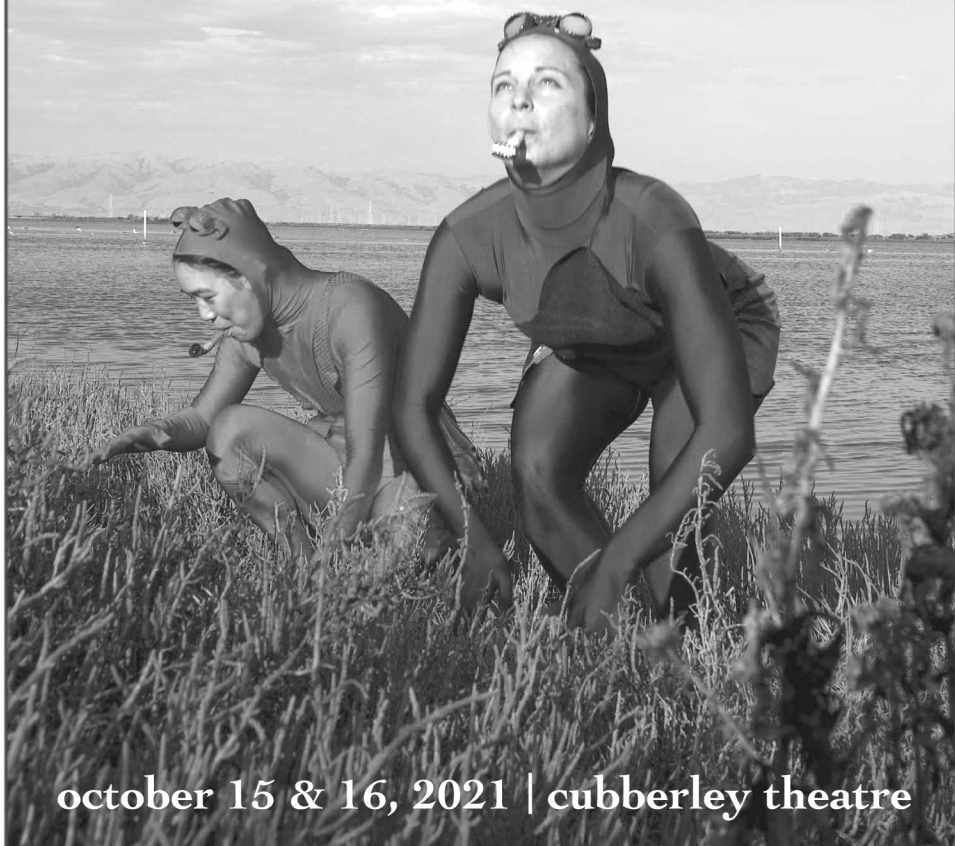


Menagerie

natasha carlitz dance ensemble



october 15 & 16, 2021 | cubberley theatre

Menagerie

natasha carlitz dance ensemble

company dancers

kerry aradhya

julia canavese

elizabeth doggett

lydia feuerhelm

maggie hurd

emma jahde

jeanne-claudius martin

emily steele

crystal valdez

clara yang

guest dancers

helena birecki

monika chock

erwin columbus

jacqueline fuller

i-heng mccomb

choreographer, artistic director, & producer
natasha carlitz

concert program

all choreography by Natasha Carlitz with the dancers, unless otherwise noted

Capuchin Monkeys 2019

music Mike Coffin, "Monkeying Around"
costumes Natasha Carlitz
dancers Kerry Aradhya, Julia Canavese, Elizabeth Doggett, Lydia Feuerhelm, Maggie Hurd, Emma Jahde, Jeanne-Claudius Martin, Emily Steele, Crystal Valdez, Clara Yang

feline interlude 2020

~ with thanks to Barbara Kingsley for the concept

music Claude Bolling, "Suspense ironique cabaret"
dancer Helena Birecki

Red Iguana 2006

music California Guitar Trio, "Red Iguana"
costumes Natasha Carlitz & Vince Gabrielsen
dancers Kerry Aradhya, Maggie Hurd, Emma Jahde, Emily Steele, Crystal Valdez
understudies Julia Canavese, Jeanne-Claudius Martin

