



presents

ShaLeigh Dance Works

enVISION: The Next Chapter

July 19 at 7:30 pm, July 20 at 2:00 pm and 7:30 pm, July 21 at 2:00 pm and 7:30 pm,

July 26 at 7:30 pm, July 27 at 2:00 pm and 7:30 pm, July 28 at 2:00 pm and 7:30 pm

The Fruit

Performance: 1 hour, no intermission

enVISION: The Next Chapter was commissioned by ADF with support from the Doris Duke/SHS Foundations Award for New Works.

These presentations of enVISION: The Next Chapter at ADF are funded, in part, by a grant from South Arts in partnership with the National Endowment for the Arts and the North Carolina Arts Council.

enVISION: The Next Chapter

Artistic Direction & Choreography

ShaLeigh Comerford in collaboration with the artistic team

Creative Specialist

Davian Robinson

Narration

ShaLeigh Comerford and Davian Robinson

Company Members

Elizabeth Bailey, Ciara Coleman, Hannah Nicole Marr,
Jessica Wooten

Guest Artists

Phoebe Crumbine, Kevin Higgins, Josie Houck, Emily
McClung, Mena Orr, Lilly Sears, Marissa Schroeder,
Tiana Smith

Creative Experts

Nicolle Alleman, Susan Cataldo, Karin Desalu, Janie
Desmond, Hillary Honig Ensminger, Isela Garcia,
Yazmyne Jenkins, Chemaeb Mebane, Taylor Ofori,
Ed Rizzuto, Brice Smith, Jan Tu, Susannah Wright

Live Musician

Omar Ruiz-Lopez

Original Compositions

Eric Hirsh

Sound Design

Erik Ramquist

Environmental & Scenic Design

Nicolas Jackson

Projection Design

Jonathan Faw and Alex Maness

Lighting Design

Jeremy Kumin

Costume Design

Iris Lloyd

Text Consultant

Alison Fields

Script

ShaLeigh Comerford in collaboration with the artistic team

Creative Consultants

Audrey-Anne Bouchard, Krishna Washburn

Social Dance Consultant

Naga Devi Wasserman

Props Master

Kiernan "Skittles" Bastien

Stage Manager

Cheryl Edson

Sound Board Operator

Candace Spencer

House Managers

Kayla Lynn Oelhafen and Proxemic Media

Venue Manager

Tim Walter

Marketing Manager

Katie Jo Fulks

Pre Show Experience Audio Description

Jan Tu

Program Note

enVISION: The Next Chapter is an immersive interdisciplinary performance that relies not on sight or sound but on the felt sense of sonic experiences and visual perceptions. In a collective creative process, the work has brought together a team of collaborators around two questions: Can we listen to what we see? Can we see what we hear? Conceived explicitly with and for individuals who are low-vision and blind, as well as low-hearing and deaf, the work proposes a new multisensory experience of dance and theater. The work will be presented to a live audience who can choose to experience the show blindfolded or with earbuds, and six audience members will be invited to join the experience onstage. This ADF commission builds on enVISION: Sensory Beyond Sight, which premiered at ADF in 2022.

About ShaLeigh Dance Works

SHALEIGH DANCE WORKS (SDW) is a nonprofit, dance-theater company dedicated to inspiring people of all

abilities, social backgrounds, cultures, and generations with the transformative power of dance. Under the direction of founder and artistic director ShaLeigh Comerford, SDW is recognized for its socially conscious works, expansive movement language, and commitment to community action. SDW creates programming at the intersection of art, culture, and social change to enrich our communities. The company also offers multiple performances that bring mixed-ability movers to professional stages and panel discussions on making dance inclusive to people with disabilities. SDW's engagement practices are an integral part of their work and include numerous partnerships with local organizations to provide advocacy, opportunities, and access to the arts for all people. From inspiration to world premiere, SDW annually commissions composers to create original new music for their programs as well as a diverse collaborative artistic team of performers, designers, and creators. Their success has taken them from performances and creative residencies in NC, VA, and NYC to Germany, England, Israel, and Japan. With a focus on artistic excellence, nurturing artists, and designing programs to empower those impacted by marginalization, SDW aims to provide a concrete example of how dance can transform people's lives and enrich society.

