

THEATER AND DANCE DEPARTMENT

The Theater and Dance Department at Macalester College prepares the next generation of performers, directors, choreographers, designers, researchers, technicians, and playwrights. Our department offers small academic and studio courses in which students are closely mentored by expert faculty. In our class schedule, you will find a variety of theater and dance courses at all levels. We encourage students without previous experience to try a beginning course in acting, dance, design, or playwriting.

Macalester College is in a privileged location for students interested in the arts. The Twin Cities have the second highest number of theater companies per capita in the United States, after New York City, and Theater and Dance Department courses commonly bring students to on and off-campus theater and dance productions. Many Theater and Dance alumni continue to work and produce art in the Twin Cities, where the Minnesota State Arts Board provides crucial funding and support to artistic work. Current students often have the opportunity to meet influential local alumni, leading to exciting and unique opportunities for internships, mentorship, and collaborative projects.



(UP)ROOTED

Spring 2023 Dance Concert



Sponsored by the Macalester Theater and Dance Department

Choreographers

Nibia Becerra Santillan '25, Carissa Bolante '25, Patricia Brown,
Emilia Garrido Vásquez '23, Anna Greenstein '23, Abdo Sayegh-Rodriguez,
Cassie Wright '25,

Dance Concert Staff

Artistic Director:	Wynn Fricke
Stage Manager:	Rene'e Gonzales
Assistant Stage Manager:	Christian Martinez-Garcia
Costume Shop Manager:	MaryBeth Gagner
Technical Director:	Tom Barrett
Technical Assistant:	Brian Fox
Production Manager:	Wu Chen Khoo
Faculty Advisors:	Patricia Brown, Wynn Fricke, Jill Lile
Scenic Designer:	Sandy Zhao
Costume Designer:	Sarah Bahr
Lighting Designer:	Jesse Cogswell
Light Board Operator:	Sam Fyle
Wardrobe Assistants:	Adrien Wright, Emelia Brinkley
Projection:	Jessica Chen



STUDENT STAFF

Office, Box Office, and Publicity

Julia Brandfonbrener '25, Rory Donaghy '24, Isaac Gregory '26, Gretta Koppers '26, Linh Nguyen '26, Lila Schisgal '25, Joy Wen '24, Lucía Zuvela '26

Costume Shop

Alice Bjorneberg '24, James Calhoun '24, Caitlin Compton '24, Kitty Jiang '24, Minori Kishi '25, Bea Mellsop '24, Kiki Murphy '25, Maya Schaefer-Fiello '23, Emma Squires '24, Ruben Verita '26, Adrien Wright '25

Scene Shop

Jessica Chen '24, Caroline Davis '26, Bella Flanders '25, Rene'e Gonzales '24, Quintin Grabowski '23, Chiara Guglielmo '25, Joe Jessop '24, Arkar Kyaw '24, Lucas Martin '24, Macie McIlvain '25, Lucy McNees '25, Ally Mueller '26, Lizzie Nelson '25, Emery Todd '25, Kai Yamanishi '25



Singkil

Choreographed by Carissa Bolante '25

Singkil (also known as Sayaw sa Kasingkil) is a Filipino folk dance originating in the Southern islands of the Philippines. It uses traditional dance techniques from the Maranao people to portray an episode of the Maranao epic Darangen.

Darangen

The episode begins with the princess and her loyal servant strolling in the forest after being abducted by the diwatas (guardian spirits) of the Kingdom of Bumbaran. They start an earthquake to entrap the princess in the middle of the forest, hoping to teach Prince Bantugan a lesson for being a womanizer. The princess and her servant dance gracefully between the fallen trees as the prince comes bearing a sword and shield to save them. The prince and princess meet in the forest and successfully go home together in the end.

