

IRVINE VALLEY COLLEGE DANCE DEPARTMENT PRESENTS



Dialogues of movement

# Conversations

Dance Concert

**Faculty choreographers**

Lisa Allin

Gabrielle Angeles

Carina Fourmyle

Teresa Jankovic

Jennifer La Curan

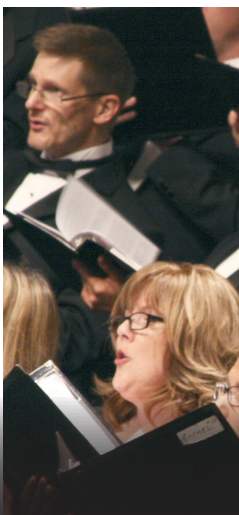
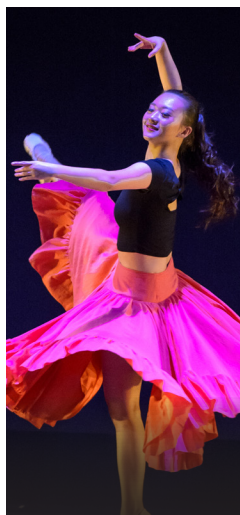
mia simonović



IRVINE VALLEY COLLEGE  
PERFORMING  
ARTS CENTER

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**SATURDAY, MAY 2**  
**7 PM • REZANOOR STAGE**

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## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



On behalf of the Irvine Valley College (IVC) family, welcome to the Irvine Valley College Performing Arts Center (PAC). At IVC, we are committed to enriching the cultural life of our campus and community.

Throughout the year, the PAC is home to a variety of engaging performances, from instrumental and vocal music to dance and drama, as well as a range of special events. We hope you will join us in celebrating the artistic diversity of our students, staff, faculty, and community members.

Thank you for sharing in our passion for the arts!

John C. Hernandez, Ph.D.  
*President, Irvine Valley College*

## MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN



On behalf of the entire Irvine Valley College (IVC) family, it's my pleasure to welcome you to the electrifying 2025–26 season at the Performing Arts Center (PAC).

This year, prepare to be transported—through fantastic performances, bold storytelling, and unforgettable moments that linger long after the curtain falls. At IVC, we believe in the power of the arts to ignite imagination, cultivate connection, and reflect the rich diversity of our shared human experience.

The PAC is a vibrant creative hub where talented students, passionate faculty, and acclaimed guest artists bring the stage to life. From powerful plays and exhilarating dance performances to stirring concerts and thought-provoking events, our season promises something for everyone.

Thank you for joining us. We're thrilled to have you here—and we can't wait to share the magic of the arts with you.

Vi Ly, Ed.D.  
*Dean, School of the Arts, Library, and Online Education*

# LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Please take a moment as we honor, acknowledge, reflect, and express our sincere gratitude for, and appreciation of, the peoples, ancestors, and sacred land that we gather upon today.

We honor the ancestral homelands and traditional territories of Indigenous peoples who have been here since time immemorial, and to recognize that we must continue to build solidarity, and kinship, with Native Indigenous communities.

At Irvine Valley College we honor the Kizh Nation, the Acjachemen Nation, and the Gabrieleño/Tongva Tribe. We would also like to pay our respects to the land and life of Indigenous people, the ancestors, elders, and our relatives/relations past, present and emerging.



# WELCOME

Welcome to **Conversations**, an evening of faculty choreographed works that explore dialogue through movement. This concert brings together six distinct pieces, each offering a unique perspective on the many facets of life. Through both live performance and screendance, these works invite audiences into a layered exchange of ideas, emotions, and experiences.

The choreography in **Conversations** reflects the diverse artistic voices of our faculty, each engaging with themes that range from personal reflection to shared human experience. Movement becomes language, and the stage transforms into a space where questions are posed, relationships unfold, and meaning develops over time. Some works speak quietly through subtle gesture and atmosphere, while others engage in bold physical dialogue, creating contrast and depth across the program.

