

DAVIS-WALDORF  
PERFORMING ARTS SERIES | **DW** **PAS**  
22ND SEASON



# CERQUA RIVERA DANCE THEATRE

Thursday, Oct 6, 2022 | 7:30 p.m.  
Te Ata Memorial Auditorium

**W**elcome to the 22nd Season of the Davis-Waldorf Performing Arts Series. It is our pleasure to continue to provide exceptional entertainment and lead our region in affordable access to professional performing arts events.

The Artists this season manipulate time and space, show us history and dreams, and share the world through their eyes. On stage this season will be stories of identity, struggle, growth, grief, celebration, memory, and hope. Behind the scenes, these teaching artists will deliver workshops, outreach performances, and masterclasses designed to inspire and educate. They will challenge young people to engage creatively with the world. They will remind us of how wonderful it is to be together.

I am grateful to the individuals and businesses in our community who support this series because they know the importance of the arts. The performing arts faculty can be better teachers and our students become more engaged learners because of this series. We are a better college because of the series, and Chickasha is a better town because of this series. Thank you for being here tonight and for your ongoing support. Enjoy!

**Katie Davis, MFA**  
**Professor of Theatre Arts**





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## MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Davis-Waldorf Performing Arts Series is to encourage attendance at high-quality performing arts events as an aspect of a liberal arts education for our students, to provide an affordable cultural and entertainment resource for our college family and our community, and to become a leader in local arts education by presenting relevant and culturally diverse programming that broadens the aesthetic of our audiences.

## STEERING COMMITTEE

Katie Davis, *MFA DWPAS Executive Director*

Christy Clift

Susan Gearhart

Amy Goddard

Dr. Jan Hanson

Amber Heilman

Lewis Knisley

Kasey Sams

Jeff Taylor, *MFA*





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**CERQUA RIVERA  
DANCE THEATRE**

# ABOUT CERQUA RIVERA DANCE THEATRE

Cerqua Rivera Dance Theatre was founded in 1999 by Chicago artists Joe Cerqua, composer and musician; Wilfredo Rivera, choreographer and dancer; and Matt Lamb, painter. The company's mission: to use multiple artistic forms (primarily dance and music) and the combined talents of our diverse company to convey intense personal narratives. Cerqua Rivera is proudly and visibly multicultural, exploring the intersection of heritage, culture, and identity through high quality art. Its unique culture of collaboration and diversity fosters magnetic connections between artists and audiences.

Cerqua Rivera is proud of its reputation, built over nearly 25 years, for compelling, complex, and timely artwork. With its intense focus on personal narratives, the combined talents of its diverse company, and the multiple artistic languages with which it communicates, Cerqua Rivera engages audiences in compelling human stories at once



new and deeply familiar. Through its range of programming – from its interactive new work preview and discussion series, to community and touring performances, to its own full-scale concerts, Cerqua Rivera engages over 10,000 people each year.

Cofounder, Artistic Director & CEO: **Wilfredo Rivera**

Managing Director: **Catherine Painter**

Rehearsal Director: **Brennen Renteria**

Artistic Associate: **Ethan Kirschbaum**

Music Director: **Stu Greenspan**

Exclusive tour representation: Siegel Artist Management LLC [www.siegelartist.com](http://www.siegelartist.com)

[www.cerquarivera.org](http://www.cerquarivera.org) - @cerquarivera on social



# ACT I

**ROOT: mwanzo wa mwili ni roho** (2018)  
the beginning of the body is the spirit

Monique Haley was inspired by West African maxims from a book entitled *African Cultural Values: An Introduction* by Kwame Gyekye. Building on this foundation with Cerqua Rivera's artists 2018-2019 led to a powerfully rooted piece of art. This signature piece expresses our core value of diversity – that the health and beauty of a community is supported by each member contributing their true selves.