Performers

Princess Gandingan	Carissa Bolante '25
Prince Bantugan	Sawyer Webbeking '23
The Loyal Servant	Sabine Sullivan '25
The Diwatas	Mia Guzman '26, Oli Tierney '24, Bea Bautista '24
Clickers	Vyen Hayag '24, Francesca Bernardino '24, Jim Marigmen '26, Kirstyn Barsola '25, Nick Cebula '24, Ramier Villarama '25

Costume Design Associate

Kanon Nakajima '23

Lighting Design Associate

Adri McCall '23

Music

Singkil by Kalahi Philippine Dance Company



North

Choreographed by Cassie Wright '25

NORTH invites the audience to delight in the strange, the unfamiliar, and the whimsical, and to step into a world not quite like our own and dance with us until your feet wear to nothing.

Music: Le Chateau Magique by Guilhem Desq

Performers

Ciara Johnson '23

Lucia Zuvela '26

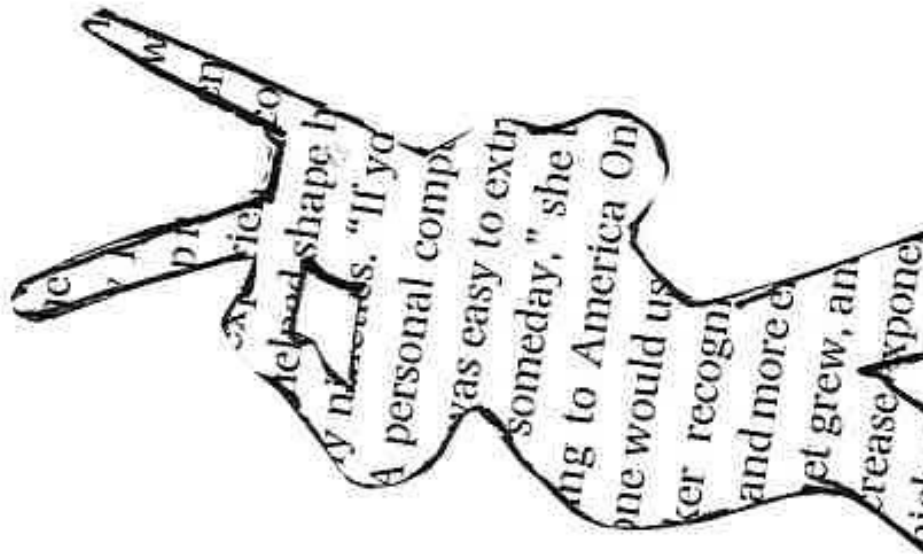
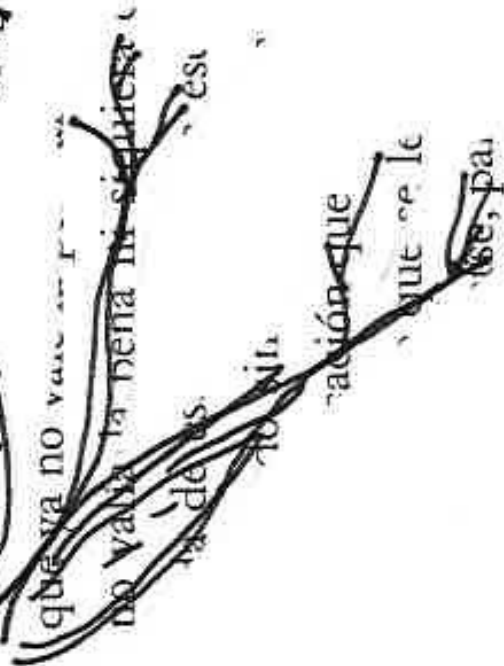
Nate Gehrenbeck-Miller '23

Costume Design Associate

Miles Latham '24

Lighting Design Associate

Maxwell Davis '25



A Place in Between

Choreographed by Emilia Garrido Vásquez '23

Music

Rearrangement and production by Matías Cevallos Alemán of "A lot is going to change", "Wild Time," "Movies" and, "Near to thee" by Weyes Blood

The ballet that appears represents a structure that many find comforting, but to others, it represents a mold that is difficult to break. My piece demonstrates what it means to break from that mold and to inhabit a space where dancers can discover their own truth. In a piece that is very much about centering the humanity of the dancer, it is fitting for the music to be performed by other humans. It connects us. It makes us a community. My goal is not to portray the destination but to embrace the beauty of the journey and what we may find along the way.

