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- Olivia Blaisdell
- Angelica Breece-Sullivan
- Zeina Fayad
- Angela Lian
- Avery Pelosi
- Micki Taylor-Pinney
- Ally Tellstone
- Hannah Tracy
- Grace Tuffy
- Editor/Designer**
- Olivia Blaisdell

A Note from Micki

Dear DTGers,

I hope you, your families and friends are doing well and weathering this crisis. It is hard to imagine the upheaval that will be caused by COVID-19. We know our lives have been changed, but to what extent?

Here at BU, we see a reflection of what is happening across the globe. While we can mourn the disruption of our semester, the scattering of our community, the cancellation of concerts, especially for seniors, we can also appreciate the efforts of all involved to make the best of the situation. Classes are online, meetings have gone live on Zoom, chat rooms have been established, and social media has gone wild as people search for ways to connect.

I am proud of our students and DTG's E board. They have been proactive; they have come up with an alternative to their concert, continued their Thursday night meetings, and are finding new ways to reach their members on various platforms. Their creativity and sense of community is heartening. We didn't want to lose touch with you so this is an abridged version of the newsletter. We didn't ask for alumni updates but we hope we'll have a lengthier list for the fall edition. We want you to know we are thinking of you, hoping you are finding delight amidst the darkness, and celebrating that which gives us hope and encouragement, including being a part of a community

of caring and innovative people. We look forward to returning to some version of normal but with an appreciation for what we've learned about ourselves and our ability to adapt and work collectively. Dance helps prepare us to do that well! Meanwhile, I wish you and yours good health, fortitude, and joy, where ever you can find or create some!

With love and best wishes,
MICKI

DTG Happenings

ZEINA FAYAD '20 | PRESIDENT

It is not our typical spring semester in DTG; with campus closure and social distancing, we are found on opposite ends of the country and world. Some DTG members went as far as Japan to make it home, while others remain in their Boston apartments for the time being. While the distances we have traveled are different, we are all grappling with feeling far away from one another and our normal routines. In order to help DTG members cope with the current situation, the executive board has continued our efforts to create social connection in a time of distancing. We host DTG Zoom "parties" every Thursday where members are invited online to chat and catch up with one another. Soon we will begin introducing games and other activities. Our social media chair, Angelica Breece-Sullivan, has worked hard to keep our social media alive, especially in implementing weekly improvisation prompts to motivate dancers to move and share movement. Lastly, our Concert Coordinator, Olivia Blaisdell and Avery Pelosi (CC in training) are working hard to organize Virtual Visions which will showcase our dedicated choreographers and their casts along with alumni. It is clear that limiting social gatherings and non-essential travel has impacted our semester in many ways. One of the greatest being the cancellation of the ACDA conference which was set to take place March 27-29th in Middlebury, VT. Two pieces with large casts were chosen to perform there: Zeina Fayad's ode to Amélie and Olivia Blaisdell's beach towel piece. The 12 person cast worked hard every week to adapt the pieces to a smaller group and stage. Much of the efforts took place behind the scenes, where members of the executive board and our advisors worked with the Student Activities Office at BU to get our trip approved. While we were not able to go to ACDA this year, these efforts are not in vain. We applaud all the members of the cast and those who helped plan this event; it truly brought us closer together even though the final event did not happen. Additionally, the two pieces selected are able to receive remote feedback from the ACDA adjudicators, which we will hope to coordinate in the coming weeks. We thank you for your support in these extenuating circumstances and hope everyone is staying healthy indoors!

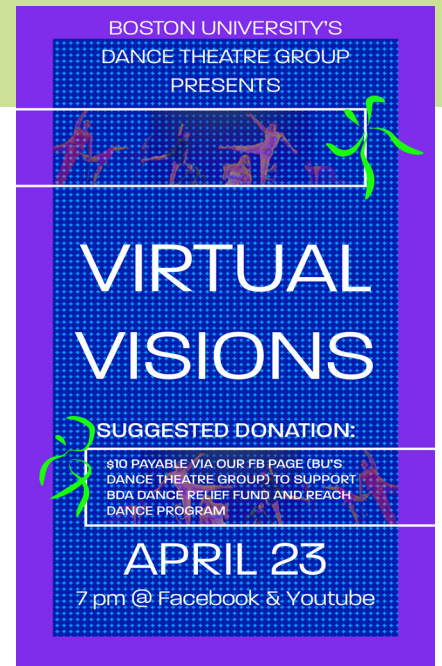


Virtual Visions

AVERY PELOSI '22 | CONCERT COORDINATOR IN-TRAINING

DTG is happy to present an innovative, experimental show called **VIRTUAL VISIONS** to replace our typical spring semester show that takes place in BU Dance Theater. This idea was brainstormed by DTG's Concert Coordinator after BU's decision to go remote for the remainder of spring semester. Although we will miss performing in person for all of our friends, family and alumni, we are excited to explore this new, virtual way of presenting our work. In order to adapt our show to a virtual platform, we reached out to the original choreographers of Visions 2020 and asked them if they would participate by collaborating with their casts to create a 2-3 minute dance, one that is similar or completely different to their original idea. Another way DTG members could participate in the virtual show this semester is through weekly DTG improvisation prompts.

