

NEW DIRECTIONS

**MANDELL WEISS FORUM
JUNE 6-8 @ 7:30 PM
TIX @ THEATRE.UCSD.EDU**

**EXCITING NEW DANCE WORKS BY
STUDENT CHOREOGRAPHERS:**

Mira Mitre

Gage Stixrude-Bertelloni

Italy Clark

Yali Alsberg

Fabricio Apuy Novella

Elizabeth You

Saryah Colbert

Sage Kowalkowski

Vrisika Chauhan

Lauren Lee

Yvente Situ

New Directions '24

Directed by Ana María Álvarez

Featuring Choreography by
Elizabeth You, Gage Stixrude-Bertelloni,
Italy Clark, Fabricio Apuy Novella, Saryah Colbert,
Yali Alsberg, Mira Mitre, Vrisika Chauhan,
Yvente Situ, Lauren Lee, Sage Kowalkowski

THE CAST

Yali Alsberg *	Leana Cortez	Litzy Martinez *
Ajahna Amore	Jillian Curry	Hongbin Miao *
Natasha Balingit	Alexia Demiroska	Mira Mitre *
Juliana Bates	Mark Dyachuk	Haru Mokudai
Mark Betancourt	Kaitlyn Fong	Mirelle Nakoud
Ella Breaux *	Matthew Ford	Leela Noguchi
Majesty Byrd	Adela Gonzales	Oriela Oiknine
Denise Cardoso	Arianna Kricun	Roxy Ong
Cece Carton	Emmerson Lahey	Lauren Pak
Vrisika Chauhan *	Lauren Lee *	Monica Park
Aanya Choksi	Rouyou Lu	Vicky Pham *
Courtney Cheung	Hannah Lucas	Kaylin Poblete
Nicole Constan	Josie Marasco	Nazia Quadir

Ella Ricchio	Mars Stern	J'Sean Wiley
Alondra Santiago Jaimes	Jyzelle Tena	Maile Wong
Yael Sela	Q Thwreatt	Vivian Wu
Michelle Shen	Caroline Tjoe	Elizabeth You *
Joanne (Juwon) Shin	Allen Valencia	Ailinna Zhang
Yvente Situ *	Maile Wang	Yongyun Zhang
Alexis Stahl*	Kylah Whittaker *	Elaine Zhao

*Dance Captain

CREATIVE/DESIGNERS

Director	Ana María Álvarez
Choreographer	Elizabeth You
Choreographer	Gage Stixrude-Bertelloni
Choreographer	Italy Clark
Co-Choreographer	Fabricio Apuy Novella
Co-Choreographer	Saryah Colbert
Choreographer	Yali Alsberg
Choreographer	Mira Mitre
Choreographer	Yvente Situ
Choreographer	Lauren Lee
Choreographer	Vrisika Chauhan
Lighting Designer (Light at the End of the Tunnel, The Intangible Power, Bolo Azadi!, American Dream)	Sage Kowalkowski
Lighting Designer (Illusions of Movements, The Weight of Lives)	Vida Huang
Lighting Designer (<i>i move you move me</i> , A Woman's World, Some Garden)	Taylor Olson
Lighting Designer (What Did You Want?)	Stephaney Knapp
	Melody Vilitcha

EDI Advocate
Production Manager
Props Shop Supervisor
Costume Shop Supervisor
Electrics Supervisor
Audio & Video Supervisor
Wardrobe Supervisor
Technical Director

Aysan Celik
Laura Manning
Jeni Cheung
Jan Mah
Mike Doyle
Steve Negrete
Debbie Callahan
Daniel Capiro

STAGE MANAGEMENT

Production Stage Manager
Assistant Stage Manager
Assistant Stage Manager
Production Assistant

Yulin 'Lisa' Fang
Piper Lord
Max Thompson
Maya Melancon

CREW

Light Board Op.
Sound Board Op.
Scenic/Prop
Scenic/Prop
Costume

Gabby Mostamand
Gabriella Marie Johnson
Tairan Zhang
Jordan Ruggles
Valeria Borjas

CONTENT WARNINGS

- Flashing/ Strobe Lighting
- Firearm Depictions
- Blood
- Simulated Violence/Torture
- Visuals of Pain

A NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR

"When I dare to be powerful, to use my strength in the service of my vision, then it becomes less and less important whether I am afraid."

— Audre Lorde

Whether you've been inside of the creative process with us, or are here to witness these works for the first time - we are so glad you are here! New Directions is a yearly concert produced by the Theatre & Dance Dept, where a group of student choreographers are selected to create new works, with a cast of students from our department and across our campus.