Biographies

SHALEIGH COMERFORD ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

SHALEIGH COMERFORD, SHE/HER (ARTISTIC DIRECTOR), is a neurodiverse Irish and Native American choreographer and the Artistic Director of ShaLeigh Dance Works. Her work is driven by a desire to uplift powerful stories and voices that address the human condition in relation to inequalities and forces of erasure. She is a graduate of Hollins University with a master's in Visual and Performing Arts. ShaLeigh began her formal dance training on scholarship with RBT and ADF and continued her training in NYC and at P.A.R.T.S in Brussels, Belgium. In 2011, she was personally invited to train in the Gaga movement language with Ohad Naharin and the Batsheva Dance Company in Tel Aviv, Israel, for their inaugural teacher training program.

ShaLeigh was a principal dancer with the Roanoke Ballet Theatre, where she performed and toured with the company from 2000 to 2004. She performed leading roles with Virginia Ballet Academy and guest roles with Carolina Ballet and Cirque USA. She has also apprenticed with Bill T. Jones/Arnie Zane Company and has performed with Keigwin & Company, Tina Croll & Company, Dendy Dance Theater, Martha Clarke, and Rosie Herrera, as well as in a restaging of Batsheva's Minus Sixteen and an Official Music Video for "Blind" by Christian Löffler.

ShaLeigh's choreography and commissions have been presented throughout the US and abroad. She is a recipient of the 2023 Jan Van Dyke Legacy Award and the 2018 Ella Pratt Fountain Emerging Artist Award and was awarded winner in the 2013 Tokyo Experimental Festival of Sound, Art & Performance to design a performance installation at the Institute of Contemporary Art and International Cultural Exchange. ShaLeigh is also founder and practitioner of ShaGa Movement, a living movement practice based on the unity of energy consciousness and its relationship to health and disease. She currently serves as Adjunct Professor of Dance at Washington & Lee University. She is a member of the UpROOTing Ableism workgroup for Alternate ROOTS where she serves on the Executive Committee.

DAVIAN ROBINSON CREATIVE SPECIALIST

DAVIAN ROBINSON, HE/HIM (CREATIVE SPECIALIST), from Hickory, NC, is a dancer, choreographer, Paralympic athlete, and motivational speaker. Davian graduated from UNC Charlotte in 2020 with bachelors degrees in Science and Art. He attended Governor Morehead School for the Blind in Raleigh, NC, from 2004 to 2011. Davian has performed at Orsolina 28 and The Palace of Venaria in Italy, UNC Charlotte, MOVE Dance Alliance, Loose Leaves Showcase, Reactions of Resistance, and Adidas "Impossible is Nothing" spec commercial. Davian founded Sensory Beyond Sight, dance workshops inviting participants to experience movement without the use of their sight, which he presented at the Alexander Technique National

Conference. He works with Camryn Watson and Inspire Inclusion Dance as a dance teacher. Davian has been a collaborator with SDW since 2019.

NICOLLE ALLEMAN
CREATIVE EXPERT

NICOLLE ALLEMAN, SHE/HER (CREATIVE EXPERT) MSW, is the DeafBlind Services Specialist for the Raleigh Regional Center with the North Carolina Division of Services for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing. Ms. Alleman is DeafBlind and uses tactile American Sign Language and Pro Tactile. She received her Bachelor of Arts and Master of Social Work from Gallaudet University in Washington, DC. Ms Alleman was on the Board of Directors for the American Association of the DeafBlind and is a member of the NC Deaf-Blind Associates. She is currently representing the DeafBlind Community on the North Carolina Interpreters and Transliterations Licensing Board.

ELIZABETH BAILEY
COMPANY MEMBER

ELIZABETH BAILEY, SHE/HER (COMPANY MEMBER), is a dancer, choreographer, and teacher from Goldsboro, NC. She graduated from East Carolina University with a BFA in dance with a concentration in choreography and performance and a minor in Natural Science Composite. Elizabeth was accepted as a choreographer in Fall for Dance Festival and her piece premiered October 2023. She attended the American Dance Festival where she performed in the Footprints Concert as a cast member of

Tatiana Desardouin's Path to P[e]ace. Elizabeth has also had the opportunity to travel to Nairobi, Kenya, as a dance exchange with Dance Centre Kenya, Artists for Africa, and Project Elimu. Elizabeth was invited to join as a company member of ShaLeigh Dance Works in 2023.

KIERNAN "SKITTLES" BASTIEN
PROPS MASTER

KIERNAN "SKITTLES" BASTIEN, SHE/HER (PROPS MASTER), has been working as a props master in the triangle area for the last 10 years and had the privilege of working with Carolina Ballet, North Carolina Opera, and The North Carolina Theatre on such shows as Dracula, La Traviata, Les Mis, Beauty and the Beast, and many more. She has worked on several touring shows including The Kind and I, Matilda, and Blue Man Group. Kiernan is absolutely honored to be part of this production because her mentor is hard of hearing, so the struggles faced by the DHH community are very close to her heart. The opportunity to bring awareness is very exciting to her. She wants to thank her friends and family for helping her complete this beautiful project.