Sea Otters at Play 2019

music Franz Liszt, "Hungarian Rhapsody #9" ~ Alexandre Moutouzkine
costumes Natasha Carlitz
dancers Helena Birecki, Elizabeth Doggett, Emma Jahde, Jeanne-Claudius Martin, Emily Steele, Crystal Valdez, Clara Yang

Nesting Robins 2020

music Dmitri Shostakovich, "Waltz - scherzo" from Opus 27
performed by the Nash Ensemble
costumes Natasha Carlitz & Heather McDougal
dancers Elizabeth Doggett & Maggie Hurd
understudies Emma Jahde, Crystal Valdez, Clara Yang

Study in Entomology 2016

music Mike Coffin, "Circles"
costumes Natasha Carlitz, Nutmeg McDougal, Ruby McDougal
dancers Kerry Aradhya, Erwin Columbus, Emma Jahde, Jeanne-Claudius Martin, Emily Steele, Clara Yang

Sea Turtles 2020

music Sergei Rachmaninoff, "Vocalese" ~ Wolfram Huschke, cello
costumes Natasha Carlitz
dancers Elizabeth Doggett, Maggie Hurd, Crystal Valdez
understudies Kerry Aradhya, Emma Jahde, Clara Yang

Raccoons 2021

~ choreography by Emily Steele

music George Gershwin, "Promenade: Walking the Dog"
costumes Emily Steele
dancers Jeanne-Claudius Martin & Emily Steele

Ants at Work 2019

- music California Guitar Trio, "Cantharis"
- costumes Natasha Carlitz, with thanks to Google's GBike program
- props Natasha Carlitz, Monika Chock, Howard Coffin, Erika Tingey
- dancers Kerry Aradhya, Julia Canavese, Elizabeth Doggett, Lydia Feuerhelm, Maggie Hurd, Emma Jahde, Jeanne-Claudius Martin, Emily Steele, Crystal Valdez, Clara Yang

feline interlude 2021

- music Claude Bolling, "Suspense amusé"
- props Steve Bennett, Barbara Carlitz, Natasha Carlitz, Vince Gabrielsen
- dancer Helena Birecki

Springbok 2019

- music Claude Debussy, "Interlude: Tempo di Minuetto"
- costumes Natasha Carlitz & Emily Steele
- dancers Kerry Aradhya, Julia Canavese, Monika Chock, Elizabeth Doggett, Maggie Hurd, Emma Jahde, Jeanne-Claudius Martin, Emily Steele, Crystal Valdez, Clara Yang
- note Springbok are South African antelope known for "pronking" leaps.

~ intermission ~

Emperor Penguins 2019

- music Johann Strauss, "Emperor Waltz"
- costumes Natasha Carlitz & Emily Steele, with thanks to Basia Korel
- dancers Kerry Aradhya, Julia Canavese, Elizabeth Doggett, Lydia Feuerhelm, Maggie Hurd, Emma Jahde, Jeanne-Claudius Martin, Emily Steele, Crystal Valdez, Clara Yang

feline interlude 2021

- music Claude Bolling, "Suspense mystérieux"
- dancer Helena Birecki

Infestation 2019

- music California Guitar Trio, "Cantharis"
- dancers Kerry Aradhya, Julia Canavese, Elizabeth Doggett, Lydia Feuerhelm, Maggie Hurd, Jeanne-Claudius Martin, Emily Steele, Crystal Valdez, Clara Yang

Praying Mantis 2020

- music John Adams, "Chamber Symphony: Aria with Walking Bass"
- dancer Monika Chock