Art making is the radical act of imagining a world and then moving with courage to share those dreams with others. We have to contend with fear in order to cross the threshold from imaging to making. Tonight you will witness 11 courageous beings and more than 50 student artists crossing that threshold, collectively making the decision to show up and share these visions. Throughout this process I invited the choreographers to delve deeper into their personal 'why', to articulate their purpose for making work and more specifically THIS work. I encouraged them to explore the questions that each of their dances ask and to engage choreography as community organizing. I challenged them to hold space for and engage their casts in deepening their relationships with the work and with each other.

It has been an intense moment for our university community, here at UCSD and across the globe. I have heard students sometimes refer to dance as a place of escape, a place where they feel free of the complexities of the world. I can understand that desire, to feel free from conflict in a world that is complicated, contradictory and often feels in deep opposition to our well being. But what would the world be like if instead of escaping, we lean into discomfort, we welcome it in, and celebrate it? What if we learned to engage our bodies moving as a mechanism for understanding our stories and re-narrating our pasts and futures? What if dancing together could teach us how to be with discomfort? How can dance remind us of our shared liberation? Those are some of the questions that have been keeping me up at night and that I am witnessing our students grappling with.

Today we share with you this process of making; designing movement, creating worlds of light and dark and telling the stories of our bodies and our ancestors. Every person on stage that you witness tonight and all of those people who are behind the scenes, have been invited to show up as their fullest selves. So tonight we invite YOU into the process with us. Let us collectively imagine a future where we are all less afraid and more free!



SHOW ORDER

THE WEIGHT OF LIVES **BY FABRICIO APUY NOVELLA & SARYAH COLBERT**

The Weight of Lives follows two sisters from a pre-technological fictional village who discover that an unknown human force will soon invade their home. Through dance, they explore their connection to the spiritual world, seeking answers to save their village and the surrounding spirit-inhabited forest.

The presented choreography draws inspiration from the following dance/movement styles: West African Dance, Capoeira, Kabuki, Butoh, and the Hula/Kahiko of Pele. It is not intended to be a traditional representation of these forms.

Content Warnings: Blood, Strobe Lights, simulated violence/torture, and graphic visuals of pain.

Kaylin Poblete - Orihime

Kylah Whittaker * - Sophia

Roxy Ong - Reva

Ensemble: Denise Cardoso, Juliana Bates, Majesty Byrd, Matthew Ford, Q Thwreath, Rouyou Lu,
Vicky Pham *, Vivian Wu, Yongyun Zhang

Costume/Hair/Makeup Designers: Lex Verdayes, Anne Collora

Projection Designers: Abigail Miranda, Cecilia Li

Cultural Consultants: Michelle Huynh, Michelle Camaya, Daunté "Nabi" Fyall, Kara Mack, and
Paolo Batuta.

*Dance Captains

LIGHT AT THE END OF THE TUNNEL
BY GAGE STIXRUDE-BERTELLONI

Alexis Stahl*, Mark Betancourt, Cece Carton, Hongbin Miao, Alexia Demiroska, Yali Alsberg,
Elizabeth You, Mars Stern, Mirelle Nakoud, Emmerson Lahey

*Dance Captain

i move you move me
BY LAUREN LEE

This work strives to explore human connection and the ways in which we move each other through spaces. To be human is profoundly complex, but it is also beautifully simple – amidst a world of smoking chaos, how do our collective energies generate resilience? And how do our movement landscapes lead us back to one another?

Content Warning: Occasional strobe lighting/flashing lights will be used in the piece.

Nazia Quadir, Jillian Curry, Nicole Constan, Kaitlyn Fong, Lauren Pak, Lauren Lee

ILLUSIONS OF MOVEMENTS
BY ITALY CLARK

Contemporary Isolations mixed with Popping and Locking movements illustrate the challenges that artists face as they break free from traditional dance expressions.

Content Warning: Occasional strobe lighting/flashing lights will be used in the piece.

Litzy Martinez *, Denisse Cardoso, Mark Dyachuk, Hongbin Miao *, Adela Gonzales, Kyla
Whittaker, Mark Betancourt

*Dance Captains

A Woman's World **BY YALI ALSBERG**

Jillian Curry, Kaitlyn Fong, Cece Carton, Nazia Quadir, Ella Ricchio, Oriela Oiknine, Arianna Kricun, Yael Sela, Yali Alsberg *

SOME GARDEN **BY MIRA MITRE**

Some Garden is a contemporary dance theatre piece inspired by the themes from the Garden of Eden. Set in a fanciful jungle, a human military company stumbles upon this otherworldly place. Unsure how to proceed, the soldiers are caught between acting in accordance with their principles and giving in to the lure and luxury of the jungle. Eventually, the supernatural pull of the garden and the soldiers' own desires cause them to slowly become one with the environment.

While the story can be understood literally, its themes are about going after something you want, especially if you have been conditioned not to, and connecting back to nature. Ultimately, Some Garden is about the fears and freedoms that come with following your true desires.