AUDREY-ANNE BOUCHARD
CREATIVE CONSULTANT

AUDREY-ANNE BOUCHARD, SHE/HER (CREATIVE CONSULTANT), is an interdisciplinary artist, researcher, and educator. Since 2008, she has worked as a lighting designer for dance and theater productions in Montreal and around the world. Her wide-ranging practice and

interest in creative processes led her to interrogate the inner workings of creation and stage design for the performing arts, and in 2016 she launched a new project, *Au-delà du visuel*, to explore the possibilities of creating and performing dance and theater for visually impaired audiences. Audrey-Anne sits as a consultant on the City of Montreal's Universal Accessibility Project and the Conseil des Arts de Montréal's Advisory Committee on Universal Accessibility and Anti-Ableism. Since 2015, she has served as a mentor in theater production at the National Theatre School of Canada.

SUSAN CATALDO
CREATIVE EXPERT

SUSAN CATALDO, SHE/HER (CREATIVE EXPERT), has been the Deaf Services Specialist for the Raleigh Regional Center with the Division of Services for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing since 2020. Susan received a Bachelor of Science in the Interpreter Training Program from Troy University. She has worked as a Deaf Interpreter for over 12 years. She is from Virginia. Susan graduated from Model Secondary School for the Deaf in 1990 in Washington, DC. She has lived in NC for 27 years and has 4 children from age 29 to 19, (3 boys and a girl). She enjoys traveling, scrapbook, and socializing with her friends.

CIARA COLEMAN
COMPANY MEMBER

CIARA COLEMAN, SHE/HER (COMPANY MEMBER), is a social worker and dancer from Durham, NC. Ciara graduated from The University of North Carolina at Greensboro in 2022 with her bachelor's in Social Work and minors in Dance, as well as Human Development and Family Studies, and received her Master of Social Work in 2023 from The University of North Carolina at Greensboro and North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University Joint Masters of Social Work Program. Ciara began dancing at age 6 at Dance Theatre South and has taken classes at Ninth Street Dance and UNCG over the years. Ciara studied as an apprentice with ShaLeigh Dance Works in 2023 and was invited to officially join the company in 2024.

PHOEBE CRUMBINE
GUEST ARTIST

PHOEBE CRUMBINE, SHE/HER (GUEST ARTIST), is a dancer, choreographer, and teacher based in North Carolina. She graduated from Elon University with a BFA in Dance Performance & Choreography and a BA in Psychology. Phoebe is a certified Pilates instructor, in which she studied mat and equipment Pilates. She has learned from and performed works by Elizabeth Parkinson, Ming-Lung Yang, Jasmine Powell, Jiwon Ha, Courtney Liu, Janice Lancaster, Renay Aumiller, Casey Avaunt, Lauren Kearns, Justin Tornow, and Jen Guy Metcalf. She spent the summer of 2022 studying dance in Florence, Italy, under

Angelo Egarese, where she performed in the Florence Dance Festival. Her choreography has been selected to be presented at several mainstage shows in North Carolina and guest choreographed at NC Governor's School West in 2023.

KARIN DESALU
CREATIVE EXPERT

KARIN DESALU, SHE/HER (CREATIVE EXPERT), is delighted to be making her debut with enVISION. She has a degree in general education and a BS in Human Services for Deaf and Hard of Hearing. Karin currently works for Durham Public Schools educating deaf children. "Me being deaf isn't the problem. There is nothing wrong with being deaf; it's society that is the problem." – Rose Ayling-Ellis

JANIE DESMOND
CREATIVE EXPERT

JANIE DESMOND, SHE/HER (CREATIVE EXPERT), first began her dance training with ShaLeigh in 2005. Together they've created a movement relationship and bond that has spanned almost two decades. In 2018, they presented their duet, J'aime ma soeur, at DPAC for Reality's annual talent show. Janie began working with SDW as a Guest Artist in 2019. This ADF commission builds on enVISION: Sensory Beyond Sight, where Janie served as a creative collaborator and expert in 2022. Janie also performed in 100% The Triangle at Carolina Performing Arts this past October 2023 with Rimini Protokoll, a data-driven theater experience created by the German theater group Rimini

Protokoll. Janie is a 2015 graduate of UNC Greensboro with a certificate in Integrative Community Studies.

