

Of Equal Place: Isotopes in Motion

Nov 14 / Cobb Great Hall

A Dance Exchange project inspired by Liz Lerman's *The Matter of Origins*

Keith Thompson

Creative Director

Ami Dowden-Fant

Director of Creative Engagement

Choreographed by:

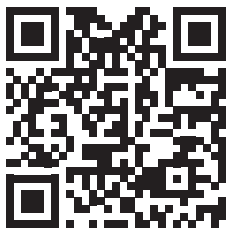
Keith Thompson

Ami Dowden-Fant

Elizabeth Johnson Levine

Runtime is approximately 60 minutes, with no intermission.

Media partner: WKAR



Scan for the up-to-date program or
visit whartoncenter.com/program

In collaboration with performers from All of the Above Hip Hop Academy, Dance Exchange, Facility for Rare Isotope Beams, Greater Lansing Ballet Company, Happendance, and Lansing Everett High School Dance Company.

Gianna Allen, Lansing Everett High School Dancer

Anastasia Babayan, Greater Lansing Ballet Company Partnering Artist

Hannah Berg, Facility for Rare Isotope Beams Dancer

Clarence Brooks, Dance Exchange Partnering Artist

Shawn Brush, Dance Exchange Partnering Artist

Zachary Constan, Facility for Rare Isotope Beams Dancer

Brit Falcon, Dance Exchange Partnering Artist

Alyssa Gaiser, Facility for Rare Isotope Beams Dancer

Esther Geiger, Dance Exchange Partnering Artist

Chloe Gonzales, Happendance Partnering Artist

Serena Lotreck, Greater Lansing Ballet Company Partnering Artist

Clara Martinez, Lansing Everett High School Dancer

Jim McEwan, Greater Lansing Ballet Company Partnering Artist

Agnes Moscy, Facility for Rare Isotope Beams Dancer

Filomena Nunes, Facility for Rare Isotope Beams Dancer

Aracelli Reyes, Lansing Everett High School Dancer
Paulina Rivet, Greater Lansing Ballet Company
Partnering Artist
Liv Schaffer, Dance Exchange Partnering Artist
Andrew Smith, Facility for Rare Isotope Beams Dancer
Dennison Tran, Lansing Everett High School Dancer
Bridget Vander Hoff, Happendance Partnering Artist
Naomi Briones Villarreal, Lansing Everett High School
Dancer
Tabor Vits, All Of The Above Hip Hop Academy
Partnering Artist

PROGRAM

Mystery

Anastasia Babayan
Clarence Brooks
Shawn Brush
Ami Dowden-Fant
Brit Falcon
Esther Geiger
Chloe Gonzales

Serena Lotreck
Jim McEwan
Paulina Rivet
Liv Schaffer
Bridget Vander Hoff
Tabor Vits

Welcome to FRIB

Artemis Spyrou

Safety

Anastasia Babayan
Zach Constan
Chloe Gonzales
Serena Lotreck

Jim McEwan
Paulina Rivet
Bridget Vander Hoff
Tabor Vits

Equations

Clarence Brooks
Shawn Brush
Ami Dowden-Fant

Brit Falcon
Esther Geiger
Liv Schaffer

Genesis

Clarence Brooks
Shawn Brush
Ami Dowden-Fant

Brit Falcon
Esther Geiger
Liv Schaffer

Stability / Instability

Clarence Brooks
Shawn Brush
Ami Dowden-Fant

Brit Falcon
Esther Geiger
Liv Schaffer

How Do You Incorporate Science and Dance

Hannah Berg
Alyssa Gaiser
Agnes Mocsy

Filomena Nunes
Andy Smith
Everett Dancers

Literal Measurement

Chloe Gonzales
Jim McEwan
Marie Curie

Bridget Vander Hoff
Tabor Vits

Clarence Brooks
Shawn Brush
Ami Dowden-Fant

Brit Falcon
Esther Geiger
Liv Schaffer

Women of Science

Anastasia Babayan
Hannah Berg
Alyssa Gaiser
Chloe Gonzales
Serena Lotreck

Clara Martinez
Agnes Mocsy
Filomena Nunes
Paulina Rivet
Bridget Vander Hoff

Poetic Measurement

Clarence Brooks
Shawn Brush
Ami Dowden-Fant

Brit Falcon
Esther Geiger
Liv Schaffer

How Can FRIB Change Our Lives

Anastasia Babayan
Hannah Berg
Alyssa Gaiser
Chloe Gonzales
Serena Lotreck
Clara Martinez
Jim McEwan

Agnes Mocsy
Filomena Nunes
Paulina Rivet
Andy Smith
Bridget Vander Hoff
Tabor Vits
Everett Dancers