Content Warning: Firearm depictions

Alondra Santiago Jaimes, Caroline Tjoe, Courtney Cheung, Elaine Zhao, Ella Ricchio, Leana Cortez, Leela Noguchi, Maile Wong, Michelle Shen, Mira Mitre *, Natasha Balingit, Nicole Constan

THE INTANGIBLE POWER **BY YVENTE SITU**

This piece highlights one word: faith. Faith is the intangible power. It is a piece that draws attention to the rollercoasters of our individual faith including the aspects that influence our perception on the definitions of faith, confidence, and power. It aims to make every individual involved, whether they are the ones featured in the work or a viewer of the work, to reflect on their own faith and how their perception changes from their inner voices and other's judgments. Is

faith measurable? What does it mean to live with intentionality? How does this intangible power lead us to greater knowledge of truth? How do we let go of a restrictive mindset to realize that our capabilities are far greater than that of which our minds limit them in reality? This piece poses such questions, opening the gate for people to broaden their understanding of living life with joy, passion, and... the intangible power.

Hannah Lucas, Monica Park, Joanne (Juwon) Shin, Ailinna Zhang, Yvente Situ *

BOLO AZADI!

BY VRISIKA CHAUHAN

Bolo Azadi! “Bolo” means “say” in Hindi and “Azadi” means “freedom” in Urdu. The word Azadi has roots in the Persian language, which was widely spoken in the Indian subcontinent during the Mughal era. Persian poets and writers used this term to express the idea of freedom and liberation. The chant originated as a feminist slogan against patriarchy. This piece is in response to the history of the word and connects us to one another, our liberation’s, and resistance against the individualism that stemmed from white patriarchy.

We use our ancestors as guidance to share our story of how land was divided in South Asia by the British. This piece discovers the barriers we break away from, taking a critical approach in questioning our histories of oppression through caste, religion, colorism, etc. Exploring the diaspora’s, this piece contains various glimpses of Indian Folk dances with a main focus on Garba, a community circle dance, danced through various clapping rhythms, originated from Gujarat, India. During the Hindu Religious holiday Navratri, Garba is played and it is used as a way to celebrate the arrival of Goddess Durga. Incorporating Riz Ahmed’s album *The Long Goodbye*, where he talks about his experience being a Pakistani in Britain, we allow ourselves to dive deeper into our relationship with land and our identities. “As an artist I ask the questions of how we move towards seeing each other’s humanity and not view Mother Earth as a property to own but one to communally care for? How do we shift from patriarchy to matriarchy? And how does this all show up in our collective and embodied liberation?”

For our ancestors; past, present and future!

Research credits: *Caste The Origins of Our Discontents* by Isabel Wilkerson, *Dravidian Futurities: A creative Process* by Meena Murugesan

Aanya Choksi, Vrisika Chauhan

Sound Designer: Padra Crisafulli

WHAT DID YOU WANT?

BY SAGE KOWALKOWSKI

Josie Marasco, Ella Breaux *, Elaine Zhao, Lauren Pak, Mirelle Nakoud

*Dance Captain

“AMERICAN DREAM”

BY ELIZABETH YOU

Alexia Demiroska, Haru Mokudai, Vivian Wu, Hannah Lucas, Mars Stern, Allen Valencia, Leela Noguchi, Maile Wang, J’Sean Wiley, Elizabeth You

THE CHOREOGRAPHERS

Yali Alsberg (Choreographer/Dancer) is a second-year undergraduate majoring in cognitive behavioral neuroscience and minoring in dance and business. UC San Diego Credits: WinterWorks ‘24, FallWorks ‘23, New Directions ‘23. Other credits: LA Carnival, San Diego Dance Theater. Yali is grateful for the opportunity to share her artistic vision with the community and work with amazing dancers. She hopes to inspire the audience to feel empowerment and compassion.

Vrisika Anil Chauhan (Choreographer/Dancer) is a third- year double major in Clinical Psychology and Dance. She began her dance training at the age of 11 in her hometown Hayward, CA as an Odissi dancer. Since then, she has continued to explore her voice through different dance forms and through her choreographic work. UCSD credits: Winter Works 24', jazúcar!, Can we kick it?, Walk with Amal 23', (Performance Lab class w/ Casa Familiar), New Directions 23', Ānandanurñ pāñjarurñ ਅਨੰਦਜੁਮ ਪੰਝਰੁਮ (Cage of Happiness), Other credits: jazúcar!, 24', Community cast member (CONTRA-TIEMPO), TCE Holiday Video 23', (CONTRA-TIEMPO), Guardians of Water 23' (Dance film by Marcos Duran). Her dance journey

would not be possible without the support of her parents and sister, whom she is deeply grateful too. She would also like to thank Ana María Álvarez, Dr. grace shinhae jun, and Dr. Jade Power- Sotomayor, for their mentorship, support in research, and guidance throughout her work.