CHERYL EDSON

STAGE MANAGER

CHERYL EDSON, SHE/HER (STAGE MANAGER), is a theater maker, educator, and writer. She has been the resident stage manager for ShaLeigh Dance Works since 2018. Cheryl is active in the local arts community as a member of Bulldog Ensemble Theater, a teaching artist at the Durham Arts Council, and leadership roles with the National Women's Theatre Festival. In 2023, she joined the production team at Duke Arts. Cheryl has a BA in philosophy from Wesleyan University in Connecticut.

HILLARY HONIG ENSMINGER

CREATIVE EXPERT

HILLARY HONIG ENSMINGER, SHE/HER (CREATIVE EXPERT), began dancing as a child in NYC despite degenerative blindness, studying modern at Graham, Ailey, Interlochen, Perry-Mansfield, and Zina Romette. In 1970 she was introduced to Haitian and African dance. She studied with the greatest masters and traveled the world in pursuit of the African roots of other dance forms like tango, condombe, kizomba, etc. Hillary graduated from Kirkland/Hamilton College with a BA in the Arts, trained as a Chef at the CIA, Hyde Park, NY, and has certification in NonProfit Management from Duke and Wake Tech. For 25 years, she owned/operated two restaurants and A Wandering Feast Catering. She is mother of 2 and guide dog Nettles. Currently, Hillary has been working as a

consumer advocate to eradicate stigma and promote inclusion and serves on the Mayor's Committee for Persons with Disability in Durham.

JONATHAN FAW
PROJECTION DESIGN

JONATHAN FAW, HE/HIM (PROJECTION DESIGN), is an artist who has worked his entire career backstage, beginning when he was 16 at a scenic shop for the Carolina Theatre in Greensboro. While getting his BFA from Syracuse University, he worked for local productions when not in class, running lights and sound. After receiving his BFA, he developed his talent for video production, working his way through the ranks of the department. Today, he directs live video around the country for Fortune 500 companies and international associations. He is very pleased to be working with ShaLeigh Dance Works for the first time.

ALISON FIELDS
TEXT DESIGNER

ALISON FIELDS, SHE/HER (TEXT DESIGNER), is an author, playwright, and storyteller. A Moth Grand Slam winner, she is the winner of the 2024 Fish Publishing short story prize and the 2023 winner of the Coppice Prize for fiction. Her non-fiction can be found in Longreads. She lives in Carrboro, NC, in a house by a pond with two fluffy gray cats and way too many books and records.

ISELA GARCIA
CREATIVE EXPERT

ISELA GARCIA, SHE/HER (CREATIVE EXPERT), is a Hard of Hearing Latina living in a blend of both Deaf and Hearing worlds. She is proficient in four languages: American Sign Language (ASL), English, Mexican Sign Language (LSM), and Spanish. Isela is an alumna of Gallaudet University, where she earned her B.A. in Interpretation. Currently, Isela works as a Deaf Interpreter for the Deaf/Deafblind communities and also loves to interpret for theater and musical theater. She is a Deaf creative expert collaborating with SDW, teaching dancers how to integrate ASL into their choreography, to highlight the aspects of accessibility, inclusivity, and representation for the Deaf and DeafBlind communities. By sharing her own experiences and teaching others to incorporate ASL into artistic expressions, she is not only amplifying the voices of the Deaf community but also raising awareness by indicating the significance of providing accessibility for all individuals.

KEVIN HIGGINS
GUEST ARTIST

KEVIN HIGGINS, HE/HIM (GUEST ARTIST), is a contemporary dance student at the Boston Conservatory at Berklee. He is originally from Chapel Hill, NC. He started dancing at age 5, and for more than a decade his love for dance has been growing constantly. He studied modern, ballet, jazz, and tap at the Ballet School of Chapel Hill and also developed a passion for choreography. His

choreography was selected by the American Dance Festival to be featured alongside the Nasher Art Museum's RESIST COVID/TAKE 6! exhibit by Carrie Mae Weems, and he has also helped choreograph for various companies that he was a part of. He performed with ShaLeigh Dance Works as a guest in 2021 and 2022 and can't wait to be back with the company!

