

2020 PRESS KIT



Perception Dance is an artistic collective of eight dancers who share common artistic goals of creative development, experimentation, and preparation for professional careers in the field of dance. As artists, we strive to empower each other to find new avenues of investigation through expression and movement. We facilitate our ongoing growth by investigating the intersections of theatrical performance elements through our choreographic collaborations.



Executive Director

Olivia James

The Executive Director will be responsible for all of the administrative duties of Perception Dance. She will organize and facilitate meetings, delegate responsibilities, and coordinate rehearsals. Additional responsibilities include managing the Perception Dance email, organizing paperwork, and contacting Jen Guy and Renay Aumiller for action approval on behalf of the company.

Production Manager

Megan Boericke

Assistant Production Manager: Olivia James

The Production Manager is responsible for all elements related to the final production. She will assign the crew their responsibilities, including scheduling production meetings with the cast, designers, and crew, as well as creating all appropriate paperwork associated with final production.



Fundraising and Outreach Team

Outreach Chair: Mariel Laughlin Fundraising Chair: Emily Patterson

The Fundraising and Outreach Team is responsible for facilitating all fundraising events associated with Perception Dance. They will reach out to businesses about profit shares, as well as organizing master classes and fundraising tables. Additional responsibilities include managing the financial matters of Perception Dance associated with fundraising.

Finance Manager & University Liasion

Alyssa Vacca

The Finance Manager is responsible for all distribution of finances in the company. Responsibilities include creating and monitoring a budget sheet, overseeing all financial transactions, calculating profit, and assisting the Fundraising and Outreach Team. As the University Liaison, she is also responsible for communicating with Kimberly Rippy about all financial and university matters on behalf of the company.

PR and Marketing Team

Marketing and Development Chair: Annie Marx

Public Relations Chair: Isabel Ganovsky

Social Media Manager and Apparel Chair: Shelby Durham

The PR and Marketing Team is responsible for the branding and marketing of Perception Dance. They create press kits, advertising materials, and maintain activity on social media sites. Additional responsibilities include the creation and maintenance of the company website and branding across all platforms.

SENIOR COMPANY MEMBERS



Meg Boericke grew up in Raleigh, North Carolina, where she trained under Pablo Perez, Sandra Zellinger, Jan Burkhard, and Lindsay Collins Shaw. She is at Elon University as a Presidential Scholar working to earn her B.F.A. in Dance Performance & Choreography as well as a B.A. in Strategic Communications. At Elon, she has studied with Renay Aumiller, Gerri Houlihan, Lauren Kearns, Jen Guy Metcalf, Gaspard Louis, & Justin Tornow. In 2019, she earned the Sam White Theatre Scholarship for her contributions and accomplishments at Elon. She has performed pieces by Paul Taylor, Andrea Miller, Gaspard Louis, Matt Pardo, Sumi Clements, Ashley "Robi" Robicheaux, Lauren Kearns, & Jen Metcalf.



Shelby Durham is a senior B.F.A. Dance Performance & Choreography and B.A. in Arts Administration major with a minor in Business Administration. Throughout her summers in college, she has trained with Bodiography Contemporary Ballet, American Dance Festival, and Hubbard Street Dance Chicago. There, she has performed works by Merce Cunningham, William Forsythe, Crystal Pite, Ohad Naharin, Alejandro Cerrudo, Peter Chu, FLOCKWORKS, and Nacho Duato. At Hubbard, she created works with Robyn Minkeo Williams, Micaela Taylor, Roderick George, and Rena Butler. Shelby's work was selected to perform in the 2018 and 2019 Fall Dance Concerts. In 2019, she received the "Outstanding Senior Dance Performance & Choreography Award" for her accomplishments in both fields at Elon. After graduation, she will perform and study with Hubbard Street Dance Chicago and Ate9 dANCE cOMPANY.



Isabel Ganovsky is a native of Pittsburgh, PA. She is a senior at Elon University pursuing a B.F.A. in Dance and a B.A. in Strategic Communications. Prior to Elon, she studied at Bodiography Contemporary Ballet as a pre-professional company member. She also trained at various summer intensives such as Point Park University and Burklyn Ballet Theater. She has participated in "Elon in LA" where she studied dance photography and film. She was fortunate enough to spend spring of 2019 studying abroad in Florence, Italy. At Elon, she has performed in guest artist works by Kira Blazek, Ming-Lung Yang, Ashley "Robi" Robicheaux, Christal Brown, and Yoshito Sakuraba.



