

natasha carlitz dance ensemble

In Parting...



Director's note

In the past few years, everyone's life has been touched by illness in one way or another. Preparations for this performance have been no exception. I'd like to think that tonight's program displays optimism in the face of setbacks and will inspire hope and appreciation of the beauties of our world and of those we love. If that's too much, then may it simply pass a pleasant hour, with something enjoyable to look at and listen to for a little while.

Many thanks to the dancers for hanging in there: for their commitment to making this show the best it could be, their good cheer in the face of adversity, and their contributions choreographic and otherwise. Thanks to Mike for feeding me delicious chicken soup after rehearsals and being willing to watch way too many rehearsal videos while saying "you're boring me!" only in jest (I think). Thank you to Grace Butler, always; to Julia Canavese and all the family, friends, and volunteers who've helped along the way; to DanceVisions for sponsorship; to generous financial patrons; and to you, our audience, for showing up. That's really important.



Dance with us!

NCDE will hold auditions for new company members on Tuesday, December 13, 8:15-9:45 pm at DanceVisions Studio, Cubberley Community Center #L-3 (across campus from the theatre). We will be seeking experienced modern dancers for a minimum one-year commitment, paid monthly, for development and performance of new work. The company offers challenging material in a fun and supportive rehearsal environment; choreographic opportunities will also be available. Company members will be eligible to attend summer dance camp for the creation of site-specific work. Audition runs like a free class; no need to prepare movement in advance. Please contact info@carlitzdance.org with any questions.

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In Parting...

december 2 & 3, 2022

company dancers

kerry aradhya

julia canavese elizondo

maggie hurd-fleck

emma jahde

marissa kuczowski

jeanne-claudius martin

alyssa plummer

clara yang

artistic director and producer

natasha carlitz

cubberley theatre, palo alto

In Parting...



choreography Natasha Carlitz with the dancers (2020-2022)
music Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, Serenade No 10 in B-flat Major, K 361,
“Gran Partita” ~ performed by Bläser der Berliner Philharmoniker
costumes Kim Baxter, Natasha Carlitz, Karen McWilliams

I. Largo. Molto allegro: **Reflections**

dancers Kerry Aradhya, Maggie Hurd-Fleck, Emma Jahde, Marissa Kuczkowski,
Jeanne-Claudius Martin, Alyssa Plummer, Clara Yang

II. Menuetto: **We Two**

dancers Kerry Aradhya, Maggie Hurd-Fleck, Emma Jahde, Marissa Kuczkowski,
Jeanne-Claudius Martin, Alyssa Plummer, Clara Yang

III. Adagio: **Missing** ~ *in memory of Alex Morrow, and with love to Mary Morrow*

dancers Maggie Hurd-Fleck, Emma Jahde, Clara Yang
understudies Marissa Kuczkowski, Alyssa Plummer

IV. Menuetto. Allegretto: **Points of Reference**

dancers Kerry Aradhya, Maggie Hurd-Fleck, Marissa Kuczkowski,
Jeanne-Claudius Martin, Alyssa Plummer
understudy Emma Jahde

V. Romance. Adagio: **Love Endures**

dancers Maggie Hurd-Fleck, Emma Jahde, Marissa Kuczkowski, Jeanne-Claudius
Martin
understudy Alyssa Plummer

VI. Tema con variazioni: **Remembrance**

dancers Kerry Aradhya, Maggie Hurd-Fleck, Emma Jahde, Marissa Kuczkowski,
Jeanne-Claudius Martin, Alyssa Plummer, Clara Yang

VII. Finale. Molto allegro: **Celebration of Life**

dancers Kerry Aradhya, Maggie Hurd-Fleck, Emma Jahde, Marissa Kuczkowski,
Jeanne-Claudius Martin, Alyssa Plummer, Clara Yang

This dance grew from “Missing,” which I began in 2020 in response to the death of a life-long friend and guardian. As we added more sections to the piece I thought about how a memorial can (should?) encompass joy, and I wish you joy in remembering time spent with someone you have loved and lost. I hope Alex would have liked this.

~ 15-minute intermission ~

Seasons on Stage



choreography Natasha Carlitz with the dancers (2021-2022)
projections Natasha Carlitz
costumes Natasha Carlitz & Karen McWilliams

I. Winter

music Max Richter, “Winter 2” from “Vivaldi, The Four Seasons,
Recomposed by Max Richter”
dancers Kerry Aradhya, Maggie Hurd-Fleck, Emma Jahde, Marissa Kuczkowski,
Jeanne-Claudius Martin, Alyssa Plummer, Clara Yang

II. Spring

music Johannes Brahms, String Quartet No 1 in F Major, Op 88, “Spring”:
III. Finale: Allegro energico
dancers Kerry Aradhya, Maggie Hurd-Fleck, Emma Jahde, Jeanne-Claudius
Martin, Alyssa Plummer, Clara Yang

III. Summer

music George Gershwin, “Summertime” ~ Charlie “Bird” Parker, trumpet
dancers Kerry Aradhya, Maggie Hurd-Fleck, Jeanne-Claudius Martin,
Alyssa Plummer, Clara Yang

IV. Autumn

music Mike Coffin, “Rondo for Autumn”
dancers Kerry Aradhya, Maggie Hurd-Fleck, Emma Jahde, Marissa Kuczkowski,
Jeanne-Claudius Martin, Alyssa Plummer, Clara Yang

V. Return of Winter

Initially developed as a site-specific work for Las Palmas Park in Sunnyvale under the title “Seasons of Distance,” this piece originated as a way for us to keep dancing during the pandemic, with the dancers far apart. Reworking it for the stage has given us the pleasure of dancing close together again.

