

World Arts and Cultures/Dance Undergraduate Society presents:

WACSMASH



FEBRUARY 16TH & 17TH

www.wacsmash.com

Producer's Note

Thank you so much for attending this year's WACsmash production. This showcase is an amazing opportunity for student artists to pursue their creative passions. Our team is proud to carry on the legacy of WACsmash in creating a platform for World Arts and Cultures/Dance students to share their art.

Reels of Time takes on an original and imaginative approach to content and form through the collaboration between visual arts and dance performance within UCLA. Many pieces interact with movement, visual and aural art, and dance by projection, photography, film, and spoken word. Our visual artists cross modalities as well, using cinema-inspired photography, videography, and multimedia work to create their pieces.

We are so proud of the hard work each creator, cast member, producer, and crew member has put in to make this show happen. Please enjoy WACsmash 2024: Reels of Time!



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:

We would like to extend a huge thank you to Ginger and Arsenio for their continued support throughout the entire production process. Without them, we would have been unable to develop this show or support our creators in bringing their visions to life.

Additionally, we would like to thank every person who has contributed their money and/or time to this production. We are so grateful for your support of student-led and student centered creative expression.

2024

Producers

CLAIRE CISERELLA

JOSEPHINE TASSONI

NATALIE GARAY

STEPHANIE SINGH

NINA MORASKY

Assistant Producer:

LAUREN DELMAR



REELS OF TIME

Whether it be through introductions to unfamiliar lands and ideas, characters that stick with you, or a scene that taps into your innermost emotions, cinema can be a powerful tool in exploring and dissecting the world around us. This year, we want to give attention to films' ability to capture time, place, culture, and emotion by inviting our creators to take inspiration from moments, styles, scenes, and characters that they believe have been influential on a personal or cultural level. As life imitates cinema and cinema imitates life, this film-based and inspired production explores various lived experiences to provide a platform to inform and better represent different cultures, forms, and identities. In different capacities, accompanied through creative reimagining and translation, this year's creators have used their art forms to spotlight themes, investigate tropes, and survey the diverse impacts the film industry has had on social and individual lived experience.



WACSMASH 2024 THEME

Creators

For more information about any of this year's creators, please visit www.wacsmash.com

"WERE YOU SILENT, OR WERE YOU SILENCED?"

Rachael Odebunmi

I am delving into the enigmatic world of the silent film era in this piece. While often perceived as glamorous, the actors of "Old Hollywood," particularly in the 1910s and 1920s, faced exploitative working conditions and an overwhelming lack of respect. With the working title "Were you silent or were you silenced?" - Oprah, the piece will explore the forced silence imposed upon these actors, as a result of both technological limits and the relentless demands of the industry through contemporary dance."

Cast:

Sakura Amano
Rachael Odebunmi
Tara Aghaian
Michelle Cheng
Lilah Horton
Maile Hanoian

Madison Hart and Augie Ahn

The Roaring 20s era is revered and celebrated as a huge achievement in the industry of media and romanticized across the globe; however, many people discount the fact that the dark age of the exploitation of performers really began to flourish in Hollywood during the emergence of the film industry. Inspired by the movie Babylon and the series Peaky Blinders, we hope you notice the disturbing imagery behind the glitz and glamor of this work. Through the collision of cast-aside starlets and an up-and-coming new actress, the mysterious red right hand manipulates the script of these interactions behind the scenes.

About the art: The vision behind the art is primarily influenced by the movie posters of the 20th century. From blockbuster film staples like Jaws to lively musicals like Cabaret, each poster is designed to lead the audience down the streets of Hollywood in the early 1900s. Acting in unison, the speckled color, lavish style, bold font, and lively imagery act as a window into the past, transporting viewers to a time when the film industry was rocketing upward. Still, the exploitation of the artist stood hidden in the plume of smoke it created.

Cast:

Victoria Viveiros
Mikayla Knestrick
Madison Hart
Arden Emhoff

“KATA” 型

Elena Bruce

The term Kata refers to a sequence of movements that display usage and technique within martial arts.

“Kata” takes a contemporary perspective on the word and pays homage to a variety of different martial arts techniques, practitioners, and timeless MA films. Utilizing the intensity and excitement from famous fight scenes such as “Crouching Tiger Hidden Dragon”, “IP Man”, and “Enter the Dragon”, this piece combines contemporary dance performance and martial arts techniques for live enjoyment.

