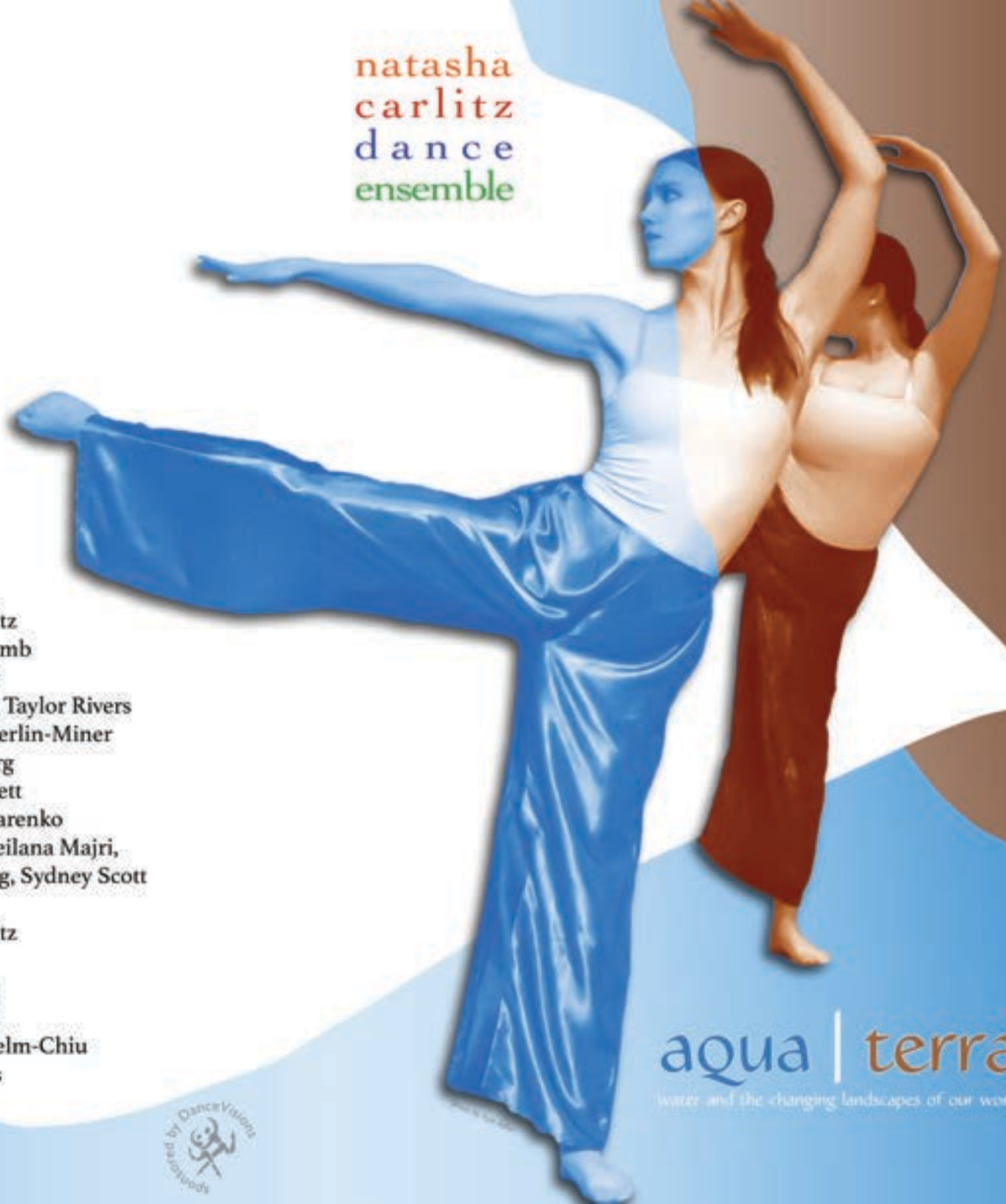


natasha
carlitz
dance
ensemble



PRODUCTION CREW

Director & Producer	Natasha Carlitz
Stage Manager	I-Heng McComb
Lighting Designer	Allen Willner
Technicians	Del Medoff & Taylor Rivers
Production Coordinator	Chris Chamberlin-Miner
Theater Director	Chloë Zimberg
Theater Coordinator	Shayna Howlett
Audience Services Manager	Katya Ponomarenko
Front-of-House Staff	Price Little, Leilana Majri, Callie Norberg, Sydney Scott
Front-of-House Volunteer	Jeanette Li
Graphic Designer	Natasha Carlitz
Imagery Creator	gnat AI
Web Developer	Xiaoming Jia
Social Media Manager	Marie Hamel
Videographer	Lydia Feuerhelm-Chiu
Sponsor	DanceVisions



aqua | terra
water and the changing landscapes of our world



NATASHA CARLITZ DANCE ENSEMBLE
aqua | terra

choreography by
Natasha Carlitz
Alyssa Plummer

company dancers
Audra Edwards
Marie Hamel
Maggie Hurd-Fleck*
Jeanne-Claudius Martin
Elizabeth Musco
Alyssa Plummer
Avery Rissling
Clara Yang

