performing with Kayla Farrish's Decent Structures Arts in her film Martyr's Fiction in 2021. Rebecca trained at Arts Umbrella in Vancouver and graduated from New York University, Tisch School of the Arts, with a BFA in Dance.

Rebecca is a proud member and organizer with Dance Artists National Collective and is co-organizing Dancers for the NY Health Act to help pass single payer health care in NY State and nationally.



THE ARTISTS

JENNIFER PAYÁN (Artistic Associate & Performer) (she/her/hers)

Jennifer is an Afro-Latina NYC based movement artist, Pilates instructor, and Yoga instructor living in Teaneck, NJ. Currently she is a performer for PunchDrunk's SleepNoMore and Artistic Associate / Media Manager for CompanySBB.

Jennifer began working with UNA Productions in 2017 and became an Artistic Associate in 2020. She has collaborated with and assisted Chuck Wilt in new creations and the adaptations of repertory for SALT Pro, UMD Dance, NYU Tisch Dance SADC, the Ailey Fordham BFA Program and the ODC Youth Company, and in the Fall of 2021 for Rutgers University.

Recent affiliations: LeeSaar the Company, Netta Yerushalmy, Bobbi Jene Smith, Pam Tanowitz Dance, Yara Travieso, Jasmine Hearn, Loni Landon, and Troy Ogilvie.

Jennifer completed a 452-hour comprehensive Pilates Teacher Training Program through Polestar Pilates under Kim Gibilisco. She is a Nationally Certified Pilates Teacher (NCPT) since 2015. While in isolation, Jennifer completed her 200 hour Bhakti Yoga Teacher Training certification through the Bhakti Center. She holds her BFA from Rutgers University, NJ.



THE ARTISTS



COURTNEY MAZEIKA (Performer) (she/her/hers)

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 guest performer since 2015, and joined as a company member in 2019.



DASOL KIM (Performer) (she/her/hers)

