

Lindenwood University

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Student Dance Performances

2023

Lindenwood University Promotional Booklet for the Dance Program

Lindenwood University

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A ballerina in a vibrant red two-piece outfit and long gloves is captured in a dynamic dance pose, suspended in the air against a black background. Her arms are extended, and her legs are tucked, creating a sense of movement and grace. The lighting highlights the texture of her dress and the form of her body.

LINDENWOOD
UNIVERSITY

DANCE



The Lindenwood University St. Louis Dance program cultivates student success by pairing professional preparatory experiences with a diverse curriculum in dance. Our dedicated faculty guides students through opportunities to educate, entertain, and enlighten, leading to 21st century dance professionals with tools to enrich our community.

Be Moved.

history

In the late 1920s, under the leadership of Physical Education Director, Margaret Mantle Stookey, Lindenwood College offered courses in dance and produced annual dance concerts in and around Roemer Auditorium. In 1954, Grazina Ona Amonas became the first Director of Dance at Lindenwood

College. Her studies with Doris Humphrey, Mary Wigman, Martha Graham, José Limón, and Louis Horst, informed her diverse perspective. Women attending Lindenwood College learned from notable Guests in Dance including Ted Shawn, Charles Weidman, Alvin Nikolais, Daniel



Students of Lindenwood College (1950s).
Image credit unknown.



Students of Lindenwood College (1920s).
Image credit unknown.



Grazina Amonas (center) with Students of Lindenwood College in Butler Gym (1956).
Image credit unknown.



Student of Lindenwood College (1920s). Image credit unknown.



Students of Lindenwood College in Butler Gym (1962). Image credit unknown.



Meredith Monk performing at Lindenwood College as part of the "Modern Avantgarde Dance Companies Residency" (1976). Image credit unknown.

Nagrin, Ethel Winter, and Gerda Zimmerman. After several programs were suspended during the 70s and 80s, the dance program was revitalized under the direction of Dance Program Director, Alice Bloch. In 1991, she restored the rich offering of dance courses and in 1997 launched the Bachelor of Arts degree in Dance. Today, the Lindenwood University Dance Program continues to increase the breadth and depth of the course offerings to better prepare our ever-growing Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Fine Arts candidates for careers in dance. As we approach Lindenwood University's 200th anniversary, we celebrate the rich history of traditions in dance, the achievements in our current program, and the excitement of looking toward the future of dance at Lindenwood.



Students of Lindenwood College (1920s). Image credit unknown.



OUR students seize valuable opportunities to spotlight their talents within the vibrant dance community. Locally, they may showcase their work at esteemed events like National Dance Week St. Louis, fostering exposure and networking connections. Additionally, we organize enriching field trips for students to experience professional dance firsthand in St. Louis, attending performances by renowned companies such as Modern American Dance Company (MADCO), Saint Louis Ballet, and The Big Muddy Dance Company.

Furthermore, our students have had the privilege of traveling with faculty to perform on national stages, including prestigious events such as The Boston Contemporary Dance Festival, The Detroit Dance City Festival, and The American Tap Dance Foundation's showcase, "Something's Afoot." These experiences not only allow our dancers to share their artistry with diverse audiences but also offer them invaluable professional development and exposure to different dance styles and cultures.

The Lindenwood University Dance Program has been invited to serve on the College Committee for The Detroit Dance City Festival and Revel Dance Convention's ThePanel. These prestigious invitations not only recognize our program's excellence but also provide valuable connections for our students with professional organizations. Through these opportunities, students can access performance platforms and internship possibilities, further enriching their dance education and professional development.

Students aspiring to become teachers collaborate with community organizations such as MS Bright Spots of Hope to create dance movement programs tailored specifically for individuals living with MS. They also learn to modify dance classes to accommodate people with various abilities, ensuring inclusivity and accessibility in their teaching approach.

concerts

FALL DANCE CONCERT

The Fall Dance Concert, our premier academic series event, typically takes place in November. It serves as a platform to feature faculty, guest artists, and curated student performances. This concert takes place in The Lindenwood Theater, a magnificent 1,200-seat state-of-the-art facility and represents the collective efforts of our community, with both on-stage and behind-the-scenes efforts converging to deliver an outstanding display of concert dance for our opening show of the season.