Cast:

Maddie Showronek
 Juniper Dorado
 Alexis Masseyrado
 Erin Co
 Aysha Cunningham
 Claire Hayashi
 Angie Eng
 Brianna Gianetto
 Elena Bruce
 Robbie Button

“ANOTHER DAY OF SUN”

Stephanie Singh

Cast:

Victoria Viveiros
 Mikayla Knestrick
 Madison Hart
 Arden Emhoff

This fusion of Musical Theater and Tap dance channels joy, gratitude, and optimism through a high-energy production inspired by the film La La Land. Another Day of Sun is a farewell to the past and a glimpse into the future, manifesting only bright days to come.

"MISTRENZAS"

Jovahna Solalindez Rivas

In addition to the art installation in the art gallery, this short piece is a simple highlight of a common hairstyle many wear all throughout Latin and Hispanic cultures in the making process. Surrounded by hair accessories like ribbons, flowers, hair ties, brushes, and combs. This piece is a brief representation of two long braids. Each strand individually is weak but when joined it signifies strength and unity.

Cast:

Quinn Wynacht
Alexis Massey
Jovahna Rivas

"GROWING INTO, HOLDING ONTO"

Ellianna Pascua

Cast:

Claire Ciserella
Elianna Pascua
Juniper Dorado
Vanessa Dreyer
Iyonna Bridges
Myles Mawa
Marcella Thile

"Growing Into, Holding Onto" is a choreographic exploration of the distinction between actor and character, between reality and construct, a boundary made literal using red curtains. Using the notorious cinematic story of characters finding true love, this work illustrates the inevitable and unbreakable cohesion of who an actor portrays and who the actor is beyond the curtain. As individuals, partnerships, and collectives, performers often invest themselves so thoroughly that their identity becomes indistinguishable from their work... an intimate concept worth discovering, nurturing, and holding.

“THROUGH & THROUGH”

Bianca Yen

Through & Through is an improvisational piece that seeks to metaphorically unravel layers of identity, emphasizing parallels between the creation of garments and the construction of selfhood. Drawing inspiration from Asian and queer directors like 王家卫 (Wong Kar-Wai) and 蔡明亮 (Tsai Ming-Liang), the performance aims to deconstruct the intricate relationship between identity and clothing through the mediums of animation, dance, threading, modern movement, and clothing creation.

Cast:

Vatsal Jalan
Quinn Wynacht
Bianca Yen

“PARTY OF THE TIMES”

Aryeal Lands & Joy Arreola

Cast:

Joy Arreola
Aryeal Lands
Seongbin Park
Simon Chernow
Myles Mawa
Jae Hall
Megan Diaz
Lazayah Lannigan
Jovahna Rivas

Party of the Times is a street dance piece that journeys through the evolution of street dance representation on television. Featuring styles such as Hip-Hop, Popping, and Locking, the lively choreography pays homage to the Black and Brown artists who created these forms and celebrates the shows and films that gave them a platform to spread their craft.



"MASS"**Abhishek Krishnan**

"Mass" is a warm welcome into the world of music and dance within Indian Cinema. Immerse yourself in the exhilarating experience of Indian films, where passionate movement and captivating music come together.

Cast:

Simon Chernow
 Natalie Garay
 Kanchan Raju
 Abhishek Krishnan
 Stephanie Singh

"WHISPERING DOLLS"**Claire Ciserella****Cast:**

Claire Ciserella
 Quinn Wynacht
 Arden Emhoff
 Victoria Viveiros
 Abrianna Herring
 Angelina Williams

Inspired by the horror genre, Whispering Dolls navigates a collection of dolls that come to life and taunt the audience with awkward bends and eerie smiles. Using the stage as their "box," they come alive when it's dark out.

Cameron Kao

Romantic comedies. There’s nothing more heartwarming than seeing two characters fall in love. Friends, enemies, and strangers to lovers. These tropes give us such a romanticized lens of finding love—but how does it feel once you shut off the rom-com and see reality?

