

Student Choreography Showcase

Saturday, April 20, 2024
Zipper Hall, 5 pm



I am thrilled to welcome you to the 2024 Student Choreography Showcase, led by the extraordinary Jill Johnson. Jill has designed a course for our Dance Academy students to explore their creative voices.

—Margaret Tracey, Dean of the Trudl Zipper Dance Institute

As part of my mission for dance education at the Colburn School Dance Academy, the Choreographic Improvisation & Composition class aims to introduce a set of choreographic improvisation and composition skills essential for a professional career in dance: including the cultivation of artistic discernment, interpretive ability, musicality, counterpoint, critical analysis, social development, and communication strategies for collaboration.

Choreographic Improvisation & Composition is centered in an environment that supports creative process and experimentation and offers students the opportunity to gain more experience with improvisation and compositional practice through collaborative assignments and real-time feedback. With musicality and counterpoint at its core, “theme and variations” was the subject of the improvisation and composition research students engaged in this spring and is the basis of the three works-in-progress you will see this evening.

As a pre-professional exercise, students in the class were invited to participate in a choreography application process, aimed to resemble the kinds of grant-writing applications that many choreographers and dancers will submit during their careers. The prospective student choreographers responded to several prompts via video or written submissions, which outlined their propositions for a work-in-progress using the theme of “theme and variations.” The three strongest applications were selected to create works-in-progress and were matched with their interpreter-dancer colleagues for their casts. The entire class has been collaboratively involved in the creation of this evening of dance.

Thank you for supporting these young artists and their creative work this spring!

—Jill Johnson

Student Choreography Showcase

Welcome

Margaret Tracey, Dean of the Trudl Zipper Dance Institute

Pride and Purity

CHOREOGRAPHY BY NATALIA RESZKA

MUSIC BY WOLFGANG AMADEUS MOZART (1756–1791)

Piano Concerto No. 21 in C Major, K. 467:2.
Andante (1785)

Dancers

Mckenzie Lewis, Chloë Oronoz, Avery Schumacher



“Pride and Purity captures the essence of beauty and delight within an adolescent sisterhood. The dancers respond to each other and the nuances of this intricate Mozart composition which, I believe, shows the divine relationship between music and dance.”

—Natalia Reszka

Untitled

CHOREOGRAPHY BY TOTOCANI GARCIA

MUSIC BY DAFT PUNK

“Giorgio by Moroder,” *Random Access Memories* album

Dancers

Bridget Duffy, Calder Feinstein, Daisy Feinstein,
Elliana Sabahi, Graham Wissinger



“Once you free your mind about a concept of harmony and of music being ‘correct,’ you can do whatever you want.” – Giorgio Moroder

Quintet for 1

CHOREOGRAPHY BY CAMERON FIKES
MUSIC BY PHILIP GLASS (b. 1937)

“Dead Things” from *The Hours* soundtrack

Dancers

Sofia Aniceto, Zoe Birdsong, Lou Davidson,
Hannah Thorp, Henry Waler



“I was good at it. It was easier. But I wasn’t me. I was trying to fit someone else’s mold. I was forcing my foot into a small shoe, and it hurt. Hans F. Hansen once said, ‘It takes nothing to join the crowd. It takes everything to stand alone.’ And you know what? I’m ready to give everything.”
—Cameron Fikes