Italy Clark (Choreographer) is a first-year undergraduate pursuing a bachelor's in dance. With over sixteen years of experience, Italy has performed with Carlsbad Dance Center, Sole Talk, and Reverb Tap Company. She is appreciative of the opportunity to share her love of dance with New Directions and is eager to watch her team channel her unique choreography.

Saryah Colbert (Co-Choreographer) is a powerhouse from Oakland, California. Trained in West African, Hip Hop, Haitian, Dunham, Jazz, Tap, and Ballet since her youth at the Dimensions Dance Theatre's Rights of Passage program at the Malonga Center for the Arts, Saryah has graced stages with Culture Shock Oakland, On Demand, and performed for the Oakland Raiders, San Francisco 49ers halftime shows, and several performances across the Bay Area. She also joined the all-female collective, Pressure Bay Area during her years as a professional teaching and performing artist.

As a fourth-year Global Health major and Dance minor at UC San Diego, Saryah seamlessly blends her passions for science and art. In 2020, she founded APPEALING HEALING, an organization dedicated to the principles of mental and physical wellness in her community. Saryah's dance journey is a testament to her commitment to creativity, advocacy, and the healing power of the arts. Her vibrant spirit and talent shine through every performance, touching hearts and inspiring minds. Saryah's passion for dance allows her to explore, express her creativity, and grow in the art and gifts that radiate her spirit. She loves sharing this gift with the world. "

Sage Kowalkowski (Choreographer) is a second-year undergraduate student double majoring in dance and political science. UC San Diego credits: WinterWorks. Sage is incredibly grateful for this opportunity to present her work to the community and collaborate with many amazing creatives.

Lauren Lee (Choreographer/Dancer) is a senior undergraduate public health major and dance minor. Growing up in Singapore, Lauren discovered her love for movement through modern and contemporary forms. She has since supplemented her training through intensive programs with A.I.M by Kyle Abraham and at the American Dance Festival. UC San Diego credits include: WinterWorks ('24), New Directions ('23), fallWORKS ('22). Other credits include: The Running Show with Monica Bill Barnes & Company ('24).

Mira Mitre (Choreographer/Dancer) is a third-year Philosophy major and Dance minor from Rockville, Maryland. She has been dancing for 12 years, training at the Maryland School of Dance and UCSD. In addition to dancing, choreographing is one of Mira's biggest passions and she is so excited and honored to be sharing her piece in this year's program. UCSD credits: Wonderland (Aequora Ballet), winterWORKS '24, New Directions '22, '23, In Flux (Aequora Ballet), Into the Woods (Muir Musical), and fallWORKS '22.

Mira would like to thank her dancers for their boundless dedication to the piece and her family and friends for their continued support throughout her dance career.

Fabricio Apuy Novella (Co-Choreographer) is a fifth-year undergraduate theatre major and dance minor who transferred from Antelope Valley College. Fabricio grew up in Palmdale, California and sends out his gratitude to all the mentors and artists that he has learned from over the years. UC San Diego credits include: The Promise (ASM), 900 Years (SPA), A Flea in Her Rear (ASD), Limp Wrist on the Lever (AD), Napoli (Ciappa). He is honored to have the opportunity to choreograph for New Directions and to explore part of the story from his undergraduate playwriting thesis in this dance piece.

Yvente Situ (Choreographer/Dancer) is a third-year undergraduate student double majoring in pure mathematics and dance. UC San Diego credits: WinterWorks. Yvente is appreciative of this opportunity to create, learn, and discover the endless possibilities when we walk by faith, and not by sight. Her artistic intentionality finds importance in doing what we do with joy, for she hopes to create art that is self-interpretative and reflective for a growth mindset. Her art aims to bring light into others' darkness. She is grateful for her family, dancers, and teachers who have helped her along the way.

Gage Stixrude-Bertelloni (Choreographer) is a fourth-year undergraduate, majoring in dance and minoring in Spanish literature. UCSD Credits: 51Barrio, New Directions '23, WinterWorks '24. Gage Stixrude-Bertelloni is very grateful for the opportunity to share his choreographic work in this year's New Directions and would like to extend a special thank you to his dance team Sleepless Collective for the unwavering support throughout his college career and dance journey.

Elizabeth You (Choreographer/Dancer) is a second-year transfer, fourth-year dance major at UC San Diego from LA. First time being a choreographer for a production like New Directions with great support from the Theatre and Dance Department. Excited to showcase her message through her piece alongside her amazing cast. UC San Diego Credits: Winterworks '24 (Can We Kick It?, Open Your Eyes)

THE DANCERS

Natasha Balingit (Dancer) is a second-year undergraduate majoring in clinical psychology and minoring in dance. Natasha currently dances with the Associated Student club, Aequora Ballet Company, at UC San Diego. This will be Natasha's first performance with the Theatre and Dance Department. Natasha is very grateful for this opportunity and hopes you enjoy the show as much as she does.