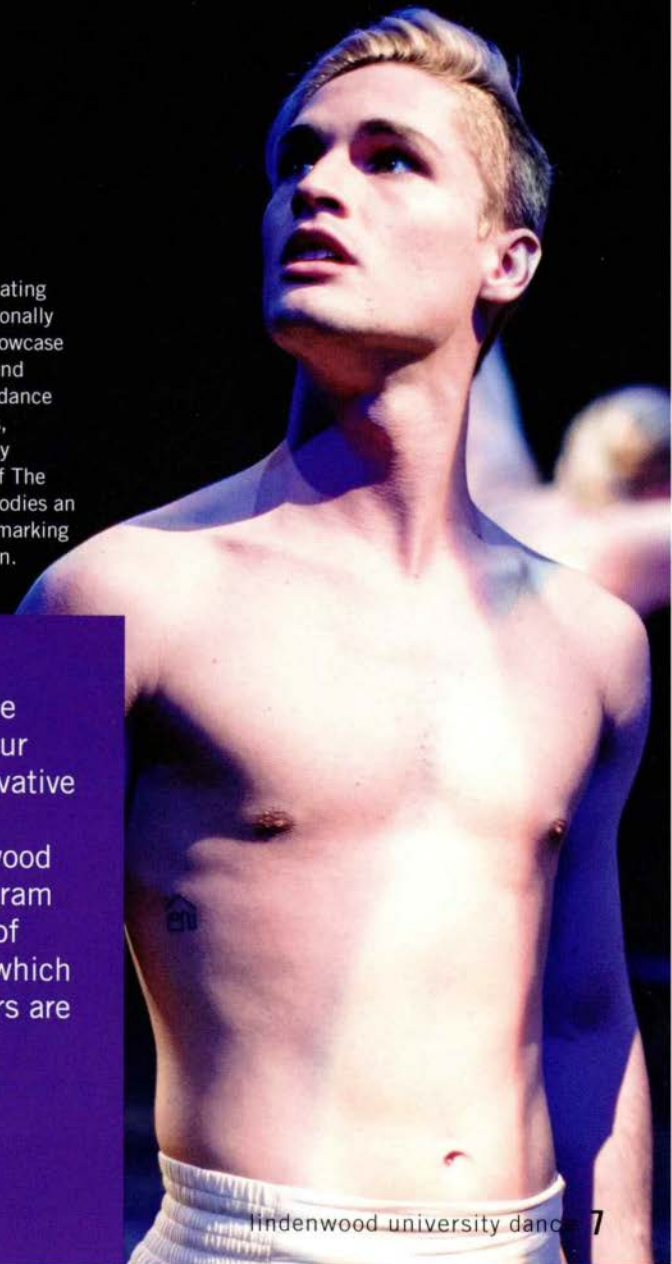
WINTER DANCE CONCERT

The Winter Dance Concert showcases the creative prowess of sophomore and junior Bachelor of Fine Arts candidates specializing in ballet, contemporary, and jazz dance. Sophomores engage in collaborative choreography, partnering with another BFA candidate to craft innovative works. In the subsequent year, juniors embark on a solo choreographic journey. Held in our intimate and versatile black box theater, the concert offers various audience arrangements, including in-the-round, audience on three sides, and traditional proscenium setup, enhancing the immersive experience for all attendees, and mirroring the autonomy and creative exploration choreographers will face as professionals.

SPRING DANCE CONCERT

The Spring Dance Concert, the culminating event of our academic series, is traditionally held in April. It offers a platform to showcase the culmination of one-year research and exploration by our senior BA and BFA dance majors through their capstone projects, alongside guest artist works and faculty repertoire. Set again in the grandeur of The Lindenwood Theater, this concert embodies an exceptional display of concert dance, marking the pinnacle of our performance season.

Join us as we celebrate the achievements of our students and the innovative works by the talented artists of The Lindenwood University Dance Program through performance of the diverse genres in which our talented performers are training!



bachelor of arts in dance

The Bachelor of Arts in Dance at Lindenwood University is a dynamic liberal arts degree program designed to provide students with a well-rounded education in dance and its related disciplines. With an emphasis on versatility and breadth of knowledge, this program offers a balanced curriculum that explores a variety of dance techniques and dance-specific academic subjects.

Students enrolled in the Bachelor of Arts in Dance program at Lindenwood University have

the opportunity to study a diverse range of dance techniques, fostering proficiency across multiple styles and genres. Alongside their dance training, students engage in rigorous academic coursework tailored to the study of dance history, theory, and choreography, enriching their understanding of the art form.

