

HOWARD UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

DIVISION OF FINE ARTS | DEPARTMENT OF THEATRE ARTS | DANCE ARTS
PRESENTS

THE FULLNESS OF THE END MEETING THE BEGINNING

FULL CIRCLE

2021 SENIOR CAPSTONE SHOWCASE

APRIL 19, 2021

6PM EST



NOTES FROM THE INSTRUCTOR PROF. TIFFANY L. QUINN

***Suffering produces perseverance, perseverance, character, and character, hope.
Romans 5:3-4 NKJV***

The journey of a Howard University Dance Arts student has its challenges and victories. Our students engage in four years of rigorous mental, physical, and spiritual training with the hope to obtain their goals in life. The Senior Seminar course is the final step in their tenure as they prepare to enter the professional world -- we engage in career planning and building, collaboration with other artists and alumni in the field, and of course, develop the Capstone project. This presentation is their homage to the work and experience during their time at Howard.

But I would be remiss if I did not acknowledge the unique circumstances of their journey. From living in a state of constant trauma due to an unjust system fueled by racial tension to a global pandemic that has completely impacted our daily lives, these young scholars have persevered in this new age of virtual learning that none of us have ever experienced. They have taken this new set of challenges and discovered even more streams within them. I am proud to welcome them into the alumni circle and look forward to their contributions to the field and the world around us. May you continue in the struggle, with determination, grace, and expectation that your wildest dreams can come true.

Special acknowledgement and congratulations to our graduating Dance Arts minors as well, and best wishes as you embark on your professional endeavors.

Love and Light... Peace and Blessings

MESSAGE FROM THE ARTISTIC TEAM

While directly referencing the Adinkra symbol/ aphorism developed by the Akan people of Ghana the spelling is a nod to the soon to be reinstatement of the College of Fine Arts. Sankofa as a concept means looking back or acknowledging one's past as we move forward. That simple statement will shape our offerings this year. Our past is filled with immeasurable loss and sorrow but also significant triumphs and (s)heroes that have reshaped the world. The celebrations have sometimes been clouded by missteps but our journey has shaped the ground on which we stand. That history positions all who bear the torch, that Howard University Department of Theatre Arts character, to stand on the front line with our communities presenting our stories, our songs, our dances and our visions for radical change. Causing "Good Trouble" with our Art we offer you the season of SANCOFA.

The 2020-2021 SanCOFA Season is being led by Artistic Director- Eric Ruffin and Assistant Artistic Director- Dominique Douglas Hendricks, with support from T.W. Starnes as the SanCOFA Virtual Technical Director and Kevin Thorne II as Assistant to the Artistic Director. Although coming together physically has presented its limitations, DoTA still plans to wow its audiences, connect with alumni, engage the community and reach the globe.

We hope you'll join us!

GENERAL INFORMATION:

Location: 2455 6th Street, NW (on the campus Howard University)

Contact Information: 202/806-7700 | Fax: 202/806-9193

Administration: 202/806-7050

Facebook: HowardUTheatreArts

Twitter & Instagram: HUTheatreArts

Website: theatrearts.howard.edu

RUN OF SHOW

DEAR WOMAN

CHOREOGRAPHER: JAY'KAYLA WINFORD

Dancers: Jamyra Lasalle, Dominique Ross, Riche Williams, Jay'kayla Winford

Voice Overs: Arkashia Branch, Jamyra Lasalle, Janiya Nolden, Dominique Ross, D'Laurea Trice; Geneva White, Riche Williams, Jay'kayla Winford

Music/ Artist: "Who Are You: A Message to All Women" by Jon Jorgenson; "Cinematic Piano"; "Phenomenal Woman" by Maya Angelou; "Upbeat Instrumental"

Synopsis: Dear Woman is a piece supporting women's empowerment, values, and worth. Throughout my experiences and being surrounded by other women, I realize we often lack confidence nor recognize our unique characteristics due to the reality of our situations or just being misunderstood. Dear Woman is a message to celebrate women -- their beauty, identity, self-worth, and values.

AS TOLD BY THEM

CHOREOGRAPHER: DARRELL MOULTRIE

Dancer: Gillian Clifford

Music/ Voice over: "Smoke Gets in Your Eyes" by Miles Davis; Voiceovers by Nadine & Stephen Clifford

Synopsis: A short dance film that shares the growth of Gillian throughout her matriculation, told through the perspective of her parents.

WAITING

CHOREOGRAPHER: GENEVA WHITE

Dancer: Geneva White

Music/ Voice over: Spoken Word by Geneva White; "Agape" by Nicolas Britell

Synopsis: Waiting is a dance film that speaks on the uncomfortable feeling of being told to wait. Graduating senior Geneva is discovering and exploring her transition into adulthood.