Juliana Bates (Dancer) is a fourth-year undergraduate student majoring in marine biology. While this would be her first official UC San Diego production, she is beyond grateful to share her evolving background in West-African dance and work to expand on her dance knowledge and vocabulary with other seasoned dancers.

Mark Betancourt (Dancer) is a second-year double majoring in microbiology and dance. Mark is performing in his first show ever and is grateful to have to opportunity to show his energy to make the crowd roar.

Ella Breaux (Dancer) is a first-year undergraduate majoring in dance. This is her first department show at UC San Diego. Ella is very excited to be able to perform in this year's show and share the stage with the other incredible performers.

Denisse Cardoso (Dancer) is a second-year undergraduate majoring in political science.

Celia (Cece) Carton (Dancer) is a third-year dance and psychology major. She is excited to be participating in her 4th dance performance at University of California, San Diego. Her credits include Winterworks 2024, Fallworks 2022, Winterworks 2022, Fallworks 2021. Cece wants to thank all the choreographers, teachers, and dancers for all the hard work and inspiration throughout this process!

Courtney Cheung (Dancer) is a fourth-year undergraduate majoring in data science and double minoring in visual arts ICAM and dance. Credits: Wonderland, In Flux, Sleeping Beauty: Interpretations, In Bloom (Aequora Ballet Company), Project Symphony (Muir Musical).

Aanya Choksi (Dancer) is a first-year undergraduate student from Mumbai, India, majoring in psychology and minoring in dance. UC San Diego Credits: WinterWorks. Other Credits: Odissi dancer, completed solo performance.

Leana Cortez (Dancer) is a fourth-year undergraduate majoring in Global Health. Leana is grateful for her fellow garden dancers and the broader dance community at UC San Diego as it has been an empowering and healing space for her the past four years.

Jillian Curry (Dancer) is a third year Environmental Systems: Ecology, Behavior and Evolution major. Previous credits include The Running Show with Monica Bill Barnes and Co., WinterWorks '24, New Directions '23, FallWorks '22, and Mateo Motion '18-'21. She is proud to be an ecology student and works in a Marine Biology lab at the Scripps Institute of Oceanography as well as as an Outdoor Trips Guide for UCSD Recreation. She would like to thank her incredible friends and family for all their support as well as her wonderful mentors, professors, and fellow dancers within the UCSD dance program.

Nicole Constan (Dancer) is a second-year majoring in sociology and minoring in dance. UC San Diego Credits: WinterWorks. Nicole is grateful for this opportunity, and for her amazing choreographers and fellow dancers.

Alexia Demiroska (Dancer) is a third-year undergraduate double majoring in business psychology and dance. UC San Diego Credits: WinterWorks '24, New Directions '23. Alexia is excited to embody choreographers Gage and Elizabeth's dance inspirations alongside other wonderful dancers.

Mark Dyachuk (Dancer) is a second-year clinical psychology major with a minor in theatre. Other credits: Musical ShowCase (Muir Musical), Into the Woods (Falcon Theatre). Mark is excited to be in his first non-musical piece and hopes everyone enjoys the show!

Kaitlyn Fong (Dancer) is a second-year undergraduate majoring in human biology and double minoring in dance and business. UC San Diego credits: WinterWorks, New Directions. Kaitlyn is incredibly grateful for the dance community at UC San Diego and excited to be a part of this year's New Directions production.

Matt Ford (Dancer) is an MFA in Cross-Genre Writing student. They teach American history and Africana studies at the University of San Diego and is the founder and CEO of 5D Publishing. Writing credits: Lambda Literary, The Wall Street Journal, HuffPost, The Creative Independent, Art Journal, and elsewhere. They received their BA in Anthropology from Vassar College in 2017. (they/them) www.5d.pub

Adela Gonzales (Dancer) is a third year political science-public law major. UC San Diego Credits: beginning hip hop (Epstein theater) West African dance (dance studio 3). I am happy that I get to perform alongside amazing individuals while growing as a dancer.

Arianna Kricun (Dancer) So grateful for this experience, and the people I got to experience it with!

Emmerson Lahey (Dancer) is a third-year undergraduate majoring in GeoScience with a minor in Dance. They have previously danced and choreographed for UC San Diego's FallWorks and New Directions. Emmerson has also been heavily involved in San Diego's dance community, dancing and presenting work with Art Produce's Nectar, Disco Riot's Choreo & SCARYaoke, Out of the Box's Movement Open Mike, and San Diego Dance Theater's Live Arts Fest. She is extremely excited to be a part of New Direction's production of 100% student work and looks forward to sharing her passion for movement with everyone.