Choreography: Monique Haley  
Composition: Joe Cerqua

Costume Design: Jordan Ross  
Lighting Design: David Goodman-Edberg  
Lighting Supervisor: Margaret Nelson  
Projection Design: Simean Carpenter



Dancers: Theodore Alexander, Catera Burgess,  
Delphine Chang, Bennett Cullen, Esther Farley,  
Brennen Renteria, Bruno Salgado, Michelle Skiba

Percussionist: Paul Cotton

Creation of ROOT sponsored in part by The Cliff  
Dwellers Arts Foundation

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## **Let It Be** (2020)

by Paul McCartney and John Lennon

Arrangement: Stu Greenspan

Choreography: Katlin Bourgeois

Projection Design: Simean Carpenter

Dancers in order of Appearance: Theodore  
Alexander, Esther Farley, Bennett Cullen, Sydney  
Jones

Vocalist: Margaret Murphy-Webb



## **Mood Swing** (2020 excerpts)

The events in 2020 & 2021 demanded a response.

As artists, we were compelled to create work specifically responding to and making meaning of the pandemic and social justice uprising. The result is these intimate and distinct conversations about what we have all experienced– with a sense of resilience, compassion, and hope ... a glimmering light in the dark.

Curator and Director: Wilfredo Rivera

Composition: Joe Cerqua

Costume Design: Jordan Ross

Lighting Design: Margaret Nelson

Projection Design: Simean Carpenter

### ***Prelude***

#### **caRboN & goLD**

Choreography: Eddy Ocampo

Poetry: Eddy Ocampo

Soloist: Delphine Chang

Voice Over: Eddy Ocampo, Mia Park



## **Culture Loop**

Choreography: Monique Haley

Poetry: Shea Glover

Soloist: Catera Burgess

Vocalist: Margaret Murphy-Webb

Voice Over: Marti Gobel

## **Less**

Choreography: Shannon Alvis

Soloist: Michelle Skiba

## **Pena Negra**

Choreography: Wilfredo Rivera

Soloist: Brennen Renteria

## **Finale**

Dancers: Mood Swing Ensemble

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# **INTERMISSION**





# ACT II

## **From Here to Home (2022)**

Choreography: Katlin Bourgeois

Composition: James Sanders

Costume and Prop Design: Jordan Ross

Dancers: Michelle Skiba (Solo 1) , Sydney Jones (Solo 2), Catera Burgess, Bennett Cullen, Delphine Chang, Esther Farley, Brennen Renteria

Creation of From Here to Home sponsored in part by The Jazz Institute of Chicago

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## **Afro Blue (premiere)**

Composition: Mongo Santamaria

Lyrics: Oscar Brown Jr.

CRDT Musicians improvised rendering: Margaret Murphy-Webb, Paul Cotton & James Sanders



## **Shiver (2021)**

You are invited to view the dancers as three parts of the same person. Shiver explores the before, during, and after of a loss. Not necessarily the literal death of a person, but rather the choice to separate oneself from a person, place, or circumstance that no longer serves personal growth. Each dancer represents a different part of the same individual undergoing this process of change.

Choreography: Stephanie Martinez

Assistant to the Choreographer: Noelle Kayser

Composition: Joe Cerqua

Costume Design: Jacqueline Sanders

Lighting Design: Margaret Nelson

Projection Design: Simean Carpenter

Dancers in Solo Features: Movement I Delphine Chang, Movement II Michelle Skiba, Movement III Catera Burgess



# **Why Don't You Do Right (2020)**

By Kansas Joe McCoy

Arrangement: Stu Greenspan

Vocalist: Margaret Murphy-Webb

Live Musicians: Paul Cotton & James Sanders

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## **Soul Remedy**

(work in process to be premiere Spring 2023)

Launched in 2020, Soul Remedy is a multi-year exploration of the Aesthetic of the Cool, a culturally specific phenomenon rooted in the Black American experience that has shaped this country's arts and culture and impacted the world. This piece respects, reflects, and represents Black excellence as a central component of American culture.

Choreography: Monique Haley

Composition: Pharez Whitted

Costume Design: Jordan Ross

Lighting Design: Margaret Nelson

Projection Design: Simean Carpenter



## ***Prelude***

Lyrics: Monique Haley

Dancers: Catera Burgess, Delphine Chang,  
Bennett Cullen, Esther Farley, Sydney Jones, Bruno  
Salgado, Michelle Skiba  
Soloist: Brennen Renteria

## **A Groove in the Pocket**

Soul Remedy Dancers:

Theodore Alexander, Catera Burgess, Delphine  
Chang, Bennett Cullen, Esther Farley, Brennen  
Renteria, Bruno Salgado, Michelle Skiba

