

DEPARTMENT OF THEATRE, DRAMA,  
AND CONTEMPORARY DANCE

# DANCE BFA

*at*  
INDIANA UNIVERSITY



*Infinitely Boundless (2023) by Iris Rosa, photo by Jeremy Hogan*



The IU Contemporary Dance Program offers a collection of experiences that are accessible to students who seek serious study in the art of dance. The program's core offerings consist of curricula which, through the highest quality of training and instruction, strengthen and refine dance techniques as well as provide scholarly inquiry into history, science, and creative practices. The faculty of the IU Contemporary Dance Program strives to not only teach, but mentor, and provide a strong theoretical base from which each dancer can grow and work as an individual artist. Students are encouraged to seek their own venue for expression, such as performance, choreography, teaching, production, or scholarship, to prepare for a successful career in the professional and academic field of dance.



## Greetings from Elizabeth Shea



Dear Prospective Student,

Welcome to the world of dance at Indiana University!

I sincerely hope you will take some

time to learn more about our dance major in the Department of Theatre, Drama, and Contemporary Dance. We have a unique and tremendously successful program that combines rigorous technical training and artistic development with a strong academic curriculum. The dance major is designed to fully prepare students for entrance into the professional dance world, which includes performance, choreography, teaching, administration, production, dance theory and writings, or studies in somatic practices. As a student here at Indiana University, you will immerse yourself in the world of dance. It is a challenging, yet ultimately fulfilling journey.

Please do not hesitate to contact me or any of the dance faculty with questions concerning our program. We are always more than happy to speak with prospective students, and further your understanding of dance at IU.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Liz Shea". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

**ELIZABETH SHEA**

*Professor and Director of Contemporary Dance*



## PROGRAM INFORMATION



The B.F.A. in Dance offered by the Department of Theatre, Drama, and Contemporary Dance is rich in artistic integrity and disciplined dance training that is essential to producing wholly integrated artists and successful dance professionals. The major includes offerings in dance technique, repertory, choreography, improvisation, composition, pedagogy, history, music, production, movement analysis, injury prevention, yoga, and Pilates certification. Opportunities to teach and work in the community, with programs like our Dance for Parkinson's® class, are also available.

### Facilities

The Lee Norville Theatre and Drama Center boasts three stages:

The Ruth N. Halls Theatre  
The Wells-Metz Theatre  
The Studio Theatre

Classes are held in our spacious dance studios and the dance facilities in the African American Arts Institute.

### Practice and Performance

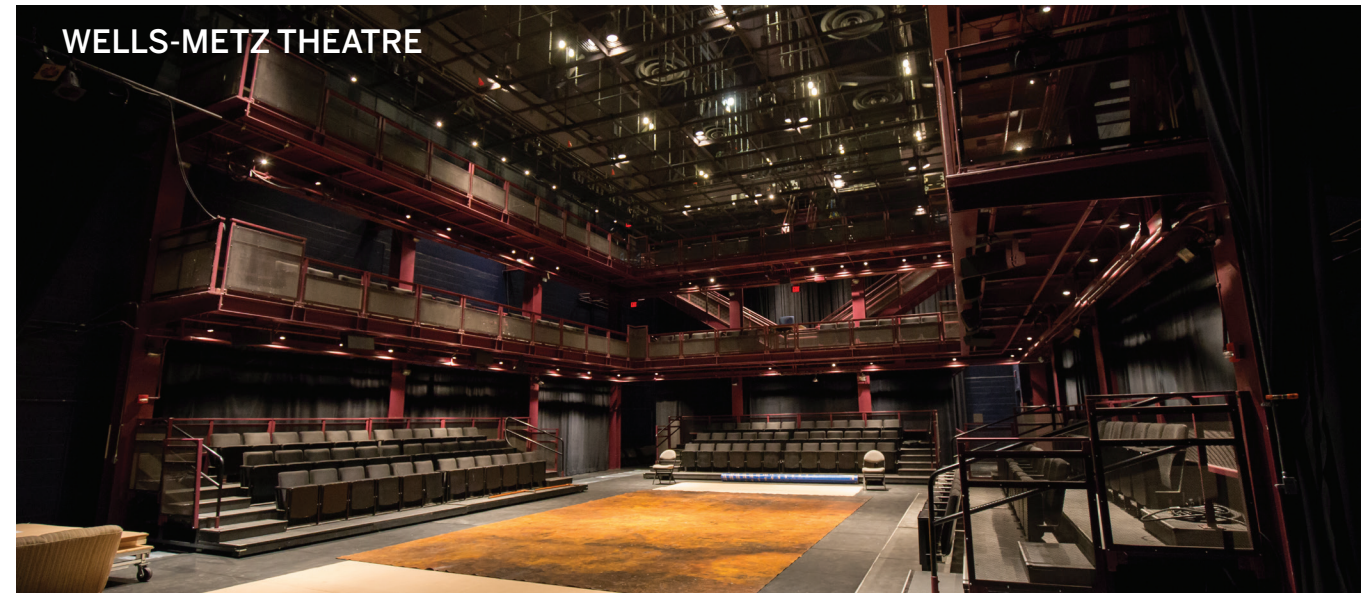
Daily training in dance practices includes movement studies in Africanist, African Diasporic, and somatic-based forms as well as supporting techniques, such as ballet, musical theatre dance, movement for actors, jazz, modern and house dance, and tap. Students participate in technique class and repertory rehearsals daily, as well as pursue their own work as dance-makers. All dance majors are members of the Indiana University Contemporary Dance Theatre and perform in the state-of-the-art Ruth N. Halls Theatre, as well as in other university and community venues. Several productions are held each year, and performance opportunities nationally and internationally are also available.