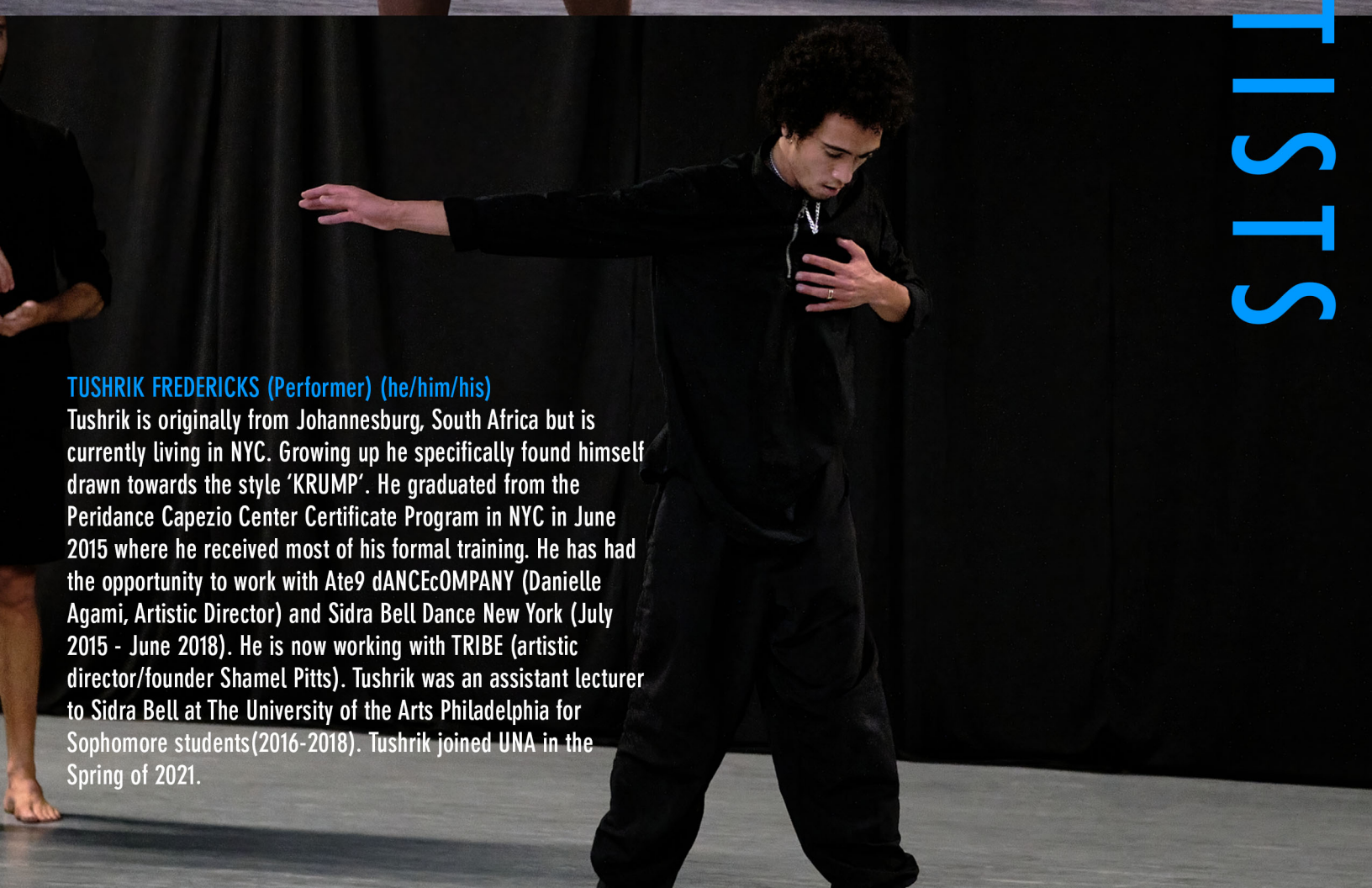
Dasol is a native of South Korea and is currently a movement artist based in Brooklyn, NY. While attending NYU Tisch School of the Arts, she performed with Kidd Pivot at New York City Center and was chosen to study abroad in Berlin, Germany where she worked with Johannes Wieland and Ayman Harper. Along 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.



THE ARTISTS

ALISYA RAZMAN ADAM (Performer) (she/her/hers)

Alisya was born in Virginia and grew up in Malaysia. She studied ballet, modern and Malay traditional dance before graduating from NYU Tisch School of the Arts. While in Tisch, she performed with the Scottish Ballet youth ensemble at The Joyce Theater and was chosen to study abroad in Berlin, where she worked with Meg Stuart and Lali Ayguade. She has been selected for intensives with Gallim and the Batsheva company in Tel Aviv as well as worked with Sita Ostheimer in Greece. This past year, she performed works by Merce Cunningham, Jose Limon, Bill T. Jones/Arnie Zane, and Christina Robson. Alisya joined UNA as an apprentice in the Spring of 2019 and as a company member in the Fall of 2019.