One of the unique features of this program is its flexibility, allowing students to pursue double majors or minors in complementary fields such as business, nonprofit administration, psychology, or exercise

science. By combining their studies in dance with disciplines outside of the arts, students can broaden their skill set and enhance their opportunities for future employment in a variety of fields.

Whether students choose to pursue a career in dance or apply their skills in other professional arenas, the Bachelor of Arts in Dance program at Lindenwood University provides a comprehensive foundation that prepares them for success in the ever-evolving landscape of the arts and beyond.



Chole Starks (2022)



Lindenwood Students (2023).
Image by Makenna Leona Photography



Lindenwood Students (2023).
Image by Tricia Zweier

COURSEWORK

- First Year Seminar in Dance
- Ballet
- Contemporary
- Jazz
- Tap
- Performance Practicum or University Dance Ensemble
- Dance Theory and Composition I and II
- Anatomy for Dancers
- Dance Kinesiology
- Dance Pedagogy
- Dance as an Art
- Dance History
- Dance in the 21st Century
- Senior Seminar in Dance
- Senior Capstone
- Special Topics Courses

Cast of "Alluring Ignorance" by Emma Maxey (2024)



bachelor of fine arts in dance

Lindenwood University offers a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Dance, a distinguished professional degree program tailored to prepare students for rewarding careers in performance. Rooted in a fusion of liberal arts education and rigorous dance training, this program equips students with a comprehensive skill set essential for success in the industry.

Students admitted into this program engage in a diverse curriculum, encompassing intensive coursework in various dance techniques. Additionally, they delve into advanced academic studies in choreography and personal marketing, gaining invaluable insights into the creative and business aspects of the dance world.

Students are encouraged to supplement their dance training with performance-related courses in music (voice) and theatre (acting), enhancing their versatility and stage presence.

Admission to the BFA in Dance program at Lindenwood University is competitive and requires a formal audition. Upon acceptance, students are required to declare a specialization in ballet, contemporary, or jazz dance, allowing for focused training tailored to individual interests and career goals.