Student work from *New Moves*, 2024, photo by Jeremy Hogan

## RUTH N. HALLS THEATRE



## WELLS-METZ THEATRE



### The Tech Edge/Artistic Collaborations

The arts and technology environment at IU provide for two particularly strong areas of specialization. Dance and technology is a strong focus at IU; faculty members work in the area of real-time video and sound production, film, as well as utilizing motion capture technology.

The IU Jacobs School of Music is widely recognized as one of the world's premiere music programs, and dance majors have the opportunity to collaborate with student and faculty composers as well as perform to works that are played by world-class musicians. Dance faculty and students regularly work with artists and scholars in their own and other IU Departments such as Anthropology, African American and African Diaspora Studies, The Media School, Informatics, Gender Studies, and the Eskenazi School of Art, Architecture + Design.



## RECENT ALUMNI CREDITS

**COREY BOATNER** is a principal dancer with the Cleo Parker Robinson Dance Ensemble.

**DIAMOND BURDINE** appeared in the film *THE LAST LAZARUS*, a collaboration with Chicago Dance Crash & Purus Motus.

**CHELSEY CIOLI** is providing social media content for Popsugar Fitness.

**LEAH FOURNIER** and Amelia Heinzleman direct Middle Space Dance, and have presented their work in France, New York, Philadelphia, and Massachusetts. Most recently, they were awarded a residency at The Floor in New York, NY, a business owned by alum **JAMIE DOWD**.

**RYAN GALLOWAY** has been hired as a dancer with the Indianapolis-based Dance Kaleidoscope.

**FAITH HAGERTY** is pursuing a graduate degree in dance pedagogy at Loyola University, Chicago, IL.

**ABBY JONES** has been hired as a performer by Whirlwind Dance, based in Columbo, Ohio and directed by Joshua Manculich. As a Senior, she was also the recipient of the inaugural College of Arts and Humanities Institute Summer Research Essay Prize.

**JORDYN KAHLER, LLC & R-DMT** is a Counselor and Dance/Movement Therapist at Reset Brain and Body, Northville, MI.

**FRANCES ROSE KOPER** was selected to show work in the Young Choreographer's Festival at Symphony Space in New York City, NY.

**CARLEY LIEGEL & MEGAN KUDLA** co-produced *Ramble* at Link's Hall in Chicago, a collage of dance, theatre, live music, and lights set to the lyrics of Led Zeppelin, and featuring many IUCD alums working in the Chicago area.

**KATELYN CONNOR LINN** is serving as an intern at Jacobs Pillow Dance Festival Summer 2024.

**BAYLEE MCALLISTER** is a trainee with Saint Louis Dance Theatre for the 2025-25 season.

**BRITTNEY PATIKAS MOORE** is teaching for the Dallas/Fort Worth School System.

**OLIVIA SARVELLO** has been hired as a company artist with Eisenhower Dance Detroit, based in Detroit, Michigan and directed by Stephanie Pizzo.

**VANESSA WAHL** has been named Interim Assistant Coach of the Indianapolis Colts Cheerleaders after cheering on the squad for five years.