Jellyfish 2020

- ~ choreography by Emily Steele with Natasha Carlitz
- music Kenji Bunch, "The Magic Hour" performed by the Ahn Trio
- costumes Emily Steele
- dancers Kerry Aradhya, Lydia Feuerhelm, Maggie Hurd, Emma Jahde, Emily Steele, Crystal Valdez, Clara Yang

Figment 2008

music Franz Schubert, "Impromptu No. 3 in G-flat Major, Op. 90"
costumes Karen McWilliams
dancers Julia Canavese & Jeanne-Claudius Martin
understudies Maggie Hurd & Crystal Valdez

fireflies 2021

~ choreography by Emma Jahde
music Sleeping at Last, "Moon"
dancers Jacqueline Fuller & Emma Jahde

Frog Galliard 2020

music John Dowland, "Frogg Galliard" ~ Hopkinson Smith, guitar
costumes Natasha Carlitz
dancers Kerry Aradhya, Julia Canavese, Emily Steele, Clara Yang
note The galliard is a Renaissance jumping dance; Dowland named this one after a courtier of Queen Elizabeth I who was familiarly known as "the frog" (or maybe "the Frogg").

Leopard Cubs 2020

music Carl Orff, "Ekstatischer Tanz" from Musik für Kinder V
dancers Maggie Hurd, Emma Jahde, Jeanne-Claudius Martin, Crystal Valdez, Clara Yang
understudies Kerry Aradhya, Julia Canavese, Elizabeth Doggett, Emily Steele

Bookworms 2002

~ choreographed with Helena Birecki, Rachel Mudge, Laura Zweig
concept Natasha Carlitz, Amber Johnson, Wendy Parkman
music Erik Satie, selections from "3 Mouvements en forme de poire"
costumes Natasha Carlitz & Vince Gabrielsen
prop Barbara Carlitz, Natasha Carlitz, Paul Colley, Vince Gabrielsen
dancers Helena Birecki, Monika Chock, I-Heng McComb

School 2019

music Johann Sebastian Bach, "Cello Suite #6 in D: Prelude"
~ Yo-Yo Ma, cello
dancers Kerry Aradhya, Julia Canavese, Elizabeth Doggett, Maggie Hurd, Emma Jahde, Jeanne-Claudius Martin, Emily Steele, Crystal Valdez, Clara Yang

~ pre-show and bow music from Camille Saint-Saëns, "Carnival of the Animals"

brought to you by... _____

Thank you to our patrons, who have contributed funding for production expenses: Ralph Cahn, Bruce & Ellie Heister, Ralph Hurd, Xiaoming Jia, Barbara & Charles Kingsley, Sheila Martin, Rebecca Shapley, Fabiel & Mariana Zuniga, and others whose generosity occurred after program printing but is none the less appreciated!

with thanks: a note from the director ---

In 2019, we had a blast developing the majority of these pieces. In 2020, with much moaning and gnashing of teeth, we continued on Zoom and then outdoors. In 2021, we returned to the studio breathing through masks and remembering how to be in physical proximity to other humans. Every production presents challenges that feel unprecedented at the time; this one is certainly no exception. The company's dancers have proved steadfast and adaptable through a year's postponement, dancing on grass and over video, and making the sacrifices and compromises demanded by our pandemic world. Enormous gratitude to them for bringing so much commitment and empathy to one another and to this production.

Special thanks to our guest performers, several of whom stepped into new roles on short notice. The vicissitudes of COVID have kept everyone guessing right up to the last minute (and maybe even after this program goes to print), and all the dancers have been unusually generous with their time and energy.

Thanks also to Mike Coffin, for keeping me fed and functional; to the friends and family who have eased show-related angst; to Gabriella Bruno for bringing joy to rehearsals; and to our volunteers. As ever, thanks to Grace Butler, the inspiration.

about the company ---

Founded in 2005, the NATASHA CARLITZ DANCE ENSEMBLE presented its inaugural concert in partnership with the internationally acclaimed California Guitar Trio and since then has produced 10 more full-length programs as well as appearing in group concerts and festivals around the Bay Area. Athletic and spirited, NCDE dancers bring both strong technique and emotional depth to their performances. Critics have commented on the company's musicality: "Serious and graceful work... displays creativity and talent that are worth seeing... One of the really successful features of Carlitz' work is that the selected music and choreography fit so well together," writes Michael Phelan of *baydance.com*.