A Place in Between is inspired by my experience as a neurodivergent dancer, and it is meant to create visibility for those who do not benefit from established structures in dance.

Dancers

Amarah Friedman '24
Andrew Lee '23
Emilia Garrido Vásquez '23
Kano Ottiger '24

Musicians

Mia Guzman '26 - Singer
Louise Yang '25 - Music Director and Cellist
Evelyn Kent '25 - Singer and guitarist

Costume Design Associate

Kitty Jiang '24

Lighting Design Associate

Kellen Chenoweth '24

Sound Design Associate

Matías Cevallos Alemán

Sound Engineering

Lizzie Nelson '25



Googoo Lagoon

Choreographed by Anna Greenstein '23

Music: *Googoo Lagoon* by Dr. Gabba

Welcome to **Googoo Lagoon**. Here our bodies move in all the ways that make us feel good: bouncing, flying, rolling, melting, touching, hopping, resting, and more. All we hope to do is share the cathartic release that these movements bring us, with you.



Performers

Anna Greenstein '23

Anna Schloerb '23

Ian Witry '23

Costume Design Associate

Maya Schaefer-Fiello '23

Lighting Design Associate

Adri McCall '23





Triage

*(noun) the assessment for prioritizing the care of who needs
it the most with the few resources available.*

Choreographed by Nibia Becerra Santillan '25

Music Mamakumba - Vitu Valera y Mikongo
Kalikumba - Vitu Valera y Mikongo
[This is not America - Residente ft. Ibeyi]

Performers

Natalia Belen Morales Flores '26
Nibia Becerra Santillan '25
Susanna Deal '25
Quang Nguyen '25

Costume Design Associate

Maya Schaefer-Fiello '23

Lighting Design Associate

Maxwell Davis '25



Tumba

Choreographed by Patricia Brown

Music: Tumba by Angelique Kidjo

We hope for a moment, while we wait for spring, that you are transported to a vibrant, joyous place that makes you feel warm and smile!

Thanks to all of the dancers for being on this journey. You have made this piece what it has become. Thanks to everyone behind the scenes for your creativity and talent. Together, we've created a wonderful sharing!



Performers

Camilla Connor '25
Chantal Pangula '26
Christian Reece '19
Ciara Johnson '23
Isabel Saavedra-Weis '23
Johanan Arimi '22
Karin Davey '18
Lucia Zuvela '26
Lydia Macy '23
Michelle Osiro '23
Nate Gehrenbeck-Miller '23
Ndunzi Kunsunga '22
Ousseynou Doumbouya '23
Piero Torres Marruffo '23

Lighting Design

Jesse Cogswell

Costume Design

Sarah Bahr



Tonadas

Choreographed by Abdo Sayegh-Rodríguez

“aquí me quedo contigo, aunque me vaya muy lejos”

(here I stay with you, even if I go very far)

—Simón Díaz, lyrics from the song Sabana

Tonadas (Tunes) is inspired by the people of Venezuela— the diaspora throughout the world and those who have decided to remain. Exploring the impact of migration on belonging, identity, tradition and culture, the piece grew out of the poetic work of Venezuelan composer and singer Simón Díaz (1928-2014) who used the form of traditional folk songs from Venezuela’s southern savanna to evoke deep sentiment and emotion.

A brightly-colored work of Venezuelan artist Carlos Cruz Diez (1923-2019) provided another central inspiration for Tonadas— iconic mosaics commissioned for the Simón Bolívar International Airport in Caracas (1974). Once conveying the vibrancy of an international hub, today this contemporary masterpiece evokes the sorrow but also the resiliency of the Venezuelan people. It’s the art of those flying away—the background of so many final photos for Venezuelan families.

Tonadas is dedicated to all who have faced leaving their homeland.

In memory of Pedro Aranguren Suárez.

