



CAL POLY THEATRE & DANCE

ORCHESIS DANCE COMPANY

ELEVATE



JAN 17, 18
7:30PM

JAN 18
2:00PM

JAN 23, 24, 25
7:30PM

2025

SPANOS THEATRE

Tickets | 805-756-4TIX | pacslo.org

\$22 Students, \$28 General Admission

Photo: Brittany App | Choreography: "Koan" by Diana Stanton | Lighting: Clint Bryson

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

Welcome to the 55th annual Orchesis Dance Concert, ELEVATE!

Elevate, the concert title chosen by the Orchesis Dance Company dancers, inspires choreographic design that aims to heighten the creativity, artistic vision, and themes within each dance. The title also serves as the ethos of this company, in this time and space, to which you all as audience are participants. Thank you for joining us.

This year Cal Poly welcomes guest artist Dana Lawton, Professor of Dance at Saint Mary's College in California. Lawton created "Not Broken," a deeply contemplative dance that draws upon the dancers' personal stories as resource for exploring empathy, tenderness and grace. This unique collaborative process resulted in a touching and poignant dance that seeks to answer the question, "How do we cope with what life presents to us?"

"Uprising," created by New York City-based choreographer and returning Cal Poly favorite, Mike Esperanza, includes all 37 Orchesis dancers in a powerfully expressive finale. Esperanza's choreographic process integrates the ideas and movements of all dancers with his unique artistic vision. Esperanza says, "Unity is the inspiration for this work as we build the foundation of strength; when individuals come together with a shared purpose, their collective power becomes unstoppable, capable of creating meaningful change and overcoming the greatest challenges."

We proudly present impressive work created by our student choreographers this year. Their vision, sophisticated craftsmanship and passion inspires. The performance also features original work created by Dance Program faculty including Assistant Professor Leann Alduenda, myself, and Lecturers Kathleen Ford, Horacio Heredia and Michelle Walter.

One of the most powerful aspects of dance is how it expresses what we often cannot express in words. Much of the dance you will see in the concert reflects experiments in the creative process. The pieces highlight collaboration among the dancers as they explore ways of embodying thoughts, ideas, and feelings. The theme of "Elevate" serves as a prompt to investigate, collectively, how we can perhaps elevate ourselves, others, and conditions that connect us as human beings.

The importance of your presence as the audience cannot be overstated; you are critical to this artistic experience, and we value your thoughts and discussions about the performance. As dance artists, we seek to explore, express, and experience our world in non-verbal ways. Our current social and academic climate has many of us seeking to hone empathy and sensitivity, and we have done our best to create work with integrity and awareness.

We invite and encourage you to please use the link or QR code in the program to find our choreographers' **Statements of Intent** about their dances. This provides a view into the creative mind of the choreographers and gives us insight into their goals, objectives, questions, and aspirations. We acknowledge all of the musical artists and their compositions that support and inspire the choreographers' visions.

Please enjoy reading the digital program for dance titles and choreographer information but refrain from reading during the dances to avoid distracting those around you with light from your device. Please read during intermission, when lights come up between some of the dances, or after the concert.

Thank you to all the artists and supporters of the Orchesis Dance Company. If you have been a prior member of the company, we welcome you home and thank you for your support. If this is your first Orchesis concert, we welcome you to the experience and hope you enjoy the passion, intelligence, and enthusiasm of the dancers.

Sincerely,
Diana Stanton
Orchesis Dance Company Director 24-25

PRODUCTION STAFF

ORCHESIS DIRECTOR

Diana Stanton

ASSISTANT DIRECTORS

Leann Alduenda and Michelle Walter

TECHNICAL DIRECTOR and

LIGHTING DESIGNER

Clint Bryson

STAGE MANAGER

Drew Mahecha-Sherrard

CREW

Spanos Theatre Crew

COSTUMES

Dancers & Choreographers

DANCER HEAD SHOTS

Jackie Babcock

ORCHESIS PHOTOGRAPHER

Brittany App

ORCHESIS VIDEOGRAPHER

Dancingeek Productions

SPECIAL THANKS

President Jeffrey D. Armstrong,
CLA Interim Dean Kate Murphy,
Associate Dean Josh Machamer,
David Beals, Clint Bryson, Melissa
Scatena, Maria Junco, Stephen A.
Nukes Family, Erin Solemsaas and
Moon Ja Minn Suhr.