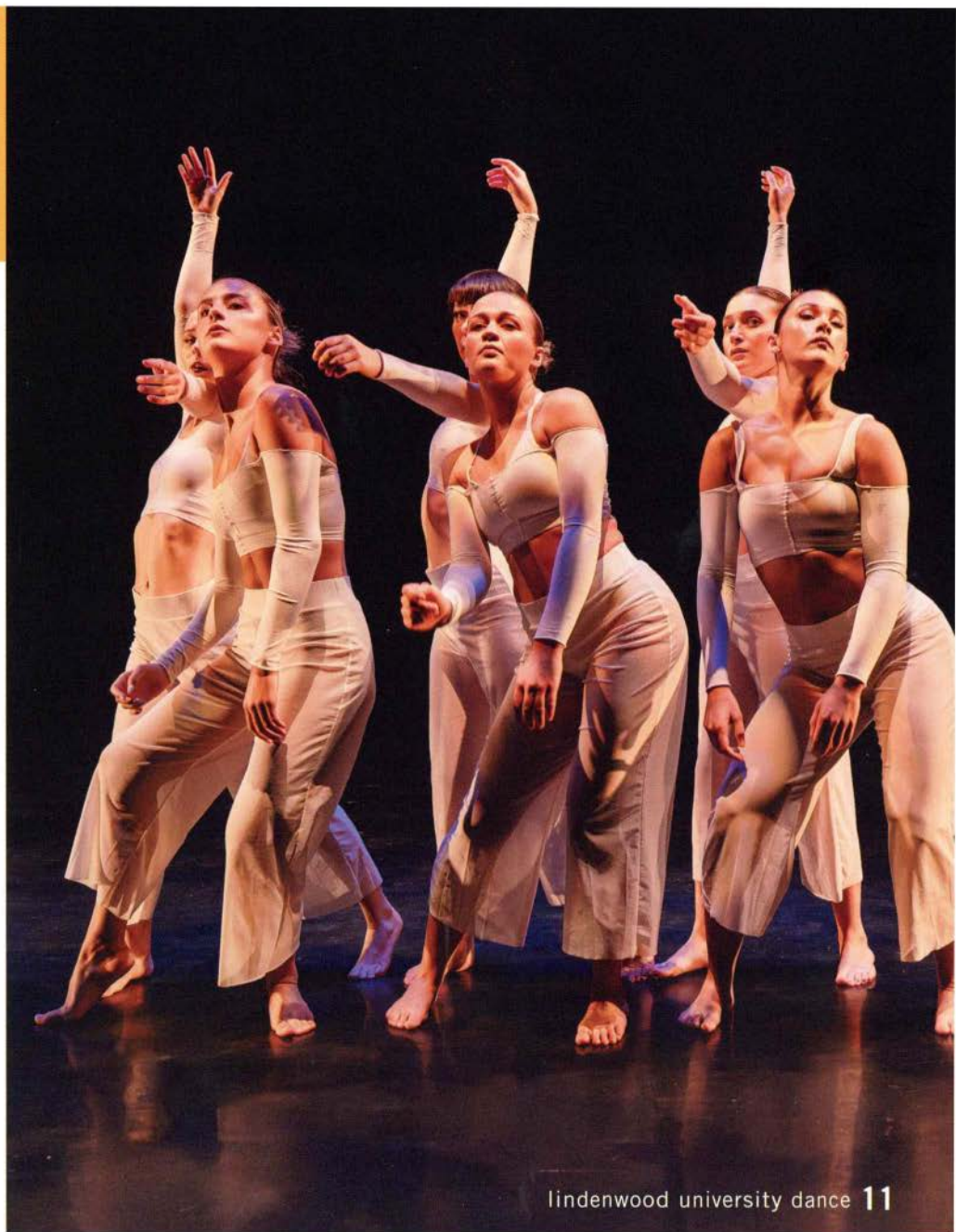


Zoelle Azur Williams and Delainey Bailey in "Stuck Journey" by Sam McReynolds (2023)

COURSEWORK

- Audition for Specialization: Ballet, Contemporary, Jazz
- First Year Seminar in Dance
- Tap
- Dance Performance Practicum
- University Dance Ensemble
- Dance Theory and Composition I and II
- Dance Composition Practicum
- Dance & Technology
- Anatomy for Dancers
- Dance Kinesiology
- Dance Pedagogy
- Dance as an Art
- Dance History
- Dance in the 21st Century
- Senior Capstone
- Special Topics Courses

Cast of "Storge" by Natalia Stuart (2024)



minors

MINOR IN DANCE

Our Dance Minor is a comprehensive 27-credit-hour program designed to cultivate a well-rounded understanding and proficiency in dance. Students select any combination of techniques, encompassing ballet, contemporary, jazz, and tap, allowing for a rich exploration of movement styles. They also choose coursework in composition, history, and performance experiences providing a deeper understanding of the historical and cultural significance of dance.

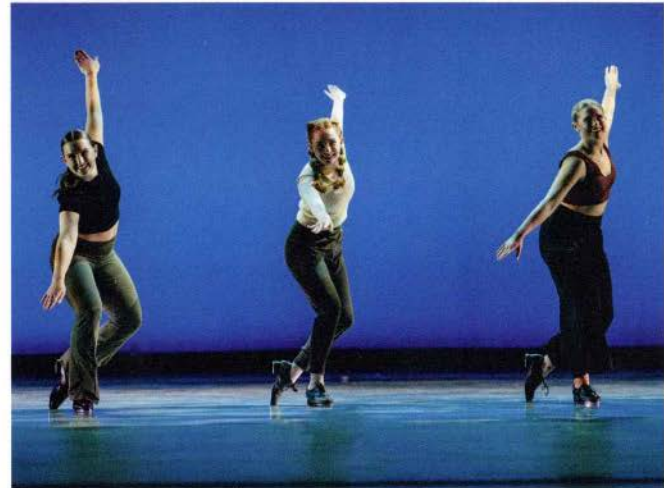
MINOR IN DANCE STUDIO MANAGEMENT

The Dance Studio Management minor provides an exceptional opportunity for students aspiring to pursue careers in the private sector as dance studio owners and studio teachers. Additionally, it caters to those interested in arts administration, offering opportunities to study the management of non-profit dance studios and/or dance companies. The curriculum covers a diverse range of subjects including accounting, management, marketing, health science, and dance pedagogy. Additionally, students can tailor their studies by selecting between a non-profit administration course or a small business & entrepreneurship course. Drawing from resources across The Plaster College of Business & Entrepreneurship, The College of Science, Technology, & Health, and supplemental coursework in The College of Arts and Humanities, this minor equips students with the knowledge and skills needed to become industry leaders.