Performers

Andrew Lee '23

Ally Mueller '26

Kanon Nakajima '23

Megan Rezac '26

Grace Xue '23

Music: composed and performed by Simón Díaz

Lighting Design: Jesse Cogswell

Costume Design: Sarah Bahr

Projection Image Research: Jessica Chen '24

Choreographer Bios



Nibia Becerra Santillan '25 (she/her) is a dancer with a passion for biology. She comes from Peru, where she trained in diverse numbers of Peruvian traditional forms. She was fortunate to have guidance from Wynn Fricke and Patricia Brown in her dancing path at Macalester. Currently, she is working in collaboration with Susanna, Quang, and Natalia who are also sources of inspiration and professional growth. In the future, Nibia hopes to perform research on wildlife conservation and keep dancing as a central part of her life to transmit her life views and emotions through dance. Special thanks to Valeria Junca.



Carissa Isabella Bolante '25 is a Mathematics and Computer Science major at Macalester College. She received classical ballet and modern dance training for 15 years under the New Jersey Ballet, Joffrey Ballet School in NY, and various dance schools in the Philippines. Currently, she serves as the co-chair of X-ERTION, a Pan-Asian dance crew on campus, and as a board member of the Filipino Association at Macalester. Through different modes of dance, she hopes to share the diversity of Asian cultures (especially Philippine ethnic groups) with the Macalester community and is grateful for the space provided by the Theater and Dance Department.



Patricia Brown has been an artist in the Twin Cities for 29 years as a dancer, performer, instructor, choreographer, and movement coach. Her work has been seen locally at theaters including Orchestra Hall, Walker Arts Center, Guthrie, O'Shaughnessy, Penumbra, Southern, Frey, Pillsbury House, Park Square, SteppingStone, and In the Heart of the Beast Puppet and Mask Theaters, Macalester College, University of Minnesota, and Theater 55. Her national credits include Jazz at Lincoln Center (NY), Lied Center for the Performing Arts (NE), University of Michigan Men's Glee Club (MI), Lincoln Memorial (DC), St. John the Divine (NY), Center for Puppetry Arts (GA), and the University of Nevada Las Vegas.

Choreographer Bios



Emilia Garrido Vasquez '23 began dancing at age 3 in her homeland, Ecuador. After moving to the U.S. at age 14, she joined the school of Saint Paul Ballet, where she graduated from their pre-professional program. The summer before her first year of college, Emilia was awarded a fellowship by James Sewell Ballet. Emilia is pursuing a major in Psychology at St. Kate's and a major in Theater and Dance at Macalester College. Professionally, Emilia has danced with Continental Ballet Company and choreographed *Matilda Jr.* at Highland Park Community Center Theater. Last fall Emilia was assistant choreographer for Macalester's production of *Hair*.



Anna Greenstein '23 is a Economics major from Seattle, WA. Anna has been dancing since she was 10 years old . She originally practiced ballet, but in high school she studied and performed contemporary dance at Velocity Dance Center in Seattle where she fell in love with the dance form. There, through great teachers, workshops, and choreographer mentors, she discovered that dance can be liberating, intriguing, and joyful in more ways than she knew before. On the same mission she had for her choreographed piece in the Fall 2021 Dance Concert, she continues to be determined to share with the audience how dance can help us access full-bodied, cathartic joy.

Choreographer Bios



Originally from Venezuela, **Abdo Sayegh-Rodriguez**'s early performing career included both of Venezuela's leading companies: the Ballet Nacional de Caracas and Ballet Nuevo Mundo de Caracas. Coming to the US as a guest artist in 1994, he performed with Minnesota Dance Theatre and later joined the dance company, becoming its Associate Artistic Director. He was awarded a McKnight Foundation Artist Fellowship in 2007. In 2012, Abdo was appointed TU Dance's Managing Director and facilitated the organization's significant growth. He became TU Dance's Executive Director in 2021. Abdo has been teaching dance for many years and it's a certified GYROTONIC® instructor. He has choreographed for Minnesota Dance Theater's The Dance Institute, Saint Paul Conservatory for the Performing Arts and for The School at TU Dance Center. He is a Trustee on the Board of Dance/USA. Abdo was honored by the Ordway Center with its 2015 Education Award for Excellence in Community Engagement and holds a bachelor degree in Administration from the Universidad Católica Andres Bello in Caracas, Venezuela.



