

Press Release

From: Tracey Varga
910.232.8151
traceyvarga@msn.com

aim2024

CAPE FEAR ARTS IN MOTION

Forward Motion Dance Company
presents

Cape Fear Arts in Motion

Mystical, Classical and Reflective

September 19 & 20, 2024, at 7:30 pm
Thalian Hall Main Stage
310 Chestnut Street
Wilmington, NC 28401

Tickets are \$28 general admission; \$25 for seniors, students, military, & children under 12, plus taxes and fees. Please contact the Thalian Hall Box Office online or at 910.632.2285 for ticket reservations.



Forward Motion Dance Company presents a breathtaking and innovative dance event with their annual performance, *Cape Fear Arts in Motion: Mystical, Classical and Reflective*. This performance unites dancers and choreographers with musical and visual artists to bring the art form of modern, contemporary, classical and jazz dance to the beautiful and historic Thalian Hall main stage for a varied and collaborative event that showcases the talents of Choreographer Tracey Varga. Presented are new dance performances along with re-creations of works from the past, with a film by Patrick Ogelvie, vivid screens by local set designer Randy Davis, live music composed and performed by local musician Cole Marquis, and an exquisite classical piece from local guest choreographer and dancer Emily Lawler.

Premiere performances are works set to music by Swiss Harpist Andreas Vollenweider with a dreamy, surreal feel, and an upbeat dance to a music mix of female jazz greats Billie Holiday, Sarah Vaughan and Ella Fitzgerald, edited by audio/video engineer Patrick Ogelvie.

Presented is a dance performed at the 2024 Wilmington Dance Festival, created for Forward Motion core dancers and set to music by local musician and composer Cole Marquis. Cole is featured on guitar with Mary Gheen on flute, and they will perform live onstage with the dancers.

Returning to the stage is "Surmount" which premiered in 2015 with music by Peter Gabriel, film by filmmaker Patrick Ogelvie and recreated this year with seven dancers. "Reflections", from 2023, is set to music by Andrew Young and danced by Forward Motion core dancers Kara Abbott, Savannah

Brooks and Nicole Dalier. Vivid onstage screens created by set designer Randy Davis come alive with two new additions and new dance choreographed to a duet by Yo-Yo Ma and Andrew Bird.

Forward Motion Dance Company is delighted to have Emily Lawler as guest choreographer. Emily, a local dancer and choreographer, created a new classical piece with music composed in 1905 by Claude Debussy and she will join six other dancers onstage for this lovely creation.

An original and new high energy dance features teen dancers from local studios including The Dance Element, DREAMS and Studio 23 and is set to techno music by English music producer and mixer Paul Oakenfold. The teen dancers this year are Mya Newton, Hannah Price, Kate Spivey and Sasha White.

Forward Motion Dance Company core dancers are Kara Abbott, Savannah Brooks, Nicole Dalier, Trilby Shier, Becky Spivey and Susan Turner. Guest dancers are Amanda Brown, Kimberly Brumsey, Katie Crosby, Sarah Deming, James DeVita, Lorena Holliday, Wells Jackson, Stephanie Stone, Linda Ann Webb and Vanessa Welch.

In a show not to be missed, come be astounded by an inspired evening of music, film, and modern, contemporary, classical and jazz dance that Cape Fear Arts in Motion brings to the beautiful and historic Thalian Hall main stage.

Forward Motion Dance Company with founder, director and choreographer Tracey Varga is a Wilmington, NC, based non-profit 501(c)(3) dance organization whose mission is to provide local and regional communities with quality modern contemporary dance and education in the art of dance, as well as enhance the local arts community by providing performance opportunities for area dancers and performance artists. FMD is an all-volunteer organization proudly supported by local, state and national grants, and community sponsors. For more information please visit our Facebook page or www.forwardmotiondance.org.

Guest Choreographer Emily Lawler:

Emily Lawler cultivated her dance training through years of dancing in Wilmington and spent her summers in New York City. As a full-time trainee at the Joffrey Ballet School in 2018, she performed soloist roles, laying a strong foundation for her professional career, which included classical and contemporary performance, dance work for film/TV, and a touring show. Recently, Emily has delved into choreography and is thoroughly enjoying the creative process. She is thrilled to be the guest choreographer for Forward Motion's annual show.

About Forward Motion Dance Company:

Forward Motion Dance Company, Inc., is a Wilmington, NC, based non-profit 501(c)(3) dance organization whose mission is to provide local and regional communities with quality modern contemporary dance and education in the art of dance, as well as enhance the local arts community by providing performance opportunities for area dancers and performance artists.

Forward Motion Dance Company has a vision to find innovative ways to bring dance to the community, and cultivate an understanding and love of this art form. The company was founded by dancer and choreographer Tracey Varga in 2001 and incorporated in 2004, although Tracey has been dancing and choreographing in Wilmington since relocating from Seattle in 1996. Forward Motion Dance sponsors and co-sponsors public arts performances such as *Cape Fear Arts in Motion* and *Arts Sensation*, and offers education for schools and community organizations including the Snipes Academy of Arts and Design, Wilmington School of Ballet, DREAMS of Wilmington, The Dance Element, The Dance Cooperative, and the YWCA Lower Cape Fear.

Forward Motion Dance Company is a volunteer organization, and wishes to thank all those who donate their valuable time for rehearsal, performance, production, collaboration and fundraising efforts. The Board of Directors is Mary Scott Bethune, Diane Evers, Stella Johnson, Becky Spivey, Susan Turner, Elizabeth White and Company Choreographer and Director Tracey Varga. Company Dancers are Kara Abbott, Savannah Brooks, Nicole Dalier, Becky Spivey, Trilby Shier and Susan Turner. If you are interested in volunteering, sponsorship, or an opportunity to become a board member, please speak to any member of the company or board.

Forward Motion Dance Company is honored to be a recipient of grants over the years from the Women's Impact Network of New Hanover County, the Arts Council of Wilmington and New Hanover County and the North Carolina Arts Council, the Landfall Foundation, NC Cares for the Arts and the American Rescue Plan for the Arts, all to continue our mission to provide collaborative, contemporary dance performances in local venues which highlight the talents of Choreographer Tracey Varga and many wonderful dancers, musicians, and visual and vocal artists.

