**Mendocino College Repertory Dance Company presents:**

**Open Air**

November 5, 6 & 7, 2021 at 5PM

Site-specific work has a long history in the performing arts. Mendocino College Repertory Dance Company is excited to partake in this tradition for the first time. Walk through a series of four original outdoor dance performance installations within the central Mendocino College, Ukiah campus, and experience work up close that is embedded into the environment.

Mendocino College social distancing and mask protocols apply.

We will perform in light rain, bring an umbrella!

Thank you for joining us!

Director: Eryn Schon-Brunner

Assistant Director: Megan Youell

Technical Theater Director: Steve Decker

Technical Theater Assistants: Dave Wolf & Technical Theater Students

Costumes: Kathy Dingman-Katz

Costume Assistant: Shianne Robertson

Sound: Recording Artists Students/ Dave Wolf

Photography: Thomas Delgado

Flyer and Publicity: Tony Novelli & Janelle Bird

*Ragtime Class*

**Choreography** by Kirsten Turner

**Performed** by Jessica Howlett, Kirsten Turner, Megan Youell

**Music** byGladiolus Rag, Joshua Rifkin on piano by Scott Joplin Piano Rags

Search-light Rag, John St-John, Ragtime Hits Vol.1

Felicity Rag, Scott Joplin, King of Ragtime Writers

*Ragtime Class*, set to three of Scott Joplin’s Rags, is a nod to George Balanchine who choreographed two ragtime ballets in the 1960s. I was inspired by the work of several teachers and choreographers, including San Francisco Ballet’s Helgi Thomasson, Berkeley Ballet Theater’s Robert Dekkers, and my own former artistic director Enrico Labayen.

*Thank you to George Balanchine, Enrico Labayen, and Robert Dekkers for the inspiration. And thank you to Jessica Howlett for the shoulder.*

*In The Round*

**Arranged** by Eryn Schon-Brunner

**Choreographed and performed** by Jas Byerley, Trinity Clark, Jay Haralson, Alex Marsh, Ari Sunbeam, Gwen van Wyk, Megan Youell

**Music performed** by dancers on Tibetan singing bowls

**Costumes** by Kathy Dingman-Katz

*In the Round* embraces the beauty and cyclical nature of fall, the falling, catching and supporting we do as humans, and the importance of viewing a happening from all sides. Thank you to the beautiful dancers for their movement, insights, and patience. Thank you to Kathy Dingman-Katz for bringing the beauty of fall into the costumes.

*Raising the B.A.R.*

**Choreographed and performed** by Jay Haralson and Ari Sunbeam

**Lion performed** by Megan Youell

**Music** **Arranged** by Jerred Brosnan

**Featured music** Nail, Hair, Hips, Heels (instrumental) by Todrick Hall, Humble (instrumental) by Kendrick Lamar, Habibi Min Zaman by Balkan Beat Box, Moroccan Rhythms by African Drums Music

**Costumes** by Kathy Dingman-Katz

Thank you to Jackie Slater for designing our costumes and for Kathy Dingman-Katz for making them a reality. Thank you Eryn Schon-Brunner for giving us this wonderful opportunity and for doing so much for our dance community. Thank you to the cast and crew for all the support.

*Cornucopia*

**Choreographed** by Dean Watson-Krasts

**Performed** by Trinity Clark, Sharon Gorman, Alex Marsh, Ari Sunbeam, Gwen van Wyk, Megan Youell

**Music arranged** by Kai Krasts

1. Agnes Obel-Tokka
2. Eivør–Trøllabundin
3. Agnes Obel–Golden Green

**Costumes** by Kathy Dingman-Katz

**Make up** designed by Alex Marsh

**Set painting** by Megan Youell

**Head Garlands** by Dean Watson-Krasts

***Cornucopia by Laura Weaver***

The riot of the earth’s wild feast is laid before us,

daily, in places we have forgotten to look. In the veins

of the leaf in the sunlit corner of the room.

