

FLORIDA ATLANTIC UNIVERSITY™

DEPARTMENT OF THEATRE AND DANCE

REPERTORY THEATRE DANCE ENSEMBLE

NUT/CRACKED



FAU DEPARTMENT OF THEATRE AND DANCE

December 9th- 10th, 2022

FAU University Theatre

FAU BOCA RATON

www.fau.edu/theatre

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

It has been two years since I last performed on this stage – the first year, due to the pandemic. Also, I am back from a year-long sabbatical where I taught, lectured, choreographed, and performed all over the nation. It is thrilling to be back sharing this space with a few very talented FAU faculty, staff, and students. Please take a few minutes to read through the printed bios in this brochure and read additional information projected on the cyclorama (or cyc, for those in the know) at the back of the stage.

There are three short pieces in Act I. The first was choreographed by long-time adjunct professor of dance Danielle Jolie Dale-Hancock in collaboration with her dancers. Danielle is a highly revered dancer, but you will not see that aspect of her gift tonight. Aubry Jacques, another beautiful dancer and talented choreographer, created the second piece on the program. An FAU alumna, Aubry is now on staff. My solo, which closes Act I, is a meditation in finding harmony, balance, and space.

You can find program information about Nut/Cracked by scanning the QR codes positioned in the lobby and theatre – or ask an usher. The South Florida debut of this ballet (January 2020) was next door in the Marleen Forkas Studio One Theatre because the University Theatre was in its final renovation stages. (Yay! The dance program's "home" received a much-needed face lift!) So, I am particularly excited to present David Parker & The Bang Group again for their return engagement of Nut/Cracked now in the University Theatre! FAU is honored to host the 20th anniversary celebration of this "immensely entertaining ... intensely musical and witty" (NYTIMES) production. The chuckling and laughter still resonate in my mind.

Thank you for your patronage. Without you, this would be just another rehearsal.

- Clarence Brooks
Associate Professor & Director of Dance

DOROTHY F. SCHMIDT COLLEGE OF ARTS AND LETTERS
SCHOOL OF THE ARTS - DEPARTMENT OF THEATRE AND DANCE
presents

NUT/CRACKED

PRESENTED BY
The Repertory Dance Theatre
Ensemble

DIRECTOR/CHOREOGRAPHER
Clarence Brooks

HOUSE MANAGER
Marina deCicco

STAGE MANAGERS
Jocelyn Richardson
Kimberly Harvey

CHOREOGRAPHERS
Danielle Jolie Dale-Hancock
Aubry Jacques

Founded by Clarence Brooks in 2005, the **Repertory Dance Theatre Ensemble** (RDTE) is Florida Atlantic University's resident professional dance company. Housed within the Department of Theatre & Dance, the Ensemble performs annually in the Dorothy F. Schmidt College of Arts and Letters University Theatre. The Ensemble has performed in juried festivals and prestigious venues including the Rebound Dance Festival (New Haven), NewGrounds (Tampa), Inkub8 (Miami), Green Street Studio (Cambridge), the Daniel Lewis Miami Dance Sampler (Miami), and Piccolo Spoleto (Charleston). The Ensemble affords patrons, faculty, staff, students, and members of the dance community an opportunity to experience dances from a range of choreographers and dance genres, including works by Talley Beatty, William "Bill" Evans, Deborah Kahan, Maria Konrad, Donald McKayle, Kristin Bender Polizzi, Marcus Schulkind, Anna Sokolow, Jennifer Strelkauskas, Charles Weidman, and Leni Wylliams

REPERTORY DANCE THEATRE ENSEMBLE

Kalin Basford (*dancer*) age 20, is a Florida Atlantic University senior working towards a bachelor's degree in multimedia studies, and a minor in theatre. Kalin started dancing at age 10, and began training seriously in ballet at age 11. She was trained by Zinaida Khazonova from Vaganova Ballet Academics since age 13. She has been featured in roles as Sugar Plum in "The Nutcracker", Winter Fairy in "Cinderella", Cupid in "Don Quixote", also variations "La Esmerelda", "Talisman", "Kitri" (Act 3), "Diana and Actaeon", "Paquita", and others. After a five-year medical hiatus, Kalin is thrilled to be dancing again this year.

Daniella Coby (*dancer*) is currently a junior at FAU. She is majoring in Theatre Performance. Apart from acting, Daniella loves singing at her church, teaching dance classes, and creating content on platforms like Youtube and Tiktok. Her hope for the future is to continue pursuing her hobbies, perform in as many shows as she can, and to continue to create new and exciting things for the world to see. This is her very first show here at Florida Atlantic, and is super excited to put on a great show!