Terrance Woods in "What's Next?"
by Amy Gammon (2023)

While many of our dance program students go on to pursue professional performing careers, some students pair this major with a degree in business or nonprofit administration before opening their own dance studios or pursuing administrative careers in the arts.



Amber Fialka, Natalie Olmstead, and Lauren Head in "Women, Life, Freedom" by Tracy Dupre (2023)

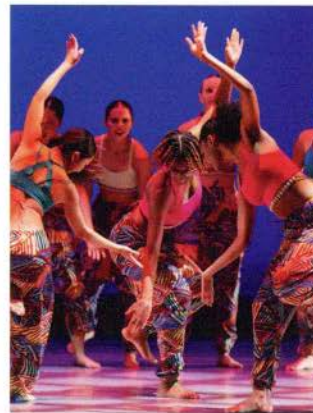
special topics



[top] Cast of "YangGe" by Weiwei Fu (2019), [bottom] Cast of "The Great Witches of Sundiata, King of Mali" by Diadié Bathily (2018) [right] Cast of "Seasons" by Alicia Sunshine Gbaho (2022)

Step outside the predictable and dive into the vibrant world of Special Topics coursework. Our university's dance program offers a spectrum of enriching special topics courses, designed to complement and elevate core coursework.

Discover the intricacies of partnering, where you'll learn the art of seamless connection and trust, essential for any aspiring dancer. Dive into the realm of improvisation, where creativity knows no bounds, and spontaneity reigns supreme.



Delve into the rich cultural heritage of West African dance, immersing yourself in its rhythms, movements, and storytelling traditions. Journey to the heart of traditional Chinese dance, exploring its graceful forms and centuries-old techniques.

Uncover the unique realm of cruise line entertainment for dancers, where you'll master the versatility and showmanship required to dazzle audiences on the high seas. Feel the pulse of the streets as you groove through the history and evolution of hip hop, from its roots to its modern-day influences.

And finally, unleash your inner fire with AfroDance, a fusion of traditional African dance and contemporary styles, igniting the stage with energy and expression. These special topics courses and other diverse special topics offerings, not only expand your repertoire but also deepen your understanding of the global tapestry of dance.

faculty

JANET STRZELEC holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Dance from Southern Illinois University Edwardsville and a Master of Fine Arts in Directing with a Musical Theatre emphasis from Lindenwood University. Professor Strzelec has been teaching at Lindenwood since January 1998 and served as chair of the dance department from June 2005-May 2021. She has an extensive history of teaching, directing, and choreographing in the greater St. Louis area including work with dance studios, K-12 schools, universities, and professional dance and musical theatre companies. At Lindenwood, Professor Strzelec has enjoyed teaching ballet, pointe, jazz, tap, modern, musical theatre, dance appreciation, dance composition, dance pedagogy and a variety of special topics that included a dance program study abroad trip to Paris. In addition to teaching dance courses, Strzelec has also enjoyed serving as director and/or choreographer for many, many dance concerts and musicals at Lindenwood. Professor Strzelec's performance credits include ballets, musicals, dinner theatre, television commercials, industrials, and Six Flags Show Productions. Some of her favorite roles are Miss Adelaide (Guys and Dolls), Roxie (Chicago), Anna (the King and I), and dancing as a Friend and Wili in her favorite ballet, Giselle. Janet Strzelec has a great love for all things dance, and a great passion for sharing that love with others.

Our 5-8 adjunct instructors each semester are not just educators; they are seasoned professionals actively shaping the dance landscape. Drawing from a diverse pool of qualified experts in the community, we tailor our curriculum to meet the evolving needs of our students, ensuring they are not only learning but connecting with the pulse of the industry. With each class led by a dedicated practitioner, students are not just taught dance—they are mentored, inspired, and guided toward excellence by those who are actively shaping the dance world outside our walls.

VISIT OUR WEBSITE FOR A FULL LIST OF ARTISTS THAT SERVE AS ADJUNCT INSTRUCTORS OF DANCE.