In 2010, NCDE was invited to represent the United States at the Egyptian International Modern Dance Festival, performing evening-length concerts in Cairo and Alexandria. "Last week the Natasha Carlitz Dance Ensemble presented a breath-taking show," wrote Rania Khallaf for Cairo's *Al-Abram Weekly*. "A choreographer and dancer, Carlitz imbued the stage with a spirit of enthusiasm, romance and joy. The ensemble... resonated with a sense of ecstasy and challenge."

NATASHA CARLITZ began her dance training in Palo Alto more than 40 years ago with



Grace Butler, a former Nikolais dancer, and performed as a child and young adult with CHORD (Children's Original Repertory Dance) and SMDC (the Saturday Morning Dance Company). She has studied dance in California, London, Amsterdam, Massachusetts, and Maine—including improvisation and choreography workshops with Pilobolus founder Jonathan Wolken and aerial dance in the Sierras with Bandaloop. For the past 25 years, Natasha has choreographed and performed around the Bay Area, both independently and as a member of the collective High Release Dance. Natasha

has shown her choreography in a variety of festivals and concerts and has created more than 50 works for NCDE. In Cairo, Natasha led a modern master class with Egypt's national dance company; she now teaches on occasion and works at Google to support her expensive habits: her dancing, her garden, and her cat, Perboly.

company dancers



KERRY ARADHYA began her eclectic dance training at Long's School of Dance in Erie, Pennsylvania, but fell head over heels for modern dance during her college days at Duke University. Barbara Dickinson, Clay Taliaferro, Betty Jones, Gerri Houlihan, and Alvin Mayes are among the teachers who have inspired her the most over the years. Today she is a science editor at an international genetic information company but continues to pursue her passion for dance. Kerry has performed with the Houston Grand Opera, the Isadora Duncan Project, Joan Karff's New Dance Group, the Michele Brangwen Dance Ensemble, and Kinor Dance Company. A founding member of NCDE, she is honored to be dancing with the company again after a long hiatus.



JULIA CANAVESE has been an active member of the Silicon Valley arts scene for more than 20 years. Graduating from Santa Clara University with a BA in both History and Theatre Arts (Dance Emphasis), Julia studied primarily modern dance technique — Horton, with additional training in Graham, Cunningham, and Lewitzky — although she also has training in jazz, tap, ballroom, and folk dance. In both 2012 and 2016, Julia participated in two-week dance intensives at the Trinity Laban Conservatoire of Music and Dance in London where she studied a mix of contemporary technique, contact improvisation, choreography, and Flying Low technique. She is honored to dance with Lauren Baines Dance/Theatre, Kusanovich Dance, NCDE, and High Release Dance. In addition to dance performance, Julia is a passionate arts administrator and communications specialist, as well as an occasional poet.



A Bay Area resident for over a decade, **ELIZABETH DOGGETT** recently moved back to her beautiful home state of Colorado. She is thrilled to return to Palo Alto to perform with NCDE in the long-awaited *Menagerie!* Elizabeth began dancing at a young age and focused on jazz as a member of her high school dance team. The summer before starting at the University of Colorado to study molecular biology, she took her first modern class at the Boulder Jazz Dance Workshop and never looked back. Her love of modern movement truly flourished in Palo Alto, where she studied with the remarkable Jeannine Charles as a member of her company ArtistEDGE while earning an MA at Stanford. When not dancing, Elizabeth works as a program manager for a biotechnology education nonprofit and enjoys hiking, novels, and traveling the world with her husband.