Cassie Wright '25 (she/her) is a dancer and choreographer in her sophomore year at Macalester. Having trained as a classical ballerina for 14 years, her recent work focuses on diverging from traditional ballet styles and exploring the full range of expression of the dancer's body beyond these limits. She is a Biology and Creative Writing double major.

Student Designer Bios



Kellen Chenoweth '24 (*Lighting Associate*) is a Geography major, Classics minor and GIS concentrator from Cedar Falls, IA. She has a special passion for lighting design, music, and technical theater that continues to be fed through fulfilling collaborations with the Macalester Theater and Dance Department, and is excited about exploring the capability of light to tell stories and evoke emotion. She wants to thank the educators, collaborators, friends, and family that continue to surround her with both support and inspirational art.

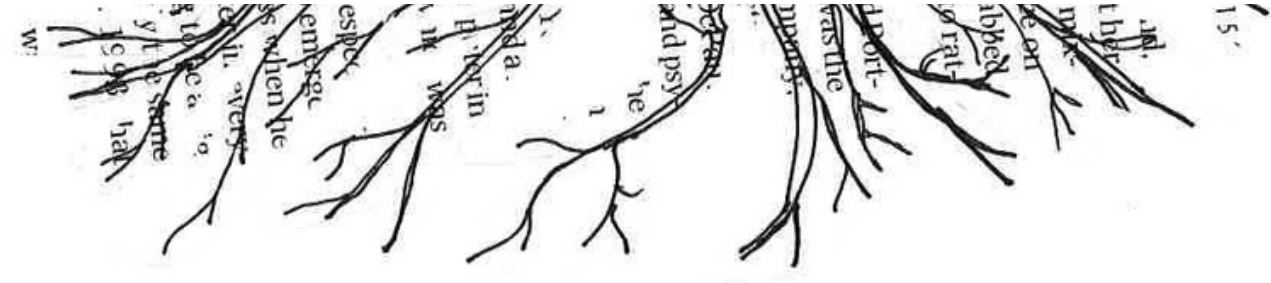


Maxwell Davis '25 (*Lighting Associate*) is a Theater and Dance major with Performance Design minor. This is his first Main Stage production at Macalester and he would like to thank everyone who helped and mentored him through this process. He is grateful to his parents for all of their support and excited for everyone to see what we have made!



Rene'e Gonzales '24 (*Stage Manager, Any Pronouns*) is a Theater and Dance major with a Performance Technologies & Design and Japanese minor. He has worked on multiple Macalester productions like *Angels in America* (ASM), *Seph* (Chorus/Swing), *Quadripartite* (Props Designer), and *Hair* (Co-Props Designer). She has also worked with Full Circle Theater Company on the production of *Atacama* (Props Designer). They would like to thank Wu Chen Khoo for being an amazing mentor and his fellow Shop Carpenter's for building their morale to work behind the scenes.

Student Designer Bios



Yuheng (Kitty) Jiang '24 (*Costume Associate*, she/her) is a Theater and Dance major focusing on costume and lighting design and a Psychology minor from China. She has worked on the Macalester production of *Hair* (Assistant Costume Designer) and is doing an internship at the Exposed Brick Theater (Assistant Sound Designer) for their upcoming production *Muyehpen*. She would like to thank Sarah Bahr and MaryBeth Gagner for guiding her design work throughout the process; and costume shop student workers, other costume associates and the production team for support and guidance.