ERIC HIRSH
COMPOSER

ERIC HIRSH, HE/HIM (COMPOSER), is a jazz pianist and composer living in Durham, NC, where he creates music as leader of his own jazz quartet, as co-director of Afro-Cuban ensemble Orquesta GarDel, and as a member of hip hop group The Beast. His debut album as bandleader, Distillation, was released in 2018. Hirsh is a 2012 recipient of the North Carolina Arts Council Composer Fellowship and a four-time winner of the Herb Alpert Young Jazz Composer Award. He has been in residence at the Kennedy Center's Betty Carter Jazz Ahead, Ravinia's Steans Music Institute, and the School for Improvisational Music.

JOSIE HOUCK
GUEST ARTIST

JOSIE HOUCK, SHE/HER (GUEST ARTIST), is an aerialist with Cirque de Vol. She has been training in aerial techniques for 4 years with a focus in Aerial Silks. Josie has also recently begun training in dance at the Raleigh School of Ballet.

NICHOLAS F. JACKSON
ENVIRONMENTAL AND SCENIC DESIGNER

NICHOLAS F. JACKSON, HE/HIM (ENVIRONMENTAL AND SCENIC DESIGNER), is a graduate of Scenic Design from the University of Wyoming and a MFA in Technical Production and Design from University of Memphis. Nic has worked for theater and dance for 15 years and was formerly an assistant professor at the University of Houston. Nic is now a full-time woodworker and manages a wood studio at North Carolina State University. Nic started with ShaLeigh Dance works in 2022 and is excited to return to this work and its ever-relevant mission to provide accessible dance to an otherly-abled audience.

YAZMYNE JENKINS
CREATIVE EXPERT

YAZMYNE JENKINS, SHE/HER (CREATIVE EXPERT), holds a bachelor's degree in Interdisciplinary Studies with a minor in History from North Carolina Central University. She is from Durham, NC, but grew up in Raleigh, NC. Yazmyne is legally blind/low vision, due to diabetic retinopathy. She is a lover of music and all things positive and creative.

JEREMY KUMIN
LIGHTING DESIGNER

JEREMY KUMIN, HE/HIM (LIGHTING DESIGNER), has designed lighting for plays, musicals, opera, dance, video, fashion shows, events, gardens, commercial building

exteriors, and more. His career in lighting spans 35+ years between entertainment and architectural projects. He holds a BA in Drama from Duke and an MFA from Brandeis in Lighting Design. He toured the USA and Europe with the American Indian Dance Theater for 2 years. Before SDW (2017-present), other dance collaborations included Carlota Santana, Laura Dean, Amanda Selwyn, and OM Grown Dancers. He has guest taught at universities such as Brandeis, NYU, and SUNY Purchase and has guest-designed productions at Brandeis, Duke, Harvard, NCSU, NYU, Muhlenberg, and Yale. Since 2019, he has worked with Southern Lights of Raleigh designing outdoor lighting for high-end residential and commercial properties.

IRIS LLOYD **COSTUME DESIGN**

IRIS LLOYD, SHE/HER (COSTUME DESIGN), has worked with several arts organizations and productions for the past several years including North Carolina Theatre, Carolina Ballet, NC Opera, and so many others. She is thrilled to be involved with another SDW show. Sending love and many thanks to her beautiful children Caden, Charlotte, and Jackson, and her mother. She would also like to dedicate this to her father who passed away this spring. He was always a great supporter of all her art endeavors.

OMAR RUIZ-LOPEZ
LIVE MUSICIAN

OMAR RUIZ-LOPEZ, HE/HIM (LIVE MUSICIAN), is a distinguished musician and educator with a remarkable command over multiple instruments including violin, viola, guitar, and mandolin. His extensive teaching expertise extends to coaching chamber music ensembles and conducting. Together with Lizzy Ross, Omar co-founded the Americana group Violet Bell, where their collaboration seamlessly intertwines top-notch songwriting with a variety of musical landscapes. Omar, a bilingual songwriter and undercover composer, crafts music that beautifully reflects his cultural roots entwined with a rich tapestry of diverse musical influences. As a Latino immigrant and a versatile musician spanning multiple genres, Omar has a unique ability to connect with diverse international audiences. His music serves as a bridge, fostering understanding and appreciation across cultural boundaries.

ALEX MANESS
PROJECTION DESIGN

ALEX MANESS, HE/HIM (PROJECTION DESIGN), is a photographer, filmmaker, and projection designer living in Durham. A graduate of Syracuse University, he strives to use still images and video in non-traditional ways. He is a past staff photographer for The Independent Weekly newspaper and co-conspirator at Shadowbox Studio. He has created projection design for numerous theater productions at Playmakers, Duke Theater Studies, Little Green Pig Theatrical Concern, Manbites Dog, and UNC -

The Performance Collective. Projection design for dance includes collaborations with Justin Tornow and CultureMill/ADF. Projection design for visual art includes collaborations with artist Heather Gordon at NCMA and CAM Raleigh and also with photographer Alex Harris for his Picturing the South commission Our Strange Land, which was exhibited at the High Museum in Atlanta.

