

Meet Me at the UCA

COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF THE ARTS FALL 2009 STUDENT RECITAL SCHEDULE



Front to Back: Ruiz, McChesney,
Whitley, and Buffer

Student Dance Concert

Thursday, October 29, and Friday, October 30, 8 p.m.

University Dance Theatre, UCA

\$6/CSU students, \$6/youth (ages 2 – 17), \$8/seniors, \$10/adult

A CSU dance tradition since 1987, don't miss this year's opportunity to see a variety of dances choreographed and performed by CSU dance students, this concert gives both new and experienced choreographers, performers, and designers valuable experience. Mackenzie Buffer, Marlis McChesney, Michelle Ruiz, and Blair Whitley, senior dance majors and members the CSU Tour Dance Company, will be directing the concert. "We've had to be very organized when it comes to putting this concert together, as it is a very busy semester in the dance department, including a dance company performance in Mexico," says director Michelle Ruiz.

Jessi Day and Chantel Doyon will each perform a unique piece for the audience. Day's performance is a unique collaboration of dancing and singing; in one section, the modern dance is performed to a contemporary song, and another section is accompanied by other dancers singing. Doyon shows her incredibly creative talent as a choreographer as she uses a sheet to demonstrate innovative movement, lifts, and weight sharing incorporating a unique prop.

About Director Michelle Ruiz

Michelle Ruiz has been dancing since the age of three, switching from recreational dance to technical training at the age of 10 at Loveland Dance Academy. She studied ballet, lyrical, hip hop, jazz, modern, musical theatre and tap, and was a member of their competitive Performance Dance Team from 2001 to 2006. While at the academy, she worked with various teachers and choreographers including Jenni Leinweber, Katie Sue McSwain, Krista Leons, Margaret Wagner, and Kevin O'Keefe. This is her fourth and final year in the CSU dance department. Ruiz has enjoyed working under many choreographers including Professor Chung-Fu Chang, Professor Jane Slusarski-Harris, Professor Carol Roderick, and Ms. Katie Elliott. Next fall, she is hoping to continue her education at Fuller Theological Seminary in Pasadena, CA working for her Masters of Divinity in Worship and Theology in the Arts, and eventually starting a dance company/ministry. As for directing this dance concert, Michelle stated that, "It has been a joy to work with all the choreographers and tech crew. I've also enjoyed seeing all of the pieces develop, and I take pride in being part of such a creative group of people!"

About Director Mackenzie Buffer

Mackenzie Buffer, of Louisville, Colorado, began dancing at age three with the Boulder Parks and Recreation Center. She trained in jazz and ballet, and in high school started to dance with Grace Studios School of Dance in Broomfield, Colorado. There she was exposed to jazz, tap, ballet, modern, and hip hop, and placed at multiple competitions around the state. Her love of dance compelled her to start teaching ballet, tap, jazz, and hip hop to young students at Grace Studios School of Dance, A Dance Place, Dance Dynamics, and recently at High Country Conservatory of Dance. Ms. Buffer is currently a double major in Dance and Speech Communication at Colorado State University, and will graduate in the spring of 2010.

Buffer has worked with Colorado State University faculty members Chung-Fu Chang, Melissa Corr, Lynda White, Jane Slusarski-Harris, and Carol Roderick, as well as guest artists Katie Elliot, Kim Neal Nofsinger, Gabriel Mason, and Mary Whol Haan. Her choreography has been performed on the main stage at Colorado State Universities Fall Dance Concert 2007, and the Spring Dance Concert 2008. This is currently Buffer's second year on the CSU Tour Dance Company, and she has traveled to schools around Colorado and has collaboratively choreographed with fellow members.

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