In the depths of the tiger iris of the daughter who has grown

into a woman overnight. In the clear pools of water

where night animals bend down and drink.

If we have any task it is this: to live in this exquisite seeing,

to clear our eyes of the dust of memory and expectation

that would leave us blind to what we most long for.

For even in the leanest of years, when our bodies are wracked

with grief, there is more than enough beauty to feed

all the species of this world. Take the Pleides.

Take Jupiter arcing west in the night sky.  Take the bees

that roll over on the flowers drunken with nectar. Take the globes

of squash and the sage brush in the russet hills. Take it all in.

For even in the bones and cinders of the old world, children

reach into pockets for marbles and a man gives another man

his coat. Even in the skeletal remains of fields gone fallow,

Seeds settle and germinate. This cornucopia is what you came for—

for this chance to tend life, to give back to that which gives,

to be breathed one breath at a time.

©Laura Weaver

*Cornucopia* explores the human experience of separation, aloneness, and our desire for and fear of connection.

Because of the time of the year, I was inspired by the Celtic festival of *Samhain*, which celebrates the end of summer and the movement into the dark time of year. During this time the veils between us and the Otherworld are thin (Yes, our Halloween rituals have their roots in *Samhain*). In Irish folklore, the Sidhe/Fae/Fairies are not seen as inherently benevolent beings, although sometimes they are. In this piece, the “nature spirits” entice the distracted, separated, and alone humans into exploring their relationship to their current environment (both internal and external), to wild nature, and to the magical realm of imagination and wonder. Ultimately, these explorations lead them back to themselves and to each other.

*I send a special thank you to all the performers who helped evolve this piece from concept to manifestation. Each one of you brought so much insight and enthusiasm, and it has been a joy collaborating with you all!*

If you are interested in taking performing art classes at Mendocino College,

please reach out with questions and join us!

Come take dance classes and perform in the Spring of 2022! Jazz, Ballet, Pilates, Dance in world cultures, Choreography and Hip-hop will be offered.

For more information please contact: Eryn Schon-Brunner at (707) 468- 3079 or [ebrunner@mendocino.edu](mailto:ebrunner@mendocino.edu)

Mendocino College’s Theatre Conservatory Cohort Experience allows students the opportunity to engage in conservatory-style actor training on our Ukiah campus. For information about participating in this exciting opportunity, contact Reid Edelman at (707) 468-3172 or [redelman@mendocino.edu](mailto:redelman@mendocino.edu).

For information about Mendocino College’s Technical Theatre program, contact Steve Decker at [sdecker@mendocino.edu](mailto:sdecker@mendocino.edu)

Costume class is happening in the spring! For more information, contact Kathy Dingman-Katz at [kdingmankatz@mendocino.edu](mailto:rgrisanti@mendocino.edu)

AA in Music: Voice, Symphony and Recording classes are ongoing.   
Contact: [rgrisanti@mendocino.edu](mailto:rgrisanti@mendocino.edu) or [plenberg@mendocino.edu](mailto:plenberg@mendocino.edu)

Biographies

**Jay Haralson** is a Theater Arts major with a concentration in Dance. She is from Ukiah, where she has lived most of her life. She trained with Carol Martinez at Carol’s Dance Studio in ballet and jazz. Jay graduated from Ukiah High School and continued on to Mendocino College where she trained with Eryn Schon-Brunner, Rachel Young, and Kirsten Turner in modern dance, jazz, hip hop and ballet. In fall of 2018 Jay transferred to Sonoma State University training with Kristen Daley, Christine Cali, Farrah McAdam and Byb Chanel. She will be graduating SSU in Spring 2022. She is currently a part of Dynasty Dance Crew based in Santa Rosa. Jay has taught at S.P.A.C.E. and is currently a teacher at Willits Dance Academy. You can see more of Jay’s work through Sonoma State at their upcoming virtual Fall Dance Show, December 2-5th.