By incorporating both live performance and dance for camera, this concert expands the ways dance can communicate. Screendance allows for intimacy, shifting perspectives, and cinematic storytelling, while live performance offers immediacy and shared presence. Together, these forms create a dynamic conversation that moves between stage and screen, inviting audiences to engage in multiple ways.

Thank you for joining us for **Conversations**. We invite you to experience these dialogues of movement and consider the ideas they spark both on stage and beyond.

Jennifer La Curan & mia simonović  
Dance Concert Directors



# PROGRAM

## POSTMARKED: LETTERS FROM WACKER DRIVE

### Creative Team

#### Concept, Choreography, Direction:

Jennifer La Curan in collaboration with dancers

#### Music:

Original Composition by Du'Bois A'Keen

#### Set Design:

Don Formanek & Thomas Keenan

#### Artwork:

Dani Maupin

#### Costume Design:

Christina Perez

#### Lighting Design:

Crystal Shomph

#### Technical Director:

Matt Rory

#### Stage Management & Sound Mixing:

Charlie Widerman

#### Video Panel Content:

Hana Sakioka

### Cast:

Loretta Lynn

Gabriella Norelli

Vanessa Garcia-Ramirez

Isabella Casillas

Isabella "B" Bella Jones

Maddie Miller

Rhaena Astrid Chang

Amy Lin

Tracy Blair

Karens Nguyen

Heather Anderson

Rafaela Stoianov

Phoenix Kim

Vinh Tran

*This collaborative work explores dance theatre through inspiration drawn from epistolary novels and the power of words and movement to tell a story. Set in the late 1990s in downtown Chicago, the piece follows seven individuals living in the Wacker Loft Apartments. Though each resident navigates their own life path, their stories unfold through letters sent across distance, revealing personal histories, shifting relationships, and moments of connection.*

## INTERMISSION



# PROGRAM

## IN SEARCH OF A BETTER TOMORROW

**Choreography:**

Gabrielle Angeles

**Music:**

“Discussions with a Giant” and  
“Chronological Soundscapes” by Thylacine

**Aerialists:**

Isabella Casillas, Amanda Kennedy,  
Bailey Hall-Diaz, Jimmy Nguyen

**Ground Performance:**

Alex Enagan, Jules Fuller, Sarah Leonard,  
Karess Nguyen, Vinh Tran,  
Xiang Chang (Karen) Wang

**Costume Design:**

Christina Perez

## ANGLES OF BEING

*Film Work*

**Choreography, Direction,**

**Videography & Editing:**

Jennifer La Curan

**Music:**

“F Giovannangelo - Worlds Apart  
(Harp and Strings)” by Lynne Publishing

**Performance:**

Bailey Hall-Diaz, Sarah Leonard

**Costume Design:**

Jennifer La Curan

*This work was created as part of a project with a highly condensed process, allowing only eight hours for rehearsal, filming, and editing.*

## WISDOM EYE

**Choreography:**

mia simonović in collaboration with the dancers

**Music:**

“Wisdom Eye” by Alice Coltrane,  
“The Thread Woven Backwards”  
by Brandon Boone (feat. Amelia Jones)

**Performance:**

Justine LeCave, Amy Lin, Maddie Miller

**Understudy:**

Jules Fuller

**Costume Design:**

Christina Perez

# PROGRAM

## UNEXPECTED RHYTHM

**Choreography:**

Lisa Allin in collaboration with the dancers  
Wyatt Davis

**Live Musical Accompaniment:**

Brant-Jake Ceralde (solo-improvisation),  
Tomoko Davis, Evan Oliver, Breann Pinedo,  
Meghan Reardon (solo-improvisation),  
Xiang Chang (Karen) Wang

**Performance:**

Sara Egger

**Costume Design:**

*Check out more information about our amazing musician at [www.wyattdavisart.com](http://www.wyattdavisart.com)*

## LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE

*Film Work*

**Choreography:**

Teresa Jankovic

**Music:**

“World on Fire” by For King & Country

**Performance:**

Brant-Jake Ceralde, Sarah Leonard,  
Chenqi (Shirley) Li, Euis Muljono,  
Jimmy Nguyen, Kares Nguyen,  
Gabriella Norelli, Lilly Salazar, Rafaela Stoianov,  
Vinh Tran, Chenjie Lavi Zhao