Anyone is able to send in a video of themselves dancing within the parameters of our prompt to be featured on DTG's social media and in our virtual production. For a finale, we have a club-wide movement chain. The participation is completely voluntary and many have decided to sign up to be a part of it. This project will consist of about an 8 count of movement by one person and then the next participant in the chain will incorporate the ending of the other's movement into the beginning of their movement. After we compile these beautiful videos, we will add it to the ending of our virtual show. Virtual Visions will be broadcasted onto Youtube and Facebook LIVE on April 23rd at 7pm EST for you all to see. We are excited to see the ways in which choreographers adapt this semester using platforms such as Zoom, Facetime, or pre-recorded videos



to create their piece. We are grateful for every cast member's participation, giving us the opportunity to stay connected through dance during this physical distancing.

Bonding Events

GRACE TUFFY '21 | VICE PRESIDENT

Prior to BU's closure, DTG had the pleasure of hosting a few bonding events for members of the group. Each semester we make sure our bonding events are a high priority within our group as they give us the opportunity to grow closer as a community outside of our weekly classes and rehearsals. In February, we attended Edge Dance Company's annual performance, "Breaking Bounds" where they invited DTG to perform a dance piece of choice. Four DTG members performed a piece choreographed by our social media chair, Angelica. We had a blast meeting up



Olivia Moon Photography

before the show to support both our members performing, and another dance group on campus. After the performance we all went back to Concert Coordinator, Olivia Blaisdell's apartment for food, games, celebrity dance videos, and more. Prior to this event, Olivia asked members to submit baby dance videos of themselves. She combined all the different videos into one, and it was a great asset to the night! Also, due to unfortunate circumstances, Motion Art has been cancelled. This was due to take place

on Thursday, April 2 and unite the BU community through dance, music, and art throughout FitRec. We are thankful to the following groups who were due to perform including, BU Bhanga, BU Dancesport Club, BU on Tap, BU Aerials, Boston University's Dear Abbeys, and special guest



Peter Dimuro/Public Displays of Motion. We hope they can join us next year for Motion Art 2021!

Staying Involved

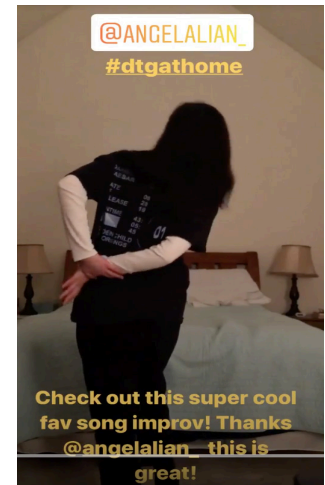
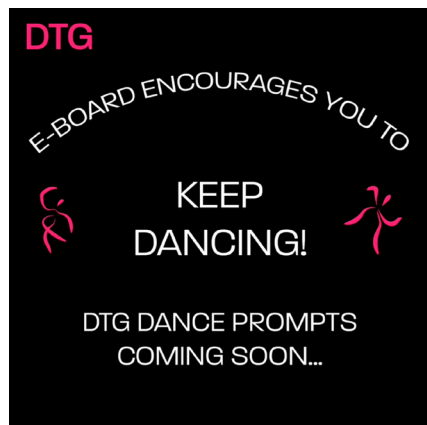
ALLY TELLSTONE '23 | TREASURER

During these crazy times it's important to stay connected with the people you care about. None of us expected that our goodbyes on the last Thursday master class before Spring Break could be our final goodbye to L240 for the year. But despite all of this, DTG is still staying connected and active in many different ways.



Our weekly Thursday meetings are still happening over Zoom. We use the time to catch up and socialize with everyone, play games, watch movies, and do other types of activities. In addition to our weekly meetings, choreographers are using their usual rehearsal times, or similar times to adjust for time zones, to still stay engaged with their casts for Virtual Visions and for a social hour. Our Instagram page has also served as a fun way to stay involved in DTG with weekly improv prompts that members can participate in and post on their social media.

Our goal through all this is to keep the DTG community together. We know that this is a very stressful time for many of our members and we want to be there as a way for people to have something to look forward to every week, even if it is just a simple conversation with some friends.



This semester, Dance Theatre Group has been staying connected with each other through our Instagram and Facebook. We have amazing content, including updates about our show and bonding events, fun improv challenges, and throw back Thursdays featuring some of our alumni! Follow along to keep up with DTG and for some fantastic content on your feed!