TRICIA ZWEIER, Associate Professor of Dance & Dance Program Coordinator, received her MS in Kinesiology and MFA in Dance from The University of North Carolina at Greensboro. Before relocating to Missouri, Zweier performed with The Atlantic City Ballet (NJ) as well as international tours in the cruise line industry as a lead dancer and dance captain with Carnival Cruise Lines. This fall marks the start of her 14th year at LU, where she teaches mostly contemporary and jazz techniques, dance history, dance & technology, and dance science courses. She is proudly involved in the St. Louis dance community as a performer and choreographer for Leverage Dance Theater, as guest choreographer and Board Secretary for Modern American Dance Company (MADCO), as a choreographer for Six Flags St. Louis Fright Fest, and as a guest teacher at local dance studios. She is also a PBT/PCT certified teacher and a Certified Yoga Teacher (CYT-200). She is an active member of The Missouri Dance Organization, The National Dance Education Organization, and The International Association for Dance Medicine and Science. Her research focuses on integrating kinesiology with dance to promote healthy training practices. Her recent creative works seek to embody historical people, places, and events in an effort to bring underrepresented, forgotten, or misinterpreted historical narratives to the dancing body. These works have been showcased with Lindenwood University students in national festivals including The Boston Contemporary Dance Festival and The Detroit Dance City Festival.



Cast of "Another look at Fosse" by Janet Strzelec (2022)

guest artists

Our **GUEST ARTIST RESIDENCY PROGRAM** is an unparalleled opportunity for dance majors to elevate their skills alongside industry professionals. Each semester, we welcome esteemed guest artists currently active in the field to lead week-long residencies, infusing our program with fresh perspectives and industry insights.

During these residencies, students have the chance to audition for participation in the creation of a new work to be premiere in our concert season, offering a hands-on experience in the creative process. Additionally, students partake in daily classes led by these esteemed professionals, providing a unique opportunity to refine their technique and foster personal growth.

By engaging directly with practicing artists and immersing themselves in intensive workshops and rehearsals, our dance majors gain invaluable real-world experience and forge connections that can last throughout their career.

VISIT OUR WEBSITE FOR A FULL LIST OF ARTISTS THAT HAVE SERVED IN THIS CAPACITY.

Cast of "until we meet again" by Taylor Tricore (2023)



MEGAN MAYER

BFA '21

Featured Performer with Busch Gardens
and Six Flags St. Louis

Lindenwood University Dance Program provided numerous opportunities for me to cultivate myself as an artist through performance and choreographic outlets, dance academia courses, and community events. The technique classes and rehearsals have prepared me for my current and future professional experiences with their versatility and intimacy of the space. I received guidance from faculty that will persist throughout my professional dance career and opportunities that will last a lifetime.



Photo courtesy of Morgan Brockmiller

FRANCESCA BARON

BA '16, Psychology BA '16

Freelance Dance Artist, MFA Dance

The Dance program at Lindenwood is a diverse program with experienced teachers that have knowledge within the concert and commercial dance scene. Because of this, I was able to integrate my personal dance history, rooted in competition dance, with my studies in modern/contemporary techniques and composition. Through this program I was able to strengthen my choice-making skill set and gain confidence as a performer and choreographer. The ample opportunities to present work and perform in student, faculty, and guest artist pieces granted me the agency to discover my artistic voice and provided me space to grow into my potential. My undergraduate studies sparked my free-lance dance artist career and I am filled with gratitude for all LU gave me.



Photo courtesy of Megan Mayer

MORGAN BROCKMILLER

BFA '20

Dance Studio Owner – Fusion Dance Center

The Lindenwood University Dance Program offers so much more than just a great dance education. They offer personalized attention to each student, opportunities to learn from top leaders in the industry, and most importantly, a sense of community that can be hard to find at larger universities. The growth I personally experienced as a performer and a person from this program is something I will forever be grateful for. After graduating in 2020, I knew this program would be with me for years to come; from the lifelong friendships I created, to the professors who have turned into some of my greatest mentors. The Lindenwood University Dance Program truly gave me the background, confidence, and knowledge to excel in my career as a full-time dance instructor and studio owner. I owe so much of who I am today to this program.