**Costume Design:**

Sara Egger

*“You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden...In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.”*



# PROGRAM

## HOW'S THE WEATHER?

**Choreography:**

Carina Fourmyle in collaboration with the dancers

**Music:**

“Butterfly Waltz” by Brian Crain,  
“Singin’ In The Rain” by Gene Kelly,  
“El Día De Mi Suerte”

**Performance:**

by Willie Colón & Héctor Lavoe  
Amanda Kennedy, Chenqi (Shirley) Li,  
Maddie Miller, Euis Muljono,  
Jimmy Nguyen, Danna Pacheco,  
Meghan Reardon, Vinh Tran  
Sara Egger  
Karina Osbourne

**Costume Design:**

**Lighting Design:**

*In unfolding conversations, each season demands a different version of our presence. This piece explores the beauty of those shifting climates, honoring the resilience required to dance through the changes and the grace of letting the wind carry us into the next transition.*



## BIOGRAPHIES



**Du'Bois A'Keen** (Guest Artist Composer) is a composer, recording artist, producer, singer-songwriter, and vocal arranger whose work bridges concert dance, opera, gospel, and contemporary performance. His artistry has been featured in OperaWire, NPR, The New York Times, Dance Magazine, and the Atlanta Journal-Constitution. He is the founder and director of the Harlem Gospel Ensemble and The Sacred Groove music collective.

In 2026, Du'Bois made his Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts debut at Alice Tully Hall as Director of the Harlem Gospel Ensemble and featured solo vocalist for Carrie Mae Weems' *Contested Sites of Memory*, appearing alongside Nona Hendryx, Carl Hancock Rux, Helga Davis, and Craig Harris.

A former touring company member of Urban Bush Women, Du'Bois has performed in works by Jawole Willa Jo Zollar and collaborated with artists including Alex Ketley and Carl Flink. He served as Creative Associate and Music Director for *Sacred Songs*, choreographed by Matthew Rushing for Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater at New York City Center and the Whitney Museum. His work spans collaborations with Arizona Opera and Dayton Opera, where he directed and performed Charlie Parker's *Yardbird*.

Du'Bois released *Sacred Songs Suite* in 2025 and continues to collaborate with Craig Harris. He serves on faculty at Columbia University School of Professional Studies and the Columbia Climate School, and made his Apollo Theater Music Café debut with his EP *A' LOVE NOTE*.



**Lisa Allin** (Faculty) holds an MFA in Dance from the University of California, Irvine (UCI). She's thrilled to be back at IVC teaching ballet and dance history. Before beginning her teaching career, she enjoyed many years as a freelance dancer in a variety of theatrical dance productions including *The Tales of Hoffman* at the Segerstrom Center for the Arts (formerly Orange County Performing Arts Center), *Westside Story* at the Moonlight Amphitheatre, and national and international tours with *Luma Theater*. In recent years, her research focuses on the intersection of dance and music compositions. As a result of collaborative experiments with dancers and musicians, she co-created *The Jazz Treatment* which debuted at UCI in 2022 and presented at the ACDA Baja Conference 2023. She has taught interdisciplinary workshops at ACDA, UCI's *Jazz Co-Lab* (sponsor), and *Jazz Dance Conference West*. In addition, she is a teaching artist for the Segerstrom Center for the Arts outreach program, bringing dance to underserved communities in Orange County. Lisa loves working with live musicians and keeps an open door to any who wish to collaborate with her.