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About the 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 a 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 the Natasha Carlitz Dance Ensemble, she returned a few years ago after a long hiatus and is honored to be dancing with the company once more.



MAGGIE HURD-FLECK 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 University of California, 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, choreograph for the school's annual Candlelight Carols concert, and participate at American College Dance Association (ACDA) conferences. She returned to the Bay Area and caught the teaching bug, and has been teaching dance for ages 2-18 since. She received her CA Dance Teaching Credential in 2022 from CSUEB and currently leads the Dance Program at Pioneer High School and their fabulous Dance Team. Since joining NCDE in 2018, she has appreciated multiple performance opportunities and created two pieces of choreography for NCDE shows. When not dancing Emma is mostly found sleeping and eating, though she attempts to make time for her friends and family and follow her other passions: traveling, reading, and anything crafty or creative.



MARISSA KUCZKOWSKI was born and raised in Burlington, North Carolina, where she received her first 16 years of dance training at Burlington Academy of Dance & Arts (BADA). Marissa then continued her dance studies at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro (UNCG), graduating in December 2019 with a BFA in Dance Performance & Choreography and a minor in Anthropology. During her undergraduate studies, Marissa also studied abroad at London Contemporary Dance School and fulfilled internships with non-profit companies across the US including Dance Exchange (Takoma Park, MD), Dance Project (Greensboro, NC), Margaret Jenkins Dance Company (San Francisco, CA), and Zaccho Dance Theater (San Francisco, CA).

Since graduating, Marissa has enjoyed opportunities to explore her artistic and personal practices on a farm in Athens, GA; in a U-Haul Box Truck traveling across the United States; and in the lush sands and sea of Hawaii. Landing in the Bay Area in the fall of 2021, Marissa has enjoyed performing with NCDE and independent choreographer Lydia Feuerhelm. Marissa is also the Archival Intern at Deborah Slater Dance Theatre (San Francisco, CA), an Administrative Associate at Burlington Academy of Dance & Arts (Burlington, NC), and the Programming and Development Coordinator for KARIZMA Performing Arts Company (Burlington, NC).



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.



ALYSSA PLUMMER, originally from Sunnyvale, began dancing ballet at a young age, and then continued to dance all throughout college. She earned a double major Bachelors in Science in Dance Choreography and Performance and Biochemistry, graduating Summa Cum Laude from Saint Mary's College of California. In college she started training seriously in modern dance, and fell in love with dance all over again. Her choreography thesis performance was presented at the American College Dance Association. She enjoys dancing, choreographing, and teaching. Alyssa loves the feeling of dance and the creative freedom. She currently works as Manager of Academic Services for various Saint Mary's Graduate programs. She also teaches dance for students from 3 to 18 years old. In her free time she enjoys playing with her four cats, playing video games, and trying new food.



CLARA YANG fell into the wonders and joys of dance through her seven 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 thrilled now for 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.

More information at WWW.CARLITZDANCE.ORG

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 eleven more full-length programs as well as appearing in dozens of showcases and festivals around the Bay Area. Athletic and spirited, NCDE dancers bring both strong technique and emotional depth to their performances. “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*. With its strong focus on musicality, the company has commissioned work from a number of composers and seizes opportunities to perform with live musicians.

In 2010, NCDE was invited to represent the United States at the Egyptian International Modern Dance Festival, performing full-length concerts in Cairo and Alexandria. “Last week the Natasha Carlitz Dance Ensemble presented a breathtaking show,” wrote Rania Khallaf for Cairo’s *Al-Ahram 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 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 with the collective High Release Dance. Named one of “ten Bay Area choreographers to watch” by *sjDanceCo*, she has shown her work in a variety of settings and has created more than 50 dances for NCDE. Critics have heralded her choreography as “ambitious,” “daring,” “thought-provoking,” and “proof that creativity knows no bounds.”

Production crew

director & producer	Natasha Carlitz
theatre manager	Brian Haines
stage manager	I-Heng McComb
lighting designer	Mikaela Rangel
sound engineer	Byron Binns
graphic designer	Natasha Carlitz
web developer	Xiaoming Jia
videographers	Yaron Kidron, Mike Coffin
photographer	Sasakthi Abeyasinghe
box office managers	Alice Colley & Paul Colley
house managers	Brian Kimmy, Chris Parrish
ushers	Eric Anderson, Howard Coffin, Jen Costillo, Elena Grindley, Hideko Sakamoto, Tracey Stanelun
set-up crew	Howard Coffin, Mike Coffin, Xiaoming Jia, Luiz-Otávio Zorzella