HANNAH NICOLE MARR
COMPANY MEMBER

HANNAH NICOLE MARR, SHE/HER (COMPANY MEMBER), was born in Raleigh and lives in Durham, NC. She graduated in 2017 from the University of North Carolina School of The Arts. Hannah has been a company member with ShaLeigh Dance Works since 2017 and added on the role of rehearsal director in 2022. Hannah is the dance teacher at Jordan-Matthews High School and is also a company member with OM grown dancers. Additionally, she guest teaches and choreographs for schools and studios around the area. Hannah has been honored to perform works by Doug Varone, Paul Taylor, Martha Graham, Wayne McGregor, Juel D. Lane, Ming-Lung Yang, Netta Yerushalmy, Kira Blazek, and others.

EMILY MCCLUNG
GUEST ARTIST

EMILY MCCLUNG, SHE/HER (GUEST ARTIST), from Lexington, VA, is a third-year student at Swarthmore College double majoring in Honors Dance and Environmental Studies. She received her early training at

Shenandoah Academy of Dance as well as Halestone Dance Studio and has attended Nashville Ballet, Cincinnati Ballet, and American Dance Festival summer intensives. She has performed with Collage Dance Collective and Koresh Dance Company and has worked with choreographers Kyle Clark, Chandra Moss-Thorne, and Jordan Lloyd. Her interest and experience in the performing arts extends beyond dancing to include choreographing, stage management, and arts education.

CHEMAE MEBANE **CREATIVE EXPERT**

CHEMAE MEBANE, SHE/HER (CREATIVE EXPERT), born in Coupeville, WA and raised in Oxford/Raleigh, NC, attended North Carolina A&T State University and now resides in Raleigh. She recently graduated with her Associate in Arts from Wake Tech and will be attending William Peace University this coming fall. She performed in high school theater and served as house production manager and backstage crew. She is a member of the International Thespian Society. She loves the beach, singing, and listening to music and books. Dance is important to her and gives her a way to express herself. She loves to dance to all types of music. Her mission is to help advocate and improve equity and inclusion for the visually impaired community within business and in life.

KAYLA LYNN OELHAFEN
HOUSE MANAGER

KAYLA LYNN OELHAFEN, SHE/HER (HOUSE MANAGER), has worked with ShaLeigh Dance Works since 2018. She manages local Venezuelan-Appalachian folk fusion duo Larry & Joe and co-owns Raleigh wine e-tailer Westgate Wine.

TAYLOR OFORI
CREATIVE EXPERT

TAYLOR OFORI, SHE/HER (CREATIVE EXPERT), is a nationally certified sign language interpreter specializing in post-secondary, DeafBlind, and theatrical interpreting. She graduated with a BA in Criminology and a BS in Signed Language Interpreting from the University of New Mexico. In her former career, Taylor was the front-of-house manager at a Broadway Theatre in NM where she got to merge her love of theater with her love of coordinating. Taylor is passionate about making the arts accessible for everyone. When she's not working, you can find Taylor enjoying life with her daughter Haddie, her partner Aaron, and her dog Gru.

MENA ORR
GUEST ARTIST

MENA ORR, SHE/HER (GUEST ARTIST), is a professional performer and aerial instructor at Cirque De Vol. She started her performing arts journey young as a dancer and a gymnast. Many years later she started her aerial journey in 2021 with Cirque De Vol. She currently leads the

Pa'Volar performance group and facilitated Cirque De Vol's very first competition group. She has performed at many festivals as well as having had the privilege of performing at Governor's Mansion. Mena is looking forward to working with the American Dance Festival for future performances.

PROXEMIC MEDIA HOUSE MANAGER

PROXEMIC MEDIA (HOUSE MANAGER), accelerates the evolution of creative eco-systems in small to mid-size American cities. The organization develops critical content, processes, and resources for artists, arts administrators, and audiences, working to strengthen communities one creative experience at a time. Ultimately, our work centers around closing the gap, the figurative amount of space between artists and their work, and between the public and artworks.