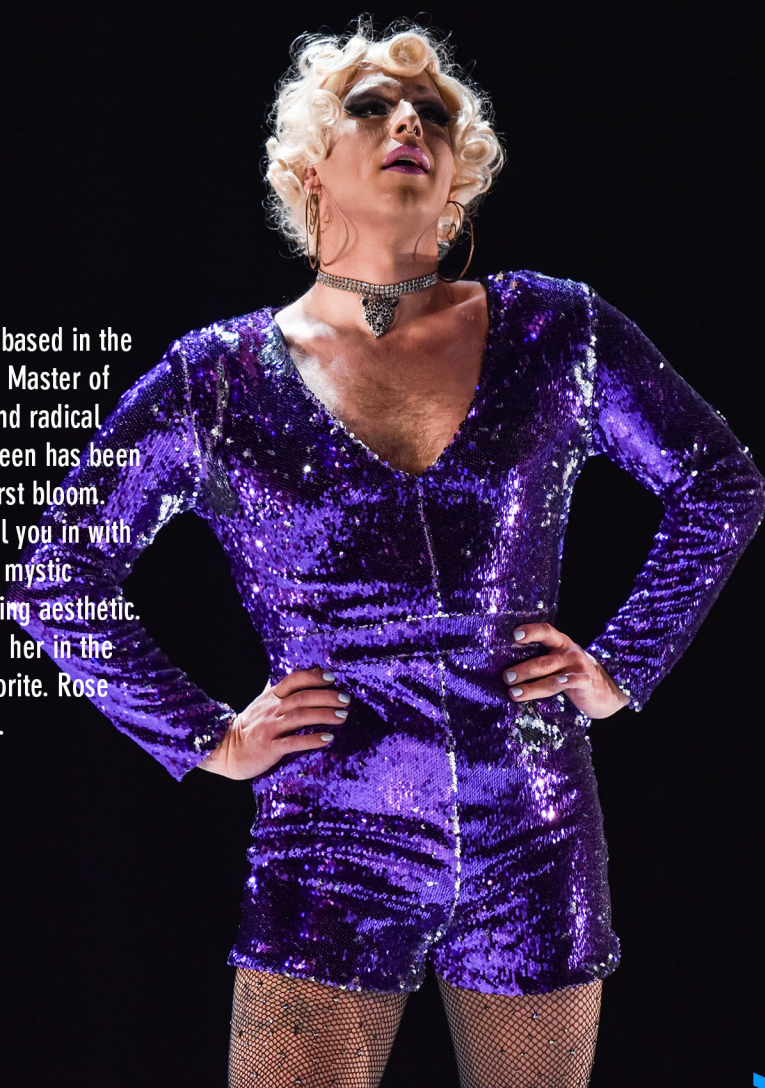
TUSHRIK FREDERICKS (Performer) (he/him/his)

Tushrik is originally from Johannesburg, South Africa but is currently living in NYC. Growing up he specifically found himself drawn towards the style 'KRUMP'. He graduated from the Peridance Capezio Center Certificate Program in NYC in June 2015 where he received most of his formal training. He has had the opportunity to work with Ate9 dANCECOMPANY (Danielle Agami, Artistic Director) and Sidra Bell Dance New York (July 2015 - June 2018). He is now working with TRIBE (artistic director/founder Shamel Pitts). Tushrik was an assistant lecturer to Sidra Bell at The University of the Arts Philadelphia for Sophomore students (2016-2018). Tushrik joined UNA in the Spring of 2021.

THE ARTISTS / MUSICIANS

ROSE NYLONS (Drag Queen, Cellist, Pianist) (they/them/theirs) & (she/her/hers)

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) (she/her/hers)

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-process) (2019-2021)

Full length: 60 minutes

Choreographed by Chuck Wilt
in collaboration with the performers

Performed by: Tushrik Fredericks, Dasol Kim,
Rebecca Margolick, Courtney Mazeika, Alisya Razman Adam,
Chuck Wilt & two additional company performers
Drag queen, live cellist and live pianist: Rose Nylons

Premiere: TBD

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

Premiere:

March 10 & 11, 2022

The Clarice Smith Performing Arts Center, MD

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 is being co-commissioned by The Clarice Smith Performing Arts Center for its premiere in 2022. 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 Evolution Dance Center in San Diego.

GRASS IS GREEN

A photograph of two dancers in a physical dance performance. The dancer on the left is a man with curly hair, wearing a black long-sleeved shirt and black pants, looking upwards. The dancer on the right is a man with short hair, wearing a black short-sleeved shirt and black pants, looking down. They are in a dynamic pose, with the man on the right supporting the man on the left. The background is black, and the floor is a light gray.

Grass is Green is an evening-length work-in-process for eight dancers and drag queen/live cellist/live pianist, 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 cycles of rebirth.



