

# THE VELVETEEN RABBIT

Performed by ODC/Dance

Sat, Nov 4

## NORTHROP Presents

University of Minnesota Driven to Discover<sup>™</sup>



#### HI, KIDS!

WELCOME to Northrop! Is this your first time here? If so, I hope you'll get to know us and love coming here—because we have lots of great stuff going on ALL of the time.

Today, you've come to see *The Velveteen Rabbit*. I bet lots of you already know the story because you (and maybe the adults you've brought with you) have read the book. Can you believe that this book was written almost 100 years ago? And yet, a story about how a stuffed toy can actually become REAL if someone truly loves it is a story that feels

Christine Tschida. Photo by Tim Rummelhoff.

like it could be happening today. It's magical, but true!

The dancers you see on stage are from ODC/Dance and they live in San Francisco, California, where they have been performing this show every holiday season for 30 years! But the children in today's production—the kids your age—live right here in the Twin Cities, and study dance at TU Dance Center in St. Paul. They have been learning their parts for about a month, just so they could perform for you today! (Be sure and applaud for them at the end!)

Have a great time at Northrop today, and come back for more music and dance—maybe a ballet or the big marching band concert. See you again soon!

Sincerely,

Clinita Talida

Christine Tschida Director of Northrop

Northrop at the University of Minnesota Presents

# THE VELVETEEN RABBIT

performed by ODC/Dance

Artistic Director and Founder BRENDA WAY

> Executive Director CARMA ZISMAN

Co-Artistic Director KT NELSON

#### Associate Choreographer and Director of ODC School KIMI OKADA

Dancers

JEREMY SMITH, NATASHA ADORLEE JOHNSON, JOSIE G. SADAN, BRANDON FREEMAN, JEREMY BANNON-NECHES, TEGAN SCHWAB, DANIEL SANTOS, RACHEL FURST, LANI YAMANAKA JAMES GILMER, MIA J. CHONG

**TU Dance Center Dancers** 

LIV MAY ANDERSON, DAGU BURBACH, MERETI BURBACH, CAILYN HARRIS, JANE HOLMES, CAYENNE RAMIREZ, GRAZINA TROUP, KELLER YUNIS, ESSEX WILLIS



This activity is made possible by the voters of Minnesota through a Minnesota State Arts Board Operating Support grant, thanks to a legislative appropriation from the arts and cultural heritage fund and a grant from Wells Fargo.



UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA Driven to Discover<sup>™</sup>

#### ABOUT THE COMPANY ODC/DANCE

## **THE VELVETEEN RABBIT**

Founded in 1971 by Artistic Director Brenda Way, ODC/Dance was one of the first American companies to incorporate a post-modern sensibility into a virtuosic contemporary dance language and to commit major resources to interdisciplinary collaboration and commissioned scores for the repertory.

ODC/Dance performs for more than 50,000 people annually. In addition to two annual home seasons in San Francisco (Dance Downtown and the much-loved holiday production of *The Velveteen Rabbit*), past highlights include numerous appearances at the Joyce Theater in New York and the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C., standing-room only engagements in Europe and Russia, and two USIA tours to Asia, most recently as part of the inaugural DanceMotion roster. In 46 years, ODC/Dance has performed for more than a million people in 32 states and 11 countries, with support from the NEA, the U.S. State Department, and many state and city arts agencies. The company has been widely recognized for its rigorous form, technical clarity and numerous groundbreaking collaborations with, among others, composers Marcelo Zarvos, Bobby McFerrin, Zoë Keating, Zap Mama, Pamela Z, Jay Cloidt, and Paul Dresher; writer/singer Rinde Eckert; actors Bill Irwin, Geoff Hoyle, and Robin Williams; visual artists Andy Goldsworthy, Wayne Thiebaud, Jim Campbell, and Eleanor Coppola; welder/bike designer Max Chen and choreographer Kate Weare. Their creativity-based outreach programs have been widely emulated and continue to fuel their deep engagement in communities across the country. Choreography by KT NELSON Story by MARGERY WILLIAMS Narration by GEOFF HOYLE Score by BENJAMIN BRITTEN Dancers, COMPANY; TU DANCE CENTER DANCERS