Stargazing

Anastasia Babayan
Hannah Berg
Alyssa Gaiser
Chloe Gonzales
Serena Lotreck
Clara Martinez
Jim McEwan

Agnes Mocsy
Filomena Nunes
Paulina Rivet
Andrew Smith Andy
Bridget Vander Hoff
Tabor Vits
Everett Students

Collisions

Clarence Brooks
Shawn Brush
Ami Dowden-Fant

Brit Falcon
Esther Geiger
Liv Schaffer

Dance Exchange Production Team

Cassie Meador, Creative and Partnership Advisement
Stephen Clapp, Creative Producer
Simone Baskerville, Production Manager
Dante Fields, Stage Manager
Annie Choudhury, Assistant Stage Manager
Peter Leibold, Lighting Design
Matthew Nielson, Sound Design
Darron L. West, Original Sound Design for Marie Curie
and Genesis sections
Kelly Colburn, Original Projection/Media Design
Devin Kinch, Projection/Media Design
Chris Ignacio, Projection/Media Design

Erin Pleake, Projection/Media Design
Jeanette Christenson, Original Costume Design
Sara Moore, Costume/Wardrobe Coordinator
Hope Still, Study Guide Coordination
Brendan McCall, Project Management
Erin Donohue, Project Management

Creative Engagement Partners

Dr. Zachary Constan, Outreach Coordinator Facility for
Rare Isotope Beams

Lisa Brinker, Director of Marketing & Communications,
Wharton Center

Ryonn Clute, Senior Marketing Manager, Wharton Center

Clara Martinez, Dance Director, Lansing Everett High
School Dance Company

Jim McEwan, Artistic Director, Greater Lansing Ballet
Company

Rachel Miller, Executive Director, Happendance

Ozay Moore, Executive Director, All of the Above Hip Hop
Academy

Eric Olmscheid, Executive Director, Wharton Center

Dr. Artemis Spryou, Professor of Physics Facility for Rare
Isotope Beams

Kelly Stuible-Clark, Senior Education Program Manager,
Wharton Center

Sandy Thomley, Senior Production Manager, Wharton Center

Lisa Whiting Dobson, Project Production Manager, Wharton Center

The creative team would like to acknowledge:

Elizabeth Johnson Levine's contributions as a co-creative director on the project 2015-2020 and her stewardship of the project partnerships in her past roles as director of partnerships and associate artistic director at Dance Exchange.

Juliana Ponguta's contributions in her role as a performer, collaborator, and Dance Exchange partnering artist during the project's development 2015-2020.

Lena Granger, Alison Rhodes, Liam Shafer, and Audrey Spitzfaden in their roles as performers, collaborators, and Happendance partnering artists during the project's development 2015-2020.

In collaboration with:

Wharton Center Institute for Arts & Creativity
Lansing School District

Underwritten by:

Facility for Rare Isotope Beams at Michigan State University

FRIB is supported by the Office of Nuclear Physics in the U.S. Department of Energy Office of Science

Additional support by:

MSU University Outreach and Engagement

Science and Society at MSU

Office of the Vice President for Research and Innovation

Notes and Bios

Notes From Those Who Brought You *Of Equal Place: Isotopes in Motion*

Welcome to *Of Equal Place: Isotopes in Motion*, a 60-minute multi-media performance commissioned by the Facility for Rare Isotope Beams (FRIB). On stage and on video, you will see professional dancers from Dance Exchange and dance partners, scientists, and community youth performers. This dance work delves into some of the research being done at FRIB while exploring themes that resonate in both nuclear physics and dance: stability and instability, measurement, acceleration, fragmentation, and navigating mystery. Additionally, the performance investigates the contributions of women and people of color in science through a cast diverse in age, race, and cultural backgrounds. We hope this work will engage audiences who might be new to watching dance and/or new to thinking about physics. As you watch, resist the temptation to feel like you are not "getting it." Watching a dance is a creative process,

much like the creative process of scientific research. You set up an experiment. You observe. From those observations, you collect data. Then, there's the key process of interpreting the data in a way that makes sense to you. Notice what you connect to, what meaning you are making, and let your own discoveries unfold. Then repeat this process. We invite you to revel in your own discoveries, to lean into curiosities. We hope the resources in the study guide and the opportunities on this campus will serve to launch you further into your understanding and curiosity of new areas for future research and creativity.

Dance Exchange

Fueled by generosity and curiosity, Dance Exchange expands who gets to dance, where dance happens, what dance is about, and why dance matters. Dance Exchange collaborates across generations, disciplines, and communities to channel the power of dancemaking as a means for dialogue, a source of critical reflection, and a creative engine for thought and action. Founded in 1976 by Liz Lerman and under the artistic leadership of Cassie Meador since 2011, Dance Exchange is a non-profit dance organization based in Takoma Park, Maryland.