- HANNAH TRACY '23 | SECRETARY



BU'S DANCE THEATRE GROUP



@BUDTG



@BUDTG



Faculty Updates

ANN BROWN ALLEN

Ann hopes everyone is in a safe and sanitized place. She looks forward to seeing you all. In the meantime, she's learning all about remote teaching. Ann is continuing to work with her children's theater group with almost all 20 kids showing up on zoom every Friday afternoon. She's in touch with 3 boards of directors or advocates on which she sits. Ann is looking forward to whatever DTG is presenting this spring.

MARGOT PARSONS

The Spring semester started out with a feeling of freshness. She was honored to be awarded the Dr. Michael Shannon Dance Champion of Boston by the Boston Dance Alliance. The Gala was to be held on March 17. Three dancers in her Company were poised to perform: Christine McDowell, Marin Orlosky Randow and Amane Takaishi. Clearly the Gala was postponed. Margot started teaching her MWF classes online on March 18. These students are wonderful! It means a great deal to her that she can facilitate this return to our dancing time in L126/L128. We do a full class and jump, but do not leap. It is pretty amazing what can be done in a small space. The class was mentioned in an article about teaching dance remotely in Boston in the Boston Globe with a photo of several of the students. The site of the classes, broadcast on Zoom with Alla accompanying them from her home in Brookline, is a room where she has her dance library and her barre.

Margot had started a piece for the DTG show that will hopefully be finished and presented next year. She is teaching her BC classes online as well and giving private lessons to a few students. BU students never cease to amaze her with the adaptability and eagerness to learn. She sends virtual hugs to everyone.

LIZ RONCKA

Liz sends her greetings and best wishes for health from her apartment in Cambridgeport. She and her three cats are exploring the opportunities and challenges presented by remote work. She is feeling grateful for all the technology that allows us to maintain connection with the world outside our doors during this extraordinary time. Although she misses dancing in the studio, she is inspired and motivated by her online training with exceptional teachers located far and wide.

LYNDA RIEMAN

Lynda is busily booking the fall season and hoping we can have performances in the theater this summer. If not, she is considering using the theatre as video space, limiting the numbers of people to just the dance company, tech team and the videographer; but allowing the company to share performance quality versions of the work with others via any number of online platforms.

As with everyone else, cooking and cleaning have taken over a larger portion of daily life, but so has exercise. She has been trading her 2 hours of commute time for 1 hour of Shaun T videos

and 1 hour of power/walking per day. Saturday nights are devoted to dancing around the living room to very loud 70's rock 'n roll. Look out – she will be coming back strong. Lynda is looking forward to the DTG Visions 2020 online video performance!

MICKI TAYLOR-PINNEY

Micki is depending on the kindness of IT strangers, friendly students and colleagues as she learns to teach modern dance, dance history, and aesthetics in the studios and classrooms online and work remotely. She's set up two spaces in her house, one for the lectures, which also requires some movement for the aesthetics class, and one for modern. Her husband is always being asked to move from one floor to the other to accommodate the zoom meetings. While she mourns the loss of the personal and immediate connections with students, she appreciates what technology makes possible. Technology will be the new normal as Micki plans for the likelihood that the summer urban outreach program, Reach, will also be virtual. She feels so fortunate to have Liz, Lynda, and her GA, Katarina to gnash through the possibilities of what lies ahead. She is grateful to the incredible dance faculty for their commitment and for learning how to teach remotely so our students can keep dancing through this crisis. She is reminded of one of her mom's favorite sayings; "life is what happens when you are making other plans." She hopes we will come out of this more resilient and eager to dance together with a renewed sense of purpose.

Alumni!



We did not forget about you! Please save your updates for next semester's newsletter.



Save the date for your BU DTG Reunion. We will be celebrating Margot Parsons and her 30 years of dance at BU!



CELEBRATE MARGOT PARSONS
30 YEARS OF DANCE AT BU!!

Save the Date!!

BU DTG REUNION 2020
NOVEMBER 20-22, 2020

BU Friends of Dance Donation History 2020

BRIGHT LIGHTS

(\$1000 & above)

Stephanie Creary
Brooke (Tibaldi) Lochrie
Lauren Luchessi
Rebecca Jean Melrose
Andrea Valentina Parisi
Kara Wood, Hi-Tide Sales Inc.