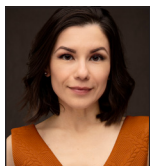
## BIOGRAPHIES



**Gabrielle Angeles** (Faculty) has been in love with performance from a young age. Her expertise includes a variety of dance styles, aerial arts, and prop manipulation. Gabrielle graduated with a B.A. from UCLA's World Arts and Cultures Dance Concentration. In 2006, she garnered an artist fellowship from The Kenny Endo Taiko Ensemble in Honolulu, Hawaii where she apprenticed as an ensemble performer. In 2008, Gabrielle finished her PD Certification in Visual Communications at FIDM. Gabrielle has worked with several performance groups/entertainment companies and has been a featured aerialist/dancer for Coachella's Do Lab stage, Lightning in a Bottle, Lucidity Festival, and Bringing Back Broadway. In 2011 Gabrielle founded The Furies LA, a live performance and production company with clients such as Poopouri, The Music Run, and Google. Gabrielle joined the IVC Dance Department in 2019 and feels blessed to be able to keep spreading the love for movement and art in all forms.



**Carina Fourmyle** (Faculty) is a dance artist, educator, and scholar whose research examines the cultural histories and social practices of partner and social dance forms across the Americas. Drawing from three decades of practice spanning jazz, tap, lyrical, musical theatre, competitive Ballroom and Latin dance, and a range of social dance forms, she approaches movement as both an analytic methodology and a lived archive of cultural and social exchange. Her work intersects with Afro-Caribbean traditions, cross-cultural communication, somatic investigation, and improvisation, and has been informed by fieldwork in Panamá and China as well as choreographic and instructional collaborations with professional musical theatre companies, K-12 arts programs, and immersive and experimental theatre. Carina holds a B.S. in Liberal Studies from Northern Arizona University and an M.F.A. in Dance from Montclair State University.



**Teresa Jankovic** (Faculty) has been a dancer, choreographer and educator throughout Southern California for over twenty-five years. Inspired by kinesiology and the exploration of fusing multiple genres allows her to cultivate her artistry, movement vocabulary and research. As a professional performer, Teresa danced with Jazz Spectrum, was a founding member of BARE Dance Company and also founded Kinetic Dance Project, a pre-professional dance company for youth preparing for a career in dance. Teresa earned both her B.A. and M.F.A. in dance from the University of California, Irvine where she served as Rehearsal Assistant to the late Professor Emeritus and legendary choreographer, Donald McKayle. Currently she is Associate Faculty at Irvine Valley College, MiraCosta College and part-time lecturer at California State University, Long Beach. She has previously taught at and/or created works for the University of California, Irvine, Laguna Dance Festival, Orange Coast College, American Ballet Theatre (ABT) Summer Intensives, Youth American Grand Prix (YAGP), NUEVO School of Contemporary Dance, Jimmie Defore Dance Center, San Diego Dance Theatre, American College Dance Association (ACDA) and LITVAKdance. Teresa also enjoys making dance for the camera, exploring new ways of creating and storytelling.

## BIOGRAPHIES



**Jennifer La Curan** (Concert Director/Faculty) is a choreographer, performer, teacher, lighting designer, producer and filmmaker. Jennifer has her BFA in dance from CSULB and her MFA in dance from NYU, Tisch School of the Arts. Jennifer has her comprehensive Pilates certification from Body Arts and Science International. She is the artistic director of her own dance company, *Merge Dance Theatre*, which has performed throughout the U.S.

In 2007, Jennifer began her first full-time collegiate teaching at Darton College in Albany, Georgia, where she established the first AA degree in dance in the state. At Darton, Jennifer ventured into working with motion capture technology. After returning to California, Jennifer joined Irvine Valley College faculty in Fall 2016 and she is currently serving as a Tenured Professor. Jennifer's current research is exploring slow motion video and how its uses can be applied to the dance classroom and artistic ventures. Recently, Jennifer has had several of her dance films selected in dance film festivals worldwide including Ketchikan Dance Film Festival, Fuselage Dance Film Festival, Inspired Dance Film Festival, Door Kinetic Arts Festival, mignolo international screendance festival, Constructed Sight Dance Film Festival, FilmFest by Rogue Dancer, and Red Rock Screendance Film Festival. She is part of the Dance Camera West Preview Committee. Jennifer loves collaborative work and is always looking for new collaborative opportunities.