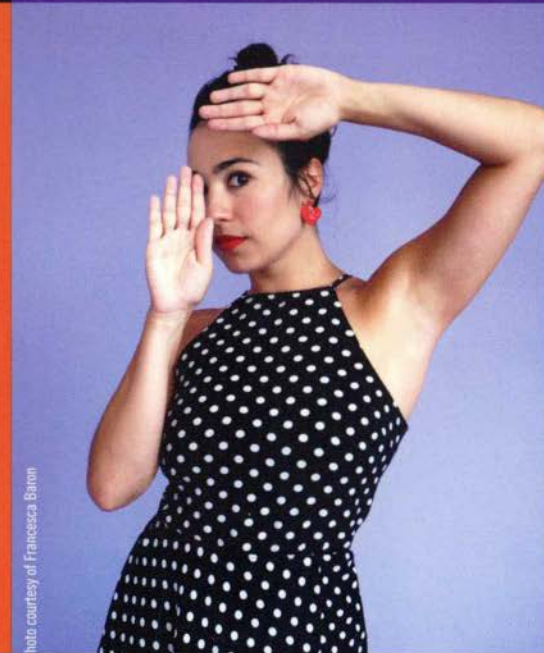


Photo courtesy of Francesca Baron

facilities

The Dance Program resides within the J. Scheidegger Center for the Arts, a dynamic hub that fosters collaboration and creativity across multiple disciplines including Dance, Music, Theatre, Fashion, and Media. Within this vibrant shared space, students have the opportunity to engage in interdisciplinary collaboration, where their artistic visions are enriched and amplified through teamwork and collective effort.

The Dance Studios. Step into our dance studios, where the floors are more than just platforms—they're canvases for your creativity. In Studio A, the performing arts floor is a dancer's dream, meticulously designed for tap and other percussive styles. Natural light pours in through a wall lined

with windows, while mirrors reflect your progress, not just your steps. In Studio B, the Cascade Marley floor sets the stage for fluid movement, offering a smooth surface for contemporary and ballet genres. When it's time to share your work, simply draw the curtains and transform the space into an intimate performance area.

The Lindenwood Theater. This traditional proscenium space boasts a 1,200-seat auditorium and a 110-by-66-foot stage with a 72-foot grid and 68 line sets. Elegant and intimate in its design, the theater has one of the largest and most sophisticated stages in the region. The Lindenwood main stage readily accommodates Lindenwood University productions and large scale national and

Broadway tours, as well as concerts, world renowned dance, and celebrity appearances.

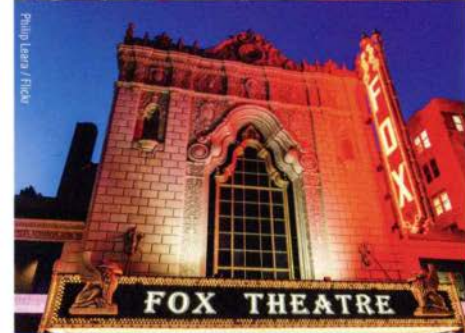
The Emerson Black Box Theater is a flexible 65-foot square space designed to put the audience close to the action. While the size of the audience can be adjusted to suit the productions requirements, one thing that never changes is the intimate relationship between the audience and the performers. The Emerson Black Box Theater can be configured for theater in the round, as a traditional theater, or anything in between. Generally seating between 150 and 180 audience members, the Emerson Black Box Theater provides for more intimate gatherings in music, dance, drama, and experimental theater.



Photo by Darren Collier

Lindenwood University is the perfect balance of college town living and big city fun. Located in the heart of St. Charles, MO., just west of St. Louis, Lindenwood students get the best of both worlds. When you're a part of our student body, you'll find a tight-knit community with plenty of opportunity to experience everything Downtown St. Louis has to offer. The home of Lindenwood University is blocks from

St. Charles' historic Main Street and its boutiques and amazing restaurants, as well as the Katy Trail. We're 11 minutes away from the St. Louis Lambert International Airport and 30 minutes away from the St. Louis Arch, Busch Stadium, Ballpark Village, CityPark, The City Museum, Union Station, Anheuser-Busch Brewery, the City Garden, and Historic Soulard.



Cast of The Winter Dance Concert (2022)

next steps

APPLY TO LINDENWOOD UNIVERSITY

- apply.lindenwood.edu

SUBMIT DANCE REGISTRATION MATERIALS

- lindenwood.edu/audition

We will contact you to schedule a day to take class, speak with dance faculty, and tour campus.

COME SEE A SHOW

- lindenwood.edu/dance-events

STAY CONNECTED! FOLLOW US

-  [@lindenwooddance](https://www.instagram.com/lindenwooddance)

Cast of "when the fire continues" by Megan Mayer (2022)

Logan Guerra (2023). Image by Brandon Perkins



LINDENWOOD
UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE OF ARTS AND HUMANITIES

Visit lindenwood.edu/audition

Photography: Katie Strzelec Photography, unless otherwise noted
Cover image: Delainey Bailey (2023). Image by Brandon Perkins