ODC/Dance enlivens Margery Williams' classic tale of a well-worn nursery rabbit that becomes real. Told through music, dance and a powerful narrative, *The Velveteen Rabbit* celebrates the unique relationship between a little boy and his stuffed rabbit, and the enduring power of love. Brimming with wit, festive costumes, madcap characters and the perfect amount of holiday cheer, *The Velveteen Rabbit* is brought to life by ODC/Dance, one of America's most exciting and acclaimed contemporary dance companies. They are joined by several student dancers from St. Paul's TU Dance Center.



#### CHOREOGRAPHER ODC/DANCE



KT NELSON joined ODC/Dance in 1976 and partners with Brenda Way in directing the ODC/Dance Company. Nelson choreographed and directed the Company's first fulllength family ballet in 1986, The Velveteen Rabbit. The production has become a holiday

Photo © Lon McGowan.

tradition in the Bay Area, engaging generations of dance goers, young and less so.

Nelson has been awarded the Isadora Duncan Dance Award four times: in 1987 for Outstanding Performance, in 1996 and 2012 for Outstanding Choreography, and in 2001 for Sustained Achievement. Her collaborators have included Bobby McFerrin, Geoff Hoyle, Shinichi Iova-Koga, Max Chen, Zap Mama, and Joan Jeanrenaud. In 2008, her work *RingRounRozi*, in collaboration with French-Canadian composer Linda Bouchard, was selected to be performed at the Tanzmesse International Dance Festival. In 2009 Nelson was one of three artists selected for Austin Ballet's New American Talent Competition. In 2012 she created new work for Western Michigan University as part of their Great Works Dance Project.

In addition to her work as a choreographer, Nelson served on the Zellerbach Community Arts Panel from 2005 to 2011, ran the summer dance department for Center for Creative Youth at Wesleyan University 2003-2006, and founded the ODC Dance Jam in 1997. Over the last 25 years, Nelson has played a major role in defining and implementing ODC's on-going and project-based outreach programs. She has mentored the Margaret Jenkins' Chime Project and continues to mentor emerging artists in the Bay Area and abroad. "The choreography makes the story come alive."

-THE NEW YORK TIMES

#### **THE DANCERS ODC/DANCE**



JEREMY SMITH began his professional career with Parsons Dance, receiving critical praise for his performance of the acclaimed solo Caught. He is twice an Isadora Duncan Dance Award nominee and once a winner for ensemble performance.

He is an advisory board member and the artistic advisor for Post:Ballet in San Francisco and a former artist with Ben Munisteri Dance Projects and Lydia Johnson Dance in New York City. Smith also collaborates with former ODC dancer Yayoi Kambara in Kambara + Dancers. He hails from Miami, FL, and graduated summa cum laude from the Florida State University. Smith joined ODC/ Dance in 2007.



NATASHA ADORLEE JOHNSON graduated from UC Berkeley with a B.A. in English. She was awarded a 2014 Isadora Duncan Dance Award

for her performance with Jeremy Smith in Two if by Sea, choreographed by Kimi Okada. She trained with American

Ballet Theatre, SUNY Purchase Conservatory of Dance, and was an inaugural member of Alonzo King's LINES Ballet training program. She played "Snoopy" in Charlie Brown Christmas-Live! at the San Francisco Symphony, is a former member of Robert Moses' KIN, and has performed as a guest artist with Kate Weare Company. As artistic director of Concept o4, Johnson has created dance for film and live performance. She has previously choreographed for the European Tanzsomer Festival, Regional Dance America, and music video projects. Johnson is also a singer and music producer with the group Saint Tiimbre. Johnson joined ODC/Dance in 2011.

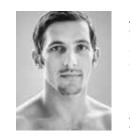


JOSIE G. SADAN grew up in Lagunitas, CA. She trained on scholarship at Marin Ballet and NYU's Tisch School of the Arts. Since returning to the Bay area in 2007, Sadan has enjoyed working with choreographers including Sidra Bell, Manuelito Biag,

Molissa Fenley, Amy Foley, and Robert Moses, and she is a former member of Robert Moses' KIN. Sadan is also a widely-published writer and holds an M.A. in Communications from Stanford University. She joined ODC/Dance in 2013.