## **The Remedy**

Dancer: Sydney Jones

Vocalist: Margaret Murphy-Webb

## **The Jazz, The Chameleon, The Funk**

Soul Remedy Dancers featuring Catera Burgess  
Vocalist: Margaret Murphy-Webb



# COFOUNDERS

**Wilfredo Rivera** (Artistic Director) is a Cofounder of Cerqua Rivera Dance Theatre, Artistic Director & CEO since 2007. He is responsible for the evolution of CRDT's bold multi-cultural program and for establishing the company's authentic interdisciplinary trademark. He is a rare Latinx artist serving as full-time arts leader. Every season he carefully selects the leading collaborators and thematic concepts for Cerqua Rivera's season and curates the company's artistic process. Decades as a working artist forged Wilfredo's belief that only a diverse group can create the artwork for which the company is known - eclectic, culturally rich, deeply moving, utterly relevant. Wilfredo was born in Honduras, trained with Hubbard Street Dance Chicago, and was a founding member of River North Dance Chicago. His concert work has been featured at the Auditorium Theatre, Chicago Jazz Festival, Hyde Park Jazz Festival, Harris Theater, Chicago Symphony Center with the Chicago Sinfonietta, Ruth Page Center for the Arts, DuSable Museum, Links Hall and Mayne Stage.



**Joe Cerqua** is a freelance, award-winning composer, producer, vocalist and sound designer. Original music and sound design: Steppenwolf, Goodman Theatre, American Players Theater, Milwaukee Rep, Asolo Theater, The Alliance, Mark Taper Forum, Geva Theater, Deaf West, Northlight Theatre, Skyline Opera, Cleveland Playhouse, Clarence Brown Theatre, Forward Theatre, Kansas City Rep, Indiana Rep, Berkshire Theatre Festival, Shakespeare and Co, Actors Theatre of Louisville, The Repertory Theatre of St Louis, Remy Bumppo. National Tours: Sideman, American Buffalo, How I Learned to Drive, The Laramie Project, Broken Glass, Master Class. Joe is the Cofounder and Composer in Residence for the Cerqua Rivera Dance Theatre and the Creative Director and Producer for the Music Department at Columbia College.



# DANCERS

**Brennen Renteria** began dancing in Corona, CA and in 2011, he attended American Academy of Ballet summer intensive, training with ballet masters David Howard, Sean Lavery, & Galina Samsova. He earned his B.A. in Dance from Cal State Fullerton in 2014 then joined Thodos Dance Chicago where he worked with choreographers Brian Enos, Lucas Crandall, Garfield Lemonius, Brian McGinnis, Kevin Iega Jeff, among others. He has danced with Elements Ballet and in various Chicago productions. He joined CRDT in 2017.


**Theodore Owen “Teddy” Alexander** (he/them) holds a BFA in Dance from Point Park Univ. and an advanced diploma in science from Baltimore Polytechnic Institute. Most recently he worked with Christopher Huggins, Debbie Allen Dance Academy, and Ballet After Dark, making his television premiere on NBC’s America’s Got Talent. In 2020, he founded Voracious Artistry Projects. His most recent venture was the Triangle Healing Project, a dance workshop along the routes of the Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade.



**Catera Burgess** earned a BFA in Dance from Western Michigan University. During her time there she was cast in works including BAIRA, Kate Skarpetowska, Jennifer Archibald, Mike Esperanza, and David Curwen. She was a member of Western Dance Project under the direction of Whitney Moncrief, and performed at the American College Dance Association in 2018-2020 in works by Alyssa Brutlag and Monique Haley. Catera currently choreographs and teaches around the Midwest.

**Delphine Chang** began her training in traditional Chinese and Indian dance in Taiwan, and continued her training in Portland, Oregon. Named Outstanding Senior, she graduated from the University of Arizona summa cum laude with a BFA in Dance and a minor in Arts Management. She then joined Missouri Contemporary Ballet. Delphine co-founded a small visual arts company, models, is an arts administrator and teaches. She is thrilled to be joining CRDT for her first season!

**Bennett Cullen** began dance training in the Chicago suburbs and continued at the University of Iowa. He has previously danced for The Big Muddy Dance Company, and Visceral Dance Chicago. Bennett has had the privilege to perform





works choreographed by Ohad Naharin, Brian Enos, Prince Lyons, Nick Pupillo, Marguerite Donlon, Shannon Alvis, Ramon Flowers, Sarah Olson, Marc Macaranas, Eloy Barragan, and Meredith Stapleton. Bennett is excited to begin his first season with Cerqua Rivera Dance Theatre.