LYDIA FEUERHELM is a movement artist, dance teacher, and arts administrator. She graduated from Columbia College Chicago with a BA in dance in 2014, and after graduation danced with a variety of local choreographers including Margi Cole and Timothy Buckley. During her time in Chicago, she served as the Studio Director and Instructor at Ballroom Dance Chicago for 5 years. She relocated to the Bay Area in 2019 and recently completed a graduate certificate in Arts Administration.



MAGGIE HURD grew up in the Bay Area and began her dance training at the Adage School of Performing Arts and Teen Dance Company of the Bay Area. In 2012 she received a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Dance from UC Santa Barbara, in which she was awarded Honors Distinction in the major as well as Emerging Choreographer. She has had the opportunity to perform with many dance projects throughout the Bay Area and California such as Blind Tiger Society, Ka.nei.see Dance Collective, Scratch Dance, and H2O Dance Company.

Maggie also has her Doctorate in Physical Therapy from Long Island University Brooklyn and is currently a Physical Therapist at Westcott Physical Therapy in Los Altos.



EMMA JAHDE has been dancing and performing ever since she could first stand up. After training at various studios throughout the Bay Area, she went to Muhlenberg College and obtained a Dance Science degree. At Muhlenberg she had the opportunity to work with both local and international artists, favorites including a re-staging of Donald McKayle's "Songs of the Disinherited" and working with Charlotte Boye-Christensen, plus chances to participate in American College Dance Association (ACDA) conferences. Since returning to the Bay Area she has taught dance at various studios, schools, and community centers. Emma is currently teaching at California Sports Center and is a part of the first Dance Credential cohort at CSUEB.

studios, schools, and community centers. Emma is currently teaching at California Sports Center and is a part of the first Dance Credential cohort at CSUEB.



JEANNE-CLAUDIUS (JC) MARTIN is a Bay Area native who began their dance career studying jazz with Marie Stinnett and appearing in local community theater productions both on and off stage. They continued dancing through their time at Humboldt State University, falling in love with modern dance and how it celebrated all the weird and wonderful ways you could move your body. Since emerging from the emerald forests of Northern California they're happy to have found a home for their love of dance and performing as they pursue their career as a science educator. A former camp counselor

for the Girl Scouts of America, JC is also a designated removal escort for any bugs that find their way into the studio during rehearsals.



EMILY STEELE began her training in classical ballet at Pacific Ballet Academy where her love of dance and performing followed her through her involvement in community theater as well as intensives at Central Pennsylvania Youth Ballet, the American Academy of Ballet, and the Mark Morris Dance Group. During her undergrad at Humboldt State University she tacked on a minor in Dance Studies to her degree in Biochemistry as she discovered jazz, modern, and lindy hop as well as a chance to work as a student choreographer. She currently works as a chemist for the wine industry and enjoys knitting, bubble tea, and aquariums.



CRYSTAL VALDEZ has always labeled herself “the dancing scientist.” She received a BS in biochemistry along with a minor in dance at Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo, where she was an active member of the Orchestis Dance Company and Variable Velocity Performance Group. While her dance roots are strongly planted in the world of modern dance and break dancing, her love for hip hop and salsa flourished while she pursued her PhD in computational chemistry at UCLA. Crystal is very excited to be a part of *Menagerie* and for her 3-year-old daughter to see her first theater performance!



CLARA YANG fell into the wonders and joys of dance through her 7 years competing in colorguard and winterguard. She loves the whole rehearsal process and how movement, colors, breath, song, and acting all come together for a moment’s connection with a stranger. At Syracuse University, she dove deeper into the world of dance through a potpourri of dance classes and through dancing and choreographing with Orange Pulse Dance Troupe. After graduation, she returned to the Bay Area where she got the privilege to pioneer and teach a dance and flag ministry at Forerunner Christian Church and dance with ArtistEDGE Dance Company. She is happy to have the opportunity to grow as a dancer and performer with the talented and fun group of NCDE and to be a part of bringing Natasha’s creative ideas to life.

guest dancers



HELENA BIRECKI has been moving to music (and silence) since her third Christmas when her parents put on a record of the Nutcracker and she lost all interest in the presents. She later earned a BFA in dance from the University of Michigan. Since moving back to the Bay Area, she has had the pleasure of performing with groups including number9/kelly kemp, David Herrera Performance Company, Lizz Roman and Dancers, and High Release Dance, and has presented her own choreography at West Wave Dance Festival, Collaboration! Music and Dance, and the San Jose Choreographer’s Project.