> **BRANDON FREEMAN** better known as "Private," is an ODC veteran, having danced with the company for 12 years before venturing out in 2008 for an artistic "Walkabout." In the Bay Area, Private has had the privilege of working with many dance artists/

companies, most recently in 2010, Amy Seiwert's Imagery and as a principal dancer in the movie *The* Matrix II: Reloaded. He also was a guest artist with the Colorado Ballet, performing in Glen Tetley's Le *Sacre Du Printemps* in 2013. Nominated multiple times, Private received Bay Area Isadora Duncan Awards for Ensemble Performance in 2002 with Brian Fisher, in 2012 with Katie Faulkner, and in 2014 with Katherine Wells. In addition to teaching ballet and modern dance technique (including Dance for Parkinson's Disease), he is a sailor, a poet, a woodworker, oil painter, and was formerly an Artillery and Military Police Sergeant in the Army National Guard. He gratefully acknowledges all who have influenced his dance career, specifically Brenda, KT, Sonya, Amy, and Randy.



#### **JEREMY BANNON-NECHES**

was born in Brooklyn, NY, and grew up in Augusta, GA, where he received his initial training at the Augusta Ballet School. In 2005, he graduated with honors from the North Carolina School of the Arts, where he performed

leading roles in The Nutcracker, Don Quixote, and Lynn Tailor Corbett's Lost and Found. Bannon-Neches then danced with Nevada Ballet Theater. performing principal roles in George Balanchine's Rubies and Serenade, Mathew Neenan's At the *Border*, along with works by Twyla Tharp, Val Caniparoli, James Canfield, and Thaddeus Davis. Since moving to San Francisco in 2012, he has worked with Robert Moses KIN, Post:Ballet, Zhukov Dance, DawsonDanceSF, and Hope Mohr Dance. He joined ODC/Dance in 2015.



**TEGAN SCHWAB** grew up in Miami, FL. She graduated summa cum laude from New World School of the Arts College, and earned a B.F.A. in dance from the University of Florida. In Miami, Tegan began her professional career in 2005 as a dancer/

puppeteer, with choreographer Katherine Kramer and the acclaimed marionette/visual artist Pablo Cano. After graduating in 2008, she moved to San Francisco and has had the pleasure of dancing principal roles as a company member with Dance Through Time, Hope Mohr Dance and Garrett+Moulton Productions. Schwab joined ODC/Dance in 2015.



**DANIEL SANTOS** was born in Manila, Philippines. He began his formal dance training at the age of 16 with State Street Ballet under the tutelage of Rodney Gustafson, and later received a full scholarship from the San Francisco Ballet School. Santos danced with

ODC/Dance for 10 years, winnning an Isadora Duncan Award for Individual Performance. In

2012, Santos temporarily left dance to explore his outdoor interests, studying at the Mountain Training School and learning to guide in three disciplines: Alpine Mountaineering, Back Country Skiing, and Rock Climbing. But after 4 years in the great outdoors, the stage was calling: Santos rejoined the company in 2016.



**RACHEL FURST** is from Baltimore, MD, where she trained at the Baltimore School for the Arts. She graduated summa cum laude with a B.F.A. in Dance from the Alonzo King LINES Ballet **B.F.A Program at Dominican** University of California. She

performed with Amy Seiwert's Imagery beginning in 2012, as well as with Dawson Dance SF and Smuin Ballet. Furst joined ODC/Dance in 2016.



LANI YAMANAKA was born and raised in Carlsbad, CA. She graduated from UC Irvine with two B.F.A. degrees specializing in Performance and Choreography. At UCI, she had the privilege to train with Donald McKayle as a member of his Etude Ensemble where

she performed and created repertory with the world-renowned dance legend. Upon graduation, Yamanaka was cast in Pearl, a multimedia production directed and choreographed by Daniel Ezralow. The show made its world premiere at the David H. Koch Theater at Lincoln Center. She has trained with Hubbard Street Dance Company, San Francisco Conservatory of Dance, BodyTraffic, and Unity 2 Dance Ensemble. Yamanaka was a company member with Entity Contemporary Dance for 3 years, and is signed with Go 2 Talent Agency. She joined ODC/Dance as an apprentice in 2016 and has since been promoted to full company status.