ORCHESIS IS SPONSORED BY

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*Gracious Donors

ADMINISTRATIVE INTERNS 2024-25

Orchesis company members are selected by the directors through an application process. These dancers are vital to the logistics of this production and to the integrity of the program as a whole. Thank you Interns!

Lisette Abundez

Hannah Bielcik

Aviv Kesar

Gracie Mitchell

Emily Olster

Megan Waller

INFORMATION

www.theatredance.calpoly.edu/orchesis

The Cal Poly Orchesis Dance Company was founded in 1969 by Moon Ja Minn Suhr, PhD. The word "orchesis" is a noun derived from the Greek word "orchestra." In Greek theater, orchesis means the art of dancing and the act of dancing. Auditions for the Orchesis Dance Company (DANC345) are conducted during the first week of fall quarter.

THEATRE AND DANCE DEPARTMENT 2024-25 FACULTY AND STAFF

Leann Alduenda

Laina Babb

Hala Baki, PhD

Thomas John Bernard

Jason Bolen

Ramón Esquivel

Kathleen Ford

Brian Healy

Karin Hendricks-Bolen

Horacio Heredia

Richard Jackson

Irene Kleinbauer

Josh Machamer

Paul Marszalkowski

Sandra Sarrouf

Erin Solemsaas

Diana Stanton

Philip Valle

Michelle Walter

Phyllis Wong, PhD

EMERITUS FACULTY

Tim Dugan

Maria Junco

Moon Ja Minn Suhr PhD



DIANA STANTON
Faculty
Director, Choreographer



LEANN ALDUENDA
Faculty
Assistant Director, Choreographer



MICHELLE WALTER
Faculty
Assistant Director, Choreographer



MIKE ESPERANZA
Guest
Choreographer



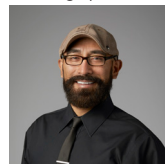
DANA LAWTON
Guest
Choreographer



CLINT BRYSON
Technical Director
Lighting Designer



KATHLEEN FORD
Faculty
Choreographer



HORACIO HEREDIA
Faculty
Choreographer



LISETTE ABUNDEZ
Business
Administration 4th Year



DAYLIN ATWOOD
Political Science
3rd Year



HANNAH BIELCIK
Business
Administration 4th Year



KATE BLEVENS
English
3rd Year



MADDIE BREDEK
Child Development
3rd Year



ERIN BROWN
Food Science
2nd Year



ABBY DENTON
English
5th Year



OLIVIA FERRERI
Biological Sciences
3rd Year



SAMANTHA GARRETT
Business
Administration 4th Year



AVIV KESAR
Art and Design
3rd Year



GABBY KHALFIN
Sociology
2nd Year



MOLLY KORETZ
Mechanical Engineering
3rd Year



SEMA LEW
Biological Sciences
4th Year



SAM LIST
Aerospace Engineering
4th Year



JAYMIE LOUIE
Biological Sciences
3rd Year



ALEXA MARIN
Marine Science
2nd Year



MAYA McCLAIN
Political Science
4th Year



ANNIA McCORMICK
Biological Sciences
1st Year



JULIA McDONALD
Chemistry
5th Year



AMELIA McMANUS
Public Health
2nd Year



GRACIE MITCHELL
Landscape
Architecture 5th Year



SAMANTHA MURPHY
Wine and Viticulture
1st Year



MELISSA NEMEČ
Business
Administration 2nd Year



EMILY OLSTER
Child Development
4th Year



ARACELI RAMOS
Env. Management and
Protection 5th Year



OLIVIA ROMAN
Journalism
2nd Year



KAREN SEVERSON
Computer Science
3rd Year



JOYCE SHEN
Plant Science
2nd Year



SARA SJOBLOM
Child Development
3rd Year



LAUREN VAN NECK
Nutrition
3rd Year



CAMRYN VANDERZWAAG
Comparative Ethnic
Studies 1st Year



ELENA VENNER
General Engineering
3rd Year



ALENA WACHOWSKI
Psychology
1st Year



MEGAN WALLER
Computer Science
4th Year



OLIVIA WILSON
Public Health
4th Year



RILEY YOUNG
Env. Earth and Soil Science
1st Year



SOFIE ZALATIO
Mechanical Engineering
3rd Year

PROGRAM ORDER

LOST AND FOUND

CHOREOGRAPHY Emily Olster (Student) in collaboration with the dancers
MUSIC "Information" by Matija Strniša and "Iconography - Konx-Om-Pax Remix" by Max Richter and Konx-Om-Pax

