

We Are ... Halestone.



Halestone Dance Studio

Spring Concert 2021

Directed by Mauri Connors

May 14th-16th

“Everyone seemed to fit in, except for me. I look back on the discomfort of that moment now and recognize the more universal challenge of squaring who you are with where you come from and where you want to go.”

– Michelle Obama, *Becoming*

To create this year’s spring concert, I asked each of our teachers and choreographers to consider the theme of identity. Who are we? And how do we relate to the other people in our lives? I specifically asked teachers and students to consider identity in relationship to community. Among others, we responded to the following questions. What does identity mean? How does it change over time? How are identity and behavior different? Does identity shape our dreams and aspirations? When do we feel a sense of belonging in our life, and when do we not?

The pieces you are about to see emerged from our exploration of these and other questions, in collaboration between dancers and choreographers.

I’m so proud of each of the dancers and artists involved in the show, for the vulnerability, effort, and artistry they are excited to share with you. We are Halestone, and we are many things. You are also Halestone, and we welcome you to this year’s concert.

Mauri Connors, Artistic Director

Show A
Friday, May 14th, 6:00 pm
Saturday, May 15th, 1:00 pm

Harmonic Fire

Choreography: Elizabeth Becker

Danced by:

Int/Adv Ballet: Arden Courtney Collins, Alexis Henk

Ballet II: Popy Dixon, Kaylee Richmond

Music: Concerto grosso No. 11 in D Minor, Op. 3, RV 565 "L'estro Armonico": I. Allegro - Adagio e spiccato – Allegro

Young and Fearless

Choreography: Elizabeth Becker

Danced by Pre-Ballet: Josie Dixon, Scarlett Lewis, Aoife MacDermott, Seren Pisha, Bella Wallace; **class helper:** Popy Dixon

Music: "My Time" by the Elena of Avalor cast

La Esmeralda Variation

Choreography: Elizabeth Becker in collaboration with the dancers

Danced by Int/Adv Ballet: Arden Courtney Collins, Alexis Henk

Music: Esmeralda, Act 2: Esmeralda's Variation

I'll Be A Light

Choreography: Mauri Connors

Danced by Creative Movement A: Everlee Arehart, Margaret Cline, Kerrigan Keating, Charlie Richardson, Daisy Schucker, India Slaughter;

class helper: Alexis Henk; **Guests from Modern I & II**

Music: "If You Want to Sing Out, Sing Out" by Yusef/Cat Stevens

Spotlights


Choreography: Mauri Connors in collaboration with the dancers
Assistant Teacher: McKelvey Courtney Collins
Danced by Modern I & II: Kelly Collins, Rolf Dixon, Tommy Dixon,
Cora Hamel, Celie Holmes, Jaclyn Marshall, Kaylee Richmond,
Eva Textor, Brooklyn Crandon, London Walker
Sound Operator: Sam Wollner
Music: "Someone You Loved" by The Piano Guys; "Someone to You"
by The Piano Guys

Intermission

New Breath

Choreography by: Stephanie Hodde in collaboration with the dancers
Danced by:
Adult Ensemble: Charlotte Abry, Mauri Connors, Caroline Coons,
Jessica Dixon, Stephanie Hodde, J Paige Howe, Jessica Sullivan
Modern Company: Ellie Baker, Liam Courtney Collins, Kathleen Gale,
Alexis Henk, Oscar Kosky, Lorraine Lilly, Emily McClung
Young Dancer guests: Josie Dixon, Popy Dixon, Rolf Dixon,
Tommy Dixon
Music: "II. White Man Sleeps" composed by Kevin Volans,
performed by the Kronos Quartet

seated pause

"Is he... y'know... ?"

Choreography: Abigail Lynch
Danced by: Ellie Baker, Arden Courtney Collins, Kathleen Gale,
Alexis Henk, Riley Kuehner, Caroline Lauck, Abigail Lynch,
Emily McClung
Music: "Radio-Friendly Pop Song" by Matt Fishel
Program note: Before we can get to the fun stuff, I want to define an
important term so that everyone is on the same page going into this
dance. Listen up kids, this will be on the test!