Much of Dance Exchange's work across our 46-year history has focused on the intersection of art and science, leading to collaborations with scientists and educators in the fields of biology, physics, ecology,

genetics, and more. In addition to FRIB, Dance Exchange has partnered with leading science organizations such as NASA, the National Park Service, the U.S. Forest Service, the European Council for Nuclear Research (CERN), and more. By cultivating a sense of wonder, inquiry, and discovery in the dances we make and the workshops we lead, we celebrate the important role of both dance and science in moving us toward a deeper understanding of our world.

What inspires and fuels our work at Dance Exchange?

- Connecting across generations and communities.
- Making art at the intersection of social relevance and community participation.
- Deepening our relationships with scientists, educators, farmers, forestry specialists, creative aging experts, nonprofit and municipal leaders, independent artists, and families.
- Growing partnerships with schools, universities, cultural institutions, traditional and non-traditional performing venues, and members of the philanthropic community.

Our work at the intersection of art and science offers an invitation to move as a way to notice our world, and to notice as a way to move our world. Discover ways you can move with us at danceexchange.org.

Dance exchange partnering artist biographies

Keith Thompson (he/him) (*Creative Director*) danced for the Trisha Brown Dance Company from 1992-2001, served as Trisha's rehearsal assistant from 1998-2001, and currently performs with and is rehearsal director for Liz Lerman. He has taught master classes globally, and his company, danceTactics Performance Group, has been featured at Montpellier International Dance Festival, Dixon Place NYC, Triskelion Art Center, Edinburgh International Fringe Festival, Theater X (Tokyo), and Taliesin West. Keith is associate professor and director of the dance department at Arizona State University, where he is also the inaugural faculty fellow at the Center for the Study of Race and Democracy.

Ami Dowden-Fant (she/her) (*Director of Creative Engagement*) of Richmond, VA, is the thriving owner/director of River City Dance & Performing Arts Theatre. She has worked with a variety of artists such as Jawole Willa Jo Zollar, Robert Battle, and Liz Lerman. She has been awarded the Outstanding Choreographer, Performer Award (VA), and *Style Weekly's* Best Performing Arts Lessons (VA). Her work has been presented in the National American College Dance Festival (NYC) and Philadelphia Fringe Festival (PA). In 2009, she began her partnership with Dance Exchange, performing and leading workshops at Wesleyan University (MA), Department of Education (DC), and

Belhaven University (MS). She was commissioned to choreograph for the William Penn School District (PA), Neighborhood Playhouse (NYC), and the Center of the Arts (VA). Ami Dowden-Fant is instilled with the gift to educate and inspire all willing movers of the many wonders of dance!

Clarence Brooks (he/they) (*Dance Exchange Partnering Artist*), Florida Atlantic University associate professor/director of dance, is a guest artist with Sokolow Theatre/Dance Ensemble, David Parker and The Bang Group, and their own company, FAU Repertory Dance Theatre Ensemble. Brooks can be seen in the video documentary *The World of Alwin Nikolais* and their essay "Dancing with the Issues" was published in *One Teacher in 10* (Alyson Books). The recipient of several fellowships and awards, Brooks holds an MFA (University of Washington), four certifications, and sits on the boards of danceTactics, Natural Movers Foundation, Sokolow Theatre/Dance Ensemble, Miami Dance Futures, Humphrey Foundation, and several university committees.

Shawn Brush (he/him) (*Dance Exchange Partnering Artist*) is a NY-based dancer and choreographer. He dances for danceTactics Performance Group (where he is also assistant to the artistic director), Falcon Dance, and is currently on project with Dance Exchange. Shawn has previously danced for Maya Orchin, Laura Peterson

Choreography, Stefanie Nelson, The New Collectives, Meagan Woods company, and Hillary Pearson. Shawn's own choreography, under Brush/McGrath (works) with his partner and wife, Molly McGrath, has been presented at Judson Memorial Church, Triskelion Arts, Dixon Place, and Raritan Valley Community College. He is also a teaching artist and has taught at Mason Gross School of the Arts at Rutgers University, Raritan Valley Community College, and public schools across New Jersey. He graduated Summa Cum Laude with a BFA in Dance from Mason Gross School of the Arts in 2015.

Brit Falcon (she/her) (*Dance Exchange Partnering Artist*) is a performer, choreographer/maker, bodyworker, and educator. She has had the pleasure of performing with William Evans, Kista Tucker Dance, Inc., Steeledance, Bryan Baira, Donnell Oakley, Renegade Performance Group, Keith Johnson & Adriane Fang, Kendra Portier, and David Dorfman Dance. She has taught at numerous universities and festivals nationally and internationally, sharing her research in the intersections of dance performance, wellness, science, and ecology. Brit holds a BFA from The College at Brockport and is currently an MFA candidate in dance at the University of Maryland. She is the artistic director of Falcon Dance.