**CODY WATSON** is a performing member of SALT Contemporary Dance, Salt Lake City, Utah, and **GRACE CALDERONI** is a member of SALT2.

**ELISE WERCHAN** will be joining 6 o'Clock Dance Theatre for their 2024-25 season.

**KIERRA WILLIAMS** is pursuing an M.F.A. in Dance at The Ohio State University.



Rope (work in progress – 2023) by Stafford Berry, photo by Jeremy Hogan



## GUEST ARTISTS AND NATIONAL RECOGNITION

### Faculty/Guest Artists

Our program is supported by renowned dance and theatre faculty within the IU Department of Theatre, Drama, and Contemporary Dance as well as professors and musicians from the Department of African American and African Diaspora Studies, the Department of Kinesiology, and the Jacobs School of Music. Internationally recognized guest artists visit each year. The program is committed to exposing dance majors to both the historic works of the past as well as cutting-edge choreography by contemporary artists.

#### Recent guest artists:

Jennifer Scanlon, José Limón Dance Company  
Jeremy Jae Neal, Abraham.In.Motion  
Ihsan Rustem, Hubbard Street 2  
Larry Keigwin and Nicole Wolcott, Keigwin & Company  
Adriane Fang, Doug Varone and Dancers  
Jamy Meek, Hubbard Street Dance Chicago and Nederlands Dans Theatre  
David Parsons and Liz Koeppe, Parsons Dance  
Marlayna Locklear, Dayton Contemporary Dance Company  
Sandra Kaufmann, Martha Graham Dance Company  
Connie Dinapoli, Paul Taylor Dance Company  
I-Ling Liu, Bill T. Jones/Arnie Zane Dance Company  
Stefanie Batten Bland, Company SBB  
Gallim Dance  
Noa Shadur  
Rennie Harris  
Twyla Tharp  
Ayako Kato  
Magira Ross  
J'Sun Howard & Margaret Morris  
Erik Abbott-Main  
Juel D. Lang  
Cameron McKinney  
Dr. Prathiba Natesan Batley  
Clarence Brooks  
Dr. K. Meira Goldberg  
DaEun Jung

#### Students residencies:

Dance Theatre of Harlem  
Diavolo Dance Theatre  
Les Ballets Trocadero de Monte Carlo  
Kathleen Hermesdorf  
and Albert Mathias Jaclyn Walsh  
Alvin Ailey  
Ballet Hispanico  
Ruth Andrien and Taylor 2  
Martha Graham Dance Company  
Nadia Calmet (Afro-Peruvian Dance)  
Ron Brown  
Pilobolus  
Twyla Tharp Dance Company  
Urban Bush Women  
Nai-Ni Chen Dance Company  
Saa Kumu Dance Troupe  
(West African Music and Dance)  
Argentine Tango artists, Fernando Ghi Guillermo  
Danmu Ma, Shanghi Sport University  
Allysen Hooks  
Brandon Welch  
Robert Gregory Davis Burden  
Shannon Alvis  
Samantha Kaufman

### IU Contemporary Dance B.F.A. National Rankings

DanceUS.org has once again listed IU's Contemporary Dance B.F.A. Program as one of the Best College Dance Programs for 2023–2024 in the USA.





## AUDITION AND APPLICATION PROCESS

An application and audition are required for admission to the B.F.A. in Dance in the Department of Theatre, Drama, and Contemporary Dance at Indiana University.

You may apply online or scan the QR code to be granted an audition through [app.getacceptd.com/iudance](http://app.getacceptd.com/iudance). Based on the review of your materials you will be notified if you have been selected to participate in the audition. Please visit [theatre.indiana.edu](http://theatre.indiana.edu) for detailed instructions.



SCAN TO APPLY

For questions or more information, please contact  
Kate Lyons  
B.F.A. Audition Liaison  
kavander@iu.edu

Scholarships Available.

### Audition Information

Auditions begin at 8:30 am and conclude around 4:00 pm. The day begins with a two-hour audition class which consists of warm-up, non-western and western phrase work, and somatic-based improvisation. Following the class, you will view a short performance by dance majors, take part in small group discussions, and present a one-minute solo. You will get an hour lunch break before a faculty/student/parent Q&A and facilities tour. Following the audition, dancers may elect to view repertory rehearsals as well as speak personally with faculty. An informal campus tour can also be arranged.