Working from Wisconsin and Maine, **Dani Maupin** (Video Designer) has an MFA in Theatrical Engineering from Scotland, and an MFA in Narrative Illustration from CSUF. She is currently the Technical Director at the longest running repertory theatre in the nation and a Freelance Designer during the off months. She has been working professionally for almost thirty years, all around the world, including theatres in Germany, Belgium, Scotland, England, and five states between Maine and California.



**mia simonović** (Concert Director/Faculty) is a Balkan-American movement practitioner, choreographer, and dance educator. Their choreography explores vessels (such as the body) and the abilities to share knowledge through movement, feedback, and sensation. mia received a BA from UCLA's World Arts and Cultures/Dance program in 2014 and an MFA in Dance from UC Irvine in 2025. They exhibit works in theaters, experimental performance spaces, galleries, and museums. mia's work has been highlighted in the Los Angeles Times in collaboration with Alisa Ochoa's *Fruits of Labor* at UNVEIL gallery. Their durational improvisation work, *CREATURE CAMARADERIE*, was exhibited at the Orange County Museum of Art. Since starting to teach in 2008, they have worked with a diverse array of students from absolute beginner to professional. Currently, mia is part of Irvine Valley College's dance faculty while teaching with Segerstrom Center for the Art's Cassin Promise Program that shares art with underserved communities in Orange County.

# IVC DANCE DEPARTMENT

**Dean, School of the Arts:**

**Full Time Faculty:**

**Part-Time Dance Faculty:**

Vi Ly

Jennifer La Curan, Kathryn Milostan-Egus

Lisa Allin, Gabrielle Angeles,

Victoria Barrett, Carina Fourmyle,

Michel Gervais, Teresa Jankovic, Monik C.

Jones, Autumn Mortenson, Angelika

Nemeth, mia simonović

Alona Kristol-Harper, Karess Nguyen

Sabrina Campaña, Karess Nguyen

Sabrina Campaña

**Production Assistant:**

**Social Media:**

**Video Production:**

## PRODUCTION & TECHNICAL STAFF

**Performing Arts Center Director:**

**Performing Arts Center Operations Manager:**

**Audio/Video & Technical Director:**

**Set Designer:**

**Video Wall:**

**Lighting Designer:**

**Stage Manager:**

**Audio/Video Crew:**

**Sound Mixing & Follow Spot Opt:**

**Costumes Coordinator/Shop Supervisor:**

**Costume Technicians:**

**Production Crew:**

**House Manager:**

**Ushers:**

Benjamin Penman

Aimee Alwood

Matt Roy

Don Formanek

Karina Osbourne

Crystal Shomph

Crystal Shomph

Karina Osbourne

Charlie Widerman

Christina Perez

Sara Egger, Conni Joslin

Harold Kast

Kaderina Guizar

Moriah Byrne, Josh Damianopoulos,

Taryn Elliott, Anthony Lara, Joe Lewis,

Afsaneh Namiranian, Daivik Patel,

Michael Salgado, Kari Setlak, Pedro Silva,

BK Tsogtgerel, Nikia Williams

# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

**The Irvine Valley College Dance Department wishes to extend a thank you and acknowledgement to our colleagues and supporters:**

Benjamin Penman

Matt Roy

Christina Perez

Aimee Alwood

Mark Peterson

Don Formanek

Vi Ly

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# JOIN US FOR OUR UPCOMING PERFORMANCES!

## MUSIC

- May 1\*      Guitar Ensemble Concert  
May 2      Jazz Picnic  
May 15     Chorale Concert:  
              Mozart Requiem  
May 16     Symphony Orchestra Concert  
May 17     Wind Symphony Concert  
May 18     Piano Feast  
May 18\*    Voice III Class Recital

## DANCE

- April 30, May 2      Conversations Faculty  
                                  Dance Concert  
May 1, 3              Shared Voices Dance Concert  
May 18\*              Choreographic Showcase  
                                  \*Performance in MD 143

## THEATER

- May 7-17      Love and information  
May 19-20     Theater Class Showcase

*\* Performance located in Fine Arts and  
Gallery, FA 110*



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