ERIK RAMQUIST SOUND DESIGN

ERIK RAMQUIST, HE/HIM (SOUND DESIGN), started playing music young with piano and guitar lessons. His love of music morphed into focusing on reinforcing and recording live music performances. He worked as Head of Audio at DPAC for a decade, learning large system tuning and reinforcement and with the American Dance Festival. He later joined Hamilton Touring Sound Team, sound mixing for thousands of fans while traveling extensively. Working with ShaLeigh Dance Works on enVISION has brought to life vibrations we feel that fill our life, both

physical and auditory, and the way we communicate. He has found inspiration in the stories from creative experts and expressing those stories in a way that immerses others to best understand their experiences and ultimately sharing feelings of love, loss, desire, and content - nostalgia.

ED RIZZUTO

CREATIVE EXPERT

ED RIZZUTO, HE/HIM (CREATIVE EXPERT), and a couple of friends in 2017 organized Durham's vibrant and thriving Vision InSights Support and Advocacy Group, a gathering of people who are blind or visually impaired. Ed's decades of joyful rock & roll concert dancing lends itself well to his love for working and playing with the SDW folks. Ed obtained his law degree and license in California where he practiced law until relocating in 2015. Ed devotes significant time and energy to embracing and advocating for NC's community of people living with disabilities. He serves on the Board of Disability Rights NC and Durham's Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Commission. Ed teaches self-advocacy, Accessible Technology, and Independent Living Skills classes with NC Division of Services for the Blind. Ed lives in Durham with his amazing family, Kennedy, Brendan, Benjamin, Quinne, and Giffored, a most wonderful Seeing Eye dog!

MARISSA SCHROEDER
GUEST ARTIST

MARISSA SCHROEDER, SHE/HER (GUEST ARTIST), is a contemporary dance artist with a passion for both performance and choreography. Schroeder graduated from Virginia Commonwealth University with a BFA in Dance and Choreography in 2024. During her time at VCU, she was selected to perform work by choreographers such as Christian Von Howard, Eric Rivera, Dr. Kate Sicchio, Trebien Pollard, and Stephanie Martinez. She has trained at multiple professional programs including American Dance Festival, Hubbard Street Dance Chicago Intensive, and B12 Dance Festival. During these training programs, she had the opportunity to learn repertoire by choreographers such as Ohad Naharin, Kyle Abraham, and Amy Hall Gardener. Additionally, she worked collaboratively with and performed work by Ben Wright in Berlin, Germany, and performed repertoire by Azure Barton in Chicago, Illinois.

LILLY SEARS
GUEST ARTIST

LILLY SEARS, SHE/HER (GUEST ARTIST), is currently a junior at Elon University. She is pursuing a major in Dance Performance and Choreography with two minors in Psychology and Expressive Arts. At Elon University she has participated in their shows Dancing in the Landscape, Fall Dance Concert, Black History Month Concert, and Spring Dance Concert. Lilly is from Fuquay-Varina, NC, where she was trained in ballet, modern, and jazz. She is excited to

be a part of this amazing project. Lilly is thankful to have this opportunity to work with ShaLeigh Dance Works and these other amazing artists.

BRICE SMITH
CREATIVE EXPERT

BRICE SMITH, HE/HIM (CREATIVE EXPERT), was born and raised in Raleigh, NC. He graduated from NC State University in 2012. Brice is an accessibility test engineer with SAS Institute, where he tests SAS products against web accessibility standards and trains other SAS employees how to make software more accessible. He also serves on the board of directors with the Friends of the North Carolina Accessible Books and Library Services. Before joining SAS in 2015, he worked for a corporate communications agency to provide services for a variety of nonprofit senior living and affordable housing communities. He also taught blind and visually impaired students throughout North Carolina as a part-time assistive technology instructor with Invision Services, Inc. In his free time, Brice enjoys reading, exercising, and traveling.

TIANA SMITH
GUEST ARTIST

TIANA SMITH, SHE/HER (GUEST ARTIST), grew up in Bonaire, GA, where she took her first dance class at eight years old. In her primary dance years, she trained at Peacock's Performing Arts Center in ballet, jazz, tap, contemporary, modern, pointe, and acro. During college,

she danced with the NC State Dance Company located in Raleigh, NC, for three years where her love for modern dance blossomed. Tiana holds a bachelor's degree in chemistry from Meredith College and is extremely grateful for the opportunity to be a guest artist for the first time.