BLACK ROSES

CHOREOGRAPHER: NAOMI K. JOHNSON

Dancer: Naomi K. Johnson

Music/ Artist: "Merry Christmas Mr. Lawrence" by Ryuichi Sakamoto; "On the Dance Floor" by Spark

Synopsis: In life you learn it is important to give our loved ones their roses while they are alive. This project is a tribute to my late father, Peter I. Johnson, who recently passed away. Throughout this work, you will uncover the ray of emotions that myself and siblings battle each day. It is my hope that through this piece, audience members will ultimately take away that there is no one way to grieve.

BLACK IS

CHOREOGRAPHER: SIANI BECKETT

Dancers: Siani Beckett, Aliyah Clay, Deirdre Dunkin, Tiana Jackson, Tanasia Lane, Tiana Sanders, James Smith,

Music/ Voice over: "Wiseman Remake" (instrumental) by tr3ystrikes; "The Beginning and the End" by Sault; Tamara Beckett (Interview); Craig Kirby (Interview)

Synopsis: Black Is... is a dance film that explores the Black identity through themes of pain and joy. It discusses the pressures of trying to measure up and assimilate to a standard set by society. In an attempt to reclaim one's identity outside of the box we were put in, we begin to fight for the normalization of Blackness in every form. While fighting for the freedom to be ourselves, we start to find the joy in all things that we are, all of what society has deemed as wrong. In the end, we discover that there is no singular answer to what Black is but it is through our shared experiences that we see the answers overlap.

MEET OUR SENIORS



SIANI BECKETT

Siani Beckett is a senior Dance Arts major at Howard University from New Castle, Delaware. In 2014, she became a member of Eleone Connection (PA), Eleone Dance Theatre's second company. Throughout her college career, Siani has worked with artists such as Tommie-Waheed Evans, Maleek Washington, and Sidra Bell. Siani has been a member of Breathe Dance Project (BDP) since 2018. She is also an aspiring choreographer and a strong advocate for the arts. Siani's work as Social Media Manager for the Department of Theatre Arts' Marketing Team and management in the Dance Arts program at Howard has driven her to pursue a career in Arts Administration. She is currently an intern at the International Association of Blacks in Dance in the Programs department. After graduation, Siani plans to continue work in Arts Administration and choreography across the US.



GILLIAN CLIFFORD

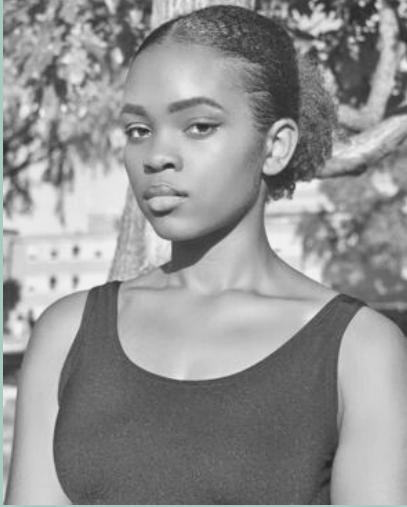
Gillian Clifford is a 21-year-old Graduating Senior Dance major and Strategic, Law, and Management Communications minor attending Howard University. Throughout her years of dancing, she has trained with multiple well known companies and organizations such as NYSSSA (New York State Summer School of the Arts), Joffrey Ballet, Alvin Ailey American Dance Theatre, Anthony Burrell's Breaking Barriers, Contemporary West Dance Theatre, Deeply Rooted Dance Theatre, Dallas Black Dance Theatre, and the Radio City Rockettes. During her time at Howard, she has performed in four showcases with pieces choreographed by both students and guest choreographers, including Tommie Waheed-Evans, Brian Flynn, and Edward Franklin. Currently, she is a company member with Company E in Washington, D.C. and plans to continue her concert dance career after graduation.

NAOMI K. JOHNSON



Naomi Kimberly Johnson is a senior Dance Arts major and Journalism minor at Howard University from Brooklyn, NY. Her love of dance led her to join the Restoration Dance Theater Company (RDTC) where she ultimately received her pre-professional training in the disciplines of Ballet, Modern and West African dance under the instruction of Ronald K. Brown. Throughout college, Naomi has served in many leadership roles including but not limited to; social media manager of WHBC Howard University Radio and the Howard University Royal Court Coordinator. This past summer Naomi interned at the National Football League with the Events and Business department. Most recently Naomi has started her own company, BombButterfly, LLC, which, is a fierce and powerful community of women driven by love; challenging each other to maximize their potential by inspiring them to become the best versions of themselves through workshops, events, and conversations about us, designed by us, and powered by us. Upon graduation, Naomi plans to join the National Football League as an Events Coordinator in New York City.