Derrick Martin (*dancer*) a Miami-born senior at Florida Atlantic University, is majoring in business management and minoring in dance. He has performed at World of Dance with All or Nothing Dance Company (West Palm Beach, FL) and with Pulse Dance Troupe at FAU. Three years ago, he danced with the Repertory Dance Theatre Ensemble and in several Dances We Danceshowcases. Learning about his idols like Jose Limon, Isadora Duncan, Chuck Davis, and Bill & Bojangles Robinson, Derrick's passion for dance has grown exceptionally over the years. He aspires to perform on Broadway and with major artists.

Gabriela Fatta (*dancer*) originally from Kingston, Jamaica, migrated to United States in 2005. A junior at Florida Atlantic University majoring in business, she realized that is not her path. Gabriela is now switching majors and minoring in dance. Recalling her high school experiences on a competitive dance team that toured regionally, she has reignited her passion as a performer and is teaching dance and musical theatre at elementary schools. Gabriela hopes to further her dance career and to help others follow their dreams.

Alexa Grammerstorf (*dancer*) is a sophomore at FAU from Phoenixville, PA, is currently studying elementary education and dance. Alexa has been dancing since the age of two and has trained in almost every genre of dance. She has performed all across Pennsylvania including the Kimmel Center, Wilma Theatre, and Arts Bank Theatre in Philadelphia. She has participated in her home studios version of The Nutcracker for over six years and cannot wait to do this twist on the story.

Aubry Jacques (*dancer and choreographer*) a native of South Florida, is an FAU alumna with a B.A. in biology and the first recipient of the dance minor. She started her formal dance training in the dance program at Broward College under Erin St. John and Linda Strickland. While an FAU student, Aubry studied under Clarence Brooks, Danielle Jolie Dale-Hancock, and various others. She has choreographed/performed her works in undergrad and professional concerts at FAU. Having the opportunity to work with choreographers such as William Evans, Jerry Opdenaker, David Parker, and those listed previously, Aubry is elated and grateful to continue her path within the artistic world! Follow her artistic endeavors on Instagram: @_slaub_s_auejladanceco

Yenileisy Lopez Hernandez (*dancer*) is a Cuban American native, is currently a senior at FAU majoring in political science and minoring in dance. She has trained and danced with the Treasure Coast High School dance department since the age of 14. Along with taking dance classes in ballet, jazz, and modern at FAU, she participated in last season's Repertory Dance Theatre Ensemble (directed by Danielle Jolie Dale-Hancock) as well as performed in and choreographed three dances in Dances We Dance last spring. Her passion for dance has only grown over the years. She aspires to one day be on Broadway and/or in musical films dancing and choreographing dances that bring awareness to global issues.

Ava Mansman (*dancer*) is a FAU freshman, is currently working on a bachelor's degree in health sciences while also earning a minor in dance. She grew up in New Hampshire and danced at Centerstage Dance Academy (Tyngsboro, MA) for 14 years. Trained in ballet, contemporary, jazz, modern, musical theatre, pointe, and tap, she has competed in several genres. In her free time, she loves to teach younger dancers and is currently teaching at

Boca Dance Studio and several other local studios. Ava specializes in teaching jazz, tap, and contemporary dance.

Morgan Pendleton (*dancer*) born and raised in Daytona Beach, is currently a sophomore here at FAU for a Bachelor of Fine Arts in acting with the musical theatre concentration as well as a minor in dance. Back home in Daytona Beach, she began training in dance around age 13 at Orbit Performing Arts Academy with various styles such as ballet, modern, tap, etc. In high school, she was a member of Nautica Dance Company directed by Amanda Aubry. Morgan is currently the treasurer for Alpha Psi Omega, a student-run national theatre honor society.

Beverly To (*dancer*) is an Asian American from Lake Worth Beach, FL, is currently majoring in business at FAU. Beverly has been a competitive dancer since the age of nine and has done five years of varsity cheerleading. For most of her life, she has performed on stage and has experienced what it is like to be involved in productions including Loud Live Productions in 2018. The strongest of her many attributes are her consistency, determination, and will to do whatever it takes to do her best in anything she partakes in.

Ava Weber (*dancer*) is a 20-year-old currently majoring in sociology and minoring in dance, studied dance from the age of three until her sophomore year of high school. While studying at Boca Ballet Theatre, she performed in several productions including Dan Guin's The Nutcracker and Playball to name just a few ballets. In high school, Ava helped choreograph the musical version of The Addams Family where she played Moon (Fester's love interest) – which included a pointe solo that she choreographed for herself. Now in college, she is reigniting her passion for dance, taking ballet and modern classes, and performing again.