Piano Accompaniment By Billy Waldman

Discussion with Student Choreographers

Moderated by Jill Johnson

All costumes courtesy of TZDI Dance Academy

Production and Artistic Team

TRUDL ZIPPER DANCE ACADEMY STUDIO MANAGER

Brian Eric Alexander

ARTISTIC DIRECTION AND GUEST FACILITATOR

Jill Johnson

PRODUCTION MANAGER

David Mencos

PRODUCTION COORDINATOR

Alexx Zachary

AV MANAGER

Francesco Perlangeli

AV ENGINEER

Sergey Parfenov

SOUND ENGINEER

Colburn Production Staff

LIGHTING DESIGNER

Greg Forbes

PRODUCTION ASSISTANTS

Luis Hernandez

Paul Loera

Peter Phol

Trudl Zipper Dance Institute

Margaret Tracey
Dean

Gavin Kelley
Director of Operations

Brian Alexander
Studio Manager

Jessica Martin King
Studio Administrator

DEPARTMENT CHAIRS

Tamsin Carlson, Modern
Denise Scheerer, Tap
Kelly Ann Sloan, Ballet

Dance Faculty

Seth Belliston
Bertha Blankenship
Joshua Brown
Julianna Bulgarelli
Leslie Carothers
Katherine Cowgill
Yuka Fukuda
Robyn Gardenhire
Chard Gonzalez
Sheila Gonzalez
Johnnie Hobbs III
Charlie Hodges
Jill Nunes Jensen
Zippora Karz
Romy Karz Rapoport
Jessica Martin King
Zoe Lesser
Jean Michelle Sayeg
Amy Schadt
Melinda Sullivan
Joseph Wiggan

Accompanists

Clifford Casapao
Saiko Fujii
Leigh Anne Gilespeie
Jeremy Gilien
Laura Halladay
Leon Logvinsky
Yoko Mizuno
Will Sievern
TJ Troy

Thank You

Today's performance is made possible by contributions from members like you. Generous support is provided by donors to the Trudl Zipper Dance Institute.

Special appreciation goes to the Colburn Society members whose annual support of dance makes programs like this at the Colburn School possible, as well as the extraordinary scholarship support of Ann Moore, David Kobrin, and Michael S. Turner.

Dance Scholarships

Millepied Scholarships, named for former NYC Ballet Principal Dancer, Benjamin Millepied, who was instrumental in the formation of the Dance Academy, support tuition and dormitory and related expenses for young male dancers each year. This scholarship program enables Colburn to offer a separate boys' training program, which is vital to impart the different technique and skill requirements for male dancers as well as providing a comprehensive and balanced training environment for Colburn's female dancers. In addition, need-based scholarships are available to young women in the Dance Academy and to qualifying children in the afterschool Youth Dance programs.

The Beverly, Donald, and David Kobrin Scholarship Fund supports young male dancers of color, who are traditionally underrepresented in classical dance. In addition to tuition, the Fund helps cover room and board, wardrobe, special classes, and other academic and performance opportunities. This scholarship helps exemplify the School's commitment to access to excellence to all who wish to pursue their dreams here.

The Margaret K. Turner Scholarship supports young dancers in their aspiration to pursue professional careers in ballet. This scholarship is awarded in the fall of each academic year in honor of the late Margaret K. Turner and her passion for dance and youth education.

If you would like to learn more about supporting the Trudl Zipper Dance Institute, contact philanthropy@colburnschool.edu.


SPRING TAPWORKS



SATURDAY, MAY 18 AT 4 PM

Zipper Hall | Tickets: \$25

Colburn's talented tap students show off their skills in this vibrant spring showcase.

COLBURN

SCHOOL



GET TICKETS



Dr. Herbert Zipper leads a concert at the 32nd Street Magnet School in Los Angeles.

Herbert Zipper, Champion of Community Music

Dr. Herbert Zipper, for whom the Colburn School's Zipper Hall is named, was a pioneer of the community music movement in the United States. Remembered as a dedicated activist, Dr. Zipper was known for his work in music education and his deep commitment to students. He believed a performing arts education should be available to everyone, a philosophy on which Colburn's mission of "access to excellence" was built.

Born in Vienna in 1904, Zipper was accepted into the Viennese Academy of Music where he studied with Richard Strauss and Maurice Ravel. Later in life, after his release from the Dachau concentration camp, he accepted a conducting position with the Manila Symphony Orchestra where he reunited with his future wife, Trudl Dubsky. The two later migrated to the U.S. where Zipper expanded his efforts in music education. On August 26, 1980, the groundwork for the Colburn School was secured after Zipper approached Richard D. Colburn with the idea of making the University of Southern California's preparatory school independent.

One of the very finest halls for chamber music in the U.S., our beloved 430-seat performance hall is named after Herbert Zipper. Colburn proudly welcomes students, faculty, staff, families, and other members of the community to Zipper Hall each year.

The image from the Herbert and Trudl Zipper Archive is reproduced with permission from Celia Pool and Gavin Perry.



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about Zipper's life