Olivia James is a senior at Elon University working towards a B.F.A. in Dance Performance and Choreography as well as a minor in Theatre Arts. She is originally from Atlanta, Georgia, where she trained under Michael Garrison and Stacey Slitcher. At Elon, she has trained under Gerri Houlihan, Gaspard Louis, Renay Aumiller, Jen Guy Metcalf, Lauren Kearns, and Deb Leamy. She has performed works by Summation Dance, Lauren Kearns, Jen Guy Metcalf, Sara Tourek, and Anna Sokolow. In addition to stage work, she has had her work featured in the 2019 Dancing in the Landscape production. In 2019, Olivia had the honor of being inducted into Delta Chi Xi, an honorary dance fraternity, as well as being awarded with the Sam White Theater Scholarship for her contributions and accomplishments at Elon.



Mariel Loughlin is a senior double major in Dance Performance & Choreography and Dance Science from New Jersey. Growing up, she trained at the Union County Academy for Performing Arts, New Jersey School of Ballet, and the Well Performance Project. She attended the American Dance Festival in Durham on a scholarship where she was able to further develop her artistic goals. She has had the opportunity to perform works by Casey Avaunt, Renay Aumiller, Jason Aryeh, Dawud Jackson, Carolyn Dorfman, and John Evans and has trained under the direction of Gerri Houlihan and Gaspard Louis. After graduation, she plans to pursue her Doctorate of Physical Therapy working with dancers and performing artists while hopefully continuing her dancing around the Greater New York-area.



Annie Marx, from Ridgewood, New Jersey, is a senior double majoring in Dance Performance & Choreography (B.F.A) and Strategic Communications (B.A.). This summer, she performed Bill T.Jones/Arnie Zane Company repertory at the 2019 American Dance Festival under the direction of Shayla Vie Jenkins. At Elon, she has performed in faculty and guest works by Ashley "Robi" Robicheaux, Jason Aryeh, Justin Tornow, Jen Guy Metcalf, Kira Blazek, Lauren Kearns, Matt Pardo, Renay Aumiller, and Sara Tourek. She has presented her choreography at the American College Dance Association and showed her work "Contagion" in the 2019 Fall Dance Concert. At the end of 2019, Annie was accepted as a member of the Delta Chi XI Honorary Dance Fraternity.



Emily Patterson grew up in Chatham, New Jersey where she began her training. She is a 2020 candidate for a B.F.A. in Dance Performance and Choreography, B.A. in Public Health, and minor in biology at Elon University. She has been honored to have worked with many choreographers in her time at Elon choreographed by Renay Aumiller, Kira Blazek, Sara Tourek, Gaspard Louis, Gerri Houlihan, Jen Guy Metcalf, and Yoshito Sakuraba. Additionally, she premiered a work, "Intransigent" which was selected to perform at the American College Dance Association, The Elon Fall Dance Concert 2018, and Wake Forest Medical's Annual Dance Medicine Conference. Most recently, Emily has had the honor of being inducted into Delta Chi Xi honorary dance fraternity.



Alyssa Vacca is a Senior at Elon University graduating with a B.F.A. in Dance Performance and Choreography as well as a B.A. for Arts Administration. She has recently interned with Koresh Dance School in Philadelphia and Urbanity Dance in Boston. Her love for dance started at the young age of three. She has since trained in a variety of styles as a Joffrey Ballet School Contemporary/Jazz Trainee. Currently, Alyssa is a company member with the Boston Community Dance Project's adult company and is a member of the Dance As Art Photography Project with photographer Kevin Richardson. Alyssa is ambitious to continue growing and working in the arts to extend her knowledge of the field.



We measure time in remarkably strict intervals, given that the human perception of time is largely a subjective experience. Though constant and indefinite, our minds can make the unfolding of time feel as if seconds are dragging on and hours are flying by. Neuroscience and psychology suggest that humans may have a biological system, or systems, deep in our consciousness that govern how we measure our time. How we perceive the duration of certain events can be affected by the emotions or situations we are experiencing in and around that moment. Our choreography explores the philosophical, scientific, and emotional aspects of our world that construct our understanding of time. Perception Dance explores eight unique lenses of the experience of time through movement, individual research, and collective collaboration in an effort to give our audience insight into the fluidity and flexibility of time.







the arrival.

Emotions have the capabilities to skew our senses, most notably our senses of vision, hearing, and all sensory perception. Ange is a unique emotion, as it not only has the ability to skew your sensory perception, but also the ability to cloud othe emotions. Through the idea of quarantine, I structured the idea of composing "the arrival" to showcase the stages of grief throughout this turbulent, uncertain, and uncharted territory of quarantine during a global pandemic.





Stars in our Teeth









As part of our mission, Perception Dance seeks to engage in projects outside of the Elon University community to empower other young artists and facilitate their own movement discoveries.

MASTER CLASS SERIES

On February 15, 2020, members of the company, Annie Marx, Mariel Loughlin, and Shelby Durham, lead a master class series at Evolution Dance Complex in Wilmington, North Carolina. The schedule included contemporary, ballet, modern, and improvisation classes that fused technique, repertory, and improvisation. The series concluded with a college panel.