## THE DANCERS



JAMES GILMER of Pittsburgh, PA was trained at Pittsburgh Ballet Theatre School and the Pittsburgh School for the Creative & Performing Arts. After graduating in 2011, he joined Cincinnati Ballet's Second Company and joined the main company

the following season. Gilmer danced with the Cincinnati Ballet for six seasons being promoted to Soloist in 2015, he has performed works by Septime Webre, Ohad Naharin, Val Caniparoli, George Balanchine, Annabelle Lopez-Ochoa, Edwaard Liang, Jennifer Archibald, Trey McIntyre, Adam Hougland, Amy Seiwert, and Victoria Morgan to name a few. He has also been a member of Amy Seiwert's Imagery, performing with the company since the summer of 2013. Looking to branch outside of the classical ballet realm, he is excited to join ODC/Dance for his first season.



MIA J. CHONG (Apprentice) grew up in San Francisco, CA. She received scholarships and training from the Kirov Academy of Ballet, the Ailey School, Alonzo King LINES Ballet, Hubbard Street Dance Chicago, the School at Jacob's Pillow, Tisch School of the Arts

at New York University, and ODC School, where she trained for over a decade. Chong performed with Robert Moses' KIN Dance Company and is a former member of Dance Theatre of San Francisco. She joined ODC/Dance as an apprentice in 2016.

#### **STAFF AND REPRESENTATION**

EXECUTIVE STAFF Artistic Director and Founder BRENDA WAY

**Executive Director** CARMA ZISMAN

Co-Artistic Director KT NELSON

> Associate Choreographer and Director of ODC School KIMI OKADA

TOURING STAFF LIST Company Manager JOSEPH COPLEY

Artist Representative/Booking Agent CATHY PRUZAN

Public Relations Specialist MONA BAROUDI

**Production Manager** JACK BEUTTLER

Lighting Director DAVID ROBERTSON



#### **ABOUT THE COMPANY TU DANCE**

Founded in 2004 by Toni Pierce-Sands and Uri Sands in St. Paul, Minnesota, TU Dance is a leading voice for contemporary dance. Through celebrated performances of the professional company and accessible dance education at TU Dance Center, TU Dance provides opportunities for everyone to experience the connective power of dance. The School at TU Dance Center, under the direction of Laurel Keen, offers classes for all ages and levels including modern, ballet, West African, creative movement, contemporary, improvisation and repertory. tudance.org



#### **ARTISTIC LEADERSHIP TU DANCE**



Photo © City Chic.

contemporary dancer, teaching artist, choreographer, and artist organizer. She has spent 10 seasons with Minnesota-based dance company **TU Dance** (Toni Pierce-Sands and Uri sands, Co-Artistic Directors) and has worked professionally

with Nathan Trice/RITUALS, Andrea Miller, and Janis Brenner & Dancers. During her tenure at TU Dance Alanna danced featured roles by celebrated choreographers, Kyle Abraham, Gioconda Barbuto, Camille A. Brown, Ronald K. Brown, Gregory Dolbashian, Katrin Hall, Francesca Harper, Dwight Rhoden, and Uri Sands.

In 2011, Morris-Van Tassel received a Minnesota SAGE Award for Outstanding Performer and is a recipient of the 2015 McKnight Dance Fellowship. In the summer of 2016, supported by The Jerome Foundation, she traveled to Trinidad to study Afro-Caribbean dance as a part of the New Waves! Festival in Port of Spain. In September 2017 Morris-Van Tassel was an Artist-In-Residence with Art On Purpose (Arima, Trinidad) where she commissioned a new solo dance by choreographer, Jamie Philbert and participated in a range of community engagement activities, including a Master Class and public showing of the works-in-progress.

