



DR PHILLIPS HIGH SCHOOL DANCE MAGNET // BLACK BOX EDITION // 14 NOV 2022

DIRECTOR'S NOTES

Welcome to the first ever Open Space Showing at Dr. Phillips High School, hosted by our own 'Dance in Motion' Company. We are honored to have these marvelous professionals share their artistry and educational insights with all of us tonight.

Franco, Elijah and Audrey have been with us at DPHS since Monday this week, teaching all the students and setting a new work on the DPHS Company Dancers, along with teaching a master class for the community on Wednesday night. They have been part of fire drills in the parking lot, an unexpected lock down and school wide testing...it has been a week of getting to know our students and public education, for sure! Through it all, their flexibility and humor have been much needed!

There are people who inspire you from the moment you meet ~ Franco, Elijah and Audrey are such people. Their humanity, sense of community, love of teaching, collaborative nature and belief in dance for all bodies aligns so closely with ours at DPHS. Already this company feels like family. We first met Franco and Open Space at the Regional High School Dance Festival in Vancouver, WA in the Spring of 2022. We knew right away that we wanted to work together! We are extremely grateful that Franco and his team took a chance on our high school to come down and play in the sandbox with us!

We have loved our time working with all the Open Space dancers and hope this will be the start of building a new tradition. May you be intrigued with these gifted movers as we have been!

ENJOY!!!

Kathy Follensbee

Kathy Follensbee

Dr. Phillips High School, Dance Director

THE PROGRAM

CONFETTI HEAD

Choreographer: Franco Nieto
Music: Travis Lake, Madison McFerrin, Photay, Dos Santos
Dancers: Audrey Wells, Elijah Labay

BLOOM

Choreographer: Franco Nieto
Music: Onry, Frans Schubert
Dancers: Audrey Wells, Franco Nieto

NEVER LESS

DR PHILLIPS HIGH SCHOOL DANCE MAGNET

Director: Kathy Fallensbee
Choreographer: Franco Nieto
Music: Anna Honler, The Pylon King, Voices of Kwahn, Trash Fence, Max Richter
Dancers: Nadia Allen, Bella Anderson, Aidan Branham, Maddie Brown, Olivia Gutierrez, KaYori Harris, Ariaghna Parrilla Rey, Grace Marshall, Valeria Perez, Andre Roche, Reese Rutherford, Jazzy Thomas, Madison Yu

ODD CLOUDS

Choreographers: Franco Nieto, Audrey Wells, Elijah Labay
Music: O Miles Per Hour
Dancers: Audrey Wells, Elijah Labay, Franco Nieto

Franco Nieto's work is physical, raw, and playfully emotional. Nieto has brought together a crew of dancers that represents contemporary dance that is here and now, from across the nation including: Elijah Labay (Ballet Jazz de Montreal) and Audrey Wells (SALT contemporary dance). Open Space Dance was commissioned by the National High School Dance Festival as their premier company of 2022.

FRANCO NIETO

Artistic Director and Founding Member of Open Space



Princess Grace Award winner Franco Nieto was born and raised in the Pacific Northwest. He made the unconventional switch from football to ballet in his teenage years and has now taught and danced in over 10 different countries and performed with the likes of Lady Gaga and Sir Elton John. He spent 10 years as a principal dancer with NW Dance Project in Portland, Oregon, where he toured the world and worked hand in hand with the leading minds in choreography to create and bring to life countless original works. His early training came from the Vancouver School of Arts & Academics and Columbia Dance, and his formative line of choreography was born from his mentorship with Tracey Durbin. He graduated with his BFA in Jazz from Point Park

University. Franco brings his big heart to every class at Open Space.