CONTEMPORARY BALLET

Emphasis was placed on deconstucting classical ballet lines into their own contemporary shapes throughout barre and center.

MODERN TECHNIQUE

The class introduced students to foundations of modern floorwork using mental and tactile imagery to assist their learning.

IMPROVISATION

Company members guided dancers through improvisational prompts that encouraged internal exploration and external inspiration.

COLLEGE PANEL

The panel gave students the opportunity to ask questions and engage in conversations about the dance field.



PRESS RELEASE

Contact: Isabel Ganovsky iganovsky@elon.edu 412-901-1422

AVAILABLE FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE April 8, 2020



Elon University Senior Dance Majors Reconstruct Cancelled Performance Virtually

ELON, NORTH CAROLINA - MEDIA ALERT

Pre-Coronavirus, Elon's senior dance majors were busy preparing for their final performance, a project they started in July. As part of the dance program's senior seminar class, the eight dance majors collaborated on an artistic vision for their show, scheduled for April 17th. In addition to fully producing a performance from scratch, the dance majors worked to fundraise and promote their work.

Since the University's official move to online classes for the rest of the semester, the eight senior dance majors reevaluated every aspect of their final project. Under the same title that now holds a whole new meaning, 'All Things Must Pass', will premiere on the Elon Dance Program's YouTube page on May 8th. This digital showcase will include individual films from each of the eight dance majors, self-choreographed, self-produced, and self-performed.

"At first, it was difficult to imagine an entire class that was geared towards a physical performance transitioning online. With the help of our amazing professors, we are really rethinking what the rest of this class will look like and creating something truly remarkable out of a challenging situation." Says dance major Alyssa Vacca.

Originally working under the company name, Perception Dance, the dance majors investigated different understandings of time through movement. While many of their artistic concepts are the same, they are working to transition months of work into solos presented digitally. The dance majors will continue to include their research into their films but also incorporate the emotional baggage of the current pandemic situation.

"There is so much we have to consider as we make the transition from a stage production to dance films, however, it does present an exciting opportunity artistically. This show now demonstrates sheer resourcefulness and creativity, it is inspiring to see the resilience." Says dance major Meg Boericke

From bedrooms, to beach fronts, to rooftops, the dancers creatively utilize any danceable space available. In these eight site specific films, the dancers explore how time is affected by emotions of an experience. The films demonstrate captivating individuality with a raw and intimate ambience. "All Things Must Pass" presents different lenses of each dancer's style and interpretation in what is so more than a thesis project, it's an emotional experience.

"Only having ourselves and a phone camera, it might seem difficult to produce dance films but we are all looking at it as an experiment. We are all very excited to see what we can create so independently. I think these films will reflect the strength and adaptability of dancers everywhere." Says dance major Isabel Ganovsky

Be sure to watch the premiere of "All Things Must Pass" on the Elon Dance Program YouTube channel. The films will be available from Friday, May 8th at 5:00pm EST to Sunday, May 10th at 5:00pm EST.



Senior dance majors pictured from left to right: Annie Marx, Isabel Ganovsky, Olivia James, Emily Patterson, Alyssa Vacca, Mariel Loughlin, Meg Boericke, Shelby Durham Photographed by Zoe Litaker

See PERCEPTION DANCE website and Facebook page to learn more about members and their project mission statements. https://meganboericke.wixsite.com/perceptiondance

Facebook: @perceptiondance20 Instagram: @perception_dance_

ZOE LITAKER Photography



APRIL 1, 2020 · ZOE LITAKER

PERCEPTION DANCE Shoot At The Durham Fruit Company!



PERCEPTION DANCE

ELON SENIOR DANCE & CHOREOGRAPHY MAJORS PRESENT

I was so thrilled to work with the Elon's class of 2020 BFA Dance
Performance and Choreography majors for a photoshoot at The Durham
Fruit Company! The shoot was to promote their show "All Things Must
Pass," which has unfortunately been canceled due to the closing of the
school. However, the images we made turned out beautifully. They are all
incredible dancers and I hope you enjoy the images from our shoot! We
had a chance to make some gorgeous portraits in the Durham Fruit
Company's Blue Room and other areas of the venue.



Perception Dance acts as Elon Dance Program's senior seminar requirement. It is a year-long learning experience where seniors create a company and final project in an independent and professional setting.

PERCEPTION DANCE members shared a common artistic goal of creative development, experimentation, and preparation for professional careers in the field of dance. As artists, they strive to empower each other to find new avenues of expression through movement.

Keep dancing y'all! I can't wait to see where you end up in the next few years!













♥ 1 LIKE