Every side of the creative entertainment industry is dominated by something known as "heteronormativity". Heteronormativity is the norm of showing only heterosexual relationships/characters (and assuming all characters are automatically straight unless explicitly stated otherwise) in

movies, TV shows, novels, songs, and even in dance. While there is nothing inherently wrong with being heterosexual or wanting to represent heterosexual relationships on screen, heteronormativity erases the identities, experiences, and existence of every other, non-hetero identity.

With that little lecture out of the way, this is my senior piece, set to Matt Fishel's "Radio-Friendly Pop Song". The song itself is about a young gay musician who, in his journey to stardom, meets a music producer who is firmly against producing songs about queer love: deeming it "unmarketable" and "too controversial". With my background in musical theatre, I immediately wanted to make a dance that followed that storyline. I urge you to try and follow both the choreography and the lyrics of the song-- they are intertwined throughout the entire dance, and the dancers do an amazing job of interpreting this conflict in a comical, satirical way. And I promise, the song is only problematic for the first three minutes!

Unique Synchronicity

Choreography: Riley Kuehner

Danced by Tap II: Isobel Graves, Celie Holmes, Kaylee Richmond

Music: "Bang!" by AJR, instrumental cover by Roux36

Stepping Stones

Choreography by the dancers, arranged by Mauri Connors

Danced by:

Creative Movement Ensemble: Harry Cline, Lily Friend, Gracelyn Fontana, Anders Johnson, Kennedy Johnson, Mason Johnson, James Masey, Seren Pisha; **assistant teacher:** Riley Kuehner

Advanced Seminar in Modern Dance: Ellie Baker, Arden Courtney Collins, Liam Courtney Collins, Kathleen Gale, Alexis Henk, Oscar Kosky, Riley Kuehner, Lorraine Lilly, Emily McClung

Music: "My Silver Lining" by First Aid Kit; "Nerd School" by Henry Jackman; "Sound and Color" by Alabama Shakes

seated pause

Onward

Choreography: Mauri Connors

Danced by Modern Company A & B: Irene Abry, Ellie Baker, Arden Courtney Collins, Liam Courtney Collins, Kathleen Gale, Alexis Henk, Oscar Kosky, Riley Kuehner, Caroline Lauck, Lorraine Lilly, Abigail Lynch, Emily McClung

Music: “I Will Always Love You” by Dolly Parton;
“Midnight Thoughts” by Sergio Díaz de Rojas

Program note: I am constantly surprised by the seemingly disparate parts of myself that come together to make me who I am. How can the abstract, postmodern artist who thrived in New York be the same person who loves Rockbridge and wants to drive down a gravel road listening to country music? How can the parts of me that scream for me to go thrive alongside the parts of me that scream for me to stay? On any given day it feels like a toss-up, like chance: ‘Who will I be today? Who am I in this interaction?’

I think many of us have parts that don’t seem to fit together, to ourselves or others around us, and yet here we are, whole human beings, no matter what we’re hiding in each daily interaction. These students have been studying the postmodern artistic concept of chance operations this year, and in this dance chance will determine which version of the dance you get to see. Is today a Dolly day, or something more amorphous?