MEET OUR SENIORS



GENEVA WHITE

Geneva White is a graduating senior Dance Arts major from Howard University from Brooklyn, NY. She began dancing at the age of 15 at Abundance Academy of the Arts. She trained in Ballet, West African, Jazz, Contemporary, Modern, Singing, and Acting. During Geneva's matriculation at Howard, she has taken master classes from various teaching artists and has choreographed her first of many works. Geneva plans to continue her studies to become a Physical Therapist Assistant as well as train and intern with renowned companies in NYC. Her tenacious attitude is leading her to pursue her dreams of becoming a professional dancer.



JAY'KAYLA WINFORD

Jay'kayla Winford is a Senior Dance Major from East St. Lous, Illinois. She has studied dance for 17 years in various styles such as Dunham Technique , Ballet, Jazz, African, HipHop, and Contemporary dance. After graduation she is eager to continue her journey and will serve as a teaching artist at the Southern Illinois University Edwardsville Performing Arts Center in Illinois. She also plans to pursue both concert and commercial dance opportunities. She lives by the quote, "Remember to celebrate milestones as you prepare for the road ahead." - Nelson Mandela.

LAURABETHANY STRONG



LauraBethany Strong - (Guest Artist/Returning Student) A native of St. Louis, Missouri, LauraBethany began studying dance at the tender age of three. She started her professional career at 16 years old as an Actor's Equity member with the St. Louis Municipal Opera. Continuing her dance training led her to Howard University, where she became a Dance major under the direction of Dr. Sherrill Berryman-Johnson. After numerous professional opportunities, she made the decision to take leave from Howard and move to New York City upon receiving a scholarship to the prestigious Alvin Ailey School. In 2001, LauraBethany relocated to Los Angeles to further propel her professional career. After landing several high-profile jobs, she began to make a name for herself as a dancer, movement coach, and choreographer. She has worked with artists such as Babyface, Christina Aguilera, Janet Jackson, Beyonce, Jennifer Hudson, Natalie Cole, Lady Gaga and the list goes on. She's also no stranger to TV/Film, appearing in commercials, TV shows, and films like Will and Grace, Idlewild, The Great Observer, The Comebacks, Bring It On Again, and a list of award shows. You have also seen her as a straight-talking judge on Laurieann Gibson's Born To Dance. In 2017, LauraBethany was nominated for a British Arrow Award for her choreography in a NIKE campaign. She has returned to Howard after 22 years to finish her degree and is extremely grateful for the wealth of knowledge that has been gained from traveling around the world and learning the business from Icons.

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The performers and staff of FULL CIRCLE (the senior dance capstone showcase) would like to extend sincere gratitude to the following for their overall assistance and support: Office of Procurement and Contracting; Office of the General Counsel; HU Communications; The Hilltop; Office of the Provost, Dr. Anthony Wutoh, Provost, Cecil Trotman; Accounts Payable; HU Graphics and Printing; Dr. Rubin Patterson, Dean, and the Associate Deans of College of Arts and Sciences; Benita King, COAS Executive Assistant and Program Manager; Olcan Hollister, COAS Assistant Dean for Finance & Administration; Dr. Lisa Farrington, Associate Dean, and the Staff of the Division of Fine Arts; and Faculty, Staff, and Students of the Department of Theatre Arts.

SPECIAL THANK YOU TO...

Professor Royce Zackery (Dance Area Coordinator),
Professor Pat Thomas (Rehearsal Director),
Dance Arts Faculty and LauraBethany Strong
Friends of Theatre Arts and Dance,
International Association of Blacks in Dance,
Theatre Arts/Dance Alum for continued support.

PRODUCERS

The Department of Theatre Arts, led by Interim Chair- Dr. Abiola, is committed to the training of knowledgeable theatre and dance artists, theorists, historians, and teachers in the theatre and dance arts. The Department is dedicated to the principle of developing the highest quality of theatre and dance art, and to the serious investigation and perpetuation of the experiences and aesthetics of Black theatre and dance. The artistic programming offers not only entertainment, but also a forum for ideas and discussion.

OVATION SOCIETY

The Ovation Society of the Department of Theatre Arts honors those who have given funds in support of the Department's students, programs, faculty, and facilities. Such funds enable the Department to move into the future with a sense of confidence and artistic vision. We want to take this opportunity to recognize and thank our largest contributors for their tremendous commitment.

Support the Department of Theatre Arts in its mission to empower the next generation of emerging Artistic Leaders by making a contribution today.

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