AUDREY WELLS

Company Artist of Open Space



Audrey is originally from the Portland area where she trained at Westside Dance Academy, but she spent the last three years in Salt Lake City where she was a company dancer with SALT Contemporary Dance and Oquirrh West Project. Audrey has performed the works of choreographers including Micaela Taylor, Ihsan Rustem, Olivier Wevers, Garrett Smith, Robert Battle, and Courtney Mazeika. Along with dancing, Audrey is also a passionate teacher! As a teacher, she believes that each dancer's journey is individual, and hopes to help her students discover how they can use their facility in the way that suits them best. Audrey received her BFA in dance from Marymount Manhattan College in New York City where she was a member of Marymount Manhattan

College Dance Company. In her training, Audrey spent summers at various programs including Hubbard Street Dance Chicago, San Francisco Conservatory, NW Dance Project, Vim Vigor Dance Company, and Parsons Dance, all of which have informed the way she interprets, performs, and creates movement. Now Audrey is back in Portland dancing with Open Space!

ELIJAH LABAY

Company Artist of Open Space



Born in Victoria, British Columbia, Elijah started training at Ballet Arts Academy in Spokane, Washington. In 2004, Elijah joined Canada's Royal Winnipeg Ballet Professional Division and while attending, he received the First Step's Audience Choice Award for his choreographic work. In 2007, Elijah attended the Fellowship Program at The Alvin Ailey School on full scholarship. Elijah received a Professional Advancement Award at Jacob's Pillow to work with Aszure Barton, Helen Pickett, and Tero Saarinen. During his time at Ailey, Elijah spent multiple summers at Earl Mosley's Institute of the Arts and in 2009, he joined Florida Dance Theatre directed by Carol Erkes.

In 2010, Elijah attended NW Dance Project's LAUNCH 4 where he worked intently with Loni Landon and James Gregg. Upon joining the company, Elijah was featured in André Mesquita's duet "A Short History of Walking" as well as original works created by Sarah Slipper, Patrick Delcroix, Ihsan Rustem, Lucas Crandall, Jiri Pokorny, Pedro Dias, Danielle Agami, Yin Yue, Gregory Dolbashian, Wen Wei Wang, Felix Landerer, Alex Soares, Olivier Wevers, Noam Gagnon, and others. Throughout his career, Elijah has had the opportunity to explore and grow his choreography creating on the company members of NW Dance Project. Elijah has participated in teaching and has created original works at several of NW Dance Project's Summer Dance Intensives and has taught masterclasses across the United States.

After eight years with NW Dance Project, Elijah joined Les Ballets Jazz de Montréal under the direction of Louis Robitaille, where he had the opportunity to travel and perform works by Andonis Foniadakis, Itzik Galili, Ihsan Rustem, and Annabelle Lopez Ochoa. While there, Elijah had the honour of performing Andonis Foniadakis duet "Soul" in Les Grand Ballets 2019, Soirée des Étoiles.

OPEN
SPACE

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Many Thanks for all you do!