Clarence Brooks (*dancer and choreographer*) has toured the USA, Europe, and Asia with 75 plus companies and freelances with Sokolow Theatre/Dance Ensemble, The Dance Exchange, Pioneer Winter Collective, and David Parker & The Bang Group. In 2019, the Library of Congress recorded his performance of Talley Beatty's "Mourner's Bench" for the national archive, and he can be seen in the video documentary The World of Alwin Nikolais. His essay Dancing with the Issues was published in One Teacher in 10: LGBT Educators Share Their Stories (Alyson Books). Clarence holds an advisory position with the Florida Dance Education Organization and sits on the boards of The Doris Humphrey Foundation for Dance, Sokolow Theatre/Dance Ensemble, Miami Dance Futures, and danceTactics. An associate professor, he holds an MFA, a yoga certification, is a Certified Laban Movement Analyst, and is certified in the Evans Method of Teaching Dance Technique.

KaJanee' Smith, (*dancer*) a native of South Florida, is an FAU alumna with a M.Ed. in counseling education and B.A. in psychology. Beginning dance at the age of eight, she has an extensive dance background in ballet, modern, jazz, contemporary, lyrical, hip hop, and exotic pole dancing. As an exotic pole instructor, she finds pleasure with teaching individuals pole tricks, exploring with confidence-building combinations, and helping others get and stay fit! KaJanee' is currently a professional dancer who has worked with many artists including Flo Rida, Oya Babyy, Tory Lanez, Lil Pump, MajorNine, and more! She is so grateful to continue her path within the artistic world! Keep up with her artistic endeavors on Instagram: @kayqueenin_

Kendra Parrish (*dancer*) a junior at FAU, is currently working towards a BFA in performance with a musical theatre concentration. She has been singing her whole life but found a love for acting only three years ago. Kendra recently played the role of the Music Hall Singer in FAU's Fall 2022 production of Violet. When Kendra graduates, she plans to move to New York to pursue a career on Broadway. Kendra's ultimate goal is to have a thriving and ever-expanding theatre and arts company.

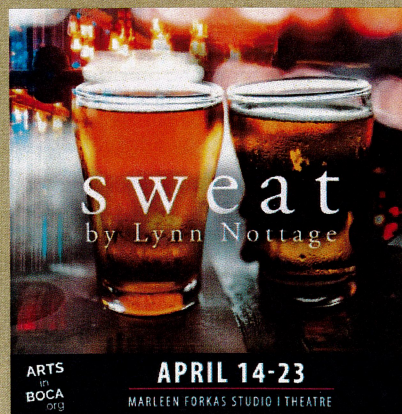
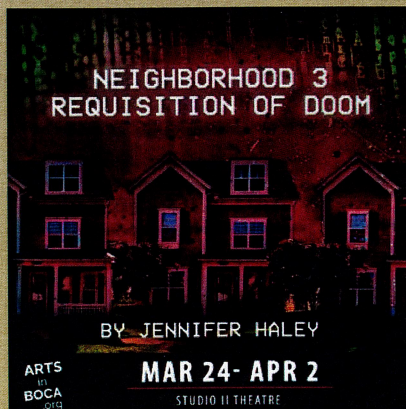
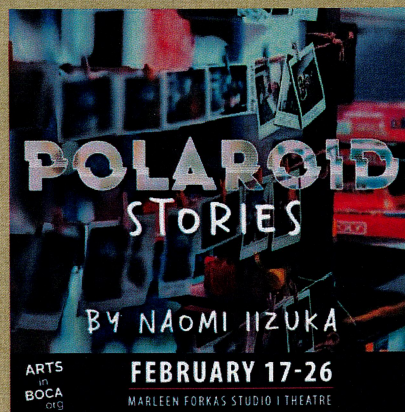
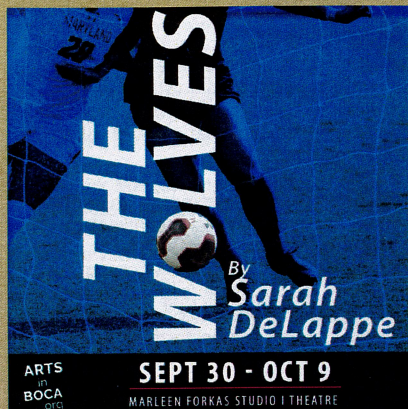
Hunter Prew (*dancer*), a Florida Keys native, is currently pursuing a BFA in musical theatre at FAU. Hunter began tap, ballet and jazz at two years-old with a local dance school. He went on to represent On Your Toes Dance Studio in 2016, with a contemporary solo in the Florida Dance Masters Competition, winning 1st place overall. After experiencing his virtuoso at his very first competition, Hunter continued competing throughout high school. Along with taking dance class, he was part of the hair/makeup crew for FAU's recent Violet performance and was cast in this month's Alpha Psi Omega production of School's Out. Hunter's family is so proud of his accomplishments!

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