Rouyou Lu (Dancer) is a third-year undergraduate majoring in theatre. She has gained extensive experience performing in various play tours across China, where she honed her acting skills and immersed themselves in diverse cultural narratives. Rouyou Lu has undergone rigorous training in acting techniques and is dedicated to exploring the depths of character development and storytelling. Inspired

by the transformative power of the acting world. Rouyou Lu is excited to contribute their talents and collaborate with fellow artists in bringing compelling stories to life.

Hannah Lucas (Dancer) is a first year Physics major with a minor in Dance. UC San Diego credits: WinterWorks '24 (Can We Kick It?)

Josie Marasco (Dancer) is a first year undergraduate with a dance major and biology minor. She is very excited to be part of new directions as her first ucSD dance department show. She is super grateful to have met such incredible people in the process.

Litzy Martinez Medina (Dancer) is a fifth year undergraduate majoring in Sociology with a concentration in Law and Society. UC San Diego Credits: WinterWorks, Can We Kick It? Litzy is very grateful and happy to be able to dance in one more performance before graduating. Litzy has spent her final year taking only dance classes and preparing for WinterWorks and New Directions, which has brought her a lot of happiness, new friends, and lots of memories.

Hongbin Miao (Dancer) is a fourth-year undergraduate majoring in mathematics-computer science. UC San Diego Credits: WinterWorks (Can We Kick It?). He is grateful for all the people he met through his dance journey :)

Haru Mokudai (Dancer) first-year transfer, third-year undergraduate majoring in business economics at UC San Diego. Born and raised in Tokyo, Japan and has been breakdancing for 5 years. UC San Diego Credits: New Directions ("American Dream")

Mirelle Nakoud (Dancer) is a first-year undergraduate student pursuing a dance and biology degree. This is her first dance show at UCSD and she is thrilled to work with such creative individuals.

Leela Noguchi (Dancer) is a first-year cognitive and behavioral neuroscience major. UC San Diego credits: Winter Works '24 Other credits: Life is Beautiful by Eriko Tsuruoka, Lightning at Dance Stadium, Rain Rainbow at Dance Stadium, Conflict at Dance Stadium. (she/her)

Orelia Oiknine (Dancer) is a first-year undergraduate majoring in political science. This is her first production in the dance department, and she is extremely excited and grateful for this opportunity.

Roxy Ong (Dancer) is a fourth-year undergraduate majoring in international studies and minoring in business. UC San Diego Credits: New Directions 2021. Other credits: Big Fish (Muir Musical) and American Idiot (Muir Musical). Roxy is grateful for this opportunity to stage this beautiful marriage of dances, cultures, and arts with such incredible minds and performers.

Lauren Pak (Dancer) is a third-year undergraduate majoring in Cog-Sci Design and Interaction. Lauren is grateful to have this space to move with like-minded individuals, and to extend her love for the arts with the greater UCSD community.

Monica Park (Dancer) is a third-year undergraduate student majoring in bioinformatics and minoring in computer science. Monica is grateful for this opportunity to grow with other dancers in a safe space and to revisit her passion for dance.

Vicky Pham (Dancer) is a third-year undergraduate majoring in linguistics. She is excited to enter the world of performing arts in the community.

Kaylin Poblete (Dancer) is a third-year theatre major. UC San Diego credits: Fifty Boxes of Earth (WNPF '23). Outside credits: What's Yours Is Mine (Theatre at the Mount), The Inspector General (NCRT), 20,000 Leagues Under the Sea (NCRT), Animal Farm (NCRT), The North Wind (Patio Playhouse), The Vain Princess (Patio Playhouse), A Charlie Brown Christmas (NCRT), The Three Musketeers (NCRT). Aside from acting, Kaylin has assistant directed a production of War of Worlds, at the theatre school at North Coast Repertory, where she currently interns.

Nazia Quadir (Dancer) is a first-year undergraduate student majoring in linguistics. UC San Diego credits: WinterWorks. Coming from a background in competitive dance and classical training, Nazia is grateful to learn from her newfound connections in the UCSD Theater and Dance community as she develops her style as a dancer.

Ella Ricchio (Dancer) is a business psychology major with a minor in dance. This is her second-year at UC San Diego but she will be graduating this year. Other credits: Wonderland (Aequora Ballet Company). Ella is grateful to be a part of this production and work with such talented artists.

Alo Santiago (Dancer) is a fourth-year undergraduate majoring in international relations. She is an exchange student seeking her dreams from Mexico. Alo is grateful for this opportunity to share her dance inspirations with this community and work with the amazing dancers and friends she has made through her way.

Yael Sela (Dancer) is a second-year undergraduate majoring in visual arts. UC San Diego Credits: WinterWorks, Open Your Eyes. Yael is grateful for this opportunity to share her love for dance with this community and work with all the other amazing dancers.