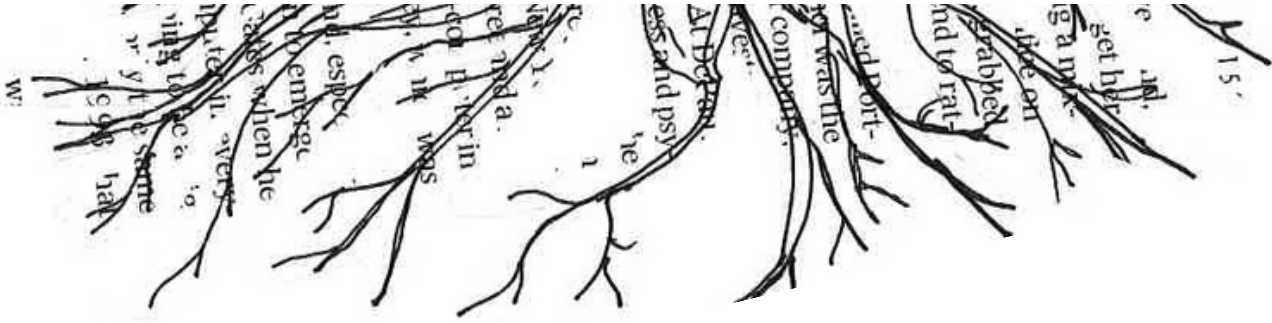
Miles Latham '24 (*Costume Associate*) is a Creative Writing and Theater double major specializing in stage management and design. This is his sixth-ish show at Macalester, and he's excited to be back after a semester studying theater in New York (like all recent study-away students, he is obligated to mention this). Thanks to Cassie and the NORTH team, the production crew, and especially Sarah, MaryBeth, and the student designer cohort for their guidance and support!



Adri McCall '23 (*Lighting Associate*) is a Theatre and Neuroscience double-major with a minor in Performance Design and Technologies from Iowa City, IA. They have worked on the Macalester productions *The Rocky Horror Picture Show* (Board Operator), *On Foot* (ASM, ALD), *Hair* (ALD), and a compilation of pieces from Susan Lori Parks' *365 Days / 365 Plays* (Lighting Designer). They would like to thank their parents for supporting them in all of their theatrical endeavors.



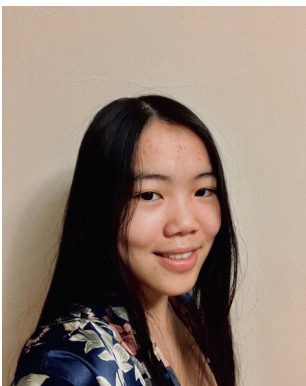
Student Designer Bios



Kanon Nakajima '23 (*Costume Associate*) is a Neuroscience major with a Dance minor from Chiba, Japan. They began their training in classical ballet at the age of 7 at Eri Classic Ballet Studio aff. Tani Momoko Ballet Company in Japan. At previous dance concerts on campus, they have danced in pieces by Jill Lile and choreographed & danced a solo piece, "A piece of hope." For this dance concert, they are involved as a dancer as well as a Costume Design Associate.

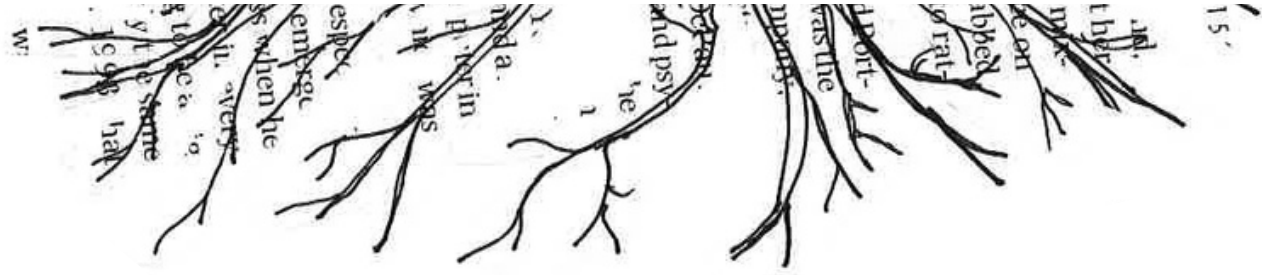


Lizzie Nelson '25 (*Sound Engineer, she/her*) is a Performance Design and Technologies minor from Minneapolis, MN. Sound is her favorite part of live theatre, and she has been sound engineering in various capacities for the past six years. Lizzie's Biology major has not stopped her from working on several productions at Mac. She would like to thank Emilia for trusting her so much, and Rene'e for being on top of things.