Dance Magnet Director

Kathy Follensbee

DPHS Dance Assistant

Kayla Follensbee

DPHS Principal

Jackie Ramsey

DPHS Dance Magnet Encore

Parent Volunteers

VPA Assistant Principal

Vanessa Morrow

VPA Department Chair

Nicole Nasrallah

DPHS PAC Theatre Director

Jason Whitehead

DPHS Technical Crew

Olivia Anderson

Katie Free

TV Production Director

Bob Giguere

Program Design

Kieshalia Stephens

2022 - 23

DR PHILLIPS HIGH SCHOOL DANCE MAGNET

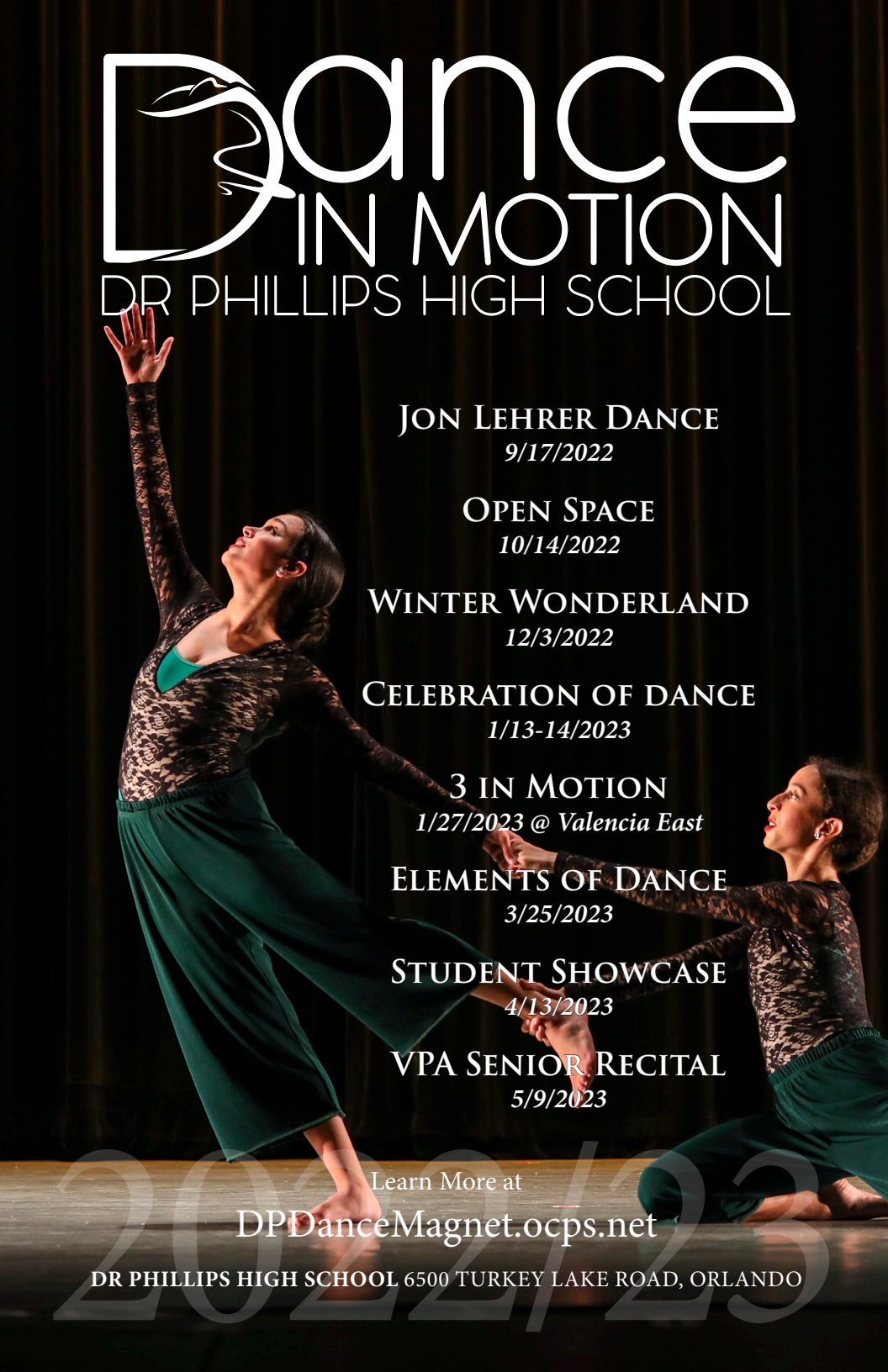


OCPS

DANCE PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT

November 10-11, 2022

Orange County Public School Dance Performance Assessment invites all OCPS schools with a dance program to be adjudicated in Ballet and Modern techniques. Each participating school is invited to perform at the concert. Additionally, Middle and High School dancers audition for the OCPS All-County Team. Local industry professionals set a piece on the OCPS All-County Teams in Ballet, Modern, Contemporary, Jazz, Musical Theatre and/or Hip-Hop.



Dance

IN MOTION

DR PHILLIPS HIGH SCHOOL

JON LEHRER DANCE

9/17/2022

OPEN SPACE

10/14/2022

WINTER WONDERLAND

12/3/2022

CELEBRATION OF DANCE

1/13-14/2023

3 IN MOTION

1/27/2023 @ Valencia East

ELEMENTS OF DANCE

3/25/2023

STUDENT SHOWCASE

4/13/2023

VPA SENIOR RECITAL

5/9/2023

Learn More at

DPDanceMagnet.ocps.net

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