* on leave, with video appearances

guest dancers
Skylar Rose Adams
Sophie Otewalt
Macy Yu

director & understudy
Natasha Carlitz

FOR MORE INFORMATION
www.carlitzdance.org
www.odc.dance/theater

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

This show is for Grace. Actually, every show, always, has been for Grace. Grace Butler (1930-2024) was my first and most formative dance teacher, beginning when I was five years old, and has been my mentor ever since. Grace taught me to create dances that bring joy to both dancers and audience, and that dance can be a place to find and build a supportive community. She has critiqued every one of my performances. Now I have to listen inside my head for her voice telling me how to improve this one; I hope she would like the result.

And I hope you will, too. It reflects our love for the world around us and honours nature as a constant source of inspiration. Members of the company have particularly relished exploring different environments as we generated material for these dances.

In every production, there are so many people to thank. My first thanks go to the dancers, whose belief in this concept and collaboration in its creation, down to the tiniest details, have brought this new work together. The dancers have contributed their own movement ideas throughout and have truly realized my vision of an "ensemble." Special thanks to Maggie Hurd-Fleck, who has been with us every step of the way, working as a rehearsal director and understudy, and congratulations on the birth of her daughter!

Thanks also to our guest artists and all who have helped with aspects of preparation: I-Heng McComb for the many hours of tech; Kerry Aradhya, Yuna Choi, and Erika Tingey for rehearsal assistance; Corinne Selvin for *Aurora Borealis* props and inspiration; our patrons for financial support; and Mike Coffin, Perboly, and Bertie for every single day.

AUDITIONS

Ready to dance? NCDE is looking for experienced modern dancers to join the company for our 2025-26 projects. Company members are paid monthly, with a minimum one-year commitment. Join us for our 20th anniversary season! Auditions will be held on Sunday, March 2, 7:45-9:15 pm at DanceVisions Studio in Palo Alto. Please see www.carlitzdance.org/about/auditions for more information.

Aqua | Terra

All choreography by Natasha Carlitz with the dancers, except for *Fog* segment, choreographed by Alyssa Plummer. Video projections filmed and edited by Natasha Carlitz.

MUSIC

Ocean Mike Coffin, "Ulysses"

Cliff Rafael Krux, "Cinematic Sad Cello"

Waterfall Jon Schmidt, "Waterfall" ~ The Piano Guys

Lake Ludovico Einaudi, "Seven Days Walking: Birdsong (Day 7)"

Evaporation Keiko Abe, "Frogs - Etude for 4 Mallets,"

~ Peter Sadlo, percussion

Seed Johann Sebastian Bach, "Sonata for Violin Solo No. 2 in A Minor,

BWV 1003: IV. Allegro" ~ Hilary Hahn, violin

Wheat Field Johann Sebastian Bach, "Goldberg Variations in G Major,

BWV 988: I. Aria" ~ Seldom Sene, recorders

Storm Malcolm Young, "Thunderstruck" ~ 2Cellos

After Rain Erik Satie, "Gnossienne No. 3" ~ Lavinia Meijer, harp

Aurora Borealis Toru Takemitsu, "Wind Horse: Vocalise 3"

~ Tokyo Philharmonic Chorus

Glacier Ryuichi Sakamoto, "Glacier"

Melt Robert Hohner Percussion Ensemble, "Tsunami" (excerpt)

Redwoods Mark Maxwell, "Redwoods"

Grove Russ Freeman, "From the Redwoods to the Rockies"

Harvest Johann Sebastian Bach, "Goldberg Variations in G Major,

BWV 988: XIII. Variation 12. Canone alla Quarta" ~ Seldom Sene

Condensation Johann Sebastian Bach, "Cello Suite No. 1 in G Major,

BWV 1007: IV. Sarabande" ~ Peter Sadlo, percussion

Fog J.T. Peterson, "Petrichor"