Maya Schaefer-Fiello '23 (*Costume Associate*) is a student technician in the Macalester Theater costume shop. She is a senior Biology major from Evanston, Illinois, interested in studying insects, ecology, and anatomy. She is considering possible careers in costume work, museum curation, and scientific research. In her spare time, she enjoys sewing, drawing, and playing piano. While she is not a Theater major or minor, she is grateful for the opportunity to take part in Macalester's theater productions. She has helped construct and assemble the costumes of Macalester productions such as *the Rocky Horror Picture Show*, *Angels in America*, *Seph*, *Thunderbodies*, and *Hair*. Maya is thankful for the generous guidance of MaryBeth Gagner and Sarah Bahr as she navigates her roles as student costume designer and technician for the Spring Dance Concert.

Student Designer Bios



Sandy Zhao '23 (*Scenic Designer*) is a student majoring in Psychology and double minoring in Data Science and Performance Design and Technology. She has worked on the Macalester productions of *Hair* (Co-props Designer) and *Angels in America* (Props Designer). She would like to express gratitude to Mina, Oscar, Jessica, Arkar and Rene'e for always being supportive. She would also like to express gratitude to the theater department in general for steering her back to her true passion and eventually finding her "real love" major and career pathway.



Faculty and Guest Artist Bios



Sarah Bahr is a Twin Cities based freelance Costume and Scenic Designer for theater, opera, and dance. Her work has been featured with companies including the Jungle Theater, Ten Thousand Things Theater, Trademark Theater, Guthrie Theater, Theater Mu, Theater Latte Da, Minnesota Opera, and Vail Dance Festival. In addition to freelance design work, Sarah teaches design courses at various universities and advocates for meaningful opportunities for emerging theater artists. Currently she is teaching The Art of Costume Design and designed costumes for *Angels in America* at Macalester. She is also an advocate for equity, diversity, and inclusion among designers and technicians in the performing arts industry. She holds a Design and Technical Theatre MFA from the University of Minnesota, a Studio Art MA from New York University, and a Design and Technical Theatre BFA from University of Minnesota Duluth. Sarah is a United Scenic Artist Local 829 Union Member. Website: sarahbahr.com, Instagram: [@sarahbahrdesign](https://www.instagram.com/sarahbahrdesign)



Thomas Barrett (*Technical Director/Lighting Designer, he/him*) has been technical director and instructor at Macalester since 1990. Tom works extensively throughout the Twin Cities as a scenic and lighting designer. Designs include *Avenue Q* and *Caridad Svich/Isabel Allende's The House of the Spirits* at Mixed Blood Theatre. Tom has also designed for Skylark Opera, Stages Theatre Company, and Edge of the Wilderness Players in Big Fork, MN.



Matías Cevallos Alemán (*Sound Desing Associate*) from a young age fell in love with music. At six, he began playing piano, and by age 16, he was studying music production at Berklee online. His artistic projects range from composing and producing music for independent artists and international organizations like UNICEF to singing choirs at some of the most prestigious venues in Ecuador. Matías is currently obtaining his degree in Music Composition and Film Scoring at Universidad San Francisco de Quito, Ecuador.

Faculty and Guest Artist Bios



Jesse Cogswell is a lighting designer for dance, theater, opera, and museum exhibitions based in the Twin Cities. He has designed lighting for Minnesota Dance Theatre, Threads Dance Project, Arena Dances, April Sellers Dance Collective, Ananya Dance Theatre, Kinetic Evolutions Dance, Ordway Theater, Swandive Theatre Company, Walking Shadow Theatre Company, Jungle Theater, MN Opera Company, and the Minnesota History Center.