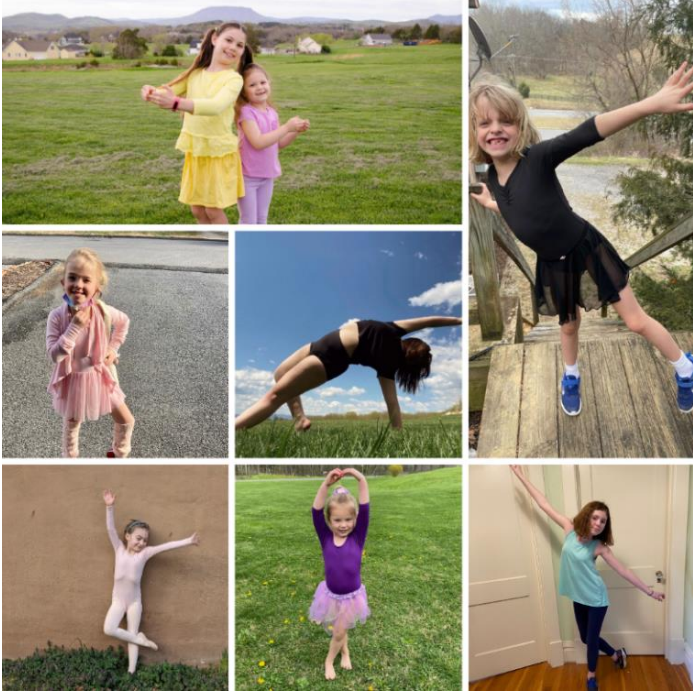
seated pause

Born This Way

Choreography by the dancers; directed by Riley Kuehner

Danced by Clogging Workshop: Irene Abry, Arden Courtney Collins, Liam Courtney Collins, Alexis Henk, Sydney Henk, Riley Kuehner, Caroline Lauck, Abigail Lynch

Music: “Born This Way” by Lady Gaga



current dancers who submitted dancer selfies

Show B

Saturday, May 15th, 6:00 pm

Sunday, May 16th, 1:00 pm

Boundaries

Choreography by the dancers in collaboration with Elizabeth Becker

Danced by Contemporary Ballet Mix: Arden Courtney Collins,
Alexis Henk, Caroline Lauck, Lorraine Lilly, Abigail Lynch

Music: “I Want to Break Free (Remastered)” by Queen

Here and Now

Choreography by: Elizabeth Becker, in collaboration with the dancers

Danced by Ballet I: Isobel Graves, Leila Hackett, Kennedy Johnson,
Ella Schucker

Music: “Show Yourself” by Nate Fifeild

Rhythms of Heartache

Choreography by: Ashley Shugart and McKelvey Courtney Collins

Danced by Jazz III: Irene Abry, Sierra Bowles, Arden Courtney Collins,
Liam Courtney Collins, Alexis Henk, Oscar Kosky, Riley Kuehner,
Lorraine Lilly

Music: “Green Light” by Lorde

Boogie Down

Choreography by: Elizabeth Becker

Danced by Creative Movement B: Tanner Mae Deacon,
Kennedy Fontana, Leianna Layton, Felicity Lipscomb, Anna Ryan,
Tula Todorski

Music: “The 59th Street Bridge Song (Feelin’ Groovy)” by
Simon & Garfunkel

Distant Familiarity

Choreography by: Caroline Lauck

Danced by: Irene Abry, Arden Courtney Collins, Riley Kuehner,
Abigail Lynch, Emily McClung

Music: “Roi” by VIDEOCLUB

Program Note: This is a song that my Company class used to improv to a lot, so it's pretty familiar to most of the dancers in my piece. I thought creating a dance with actual choreography using this song would add on to and subvert the expectations we already had about it.

Intermission

New Breath

Choreography by: Stephanie Hodde in collaboration with the dancers

Danced by:

Adult Ensemble: Charlotte Abry, Mauri Connors, Caroline Coons,
Jessica Dixon, Stephanie Hodde, J Paige Howe, Jessica Sullivan

Modern Company: Ellie Baker, Liam Courtney Collins, Kathleen Gale,
Alexis Henk, Oscar Kosky, Lorraine Lilly, Emily McClung

Young Dancer guests: Josie Dixon, Popy Dixon, Rolf Dixon,
Tommy Dixon

Music: “II. White Man Sleeps” composed by Kevin Volans,
performed by the Kronos Quartet

seated pause

a note to my future self...

Choreography by: Riley Kuehner

Danced by: Arden Courtney Collins, Alexis Henk, Riley Kuehner,
Caroline Lauck, Abigail Lynch, Emily McClung

Music: “no faker” by mxmtoon

Program note: Within the past year, I have realized how much I had let others dictate who I was. This piece is a reminder for everyone (including myself) that we should strive to be our authentic selves.