**Esther Farley** is a recent graduate of the Boston Conservatory at Berklee in Boston, Massachusetts, where she received a B.F.A. in Contemporary Dance with an emphasis in Jazz Dance. She has performed works by Gabrielle Lamb, Bradley Shelver, and Catherine Coury. Esther's choreographed solo work, *Montmartre*, was showcased at the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston in 2019. Esther is passionate about creating interdisciplinary works, finding inspiration through film, culinary arts, music, and theater.

**Michelle Skiba** is a first-generation Polish American from Chicago. After graduating from Northwestern University, Michelle trained at Hubbard Street's Professional Program under the direction of Alexandra Wells. There she performed works by Adam Barruch, Rena Butler, Peter Chu, Ryan Mason, David Norsworthy, Robyn Mineko Williams, and others. Michelle went on to dance



with Little Fire Artist Collective and teach various Joffrey Ballet Community Engagement programs before joining CRDT in 2022.

**Sydney Jones** is a dancer, choreographer, and educator. After graduating from Point Park University with her BFA in dance, she joined South Chicago Dance Theatre and Inaside Chicago Dance. Her recent performances include An Evening with the South Chicago Dance Theatre, Dance for Life, Inaside's Fall Concert, and more, where she performed choreography by Kia Smith, Monique Haley, Ron De Jesus, Stephanie Martinez, and Crystal Michelle Perkins, among others. She is thrilled to join CRDT!

**Bruno Salgado** began dancing in 2014 in Wheeling, IL, and in 2015 he attended the Ruth Page Center for the Arts summer intensive training with Victor Alexander. He is a recent graduate from the University of Wisconsin- Steven Point where he performed works by Joan Karlen, Michale Estanich, Jeannie Hill, Sarah Olson and Pamela Leudtke. Brunos recent work "Within My Tainted Eyes" was selected to represent UWSP at the ACDA gala concert in March 2021. He is thrilled to be joining CRDT for his first season!



# MUSICIANS

**Paul Cotton** is a principal musician with Muntu Dance Theatre of Chicago. He attended the American Conservatory of Music. Studio work include Hannibal Peterson & Chicago Symphony Orchestra, Otis Clay Blues singer, Tyrone Davis R&B singer, "Artistics" R&B group, Pilgrim Jubilee Gospel singers, Maggie Brown, and Don Moye' Sun Percussion Summit. He currently works with Keith Eric & Waterhouse Reggae & Calypso Band, Picate Latin Jazz Band, Nyah Binghi Drum Choir, Bata Eca, & Eye Plus One.

**Katherine Hughes** has been a professional violinist, producer, and contractor in Chicago for over forty years. She has performed on Broadway in "SpongeBob SquarePants: The Broadway Musical", "Aladdin", "Pretty Woman", "Something Rotten", and "Dear Evan Hansen". She is the concertmaster of City Lights Orchestra and plays with the Chicago Philharmonic Orchestra and Chicago Opera Theater. She is a member of Artistrings and produces an annual event for Hands of Peace.



**Margaret Murphy-Webb** is a musician and activist. A graduate of Chicago State University, she has been showcasing her talent nationally and internationally for over 30 years. Margaret has performed for presidents Obama and Clinton, has been featured at Chicago Jazz and Blues Festivals and countless other music venues. In 2018, Margaret was named Chicago's Jazz Hero for her work as director of the non-profit organization, the South Side Jazz Coalition. Margaret is a co-chair of the DCASE's Year of Chicago Music 2020/2021 initiative and a member of the City of Chicago Cultural Council.



# TECHNICAL DIRECTOR

**Margaret L. Nelson**, Lighting Designer and Stage Manager, has received two Ruth Page Dance Achievement Awards, a Joseph Jefferson Citation, and the Inaugural Dance Chicago Excellence in Production Art award. Her work has taken her to every state of the USA and six continents. She taught Lighting Master Classes from Duluth, MN to Montevideo, Uruguay. Her companies, M L Nelson Design and Lumen Siccum Productions, are involved in ongoing consulting work for architectural and performance projects.



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