### UPCOMING AUDITION DATES:

**NOVEMBER 22, 2024** (ALL AUDITION MATERIALS MUST BE RECEIVED BY NOVEMBER 14, 2024)

**FEBRUARY 7, 2025** (ALL AUDITION MATERIALS MUST BE RECEIVED BY JANUARY 30, 2025)

**ALL PRE-SCREEN MATERIALS FOR THE DANCE MAJOR MUST BE SUBMITTED AT LEAST ONE WEEK PRIOR TO YOUR PREFERRED AUDITION DATE. YOU WILL RECEIVE A REMINDER EMAIL THE WEEK OF YOUR AUDITION.**



PLEASE  
NOTE

All students must officially apply and be accepted to Indiana University Bloomington prior to being admitted to the B.F.A. in Dance in the Department of Theatre, Drama, and Contemporary Dance. Students may audition for the major prior to official admission to IU. Students who are admitted to Indiana University AND pass the dance audition will be directly admitted to The College of Arts and Sciences at Indiana University.





## Undergraduate Major Information

The Department of Theatre, Drama, and Contemporary Dance offers a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Dance. The major is 86 credits, and the curriculum includes:

- Dance Technique and Practice
- Repertory
- Improvisation
- Composition and Choreography
- Pedagogy
- Dance History and Theory
- Music
- Production
- Movement Analysis
- Acting
- Anatomy and Somatic Practices
- Senior Summary

All majors are performing members of the Indiana University Contemporary Dance Theatre, and perform in faculty/guest artist concerts as well as dance in student works. Seniors produce their own concert each year. Students can find other performing opportunities with the opera, the musical theatre program, the African American Dance Company, various student groups, and local and community dance events. Dance majors also have opportunities to perform nationally and internationally at various festivals, conferences, and faculty residencies.

## Dance Major Course Requirements (86 Credit Hours)

- Dance Practices I-VIII
- Supporting Techniques Selections
- Improvisation for Contemporary Dance I, II
- Fundamentals of Acting OR Introduction to Music Theory
- Introduction to Dance Studies
- Performance as Art and Design
- Anatomy
- Dance Pedagogy
- Contemporary Dance Workshop
- Approaches to Dance-Making I, II
- IU Contemporary Dance Theatre

- 20th Century Concert Dance
- Choreographic Performance Project
- Movement Analysis
- Senior Dance Summary
- Dance Theory Selection
- Professional Studies Selection

## Undergraduate Minor Information

The College of Arts and Sciences offers an 18-credit dance minor that provides students with a broad range of study which can best fulfill their goals and interests. Courses in core techniques and dance studies are required, as are studies in social/historical dance and theatre studies. Students can choose from modern dance, jazz, tap dance, ballet, and dances of the African Diaspora to fulfill their technique requirements, and also have the opportunity to explore electives throughout the dance discipline. There is no audition necessary to declare a dance minor, however certain advanced-level technique classes and performance opportunities do require an audition.

## College of Arts and Sciences Education Requirements

- English Composition
- Mathematical Modeling
- Public Oral Communication
- Intensive Writing
- Foreign Language (second-year, second-semester proficiency)
- Culture Studies
- Critical Approaches
- Arts & Humanities (covered by dance major coursework)
- Social and Historical Studies
- Natural and Mathematical Sciences



Student work from *New Moves*, 2024, photo by Jeremy Hogan



*Transcendence* (2023) by Beatrice Capote, photo by Jeremy Hogan



### Academic Opportunities in addition to the program

As Dance Majors, students complete a strong core of courses in the liberal arts, and have opportunities to minor or dual major in other fields. The College of Arts and Sciences also offers several minors which complement the dance major. Students can also pursue a pre-physical therapy track by completing prerequisite requirements for graduate school. Minors in business, arts administration, kinesiology, music or the Liberal Arts Management Program offered by the College also may be of interest. Graduates of the program are working as professional dancers, choreographers, arts administrators, company managers, dance journalists, teachers and fitness specialists, and they often pursue graduate studies in dance, physical therapy, and related fields.

Many IU undergraduates receive one or more types of financial aid. There are two primary ways that students can receive financial assistance at IU: merit scholarships and need-based financial aid. Incoming freshmen will be considered for an automatic academic scholarships based on their application for admission if submitted by November 1.