CHOREOGRAPHY

FUNDERS (\$500-999)

Danielle Brandman
Rachel Brookmire
Christine(Englehardt)Bystrov
Richelle Dupont
Elizabeth Gumbinner
Heather Janoff
Fay (Efronsini) Lellios
Kristina (Kuest) Mistry
Janet (Alexander) Ryan
Stephany (Mendzela) Tosi
Sarah Warren
Sophia Zouras

PATRON SAINTS

(\$250-499)

Laura Barrett
Kimberly Bohn
Ada Chamberlain
Ginger "Juhi" Dagli
Alana (Finkelstein) Dunoff
Claire Enterline
Malia Hill
Caroline "Blake" Hobby
Alicia Lindauer-Thompson
Susanne Losquandro
Lauren Maddock
Laura (Diserio) Nunneker
Michelle Powers
Dawn Salerrno

RESIDENCY CIRCLE

(\$100-249)

Sarah Beth Aaron
Edith Annen
Barbara Arnold
Megan Batterson
Marielvia Camacho
Elizabeth Cameron
Alissa Cardone
Jacqueline Cinicola
Christopher Cotton
Joanna Diallo

Heather Dolan
Tom & Jo Duval
Nikkiann Economos
Sarah Eldred
Beth (Goldberg) Foreman
Sarah Foster
Michael Gionfriddo
Dr. & Mrs. Kevin Halloran
Sally Halloran
Amber Held

Lancia Herzog
Malia Hill
Lillian (Caires) Jacubiski
Sarah Katz
Rebecca Kaufman
Mr. & Mrs. Patrick Kiefer
Amber (Held) Kieley
Susan Jung Kim
Deborah King
Marguerite Knipe
Kelly Kocinski Trager
Lauren Manganiello
Amy Mastrangelo
Maura McKeever
Rashmi Nemade
Denise Niebisch
Jennifer (Stevens) Olson
Julia Ong
Gabrielle Orcha
Meghan Riling
Elizabeth Roncka
Janet Ryan
Joanne Sedgewick
Jill Sullivan
Mr. & Mrs. John Sullivan
Adrienne Sylvester
Katherine Tower
Mr. & Mrs. Michael Watts
Charla Weatherby
Elizabeth Zubkoff

ACCOMPANIST'S
BENCH (\$50-99)
Jerry Alexander
Joell Baxter
Guljed Birce
Richard Book
Daniela Borgialli
Emily Boylan
Katherine Brand
Meredith Butulis
Aiko (Ruch) Callahan
Maureen Connolly

Kristin D'Errico
Dawn Estabrooks
Miguel Estefan Jr.
Ron Foreman
Satu Hammasti
Angelina Hannum
Ann Keifer
Jaye Lind
Timothy Marks
Alyssa McCallion
Elizabeth McMullen
Mr. & Mrs. John H. McNulty
Sarah Moses
Alexander Nizhnikov
Meredith Patey
Gail Pelosi
Aiko Ruch
Johanna Schmitt
Ellen Shenette
Linda (Kelly) Southwick
Shannon Steele
Michelle Swanson
Lauren Taylor
Scott Taylor
Emily Vasilopoulos
Susan Wells
MasterCard International, Inc.
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Foundation

TECHNICAL CREW

(\$49 & under)

Deema Abdel-Meguid
Haley Abram
Michele Abram
Feodora L. Bertherat
Olivia Blaisdell
Sally Bohrer
Lauren Bologna
Renee Bonnell
Elizabeth Botelho
Diane Boudreau
Constance Breece
Angelica Breece-Sullivan
David Butlien
Sigita Cahoon
Marina Cocconi
Claire Conway
Anna Cox
Lauren DeFreitas
Dorothy DiPascale
Bridget Doyle

David Farnsworth
Denise Farnsworth
Michelle Flegal
Samantha Flick
Erica Gaetano
Michaela Gobielle
Laura Goodfriend
Karen Gordon
Stefanie Gordon
Christina Gratton
Amy Green
Deirdre Halloran
Heather Harrington
Maria Henning
Stephanie Heroux
Abigail Hertz
Melanie Holmes
Karissa Hurzeler
Anne Keifer
Kelly Kerrigan
Jennifer Kochanski
Lynn Laurino
Rachael Lyerla
Amy Marcinkowski
Erin McCoy
Lynn Modell
Amy Oliveira
Louisa Otey
Allison Penn
Elena Pereira
Jennifer Pollina
Juliana Reinold
Victoria Rocha
Colleen Roddy
Donna Ross
Anna Schechinger
Ellen Shea
Reva Shiner
Stephanie Shin
Jackie (Rubin) Simon
Elizabeth Simpson
Monica Squeri
Juliana Stavros
Joanna Stumper
Sarah Thorne
Carmel Tuffy
Martine Tremblay
Jennifer Vaughan
Kristin Wagner
Charlene Williams
Tatiana Winger
Lorraine Ziegler

THANK YOU FOR YOUR NEVER-ENDING SUPPORT!
YOU KEEP US MOVING AND MAKING.

Don't forget to join us for VIRTUAL VISIONS on April 23rd 7pm EST.

