

WMDF



west michigan dance festival

Community Dance **SHOWCASE**

*Friday August 8th 2025, 6:30 PM
Holland Area Civic Center*

Boundaries (Midwest Movement Collective)

Choreographer: Amber Casillas

Dancers: Bre Burrows, Amber Casillas, Annie Krautheim, Sarah Miller, Shawn Hondorp, Tori Gonda

Note: This piece is one of a collection of pieces that comprise our Art Prize 2025 entry titled "Humanity".

Stargazing (Breakin' Ballet)

Choreographers: Joy Morris-Burton
and Aerick Burton

Dancers: Joy Morris-Burton and Aerick
Burton

Note: Breakin' Ballet, "Stargazing" reflects the moments after magic when we realize what we've been looking for, has been right with us all along, in those precious moments with loved ones, and with ourselves. Just as the magic wishing flower the dandelion is often seen as a weed, so do we often take what we have much of for granted, until we realize, that is where the love and magic reside.



Patch of Blue (Atelier Dance Company)

Choreographer: Cydney Sheneman

Dancers: Sabrina Brown, Bre Burrows, and Sidney Kaeb

Note: When we were camping and experiencing bad weather, my grandpa would always say, "Look for the patch of blue." This was referring to a break in the clouds, a promise of fair weather, a hopeful prayer for goodness to come. My grandparents named their camper "Patch of Blue," and it became somewhat of a family motto. My grandfather, Burton, passed away in 2019, but I have found myself returning to this piece of advice, especially during these tumultuous times of discrimination and divisiveness, and intentionally seeking a patch of blue.

La Matrice (Currents Dance Theatre)

Choreographer: Kendra DeFazio

Dancers: Caitlin Miller, Emily Prymula, Cali Smith

Note: 2024 Maggie Allesee Choreography Award Winner



Choreography **CONCERT**

Saturday August 9th 2025, 7:00 PM
Knickerbocker Theater

That Which Is Not Returned (Excerpt)

Movement Reservoir Dance Company

Choreographer: Lachan Niedbala

Dancers: Allyson Lowis, Alisa Lindsay, Amaya Mckenzie, Andrew Niedbala, Lachan Niedbala, Kayla Wiese, Katerina Willis

Music: "Passepied" by Jean-Michael Blais

A trail between two cities

Choreographer: Carly Liegel

Dancers: Lydia Di Iorio-Rhoton, Lynn Miller

Music: "Nature's Way" and "Out West" by Alsever Lake

Note: A train between one city and another, one self and another. what we leave behind in the fro in anticipating the to.





Americana: Labor Union

Choreographer: Lia Smith-Redmann

Dancers: Delilah Cardiff, Marina Goulette, Greta Hanson, Beck Kimbro, Emma Meznarich, Autumn Schiffer, Kamryn Schmitter, Leah Sodemann

Music: "The Railroad" by Goodnight, Texas, "House of the Setting Sun" by Marisa Anderson, "Mudville" and "The Ghost of Blind Willie Johnson" by Tony Furtado

Note: The Boeing strikes, port workers' strike, healthcare worker strikes, barista strikes, and transit engineer strikes are a few of many that signal that workers in the U.S. feel the pinch of economic inequalities, workplace injustices, and overwork. Recent changes to our government have exacerbated the already-exorbitant abuse of the working class. This dance is about what I call the American "culture of labor": work culture, labor practices, and historical frameworks built on un- or under-compensated labor that enable a national ethos that prioritizes hard work in pursuit of an unachievable American Dream—and ultimately working oneself to death.