#### Resources for additional information on financial aid:



[studentcentral.indiana.edu/financial-aid/scholarships.indiana.edu](https://studentcentral.indiana.edu/financial-aid/scholarships.indiana.edu)



[admissions.indiana.edu/cost-financial-aid/index.html](https://admissions.indiana.edu/cost-financial-aid/index.html)



[college.indiana.edu/admissions/scholarships/index.html](https://college.indiana.edu/admissions/scholarships/index.html)

There are several dance scholarships available for current students as well; the Kimberly S. Hinton Memorial Scholarship in Contemporary Dance helps support students for four years and Jane Fox Dance Scholarships are awarded to current dance majors who demonstrate commitment and excellence in the field.



*Roots to Fruit* (2022) by Robert Burden, photo by Jeremy Hogan





Nostra 24 (2024) by Stefanie Nelson and Mya Orchin, photo by Jeremy Hogan

Indiana University has consistently ranked among the top universities for its rigorous academic programs and athletics. For the last several years IU has ranked in the top 10 most beautiful college campuses. Bloomington, Indiana has also continuously ranked among the top college towns for its diversity, opportunities, and culture.

By choosing to pursue a contemporary dance degree at Indiana University you will not only receive the highest quality dance education, but will also have access to the best resources and experiences at IU and throughout Bloomington.

### Dance for Parkinson's Disease

IU Contemporary Dance is pleased to partner with the Bloomington chapter of Dance for Parkinson's Disease. Students have the opportunity to learn from a registered Dance for PD® instructor and teach Dance for PD® participants.

Dance for PD® offers dance classes for people with Parkinson's disease in Brooklyn, New York and through their network of partners and associates in more than 100 other communities in 11 countries around the world. In Dance for PD® classes, participants are empowered to explore movement and music in ways that are refreshing, enjoyable, stimulating, and creative.



Sentient Beings (2023) by Elizabeth Shea, photo by Jeremy Hogan

### MoCo

MoCo is a movement cooperative at Indiana University. This student run organization aims to create a welcoming environment in which members are encouraged to explore dance through creating and experimenting with movement. MoCo acts as a forum for members to discuss creative projects they want to pursue while providing the leadership opportunities to produce them. The cooperative facilitates the development of these projects and many students in the dance major have pursued this opportunity to explore their choreographic curiosity and performance opportunities.



FULL-TIME DANCE FACULTY



**STAFFORD C. BERRY, JR.**  
Professor of Practice

Director of the African American Dance Company  
Approaches to Dance-Making, Dance Practice,  
Repertory  
berryst@iu.edu



**SELENE CARTER**  
Associate Professor

History, Movement Analysis, Improvisation,  
Repertory, Dance Practice, Choreographic  
Projects  
sbcarter@iu.edu



**ROBERT BURDEN**  
Professor of Practice

Dance Practice, Core of Dance Techniques,  
Jazz, Tap, Modern Dance  
rfburden@iu.edu



**CHRISTIAN CLAESSENS**  
Lecturer

Ballet  
cclaesse@iu.edu



**BEATRICE CAPOTE**  
Associate Professor

Dance Practice, Senior Dance Summary,  
Dance Pedagogy, Afro-Cuban Dance & Music,  
Repertory  
bcapote@iu.edu



**ELIZABETH SHEA**  
Professor  
Director, IU Contemporary  
Dance

Dance Practice, Approaches to Dance-Making,  
Advanced Choreographic Investigations,  
Repertory  
eshea@iu.edu

SCHEDULE A VISIT

- Review the campus calendar. It's best to see the campus on weekdays when classes are in session. Dance offices are closed on weekends.
- High school students and future freshmen should review or visit options to find out about special events such as our Indiana Overviews, Freshmen Forums, Multicultural Programs, and Overnight Visits.
- Attend our two week Summer Intensive for High School Students. The intensive is a wonderful introduction to supervised IU-Bloomington campus life and features an immersive dance experience in a broad range of dance techniques and creative activities, plus master classes, lectures, and special Summer events.
- Decide when you would like to visit IU. It's best if you can give us two weeks notice so we can tailor your visit to your specific interests.
- Schedule your visit. To arrange your campus tour, please call **(812) 856-0661** or use our online scheduling system at **visit.indiana.edu**
- Remember to schedule an appointment to meet with B.F.A. Liaison, Kate Lyons, and dance faculty; please schedule in advance of your visit. E-mail Kate at [kavander@iu.edu](mailto:kavander@iu.edu)



Customaries (2023) by Selene Carter, photo by Jeremy Hogan



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**Take  
your  
place**