CANDACE SPENCER
SOUND BOARD OPERATOR

CANDACE SPENCER, SHE/HER (SOUND BOARD OPERATOR), received her BA in theater at Greensboro College (GC). While at GC, she studied abroad for 6 months in London, UK, to further learn about theater as well as dance. After undergrad, she pursued her MFA at UofL. Candace is very passionate about theater, and she wants to thank her family for their continued support and God for His strength through the many obstacles that have come her way.

JAN TU
CREATIVE EXPERT, PRE-SHOW AUDIO DESCRIPTION

JAN TU, SHE/HER (CREATIVE EXPERT, PRE-SHOW AUDIO DESCRIPTION), auditioned for and trained to be an audio describer over two decades ago. Since then she has described live theater, conferences, artwork, museum exhibits, temporary installations, private parties, films, and a zoo. Having formally studied and taught classical ballet and currently being a competitive ballroom dancer, Jan is the go-to describer for dance. She is honored to be working with all the wonderful people of ShaLeigh Dance Works.

KRISHNA WASHBURN
CREATIVE CONSULTANT

KRISHNA WASHBURN, SHE/HER (CREATIVE CONSULTANT), is the director and teacher of Dark Room Ballet, a pre-professional dance curriculum designed for the educational needs of blind and visually impaired people, the only course of its kind in the English-speaking world. Krishna holds a Master of Education from Hunter College, a BA from Barnard College, and multiple certifications from the American College of Sports Medicine with a focus in biomechanics. Dark Room Ballet has been featured in USA Today (Green Bay Gazette, North Jersey News), BLOOM magazine, Speak Out for the Blind podcast, Eyes on Success podcast, and on Bloomberg Quicktake news. Krishna Christine Washburn has performed with many leading dance companies including Jill Sigman's thinkdance, Infinity Dance Theater, Heidi Latsky Dance, Marked Dance Project, and LEIMAY.

NAGA DEVI WASSERMAN
SOCIAL DANCE CONSULTANT

NAGA DEVI WASSERMAN, SHE/HER (SOCIAL DANCE CONSULTANT), started her dance journey at age 4 with ballet and began social (partnered) dances at age 10. Since 2014, her love of movement has exploded over the years from swing to Latin and ballroom dances. Naga's additional prior background in martial arts, physical therapy, and body mechanics have given her a unique understanding of the intricacies and physiology of dance connection that she is passionate about incorporating into

her instruction. Naga also recently moved to Durham and enjoys traveling around the country, occasionally internationally, to dance.

JESSICA WOOTEN
COMPANY MEMBER

JESSICA WOOTEN, SHE/HER (COMPANY MEMBER), is a dancer and teacher from Raleigh, NC. She graduated from East Carolina University with a BFA in Dance with a concentration in Performance and Choreography, as well as an Entrepreneurship Certificate. Jessica has attended the American Dance Festival summer intensives where she performed in Dark Meadow Suite by Martha Graham, and she has also had the opportunity to study at the Trinity Laban Conservatoire of Music and Dance study abroad summer program. Jessica studied as an apprentice with ShaLeigh Dance Works in 2021 and was invited to officially join the company in 2022.

SUSANNAH WRIGHT
CREATIVE EXPERT

SUSANNAH WRIGHT, SHE/HER (CREATIVE EXPERT), from Durham, NC, is an American Sign Language interpreter. While she spends most of her time interpreting in the 9–5 world, she truly enjoys interpreting and working to make the 5 pm–9 pm world a place that everyone can access and thrive. Susannah loves music and nature and finds solace and inspiration in the great outdoors. Susannah believes in the power of communication and accessibility,

striving to bridge gaps in spaces where individuals seek connections, fun, and personal growth.

Funding Credits

enVISION: The Next Chapter by ShaLeigh Comerford is co-commissioned by ADF with support from the Doris Duke/SHS Foundations Award for New Works and is supported in part by the Durham Arts Council's Annual Arts Fund, the Mary Duke Biddle Foundation, National Endowment for the Arts, New Music USA's Organizational Fund 2023-2024, the North Carolina Arts Council, Triangle Community Foundation, and South Arts in partnership with the NEA and the N.C. Arts Council, a division of the Department of Natural & Cultural Resources.

www.NCArts.org

We would also like to thank our invaluable community partners Arts Access, Cirque De Vol, Governor Morehead School for the Blind, MM Professionals, Ninth Street Dance, North Carolina Dept. of Health and Human Services - Division of Services for the Deaf and the Hard of Hearing, Paperhand Puppet, Vision InSights, The Fruit, The Reality Center, Representative Valerie Foushee, and Legislative Assistant Arturo Reyes.