The Poem written at the Hill

Project SK+A

Choreographer: Seyong Kim

Dancers: Charlotte Anderson, Holly Hoeksema, Sabrina Darnall

Music: "The Railroad" by Goodnight, Texas, "House of the Setting Sun" by Marisa Anderson, "Mudville" and "The Ghost of Blind Willie Johnson" by Tony Furtado

Note: The Poem Written at the Hill, inspired by J.S. Bach's sublime aria "Erbarme Dich, mein Gott," is a contemporary ballet crafted for three female artists. Through symbolic gestural vocabulary and cultural motifs, the work creates an aesthetic tableau that resonates with profound melancholy. The choreography interweaves symbolic movement with cultural elements, inviting diverse interpretations that transcend religious connotations to speak to our contemporary globalized world through a transcultural lens. This work has garnered international recognition through presentations at prestigious venues worldwide, including the World Congress on Dance Research (Athens, Greece), Seoul International Dance Festival (Seoul, South Korea), Landes Theater (Coburg, Germany), American Dance Guild Festival at the Ailey Citigroup Theater (New York City), Palm Desert Choreography Festival at McCallum Theatre (Palm Desert, California), Washington International Dance Festival at Atlas Performing Arts Center (Washington, D.C.), and Detroit Dance City Festival at the Detroit Institute of Arts (Detroit, Michigan).



15 Minute Intermission

Moths are afraid of the dark

Dance Playhouse

Choreographer: Kelsey Lee

Dancers: Brenna Brookelyn, Kelsey Lee, Caitlin Miller, and Emily Prymula

Music: "I'm Sorry" and "On The Sunny Side Of The Street" by Brenda Lee

Note: Choreographed in collaboration with the performers. Projection Design, Video Editing, and Original Text: Kelsey Lee. Voiceover: Izaiah Ramirez. Lighting Design: Originally by Kate Karaskiewicz

Flee porneia

Choreographer: Lauren Settembrino

Dancer: Lauren Settembrino

Music: "Ruin", "Duel 35" by Zamilska

Note: Flee porneia examines the layered process of unlearning belief systems, explored through the lens of trauma and human sexuality. The piece progresses through stages of suppression, conflict, and an eventual pleasure in heresy. It is uncertain if is possible to fully expel old systems of belief; at the very least, one can proudly defy them.



Pampa

Kayt MacMaster + Calamity Works

Choreographer: Kayt MacMaster

Dancers: Madeline Mellinger, Kristen Whalen

Music: Assembled and arrange by Kayt MacMaster

Flock

Currents Dance Theatre

Choreographer: Kendra DeFazio

Dancers: Harlee Brennan, Emma Buschle, Melisa Deneweth, Seanna Dewitt, Maggie Hartman, Maddie Nelson, Emily Prymula, Cali Smith

Music: "Time Lapse" and "Bird List" by Michael Nyman

Thank you to our festival staff and volunteers!

Concert Adjudicators: Michaela Nield, Alexander Pasker

Volunteers: Kylie Fongers, Cali Smith

Lighting Designer: Austin Panavong

Theater Support: Ben Oegema

Photography: Raynard Imagemaker

WMDF Staff: Jacquie Pittman, Lachan Niedbala, Kendra DeFazio



Masterclass **INSTRUCTORS**

Classes run all day Saturday August 9th and Sunday August 10th. Open to Int/Adv dancers ages 16+. Registration available online or at the door.



Kayt MacMaster
Ballet for the
Contemporary Dancer
Alma College



Kevin Ivins
Commercial
Jazz Funk
LA Dance Magic



Róisín O'Brien
Lunch & Learn
*"From Scotland
to Indiana"*



Carly Liegel
Yoga
for Dancers
RYT 200



Carolyn Pampalone Rabbers
Contemporary Modern
and CPR Rep
CPR Dance: Inhale Movement



Lachan Niedbala
Modern Technique
*Movemen Reservoir
Dance Company*



Storm Stokes

Explorative Videodance
*Professional Dancer
and Visual Artist*



Hannah Seidel

Contact Improvisation
*Grand Valley State
University*



Mikey Winslow

Musical Theater Jazz
*Broadway Dancer,
Hamilton Dance Captain*



Amy Wilson

Embodied Practice:
Community Improv Jam
Dance in the Annex



Kendra DeFazio

ELEVATE Teen Dance
Experience
Currents Dance Theatre



Jacquie Pittman

WMDF
Executive Director

**Thank you for joining us at
WMDF 2025!**

**Mark your calendars for next year -
Grand Rapids, MI August 2026**