**Eryn Schon-Bruner** is a native of Northern California, an international Choreographer, a Dancer, an Educator, and a Yogi. Eryn earned a BFA in Dance at Cornish College of the Arts and an MFA in Dance from Hollins University. Touring as a dancer, choreographer, and educator, she has performed and led master classes in Indonesia, New York, Los Angeles, Boston, Seattle, and more. Over the past twenty years she has worked with many contemporary choreographers and dancers, such as Wade Madson, Deborah Wolf, Pat Hon, Joe Goode, Eko Supriyanto, Rebecca Levy, Keith Glassman, Carol Mcdowell, Erica Rebollar, A.C.Peterson, Corrie Befort, Jennifer Logan, among others.  Eryn co-directed BE Productions Dance Company in Los Angeles from 2002 to 2009.

Since 2012 she has been an instructor of Dance at Mendocino College and the Artistic Director of Mendocino College Dance Repertory Company, producing the annual Fall Repertory Concert and Spring Dance Festival.  She is part of the faculty for Mendocino College Theater Conservatory program. Eryn has been a guest lecturer at Sonoma State University, and she has taught locally at Our Yoga Center and SPACE. Eryn currently is artistic director of Eryn Schon-Brunner and Dancers, a pick-up dance company that is based in Mendocino County. Contact:  [www.erynschonbrunner.com](http://www.erynschonbrunner.com) or ebrunner@mendocino.edu

**Ari Sunbeam** has been dancing at Mendocino College for many years, learning mostly Modern and Contemporary, but also trying every kind of dance he could dip his feet into. He has studied ballet and tap with Mendocino Ballet, as well as many folk styles such as Gallecian, Balkan, and Breton at Lark in the Morning Music Camp.

**Kirsten Turner** grew up in Ukiah and was a founding member of the Mendocino Ballet Company, where she often led company class before performances. Recruited by Laurel Near to perform the lead in her piece “Musk Deer,” Turner also assisted Near in some of the first SPACE dance classes.  While in high school Turner studied at Marin Ballet Theatre, Long Beach Ballet, and City Ballet in San Francisco. At Ukiah High School Turner enjoyed being in the musicals and on the dance team, and she won the Miss Mendocino Scholarship Pageant in 1989, representing Mendocino County in the Miss California Pageant that year.  Upon graduating from UHS, Turner attended U.C. Irvine where she majored in dance and performed in works by James Penrod, Donald McKayle, Janice Gudde-Plastino, Jillana, John Clifford, and more. While studying abroad in Granada, Spain, Turner studied flamenco dance and was the Movement Director for Grupo Teatro de Granada at Universidad de Granada.  Upon receiving her Bachelor’s degree in Comparative Literature with minors in dance and Spanish from U.C. Irvine, Turner moved to San Francisco and danced with Labayen Dance, San Francisco and performed in Europe, on the East Coast of the United States, and in Amman, Jordan as well as in San Francisco.  While in San Francisco Turner also taught at San Francisco Dance Center, home of Lines Ballet Company.  Turner has been teaching ballet and choreographing at Mendocino College since 2005.

**Dena Watson-Krasts**, MA, is a native of Northern California, an Artist, educator, and NARM practitioner/Somatic Trauma Coach. She holds two undergraduate degrees, in Art and Art History, as well as her graduate degree in Depth Psychology.

She has been teaching at Mendocino College since 2006 in the dance department, and more recently in the Communications and Psychology departments. As an artist, Dena has produced several interactive installations and shown her work in various venues. As an academic she recently published “Re-membering Beauty: Rape Culture, Femicide and the Shadow,” which explores personal and collective trauma as well as healing through creativity through an Analytical Psychology lens. Besides teaching and making art, Dena has a private practice here in Ukiah.

Dena is teaching the following classes in Spring 2022- THE228: Pilates (online via Zoom live); COM210, Interpersonal Communication (both online and in person); and Psy215, Psychology of Personal Growth (in person).