




OLD DOMINION
 UNIVERSITY

Department of Communication and Theatre Arts

DEC 10, 2020

Dance Program Features New Fall Works in *ScreenDance*

Old Dominion University's Dance Program proudly presents *ScreenDance: A Dance Film Showcase*. This showcase features works by Jeremy Bates, Janessa Clark, James Morrow, Natalia Schradle, Megan Thompson and Dance students mentored by Cara Hagan. The films can be screened on the Dance Program Vimeo page from December 5-12, 2020.

The Dance Program has had three wonderful and productive residencies ongoing through Thanksgiving – one a hybrid (mixed live and virtual) experience and two all-virtual. Our three visiting artists are Janessa Clark, Cara Hagan, and Rebekah Rickards. Select works will be shared on the Dance Vimeo page, and will be projected in and on buildings around campus during the Spring semester.

Janessa Clark is a choreographer, filmmaker, and installation artist based in Brooklyn, NY. Her practice combines dance, video, and language to create socially engaged art. She holds an MA in Performance Practices from the Royal Central School of Speech and Drama in London and a BFA in Choreography from Arizona State University. At the heart of her work is the desire to challenge and rupture modes of choreography through co-authorship, applied privacy, and experimental agency.

Janessa has been fortunate to work with Tino Sehgal, Gibney Dance, and Laura Peterson Choreography among others. Janessa's body of work has garnered her recognition, residencies, grants, and awards from around the world.

Cara Hagan is an interdisciplinary artist whose practice is informed by movement, words, digital space, contemplative practice, and community. Ms. Hagan has the pleasure of sharing her artistic pursuits across the United States and abroad. Ms. Hagan serves on the dance studies faculty at Appalachian State University, as well as serving as director and curator for ADF's Movies By Movers, an annual, international dance film festival that hosts events at both the American Dance Festival and Appalachian State University. Most recently, Cara has set choreographic works on students at the UNC School of the Arts, Missouri State University, Roehampton University London, Gonzaga University, and on professional dancers at the DanceBARN Festival in Battle Lake, MN.

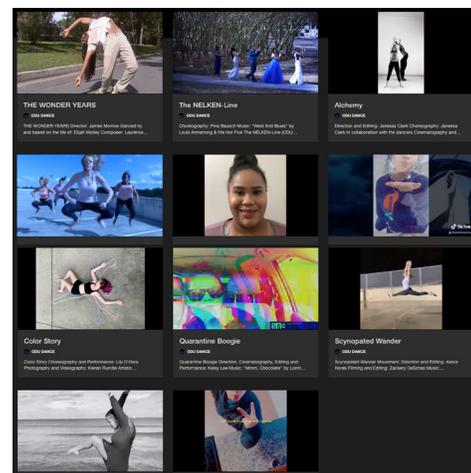
A bit about Rebekah Rickards: My dancestry has deep and wide-spread roots. I am a 5th generation dancer with seeds first planted in classical forms, ballet and modern. As roots

strengthened, my branches reached and blossomed in tandem with my artistic interests. Upon moving to Philadelphia, I spent 7 years studying more culturally enriched forms such as Capoeira (ASCAB), West African, Hip Hop and Vogue. I now create and perform concert as well as commercial dance work, often gravitating towards mediums of film and comedy. As I grow, my shape expands and rings ripple wide throughout my trunk, recounting my own personal history while searching for the new.

ScreenDance Dates: Dec 5-12, 2020

EVENT LINK:

<https://vimeo.com/showcase/odudancefall2020>



Students Meet With Accomplished Alumni



Fontaine Bland
2016



Rebecca Duckett
2010



Emily LeVault
2008



Gianina Thompson
2011

On December 3, the Communication Program hosted a successful professionalization forum for students with a panel of our Department's Strategic Communication alumni.

Planned and organized by Dr. Brendan O'Hallarn, the event gave students an opportunity to talk with and hear from four of our accomplished Department alumni who are making their mark across many industries in Communication.

The informative panel of experts featured:

Fontaine Bland, '16, is the Brand Manager at 72andSunny in Los Angeles. Her clients include the National Football League's NFL Votes advocacy campaign. Bland specializes in brand development, strategy, and innovation. Selected as an ADCOLOR Future in 2018, she "focuses on building diverse and inclusive communities that prioritize authenticity and equity for all."

Rebecca Duckett, '10, is the Manager of Internal Communications for the Thomas Jefferson National Accelerator Facility in Newport News (Jefferson Lab). Having worked in communications for a

variety of industries around Hampton Roads, Duckett now manages multiple messaging channels for over 700 employees and 1,200 scientific users at Jefferson Lab.

Emily LeVault '08, is a disabled veterans' activist for the Veterans of Foreign Wars and former U.S. State Department employee for the United States Embassy in Doha, Qatar.

Gianina Thompson '11, is the Director of Communications for The SpringHill Company, the media conglomerate that unites three companies built by LeBron James and Maverick Carter. Thompson has held prior PR positions with the NFL, ESPN and Nike, and proudly carries on our mission of combating injustice and inequality through storytelling: "In any of the work that I have done and will do, the beauty is that my being a Black woman is in the front seat of my story-telling and truth seeking."

We hope to provide our students with annual opportunities to meet with alumni panels across all Programs in the near future.



KUDOS!

James Morrow contributed to an anthology produced by the Dance Studies Association honoring Clare Croft and her collaborators with a 2020 Oscar B. Brockett book award for the work entitled *Queer Dance: Meanings and Makings*.

Katherine Hammon was nominated for the 2020 SCHEV Outstanding Faculty Award.

Revised Spring 2021 Semester Schedule

Spring semester has been revised to incorporate reading days during the semester. The first day of classes remains Tuesday, January 19. Classes have been extended by two days at the end of the semester to incorporate the reading days, which moves the last day of exams to Thursday, May 6. An updated exam schedule will be posted on the Registrar's Office website.

Tuesday, January 19	Classes Begin
Tuesday, January 26	Add/Drop Deadline
Tuesday, February 2	Withdrawal Deadline to Receive 1/2 Refund
Tuesday, March 2	Reading Day; no classes
Tuesday, March 30	Last Day to Withdraw
Wednesday, March 31	Reading Day; no classes
Wednesday, April 28	Classes end
Thursday, April 29	Exams begin
Thursday, May 6	Exams end
Saturday, May 8	Degree Conferral
Spring Commencement	To be determined

NOTE: WINTER SESSION

Classes will now begin December 29 and end on January 15.

The spring semester begins on January 19.