Still Standing

Choreography by: Elizabeth Becker and Mauri Connors in collaboration
with the dancers

Danced by Company Prep: Popy Dixon, Isobel Graves, Leila Hackett,
Kennedy Johnson, Jaclyn Marshall, Ella Schucker

Music: “I’m Still Standing” by Taron Egerton

This Time

Choreographed and danced by Modern Company A & B: Irene Abry,
Ellie Baker, Arden Courtney Collins, Liam Courtney Collins,
Kathleen Gale, Alexis Henk, Oscar Kosky, Riley Kuehner,
Caroline Lauck, Lorraine Lilly, Abigail Lynch, Emily McClung

Music: “Rose Quartz” by Toro Y Moi; “Classy Penguin” by The Books

seated pause

Onward

Choreography: Mauri Connors

Danced by Modern Company A & B: Irene Abry, Ellie Baker,
Arden Courtney Collins, Liam Courtney Collins, Kathleen Gale,
Alexis Henk, Oscar Kosky, Riley Kuehner, Caroline Lauck, Lorraine Lilly,
Abigail Lynch, Emily McClung

Music: “I Will Always Love You” by Dolly Parton;
“Midnight Thoughts” by Sergio Díaz de Rojas

Program note: (see the program note from Show A for context)

seated pause

Born This Way

Choreography by the dancers; directed by Riley Kuehner

Danced by Clogging Workshop: Irene Abry, Arden Courtney Collins,
Liam Courtney Collins, Alexis Henk, Sydney Henk, Riley Kuehner,
Caroline Lauck, Abigail Lynch

Music: “Born This Way” by Lady Gaga

Thank you to our 2021 Recital and Raffle Sponsors!

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BOXERWOOD



SHENANDOAH
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VALLEY
AIRPORT

The Halestone Foundation Endowment

Halestone is proud to announce that we are opening an endowment fund with the Community Foundation for Rockbridge, Bath and Alleghany. With the establishment of this endowment fund we demonstrate to our donors, supporters, audiences, and families past and future that Halestone is here to stay. Over the past five years we have taken many steps to make Halestone a thriving, sustainable organization now and into the future. Please join us in our efforts and make a donation to our newly established endowment fund.

The Halestone Foundation Mission:

The Halestone Foundation enriches the Rockbridge area by providing access to quality dance experiences and education in nurturing environments. We foster the creative process, artistic excellence, and joy. We empower individuals and communities to make, perform, and experience original dance as a theoretical, technical, and expressive art.

Donate to the Halestone Foundation!

<https://halestone.com/donate-paypal/>

Type the link into a browser or scan the QR code.

Or mail a check payable to the Halestone Foundation to
PO Box 1583, Lexington, VA 24450.

To contribute to the endowed fund please include a note with your donation or contact the CFRBA directly.



The Halestone Foundation

Halestone Dance Studio

Artistic Director: Mauri Connors

Studio Manager: Elizabeth Becker

Teaching Artists: Elizabeth Becker, Mauri Connors,
McKelvey Courtney Collins, Sara Cunningham, Laura Dueker,
Riley Kuehner, Ashley Shugart

Board of Directors: Ann Courtney – President;
Joel Kuehner – VP; Stephanie Hodde – Secretary;
Jessica Sullivan – Treasurer; Jessica Dixon, Erin Graves,
Don Henk, Daniel Hinkle, Robb Zahm

Social Media and Marketing Volunteer: Riley Kuehner

Sound Operation and Technical Help: Owen Collins

Stage Management: McKelvey Courtney Collins

**Huge thank you to those who have volunteered with
Halestone recently:**

Lee Becker, Jessica Bowers, Jordan Clark, Owen Collins, Lisa
Connors, Caroline Coons, McKelvey Courtney Collins, Brittani
Fontana, Anne Gale, Nate Gardner, Taryn Griggs, Peter Hamel,
Michelle Harwley, Faye Hastings, Skip Hastings, Kim Henk, Claire
Kosky, Josie Kuehner, Liz Kuehner, Devan Malore, Jenna
LaManna-Johnson, Laura Lanier, Helen MacDermott, Katie Masey,
Lyle McClung, Jay Sullivan and Chris Yon.

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National Endowment for the Arts.*





Halestone Modern Company members, 2020-2021: Caroline Lauck, Abigail Lynch, Riley Kuebner, Emily McClung, Lorraine Lily, Ellie Baker, Arden Courtney Collins, Kathleen Gale, Alexis Henk, Oscar Kosky, Irene Abry, and Liam Courtney Collins.

Photos by Claire Kosky and dancer families

