Momentum’ dance performance to showcase student work

By Nicole Gregory, contributing writer

“Momentum,” featuring eight dance pieces by students, faculty, and guest artist Yoshito Sakuraba of the New York contemporary dance company Alvin Ailey, will be performed Dec. 3 at the Little Theatre in the Clayes Performing Arts Center.

“Dance is full of momentum. It works on many levels — it's physical, it's cultural, it's emotional,” said Lisa D. Long, choreographer, dancer, and modern dance instructor in the Cal State Fullerton Department of Theatre and Dance, who coordinated this performance.

“Our concept is a way of engaging with our community with forward-looking vision,” Long said.

“Momentum” comprises an eclectic mix of work by faculty and students. “The students have worked very hard in their pieces, and their pieces are exciting,” Long said. Some rehearsal time was cut short due to unforeseen events, such as health restrictions.

The dancer by guest artist Sakuraba is called “Unikko (the darkest plant of a shadow).” It was inspired by the poem “Come to me in the silence of the shadow)” by Rune Gustafsson. It was inspired by the poem “Come to me in the silence of the shadow.”

“Unikko” was created as a dance just for the unexpected by posing the question: “Can we still perform in the shadow of a pandemic?” according to the creators.

One is a combined vision of two seniors who met through the performance program. “Typically, a guest artist will work intensely with students for a week and then step back,” Long said. “But we have a guest artist who is here for an entire week. We are able to engage individually with each student as a whole as the choreographer and as a dancer. We are able to truly listen to what the students are saying.”

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The spring dance, improvisation, hip-hop styles, African American concert, as well as kinesiology and yoga. The department is chaired by Jamie Tucker, and Allen Rosen-Arnoldi is the vice chair and dance program coordinator.

“We are a holistic program based in multiple disciplines, and we address each student as a whole individual,” Long said.

“We livestreamed them, we performed fully masked, and now we're almost back to normal,” Long said. “Students get performing experience and rehearsal experience and get the community exposure, even though it was a Zoom.” she said.

“Literally, the show must go on!” Long herself is a choreographer, dancer and massage therapist. She danced with the Dallas Black Dance Theatre and was a teacher at Osaka University and at Kanazawa Dance Laboratory. Her choreography has been presented at the Spellman Center, DUMBO Dance Festival and Solo Exhibition in New York City, the Oregon Shakespeare Festival and many other venues.

The opportunity to work with guest artists — dancers and choreographers from companies such as the Alvin Ailey Dance Company, Martha Graham Company, the American Ballet Theatre and many others — is a key part of the dance program. “We are a holistic program based in multiple disciplines, and we address each student as a whole individual,” Long said.

“Despite these challenges, the university finished the year without a deficit. We are facing an enrollment challenge, but the university is sound financially,” said Virjee, who has been at Cal State Fullerton for eight years and has coordinated the concerts since 2016, which were created and performed during the pandemic.

“We continue to press the Chancellor’s Office for equitable support for CSUF News Media Services

First, the good news. While there are certainly challenges, the university’s overall financial position is sound. But while the amounts are not insubstantial, they are also not as large as the baseline allocations and $103.1 million in new one-time allocations, virtually all of those new dollars must be allocated to cover mandatory costs. In fact, 50% of the new funding is designated for costs directly associated with enrollment, compensation and mandatory costs, and 24% of that “new funding” is CPSP’s money that was held back by the Chancellor’s Office last year for compensa- tion increases and the university’s own tuition revenue. Graduation Initiative 2025 represents another 7%, which was not allocated to the CSU system whatsoever.

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“We are a holistic program based in multiple disciplines, and we address each student as a whole individual,” Long said.

“We are also looking at how we’re doing compared to other campuses within the CSU system, and Yurius. "We continue to press the Chancellor’s Office on the fact that we’re one of the lowest CSU campuses (per full-time student equivalent). However, we have not been able to impact the formula in a meaningful way. In fact, in the last 2 years, we have seen 20 out of 23 campuses increase their per capita revenue while we have seen a reduction in ours. The CSU has been able to increase and keep the CSU in the creation of an equalization formula comparing campuses that are similar in size, demographics and geography.”

“Yet, despite these challenges, the university finished the year without a deficit, based on the work of the divisions to track and manage their budgets.”

Brandi Volpicella performs in the Spring Dance Theatre 2022, choreographed by Angelica Burgos.

Karen Ney Nelson and Trinity Raellos perform in “A Mower’s Bench” by Tyrae Duarte.

ARTS

MOMENTUM

Guest artists lead some rehearsals

by Nicole Gregory, contributing writer

University faces challenges, but financial picture is sound

by popcorn. Currently the public affairs coordinator for the CSU Chancellor’s Office’s Office of Equity, Support and Federal Relations, Fariz is working as a policy advisor for the office with a focus on how the university can continue to make the best use of resources to serve students.

Chicago Sun-Times

-budget

If you go

“Momentum” shows at 8 p.m. Dec. 1, 2, 3, 8, 9, 10 and 2 p.m. Dec. 3 & 8

Venue: Little Theatre, Clayes Performing Arts Center, 800 N. State College Blvd., Fullerton

Tickets: tickets.fullerton.edu/TheatreManager/TimeView/hrdEvent/14748.html

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Tickets:

Fullerton College: $20; Fullerton College students: $10; Department of Theatre and Dance: $25; Fullerton College alumni: $15; Senior discount: $10; Student discount: $5; Children under 12 free.

Tickets are available at the box office, online or by calling 657-288-2988. For more information, call 657-278-2666 or visit tickets.fullerton.edu.

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Photo Credit: BY NICOLE GREGORY

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