Morris-Van Tassel continues to actively engage community in the Twin Cities by producing her own work and collaborating with many arts and educational programs and individuals. She is currently developing a solo dance concert to premiere in Minneapolis in Spring 2018. Morris-Van Tassel holds a BFA in Dance from The Juilliard School, alannamyt.com

#### **THE DANCERS TU DANCE**

LIV MAY ANDERSON is a 1st grader at Great River School in St. Paul and has been taking dance classes at The School at TU Dance Center for almost three years.

DAGU BURBACH of St. Paul is a 3rd grader at The Friends School and has been taking dance classes at The School at TU Dance Center for three years.

**MERETI BURBACH** of St. Paul is a 3rd grader at Waldorf School and has been taking dance classes at The School at TU Dance Center for three years.

**CAILYN HARRIS** is a 6th grader at Maplewood Middle School. She has been dancing for four years and this is her third year at The School at TU Dance.

JANE KIZIAH LUNE HOLMES is a 2nd grader at Adams Spanish Immersion School in St. Paul and has been taking dance classes at The School at TU Dance Center for two years.

CAYENNE RAMIREZ a 7th grader at St. Paul Academy. She has been dancing at The School at TU Dance Center for the past two years. Before that, she attended dance-n-magic, a Spring session at TU Dance and was in the first class at her grade school to participate in dancing classrooms.

GRAZINA TROUP is a 5th grader at St. Anthony Park Elementary and she has been taking dance classes at The School at TU Dance Center for three years.

**KELLER YUNIS** is a 2nd grader at Expo Elementary School in St. Paul. He has been dancing at The School at TU Dance for 3 years.

**ESSEX WILLIS** is a 4th grader at Prairie Creek Community School in Northfield, MN. He has been taking classes at The School at TU Dance Center since January.

# NORTHROP 2017 // 18 SEASON

#### FILM SCREENING

I Capuletti e I Montecci

Romeo and Juliet Experience Film Mon, Nov 13, 4:30 pm

#### PERFORMANCE 56TH ANNUAL MARCHING BAND INDOOR CONCERT

<mark>Sat, Nov 18</mark>, 7:00 pm <mark>Sun, Nov 19, 2</mark>:00 pm

#### FILM SCREENING

A League of Their Own Wed, Jan 17, 6:30 pm

#### PERFORMANCE HUBBARD STREET DANCE CHICAGO

Sat, Jan 27, 7:30 pm

#### FILM SCREENING

*Miniatures* Wed, Feb 14, 6:30 pm

#### PERFORMANCE LES BALLETS DE MONTE-CARLO

**Romeo and Juliet** by Jean-Christophe Maillot Tue-Wed, Feb 27-28, 7:30 pm

#### FILM SCREENING

Madonna's Rebel Heart Tour Wed, Feb 21, 6:30 pm

#### PERFORMANCE COMPANY WANG RAMIREZ Borderline Sat, Mar 3, 7:30 pm

FILM SCREENING Matthew Bourne's Swan Lake Wed, Apr 4, 6:30 pm

#### PERFORMANCE HOUSTON BALLET

Swan Lake with live orchestra Sat, Apr 7, 7:30 pm Sun, Apr 8, 1:30 pm

#### FILM SCREENING

Leonard Bernstein: Larger than Life Wed, Apr 11, 6:30 pm

#### PERFORMANCE KEIGWIN + COMPANY Celebrates Bernstein with the University Symphony Orchestra Sat, Apr 14, 7:30 pm

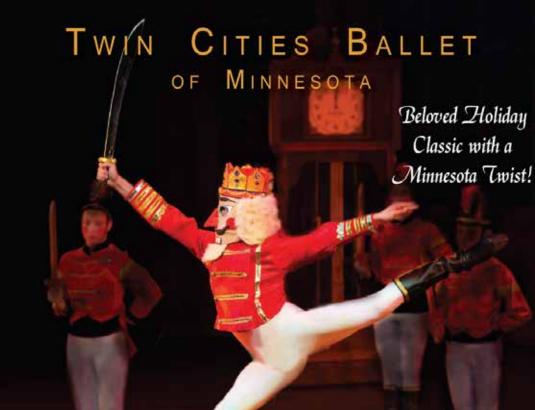
FILM SCREENING **I Dream of Wires** Wed, Apr 25, 6:30 pm