Cast:

Cammie Kao
 Mikayla Knestrick
 Jordan Rivero
 Robbie Button
 Michelle Cheng
 Dana Worrell
 Jae Hall
 Nikhil Bathula
 Lenny Chen

**“FANTASY, FIXATION,
AND FUTILITY”****Alexis Massey****Cast:**

Rhea Gill
 Elena Bruce
 Miranda Kotero
 Vanessa Dreyer
 Erin Co
 Alexis Massey
 Sakura Amano

Lexi’s piece specifically looks at the impact of excessive film/media stimulation on our disposition. If we fill ourselves only on empty entertainment and buy into the false satisfaction it promises, we can often feel discontent about our lives. Essentially, we become blinded to the smaller, everyday joys graciously provided. Only once the illusory veil is removed can we see the beauty of life and recognize the love that has been supporting us all along.

“WHAT’S ALL THE BUZZ ABOUT DANIELINE?”

Reba Thomas & Kylee Miller

Inspired by Beyoncé’s *HOMECOMING*, this piece explores and incorporates HBCU culture and Danceline. It delves into the significance of integrating Danceline and Black culture into spaces that have historically not been built for us, reflecting on their impact on the educational experience for Black Americans. This performance celebrates the cultural legacy of Danceline and provides a platform for Black students to express their identity.

“NOTE TO SELF: SHE IS BEAUTY, SHE IS GRACE!”

Lilah Horton & Marcella Thile

Cast:

Marcella Thile
Lilah Horton
Maddie Showronek
Elliana Pascua
Leeann ross
Megan Diaz

Cast:

Reba Thomas
Kylee Miller
Kyla Kramer
Angelina Williams
Abrianna Herring

“Note to Self: She is Beauty, She is Grace!” revolves around exploring the cinematic portrayal of female characters and how that translates to the societal expectations for how women “should be” from the perspective of those who dominate the media. In introspective and ordinary conversations with ourselves, we contradict the concept of the one-dimensional female persona, drawing on the Bechdel Test and its principles for evaluating film. Ironic in its methods for dismantling the notion of feminine inferiority, the piece performs an extreme contrast by using a hyper-masculine lens—the choreography acting as the antithesis to the image women are expected to uphold. Using Hip Hop vocabulary, we reference the disparities women experience within the Street Dance community and the larger dance industry, as it continues to be challenging for both women to enter this space and for men to make room for female artistic expression.

"MEDIA MOLDS"

Megan Diaz

This visual arts piece is a multimedia film photography project focused on portraying the impact that the media we consume as children has on our adult lives. Through four subjects, it follows their relationship with the media they loved as children and how the messages in those films have influenced them today. Children are like sponges, and through the films we watch, we gain perspectives on life that follow us well into adulthood, whether it be morals we abide by, ideas of self, or a pursuit or passion. Each subject was shot on 35mm film and assembled through mixed materials.

"IN A DIRECTOR'S STUDIO"

Nina Schmidt

In the Director's Studio is a photography piece examining the frequency with which male directors treat female actresses as props rather than as artists. The series explores how the female body is regularly used as a medium for male creators to impose and execute their creative visions and interprets cinematic tradition to be a consistent (and concrete) manifestation of "the male gaze." By specifically approaching films in which male protagonists exert alarming degrees of power on their female counterparts, In a Director's Studio understands these problematic narratives to be extensions of misogynistic directorial practices, as well as evidence of male artistry being repeatedly achieved through female exploitation.

WAC SMASH

2024



THANK YOU
FOR COMING!

REELS OF TIME

PRODUCTION STAFF

Production Manager	Ginger Holguin
Technical Director	Arsenio Apillanes
Sound Engineer	Mark Goebel
Production Crew	Audrey Bordallo, Lilian Rubio Kennedy Silva-Costa, Reyanni Walker Leo Yi



ARTS



World Arts
and Cultures/Dance

The UCLA Department of World Arts and Cultures/Dance acknowledges the Gabrielino/Tongva peoples as the traditional land caretakers of Tovaangar (Los Angeles basin, So. Channel Islands) and is grateful to have the opportunity to work for the taraaxatom (indigenous peoples) in this place. As a land grant institution, we pay our respect to Honuukvetam (Ancestors), Ahihirom (Elders), and eyoohiinkem (our relatives/relations) past, present and emerging.

Tristique Nulla Massa