City Dave Brubeck, "Blue Rondo à la Turk"

~ Robert Hohner Percussion Ensemble

Beach Vangelis, titles from "Chariots of Fire" ~ 2Cellos

Sunset Simon & Garfunkel, "Sound of Silence" ~ 2Cellos

TONIGHT'S PERFORMANCE RUNS APPROXIMATELY 75 MINUTES WITHOUT INTERMISSION. PLEASE HOLD YOUR APPLAUSE UNTIL THE END. ENJOY!



ocean cliff waterfall lake evaporation seed wheat field storm after rain aurora borealis glacier melt redwoods harvest condensation fog city beach sunset

About the Company

Founded in 2005, the **Natasha Carlitz Dance Ensemble** presented its inaugural concert in partnership with the internationally acclaimed California Guitar Trio in 2006 and since then has produced thirteen 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.

With its strong focus on musicality, the company has commissioned work from several composers and seizes opportunities to perform with live music, including two invitations from folk-rock duo Emma's Revolution. "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," wrote Michael Phelan on *baydance.com*.

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."



Artistic Director **Natasha Carlitz** began her dance training in Palo Alto nearly 50 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 30 years, Natasha has choreographed and performed around the Bay Area, both independently and as a member of the collective High Release Dance. She has created more than 80 dances for NCDE. Critics have heralded her choreography as "daring," "thought-provoking," and "proof that creativity knows no bounds."



Composer in Residence **Mike Coffin** started playing classical guitar in grade school and began writing guitar music soon after. Thankfully, most of his early music has been lost. In the last few years he has begun composing for other instruments and ensembles as well. His new music sounds as if it might have been written by one of the slower-witted students of J.S. Bach, though he also sprinkles in bits of flamenco, jazz, and blues. He first collaborated with NCDE in 2012 and has been the company's Composer in Residence since 2015, composing all the music for NCDE's 2017 production *Acadia and other stories*. You can listen to his compositions at soundcloud.com/mhcoffin.

COMPANY DANCERS



Audra Edwards grew up in Eagle, Idaho, where she studied ballet at Eagle Performing Arts Center with Jeff and Cathy Giese and Lisa Moon. While in high school, she also studied vocal music and theater. She continued her dance and vocal studies at Butler University, where she fell in love with modern dance. Audra has also trained with Alonzo King Lines Ballet, Joffrey Chicago, Boston Ballet, The Rock School, and American Conservatory Theater. Upon receiving her BFA from Butler, Audra moved to New York City, where she was a company dancer with Impact Movement Collective and an apprentice with Lydia Johnson Dance. Audra moved to Denver in 2017, where she was a dancer with Hannah Kahn Dance Company from 2017-2022. While in Denver, Audra was also a company member with Maureen Breeze Dance Theatre and T2 Dance Company. In November 2022, Audra moved to England where she danced with Northern Dance in Newcastle upon Tyne. Audra has been dancing with NCDE since her move to the Bay Area in 2023.



Marie Hamel is originally from Portland, Oregon, where she studied ballet, contemporary, and tap with Christine Hamel (her mother) at Hamel Dance Academy. In high school, she joined the Junior Artist Generator program at BodyVox, where she trained under Sara Parker and Heather Jackson and studied jazz (Luigi Technique), ballet, contemporary, and commercial hip hop. She also attended several summer intensives including Summer Dance Lab, Polaris Dance Theater, BodyVox, NW Dance Project, and Paul Taylor. Most recently, she has been studying marketing and dance at the University of San Francisco (graduation in May 2025). There she has had the privilege of learning from Kara Davis, Robert Moses, Amie Dowling, Eli Nelson, and several other Bay Area artists. In addition to studying at USF, Marie has been working at ODC and taking modern jazz classes from Elvia Marta. Marie has been with NCDE since 2023.



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. She graduated from UC Santa Barbara with a BFA in Dance in 2012 and joined NCDE in 2013. After two and a half years with the company, Maggie moved to New York to pursue her doctorate in Physical Therapy at Long Island University Brooklyn. She returned to the Bay Area in 2018 and has enjoyed dancing again with NCDE ever since. Maggie has also had the opportunity to perform with many dance projects throughout California, including Blind Tiger Society, Ka.nei.see Dance Collective, Scratch Dance, and H2O Dance Company. In addition to dancing, Maggie works as a Physical Therapist at Westcott Physical Therapy in Los Altos and recently obtained her board specialty certification in orthopedics. Maggie is currently on maternity leave after she and her husband Jon welcomed their baby, Marlowe, this past November. She enjoys spending her free time practicing yoga and going on family walks with her dog, Cooper.