PERFORMANCE ALONZO KING LINES BALLET Tue, May 1, 7:30 pm

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#### BALLET MINNESOTA PRESENTS

# UTCRACKER



Artistic Director: Andrew Rist

## DECEMBER 15-17 THE O'SHAUGHNESSY AT ST. CATHERINE UNIVERSITY

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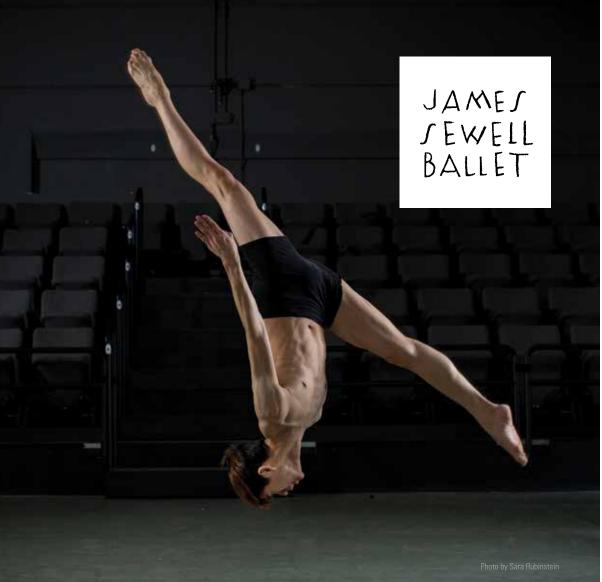
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Ahn Trio / JSB Collaboration

The O'Shaughnessy at St. Catherine University November 3–5, 2017



Nutcracker (Not so) Suite The Goodale Theater at The Cowles Center December 15-30, 2017

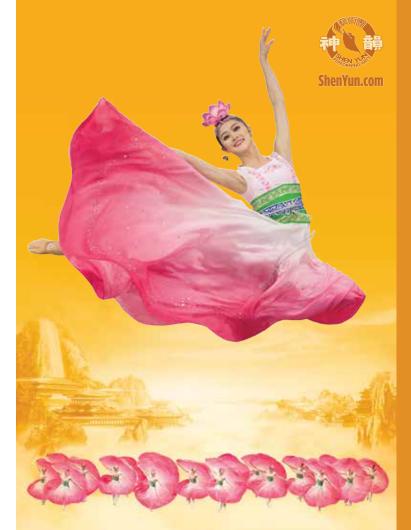


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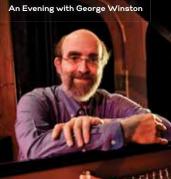




Merry and Bright: A Big, Brassy Ch



Young People's Concert: Stories in Music



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Media Partner: 📩 StarTribune

The Twin Cities' newest holiday tradition is back and better than ever! Join The Cowles Center and James Sewell Ballet as we ring in the holidays with Myron Johnson's irreverent and inventive classic, *Nutcracker (not so) Suite*.

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December 22, 28 & 30

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HOLIDAYS AT THE COWLES CENTER -

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Myron Johnson

thecowlescenter.org

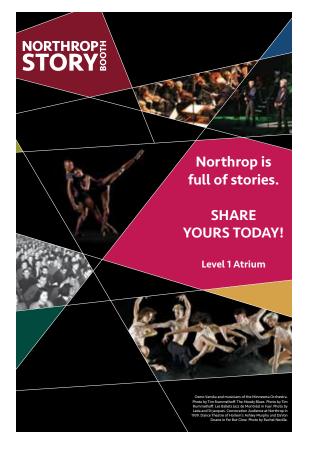
#### MINDFULNESS AT WORK ONLINE COMMUNITY CLASS