Brian Fox (he/him) has been the Technical Assistant for the Macalester College Theater and Dance Department since 2018, pandemic allowing. Brian is no stranger to Macalester, graduating in 2018 after spending three years working in the Scene Shop as a student. Brian has built scenery and hung lights for every show in the new Theater and Dance building, with the large, curved steel staircase from *The Rocky Horror Show* in 2019 being his personal favorite project.



Wynn Fricke (Artistic Director, she/her) is a contemporary choreographer, dancer, and somatic educator. Her choreography has been presented internationally, with over thirty commissions from organizations such as the Walker Art Center, Zenon Dance Company, Minnesota Dance Theatre, The Yard, Frank Theater, Performa/Dance, Borrowed Bones Dance Theatre, and James Sewell Ballet. For two years, she served as Choreographer-in-Residence with Minnesota Dance Theatre in Minneapolis, MN. In 2018 her choreography *Just Her Time*, created for Macalester students, was selected by an adjudicated panel of the American College Dance Association for performance at the Kennedy Center in Washington D.C. and *Inside/Out* at Jacob's Pillow in Becket, MA. Fricke is an Assistant Professor (NTT) in the Department of Theater and Dance.

Faculty and Guest Artist Bios



MaryBeth Gagner (Costume Designer, she/her) has spent over 20 years in education - designing over 40 shows and dance pieces and teaching a wide range of courses in theater and fashion. In addition to costume design, she has managed a number of costume shops. Her collaborative skills have been further honed by costume work throughout the Twin Cities. Most recently she has designed at the Ordway, St. Paul Ballet, Park Square Theatre, Stuart Pimsler Dance and Theater, and James Sewell Ballet. Personal and professional connections have been essential to her development as an artist and have been supported through her involvement in USITT, Costume Enclave, and the Costume Society of America.



Wu Chen Khoo is a lighting designer, stagehand, production manager and labour organizer. He is based in Minneapolis and works internationally. Some of his lighting designs have been seen at Penumbra Theatre, Theater Mu, Theatre de la Jeune Lune, Stages Theatre Company, Pangea World Theatre, the Fitzgerald Theater, Children's Theatre Company, the Guthrie Theater and Mixed Blood Theater. He co-founded the education program Technical Tools of the Trade, which aimed to train, connect and support people through the skills of technical theatre. He is a founding member of the Class & the Arts collective and The Mothership, both groups of workers organizing to build Solidarity and hold space for critical engagement with issues of social justice including through the arts & entertainment industry. He is a proud member of IATSE, the union representing many of the technical workers in the arts and entertainment industry. He shares his life with his partner Kristin and children Teng Jin and Yi Lian.

RUTH EASTON ENDOWMENT FOR DRAMATIC ARTS

The Theater and Dance Department is grateful to the Ruth Easton Endowment for the Dramatic Arts for its support of many Theater and Dance Department activities.

Ruth Edelstein Easton, Macalester Class of 1921, was born and raised in North Branch, Minnesota. After graduation, Ruth studied for a year at Macalester before leaving the Midwest to pursue an acting career in Los Angeles. From there, she moved to New York City, where a friend introduced her to producer Oliver Morosco. Soon after, Ruth was on Broadway, acting with stars such as Clark Gable, Douglas Fairbanks, Ethel Barrymore, Judith Anderson, Walter Huston, and Al Jolson. She was also actively involved in radio dramas, performing in such shows as “The Rudy Valle Hour” and “The Fleischmann’s Yeast Hour.”

Later inheriting the fortune of her brothers—Dave and Jack Edelstein, who invented a paper-coating process considered the predecessor of plastic wrap—Ruth donated both time and money to acting programs throughout the country. She served as a benefactor for many Twin Cities theaters, including the Ordway, Theatre de la Jeune Lune, and the Playwrights’ Center.

When Ruth Edelstein Easton passed away in 1998, the Ruth Easton Endowment Fund was her gift to Macalester. The fund supports cooperation between the Theater and Dance Department and educational sites in the community, as well as bringing guests to campus.