Helena is delighted to be performing again with NCDE. When not in the dance studio, she can most often be found teaching Pilates, hiking, or organizing for equitable and systemic action to address the climate crisis.



MONIKA CHOCK has trained in ballet, contemporary, and modern dance, and has performed with ArtistEDGE Dance Company, the University of Chicago’s University Ballet, Cassand Ballet, The Academy of American Ballet, Dance Visions, and Zohar Dance Company. She has also trained in Wushu Kung Fu and holds a black belt in Tae Kwon Do. She is thrilled to be performing with the Natasha Carlitz Dance Ensemble.



ERWIN COLUMBUS is a Chemical Engineer who discovered dance at Iowa State University in 2012. He honed his talent performing with Orchesis I and II at ISU, and enjoys choreographing as well as performing. Erwin attended the American Dance Festival and has performed at FACES and Octagon Arts Festival in Iowa. Since moving to the Bay Area, he has appeared with Zohar Dance Company, ArtistEDGE, and High Release Dance. An alumnus of Natasha Carlitz Dance Ensemble, Erwin has collaborated with Monsoon Dance Company and danced with Aguas Dance Company, with which he traveled to Peru for an international dance festival.



JACQUELINE FULLER is dance coordinator and coach of the competitive dance team at California Sports Center Cambrianna. She has taught dance for 7 years in Nebraska and California. Her training consisted of dancing competitively for six years at her dance studio and four years with her high school varsity dance team. In 2016, Jacqueline graduated from the University of Nebraska at Lincoln with a BA in Dance and a Minor in Business. During college she was a member of the UNO Moving Dance Company, participated and choreographed in the UNL Student Dance Project, and was a member of Kappa Kappa Gamma women's fraternity. In 2017, Jacqueline moved to California to broaden her dance experience and advance her career opportunities. Outside of dance Jacqueline enjoys going to concerts, baking, and hiking with her boxer Stella.



I-HENG MCCOMB started school when she was 4 years old and never left. In kindergarten, she wrote in her Me Book that she wanted to be a "mommy and a teacher" when she grew up, so three children and many thousand students later, here she is. What she didn't foresee then was that somewhere around the turn of the millennium, she would start dancing regularly and never stop. I-Heng joined High Release Dance in 2006, in addition to performing with Zohar and ArtistEDGE. She is not only a choreographer and dancer but has also added lighting design and stage managing to her portfolio.

join us! _____

Want to see your bio in the next show program? NCDE will hold auditions on Tuesday, November 2, 8:15-9:45 pm at DanceVisions studio. We'd love to meet you and see you dance. Contact info@carlitzdance.org with any questions.

production crew

director & producer Natasha Carlitz
theatre manager Brian Haines
stage manager I-Heng McComb with Lydia Feuerhelm
stagehands Lydia Feuerhelm, Jacqueline Fuller
set-up crew Howard Coffin, Mike Coffin, Xiaoming Jia,
 Aditya Mahajan, Luiz-Otávio Zorzella
lighting designers Brian Kimmy, Mikaela Rangel
sound engineer Dave Lindberg
videographers Mike Coffin, Erika Tingey
photographers Xiaoming Jia, Yaron Kidron
graphic designer Natasha Carlitz
box office managers Alice & Paul Colley
house managers Byron Binns, Brian Kimmy, Chris Parish
ushers Rebekah Altman, Howard Coffin, Hector Elizondo,
 Elena Grindley, Laurel Howard, Andrew Mo



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