Michelle Shen (Dancer) is a third-year undergraduate majoring in mathematics-computer science and minoring in dance. She is excited to be performing in her first department show! She is also very involved

with Aequora Ballet Company, having performed in their productions of Wonderland ('24), IN FLUX ('23), and Sleeping Beauty ('22).

Joanne Shin (Dancer) is a third-year undergraduate majoring in cognitive science. She is an exchange student from Korea and this was her first and the last quarter in UC San Diego. Participating in this piece made this quarter short but impactful for her. Joanne is pleased to be part of this piece with amazing choreographer and wonderful dancers.

Lexi Stahl (Dancer) is a fourth-year undergraduate majoring in Clinical Psychology. She is also a member of the UCSD Women's Water Polo team. UC San Diego Credits: New Directions, See Me Through My Eyes. Lexi is grateful for her family and friends and the opportunity to be in this production.

Mars Stern (Dancer) is a first-year undergraduate student from the Bay Area, double majoring in philosophy and dance. UC San Diego Credits: WinterWorks "Open Your Eyes", and UCSD's production of "The Promise".

Caroline Tjoe (Dancer) is a fourth year undergraduate majoring in pharmaceutical chemistry with a minor in marine sciences. She is forever grateful for the opportunity to dance and learn from such inspirational dancers at UC San Diego.

Q'shawn Thwreatt (Dancer) Q'shawn Thwreatt (Dancer) is a third-year undergraduate majoring in psychology and minoring in theatre. Q'shawn is thrilled to be part of his first dance piece and to collaborate with such amazing, passionate artists. He is incredibly proud of everyone's hard work in bringing this beautiful story to life. Enjoy the show!

Allen Valencia (Dancer) is a First-year double majoring in dance and linguistics. He is super excited and grateful to perform in this year's production of New Directions. He would like to thank Liz for giving him the opportunity to join her piece as well as a huge thank you to Ana Maria and everyone in tech who has made this show possible. UC San Diego credits: Winter works 2023

Kylah Whittaker (Dancer) is a third-year undergraduate double majoring in theatre and dance. Kylah is grateful for this opportunity to share her dance inspirations with this community and work with the amazing dancers.

J'Sean Wiley (Dancer) is a First year undergraduate majoring in dance. He has danced since the sixth grade, training in Hiphop and musical theatre. He is grateful for this opportunity, as it will be a very good and fun experience for him.

Maile Wong (Dancer) is a second-year EBE biology major. UC San Diego credits: WinterWorks '24, New Directions '23, FallWorks '22

Vivian Wu (Dancer) is a third-year dance major. UC San Diego Credits: WinterWorks 24'

Ailinna Zhang (Dancer) is a second-year exchange undergraduate student from University of Sydney, double majoring in computer science and commerce. Ailinna is delighted to have this opportunity to embody her views through dancing while also gaining new perspectives of life from others.

Yongyun Zhang (Dancer) is a third-year DMA student.

Website/Link: <https://yongyunzhangpercussion.com>

Elaine Zhao (Dancer) is a third-year undergraduate Human Bio major with a dance minor. UC San Diego Credits: New Directions (2023). She is super excited for the opportunity to perform onstage alongside her best friends and wants to say a special thank you to the choreographers and all of her supporters!

THE CREATIVE TEAM

Ana María Álvarez (Director), a 2020 Doris Duke Artist and an inaugural Dance/USA Artist Fellow, is a prolific choreographer, director, skilled dancer and movement activist who has achieved multiple accolades for her dynamic works. She joined the UCSD Theatre + Dance Department in the Spring of 2024. In addition to her faculty position, she is the founding artistic director of CONTRA-TIEMPO Activist Dance Theater in Los Angeles, where she lives with her husband and two kids

Yulin 'Lisa' Fang (Production Stage Manager) is a fourth-year undergraduate double majoring in communication and joint mathematics and economics with a theatre minor. UC San Diego credits: X (ALD), 900 Years (ASM), Hells Canyon (ASM), Sotoba Komachi (PA). Regional credits: Dr. Seuss's How the Grinch Stole Christmas! (SM apprentice, The Old Globe), A Weekend with Pablo Picasso (ASM sub, NVA). Muir Musical credits: Something Rotten! (ASM), Into The Woods (PA), American Idiot (PA). Company 157 credits: Embers Adrift (ASM), Dracula (ASM). Other credits: Heathers: The Musical (PA, Zorina Productions). Lisa is grateful to have had the opportunity to PSM for the first time and wants to thank the amazing cast, crew, MFA mentors, faculties, and friends who support her throughout the process!

