

Kennedy Theatre

UNIVERSITY of HAWAI'I at MĀNOA

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Dance Concert “Look Back: Move Forward” Brings Familiar Faces to Kennedy Theatre

Alumni Choreographers Showcase the Breadth of the UHM Program

The University of Hawai'i at Mānoa's Department of Theatre and Dance is proud to present “Look Back: Move Forward,” Kennedy Theatre's dance concert for the 2013-2014 season. The production celebrates the theatre's 50th Anniversary by bringing UHM Dance alumni, well known to local audiences, back to the stage where their careers began. Performances will take place Nov. 15, 16, 22, and 23 at 8 p.m., and Nov. 24 at 2 p.m. UHM students with a validated Fall 2013 university ID will be eligible for the theatre's buy-one-get-one offer on Friday, Nov. 22.

Before the evening shows and during intermission, Kennedy Theatre will feature video installations of dance and choreography by additional UHM Dance alumni. Audiences will also have the opportunity to attend free pre-show chats at 7:00 p.m. on Nov. 16 and 23. Patrons who attend on opening night are invited to join the dancers, choreographers, and director, as well as faculty from the Department of Theatre and Dance, for a post-show reception on the theatre's lanai in celebration of Kennedy's 50th Anniversary.

“Look Back: Move Forward” will feature eight pieces that display the breadth of UH - Mānoa's dance training, and of the choreography created by its alumni and associated artists. Styles

will include classical Indian dance, Okinawan dance, hula, contemporary dance, and jazz. A highlight of the concert will be “Blue-Green” (1979), choreographed by Carl Wolz, the founder of the UHM Dance Program. This lyric duet for two women will be performed by MFA students Mareva Minerbi and Blythe Stephens. Jean Erdman’s classic “Hamadryad” (1948) will also be performed. Erdman passed this solo, set to Claude Debussy’s *Syrinx*, on to Nancy Allison; Allison taught it to students Malia Wild and Alison Burkhardt, who will perform it on alternate nights. Flautist Sian Ishihara will play Debussy’s score live for each performance.

Several dances in the concert illustrate the program’s mission to combine tradition and innovation. Yukie Shiroma’s “*Uchinaa nu Chimugukuru*” (“Okinawan Spirit”) grew out of her 30-year dedication to Okinawan classical dance. Cheryl Flaharty, director of IONA Contemporary Dance Theatre, will present “You’re the One for Me,” from her well-known evening-length program “Hawaiian Myths and Legends.” The excerpt tells the humorous story of Kamapua‘a, the Hawaiian pig god, and his sultry relationship with Pele; it is performed to a combination of Ravel’s “Bolero” and text by local playwright Victoria Nalani Kneubuhl. The program will also include “The Other Rhythm,” which features the musicality and intricate movements of both hula and the classical Indian dance form *Bharatanātyam*. Kumu hula Vicky Holt Takamine has joined forces with visiting dance scholar Anita Vallabh to create an interweaving of these two distinct dance traditions. Concert director Betsy Fisher describes the piece as “not fusion, but an interlacing. Fusion suggests that a form has been altered in some way. Here, each form retains its own tradition and its own beauty. The idea is to show how these two graceful and powerful forms can interact to create a kinetic dialogue between the dancers.”

The concert will also feature “Deep Divide” by Dance alumna Jennifer Shannon. The piece premiered at Mark’s Garage in 2012, and will be performed at Kennedy Theatre by Alexa Manalansan and Kent Shinomae. Alumni choreographers Tony Young and Andrew Sakaguchi will

round out the concert with work that draws on jazz and musical theatre dance traditions. Fisher says that she is “pleased and proud” to direct this concert, which exemplifies “the diverse offerings of the UHM dance program, the choreographic skills of its alumni, and the talents of its student dancers.”

Tickets for “Look Back: Move Forward” are available online at etickethawaii.com, by phone at (808) 944-2697, and at participating outlets. Tickets may also be purchased at the Kennedy Theatre box office; the box office is open from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Monday through Friday, with extended hours on performance dates. Prices are \$25 for general admission; \$22 for seniors / military / UH faculty and staff; \$16 for UHAA members; \$13 for students; and \$5 for students with a validated Fall 2013 UHM photo ID. Ticket prices include all service fees. Discount rates are available for groups of 10 or more. For further information, please visit hawaii.edu/kennedy, or call the theatre at (808) 956-7655. For disability access, please call the theatre.

EVENT: “Look Back: Move Forward”

PRESENTED BY: UHM Department of Theatre and Dance

WHEN: Nov. 15, 16*, 22, 23* at 8 p.m.
Nov. 24 at 2 p.m.
* Free pre-show chat at 7:00 p.m.

WHERE: UHM's Kennedy Theatre Mainstage
1770 East-West Road, Honolulu

TICKET PRICES: \$25 general admission
\$22 seniors / military / UH Faculty and staff
\$16 UHAA members
\$13 students
\$5 students with validated Fall 2013 UHM photo ID
Ticket prices include all service fees.

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