Jeanne-Claudius (JC) Martin is a local human who began performing at a young age, learning jazz dance with Marie Stinnett and appearing in Sunnyvale Community Players productions both on and offstage. They continued dancing through their time at Cal Poly Humboldt with a modern dance minor in addition to their biology degree. Since emerging from the emerald forests of Northern California, they're happy to have found a home for their love of dance and performing at NCDE. JC teaches 5th grade at Stratford Middle School and, as a former Girl Scout camp counselor, is the designated removal escort for any bugs that find their way into the studio during rehearsal.



Elizabeth Musco, originally from Fort Wayne, Indiana, began her dance journey at age twelve, training primarily in hip hop at a competition studio. In 2016, she became one of the first dance majors at University of Dayton, where she was given opportunities to study a variety of genres and trained under past and present Dayton Contemporary Dance Company members. She graduated Summa Cum Laude with dual degrees: a BME in Mechanical Engineering and a BA in Dance, earning the "Dr. G Award for Excellence in Mainstage Theatre." Now navigating the Bay Area dance community, she performs whenever she can. Elizabeth joined NCDE in 2023 and wants to thank Natasha and her fellow dancers for making her feel so welcome.



Originally from Sunnyvale, California, **Alyssa Plummer** began dancing ballet at a young age and then continued to dance throughout college, finding a love for new forms of dance thanks to the dance department at Saint Mary's College of California. She earned a double major BS in Dance Choreography and Performance and Biochemistry, graduating Summa Cum Laude. Her choreography "To Tell the Truth" was presented at the American College Dance Association. Currently, she works at Saint Mary's College of California supporting various areas of graduate study. Alyssa also teaches dance for students aged three to eighteen. She joined NCDE in 2021. In her "free time" she enjoys playing with her four cats: Alastair, Haze, Hermes, and Luci.



Avery Rissling grew up in southern California where she trained at Lauridsen Ballet Centre and South Orange County School of the Arts. She fell in love with modern dance at Santa Clara University, where she was inducted into NHSDA, received the Anna Halprin Dance Award, and graduated Summa Cum Laude in 2020 with a dual BA in Dance and Political Science and a minor in Gender Studies. Now based in San Francisco, Avery performs, choreographs, and teaches movement classes across the Bay Area. She has been a company member of NCDE since 2023, and has performed the works of choreographers such as Kristin Kusanovich, Claire Calalo, Ronnie Reddick, and Raissa Simpson. Avery is passionate about defying gender roles, collaborating with other performing artists, and creating fun and accessible movement for all bodies.



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 person. 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 and Cat Machines Dance. 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.

GUEST DANCERS



Skylar Rose Adams started her training with the Vaganova Ballet method (Mary Silva) and later discovered modern dance in high school with her first company, Gotta Dance! in Bend, Oregon. She holds a BA in American Musical Theatre Performance with a minor in Urban Education from Santa Clara University, and is an alumna of Queen Mary University of London School of Drama and the American Conservatory Theatre.

Skylar Rose is a professional choreographer, actor, and director focusing on elevating cultural consciousness and connection. Her original dance and theatre works have taken her across the West Coast, Nicaragua, and England with companies including Kusanovich Dance, Oregon Shakespeare Festival, and Magic Theatre.



Born and raised in San Jose, **Sophie Otewalt** received her BFA in Dance from San Jose State University. She studied ballet, jazz, Limón technique, Gaga, and contemporary during her time at SJSU and was a member of the modern company University Dance Theater. Post grad, she has participated in the Emerging Choreographers Forum with MFDP|SF for two years, danced with Cat Machines Dance by Jen Costillo, and worked as a company assistant with Margaret Jenkins Dance Company. As she continues her training and builds a life with dance at the center, she is grateful to perform with NCDE!



Macy Yu is a performer, choreographer, educator, and student who grew up in Monterey, California. In 2024 Macy received her BA in Dance with a minor in Education from Saint Mary's College of California and immediately launched into Saint Mary's graduate program working towards a Dance MFA. Macy's robust training includes ballet, jazz, hip hop, contemporary, modern, lyrical, and more. She currently channels her passion for dance into teaching young students at local studios, where she leads classes, choreographs routines, and coaches competition teams and soloists. Future aspirations include dancing in a company and becoming a college dance department faculty member.