Vida Huang (Lighting Designer) is a second-year MFA lighting design student at University of California San Diego. UC San Diego credits: New Direction 2024 (LD), The Half-Sibling Play (LD/WNFP24), Dead Girl's Quinceañera (LD/WNFP24), Winterwork24 (LD), X (ALD), The Promise(LD), 900 Years (LD/WNPF23), Blu (ALD), Dance Nation (ALD), Late: A Cowboy Play (LD) Other credits: The Glass Menagerie(LD, Diversionary

Theatre), Trade/ Mary Motorhead (ALD, REDCAT), 2022 Mini Organ Concert: The Golden Age of the Organ (LD, National Theatre and Concert Hall)

Stephaney Knapp (Lighting Designer) is a fourth-year undergraduate double majoring in theatre and psychology. UC San Diego Credits: No Singing in the Navy (WNPF '24) (LD), Comedy of Errors (Studio Shakes) (LD), New Directions 2023 (LD), Grippy Sock Vacation and Just the Two of Us (WNPF '23) (LD).

Cecilia Li (Projection Designer of The Weight of Lives) is a fourth-year undergraduate double majoring in Environmental Systems and Archaeology. This is Cecilia's very first time being a part of a production and she is excited and grateful for this opportunity.

Piper Lord (Assistant Stage Manager) is a first-year undergraduate majoring in theatre. UC San Diego credits: The Half-Silbling Play, Dead Girl Quinceañera. Other credits: & It's Not Getting Better, Fables Unfold, Feywild (Company 157). Piper is thrilled for this opportunity to participate in her first dance production at UC San Diego and is grateful to everyone who helped make it possible!

Maya Melancon (Production Assistant) is a third-year transfer undergraduate majoring in theatre. Other credits: Something Rotten (Muir Musical), Women in Rubber (Company 157). Design Credits: Cabaret, Tempest, Blithe Spirit, Kinky Books (Moorpark PAC). Maya is grateful to be on the stage management team and to work with the amazing choreographers and dancers!

Abby Miranda (Projection Designer of The Weight of Lives) is a third year transfer theatre major, empathies in Scenic Design. UC San Diego Credits: Studio Shakes: Romeo and Juliet & Comedy of Errors, & Its Not Getting Better (Company 157), FeyWild (Company 157), Once Daily. Other credits thru Santa Rosa Junior College: Adams Family Musical (Assistant Scenic Designer), Gloria (Props Designer), The Spongebob Musical (Stage Manager / Paint Charge), Summer Repertory Theater Scenic Design Assistant (2022 Scenic and Props Intern). They currently work at Birch Aquarium as an Exhibits Artist Assistant. (They/She)

Website: <https://abbymiranda.weebly.com>

Taylor Olson (Lighting Designer) is a second-year MFA student from San Diego, California. She received her B.A. in Theatre Arts for Design and Production from California State University, Fullerton. She is the Technical Director and Resident Lighting Designer for Disco Riot, an organization all about building a movement through movement to make art culture in San Diego more relevant, impactful, and collaborative. Taylor has worked with Fresh Congress, Malashock Dance, FACT/ SF, La Jolla Playhouse, California Ballet, and collaborating with choreographers and artists throughout Southern California.

UCSD Credits: 809 Almond (LD), Cancelina (LD), Open your Eyes / Winterworks 2024 (LD), Orlando (LD), I Found A Zipper (LD), Bunny Bunny (ALD), Machinal (ALD)

Select credits: For A (LD, FACT/SF), Cenotas (LD, DISCO RIOT), Bhangin' It (ALD, La Jolla Playhouse)

Max Thompson (Assistant Stage Manager) is a third-year undergraduate transfer majoring in theatre. This is their first time working on a UC San Diego production. Other credits outside of UCSD include: An Enemy of People (PSM), Barefoot in the Park (AD+PSM), and Mystic Oaks (AD+PSM). Max wants to thank Lora Powell for providing them this opportunity, Lisa Fang for patience and mentorship, and Cass Rivas for being their biggest supporter and best friend. Enjoy the show, and remember to spread a little kindness.

Lex Verdayes (Costume / Hair & Makeup Designer of The Weight of Lives) is a third-year undergraduate developmental psychology major and critical gender studies + theater double minor. UC San Diego theater credits: Into The Woods, Flea in Her Rear, Dance Nation, The Rocky Horror Picture Show, Dracula: House of Lies, American Idiot. Film Credits: Another College Musical, Monique// IG @shootingstarxdesigns

Melody Vilitchai (Lighting Designer) is a third-year theater major. UC San Diego credits: Something Rotten! (ALD, Muir Musical), Romeo and Juliet (ALD, UCSD), It's Not Getting Better (LD, Company 157), Ups and Downs (LD, Company 157), Thicker Than (ALD, UCSD). (She/her/hers).

Special appreciation for Margaret Marshall for her continued support of the New Directions Productions and our student dance makers.

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