GRASS IS GREEN





Five Rivers (work-in-process) (2020-2021)

Full length: 20 minutes

Choreographed by Chuck Wilt

in collaboration with the performers

Performed by: Dasol Kim, Rebecca Margolick, Courtney

Mazeika, Alisya Razman Adam & Chuck Wilt

*Duet version, Two Rivers, available upon request

Root (work-in-process) (2020-2021)

Full length: 20 minutes

Choreographed by House choreographer Rebecca

Margolick and Chuck Wilt

in collaboration with the performers

Performed by: 6 Company Performers

Root is an extension of a short film created by Rebecca Margolick & Chuck Wilt during the COVID-19 Pandemic:

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

Length: 15 minutes

Choreographed and performed by Chuck Wilt

Rehearsal Assistant: Kyle Filley

PREMIERES: TBD

FOOTAGE: WWW.UNA.PRODUCTIONS/PRESS

Two Rivers, M., and Root were created with support as an Artist in Residence at Berkeley Ballet Theatre and Evolution Dance Center

WORKS-IN-PROCESS



Five Rivers, M. and Root are three separate works that can be performed as an evening-length show.

Each work has questions rooted in gender, how we relate to ourselves, others, and our lineage, and what it means to free ourselves from societal norms.



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.

COLORING



COLORING is an evening-length work including seven dancers, drag queen/live cellist Rose Nylons and vocalist/flutist Melanie Charles. Inspired by themes of identity and unity, COLORING asks the question "What do we have in common?" and draws inspiration from personal narratives, interviews and bodies of artwork from LGBTQ people.

Motivated by a sense of urgency to find commonality at this time in history, the work includes research on the lives and work of queer people and is intended to bring awareness to commonalities of humans, regardless of identity or background. COLORING is structured as episodic dances, which become more colorful over time.



COLORING





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 Shipman*

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

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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.



UPCOMING:

Mason Gross Rutgers University (2021)
Repertory for Fall Concert

LINES Ballet Training Program (2021)
Creation for upcoming concert

Springboard Danse Montreal (2022)
Creation for Program Participants

RECENT:

EBB (2020-2021)
Created (virtually) for NYU Second
Avenue Dance Company / 2021
Senior Class (NYC)
Choreographed by Chuck Wilt, in
collaboration with Artistic Associates
Jennifer Payan & Kyle Filley as well
as the performers
Length: 15 minutes
16 Dancers

Atacama (2021)
Restaged for Salt Pre-Professional
Company
Length: 10 minutes
16 Dancers

Mural (2021)
Restaged for the University of
Maryland Dance Department
Length: 10 minutes
8 Dancers

BELONG NOT (2020)
Created for Berkeley Ballet
Theatre, Post Ballet, and the
SF Girls Chorus (CA)
Length: 11 minutes
4 Dancers, 40 singers
Premiere: YBCA
'Rightfully Ours' Concert with
SF Girls Chorus

RADIANT (2019)
Created for LITVAKdance Company
(Encinitas, CA)
Length: 20 minutes
6 Dancers
Premiere: SDA Theater

Mural (2019)
Created for Alvin Ailey Fordham BFA
Senior Class of 2020
Length: 12 minutes
16 Dancers

Atacama (2018/2019)
Restaged for Alvin Ailey
Fordham BFA Senior Class
of 2019
Length: 10 minutes
13 Dancers

*Atacama was created as
an Emerging Choreographer
at Springboard Danse
Montreal (2016)

Bronco (2018)
Restaged for the ODC Youth
Company, Dance Jam
Repertory for Fall Concert
Length: 10 minutes
7 Dancers

FOOTAGE:
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CHUCK WILT

REHEARSAL DIRECTOR & HOUSE CHOREOGRAPHER

REBECCA MARGOLICK

ARTISTIC ASSOCIATE

JENNIFER PAYÁN

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSOCIATE

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