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## DANCE AT THE O'SHAUGHNESSY A FALL SEASON OF NEW WORKS



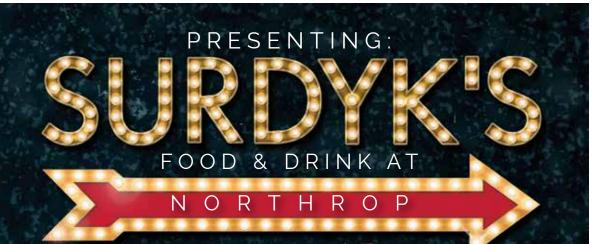
**Rosie Hererra Dance Theatre** Oct. 13

James Sewell Ballet w/ The Ahn Trio Nov. 3–5

**TU Dance** Nov. 17–19



THE O'SHAUGHNESSY AT ST. CATHERINE UNIVERSITY TICKETS: OSHAG.STKATE.EDU | 651-690-6700



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#### Surdyk's Café

Surdyk's Café is on the first floor, west side of Northrop. Hours: 7:30 am-6:00 pm, Mon-Thu, and 7:30 am-5:00 pm, Fri. Surdyk's concessions (including wine and beer) are available before and during performances.

#### ATM

An ATM is located near the elevator on the ground floor, West.

#### Restrooms

Restrooms are located on every level and side of the building, including family restrooms (except on the fourth floor, where there is a women's restroom on the West side, and a men's restroom on the East side only).

#### **General Ticket Information**

For any ticketing questions, visit U of M Tickets and Events on the ground floor of West and East sides of the building, visit northrop.umn.edu for the most current listing of events, or call 612-624-2345.

#### **Replacing Lost Tickets**

For your convenience, U of M Tickets and Events keeps record of your purchase, should you lose or forget your tickets.

#### Accommodating Special Needs

Northrop has accessible seating; please ask an usher for assistance. Elevators are located on both the East and West sides of the building. Accessibility services, including parking information, are available upon request.

If a guest wishes to transfer from their wheelchair to fixed seats, the wheelchair will be taken to the outer lobby to comply with local fire code regulations. At the end of the performance an usher will return the wheelchair to the guest.

#### **Cameras and Cell Phones**

Use of cameras and recording equipment are not permitted in the theater. Please be considerate and turn off your cell phones or other electronic devices during the performance.

#### **Motorist Assistance**

University of Minnesota provides free jump starts, vehicle unlocking, and flat tire changes to vehicles in University parking facilities Mon-Fri, 7:00 am-10:00 pm. Call 612-626-PARK (7275) for assistance.

#### **Campus Security Escort**

Trained security monitors are available 24/7 to walk or bike with anyone on campus. This free service is provided by the University of Minnesota Police Department. Please call 612-624-WALK (9255) or ask an usher to contact them for you.

#### **MAKE LEGENDARY PERFORMANCES HAPPEN!**

At Northrop, we believe in sharing great artists and ideas with a new generation of audiences. Your support helps make extraordinary arts experiences accessible to everyone through outreach to diverse communities. rich and varied programming, and subsidized student tickets. Our Friends are at the center of Northrop's biggest ideas and brightest moments on stage.

Become a Friend of Northrop today! Donate online at northrop.umn.edu/support-Northrop or contact Cynthia Betz to learn more about supporting Northrop!

**Cvnthia Betz** betzx011@umn.edu // 612-626-7554

#### THE NORTHROP ADVISORY BOARD

The Northrop Advisory Board is committed to the growth and awareness of Northrop's mission, vision, and the continued future of presenting world-class dance in our community. Bringing unique resources in advocacy, development, and network building, this group helps to ensure Northrop's programming for generations to come. If you would like more information about this committee and its work, please contact Cynthia Betz, Director of Development, at 612-626-7554

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A special thank you to our patrons whose generous support makes Northrop's transformative cultural experiences possible. Make your mark on Northrop's future by becoming a Friend today, learn more by visiting northrop.umn.edu/support-northrop.

#### We gratefully acknowledge the support from: Minnesota State Arts Board

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corrections or questions

## HUBBARD STREET DANCE CHICAGO

Sat, Jan 27

## LES BALLETS DE MONTE-CARLO

Tue-Wed, Feb 27-28

Romeo and Juliet by Jean-Christophe Maillot

## COMPANY WANG RAMIREZ

Sat, Mar 3

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