Esther Geiger (she/her) (*Dance Exchange Partnering Artist*) is interested in how things connect, and in finding connections by looking for essence. Links along her

movement journey include modern dance (with a German Expressionist twist), Iyengar yoga, structured improvisation (mentored by master Richard Bull), and the Laban/Bartenieff Movement System (LBMS). Esther taught at Dance Exchange under Liz Lerman in the 1970s-80s and reconnected with the DX community in the 2000s. She is a Certified Movement Analyst (CMA) and has applied that work to playground design, movement education, unschooling, personnel management, and audio description. She has taught in LBMS certification programs in the U.S. and Israel.

Liv Schaffer (she/her) (*Dance Exchange Partnering Artist*) is a Bay Area artist and educator with a focus on intergenerational practice at the intersection of dance and social impact sectors. She holds a degree from Alonzo King's LINES Ballet BFA Program at Dominican University of California and has performed with AXIS Dance Company, DanceWorks Chicago, Robert Moses' Kin, and Dance Exchange. Liv is a community engagement artist with Jacob's Pillow and on faculty at the University of San Francisco's Performing Arts & Social Justice department, where she directs the Dance Generators, an intergenerational dance company. Liv's choreography has been presented by Jacob's Pillow Inside/Out, ODC State of Play Festival, Yerba Buena Gardens Festival/RAWDance SF, The Big Muddy Dance Company, and Western Michigan University.

Acknowledgements

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Dance Exchange extends a special thanks to Liz Lerman and the creative team and collaborators on *The Matter of Origins*, Dance Exchange staff and board of directors, Women and Minorities in the Physical Sciences (WaMPS), Bert Goldstein, Eric Olmscheid and the Wharton Center for the Performing Arts, Clara Martinez, the Lansing School District, Missy Lilje, Rachel Miller, Happendance, and Zach Constan and Artemis Spyrou and the Facility for Rare Isotope Beams.

Dance Exchange

Liz Lerman, Founder

Cassie Meador, Executive Artistic Director

Silvia Roberts, Executive Managing Director

Stephen Clapp, Director of Racial Equity & Creative
Producer

Selena Figgins, Community and Creative Hub Manager

Dance Exchange Board of Directors

Deborah Riley, Chairperson

Eleanor Kerlow, Vice Chairperson

Luisa Aviles

Imani Lewis Glasspiegel

Martha Head

Soneela Nankani

John Urciolo

The Facility for Rare Isotope Beams (FRIB) is a U.S. Department of Energy Office of Science (DOE-SC) user facility operated by Michigan State University with financial support from and furthering the mission of the DOE-SC Office of Nuclear Physics. FRIB enables scientists to make discoveries with rare isotopes that will positively impact humankind. FRIB aims to share the excitement of nuclear science with everyone through innovative and multi-disciplinary collaborations that engage learners of all ages and backgrounds.

All Of The Above Hip Hop Academy is a nonprofit organization made up of artists, educators, and advocates that mentor youth, support artistic expression, and serve communities as a Hip Hop cultural resource for the purpose of youth development.

Greater Lansing Ballet Company has been presenting quality dance productions with professional and pre-professional dancers for more than 30 years. As the area's premier pre-professional ballet institution, the Greater Lansing Ballet Company (GLBC) brings this stunning art form to venues throughout Mid-Michigan. A nonprofit organization, GLBC's tradition of strong technical foundations in multiple dance idioms paired with pursuit of continued artistic growth through engaging, high-level choreography extends to young people a unique opportunity to learn and perform classical and contemporary ballet in an extraordinary professional environment.

Happendance's mission is to make dance accessible to all and to foster support for the performing arts through three core programs:

1. The Happendance Professional Company: founded in 1976, it is the longest-running professional contemporary dance company in Michigan.
2. The Happendance School: offers both recreational and intensive training in various dance styles, along with a

need-based scholarship program to support access to dance education.

3. The Happendance Education Exchange: an outreach program that brings dance residencies and performances into PreK-12 public schools and after-school programs. Together, these programs embody Happendance's commitment to enriching lives through dance, fostering creativity, and building community connections across all ages, and backgrounds.

Lansing Everett High School Dance Company

The Lansing Everett High School Dance Company program has served as a dance hub for students in the Lansing School District for generations. Celebrating 50 years, Everett Dance has left a lasting impact on Lansing students and the Greater Lansing community.