DANCERS Lisette Abundez, Hannah Bielcik, Erin Brown, Samantha Garrett, Gracie Mitchell, Araceli Ramos, Olivia Roman, Sara Sjoblom, Camryn VanderZwaag, Elena Venner, Megan Waller, Olivia Wilson

LIMINAL CURRENTS

CHOREOGRAPHY Hannah Bielcik (Student) with contributions from the dancers
MUSIC "Happiness Does Not Wait" performed and composed by Ólafur Arnalds

DANCERS Daylin Atwood, Maddie Bredek, Erin Brown, Sema Lew, Alexa Marin, Annia McCormick, Julia McDonald, Gracie Mitchell, Samantha Murphy, Olivia Roman, Lauren Van Neck, Megan Waller

SUBJECT TO CHANGE...

CHOREOGRAPHY Leann Alduenda (Faculty) with contributions from the dancers
MUSIC "Snowfall Butterflies" by Asher Fuller, "Why Oh Why", "Gaughing Las" and "Quirk n Twerk" by The Soundlings, "Sad Eyed Waltz" by Telecasted

DANCERS Dancers from the Contemporary Repertory Class: Lisette Abundez, Hannah Bauer, Hannah Bielcik, Emma Bowman, Madeliene Bredek, Kiley Cook, Katrina Culman, Chiara DeTata, Samantha Garrett, Tatum Gates, Eva Horovitz, Aviv Kesar, Molly Koretz, Sadie Levin, Jaymie Louie, Maya McClain, Gabriela McClure, Amelia McManus, Gracie Mitchell, Emily Olster, Araceli Ramos, Leah Sarles, Sara Sjoblom, Lauren Waller, Megan Waller, Maddie Yaghi

MOSAIC

CHOREOGRAPHY Aviv Kesar (Student) with contributions from the dancers
MUSIC Sabe Deus (Instrumental Version) composed and performed by The Idan Raichel Project

DANCERS Lisette Abundez, Sema Lew, Alexa Marin, Maya McClain, Amelia McManus, Gracie Mitchell, Emily Olster, Lauren Van Neck, Elena Venner

YOUR MOVE

CHOREOGRAPHY Sara Sjoblom (Student) in collaboration with the dancers
MUSIC "Sh-Boom" performed by The Crew Cuts, composed by Floyd F. McRay and Carl Feaster, and "Peer Gynt Suite No. 1, Op. 46: IV. In the Hall of the Mountain King" performed by The City of Prague Philharmonic Orchestra and Richard Hein, composed by Edvard Grieg

DANCERS Daylin Atwood, Erin Brown, Aviv Kesar, Molly Koretz, Sam List, Jaymie Louie, Annia McCormick, Amelia McManus, Karen Severson, Alena Wachowski, Riley Young, Sofie Zalatio

NOT BROKEN

CHOREOGRAPHY Dana Lawton (Guest Artist) in collaboration with the dancers
MUSIC "4 100 (2024)" by Michael Wall

DANCERS Lisette Abundez, Hannah Bielcik, Erin Brown, Abby Denton, Samantha Garrett, Aviv Kesar, Gracie Mitchell, Emily Olster, Joyce Shen, Sara Sjoblom, Megan Waller

FLIGHT

CHOREOGRAPHY Diana Stanton (Faculty) in collaboration with the dancers
MUSIC "Beyond" by Adrián Berenguer

DANCERS Hannah Bielcik, Kate Blevens, Maddie Bredek, Erin Brown, Aviv Kesar, Molly Koretz, Maya McClain, Gracie Mitchell, Melissa Nemeč, Emily Olster, Araceli Ramos, Joyce Shen, Lauren Van Neck, Camryn VanderZwaag, Megan Waller, Sofie Zalatio

INTERMISSION

HIGHER

CHOREOGRAPHY Michelle Walter (Faculty) in collaboration with Erin Brown and Olivia Roman and with contributions from dancers

MUSIC "Light my Fire" performed by The Doors, written and composed by Robby Krieger, Jim Morrison, John Densmore and Ray Manzarek.

DANCERS Dancers from the Advanced Ballet Repertory Class: Ani Ajamian, Erin Brown, Caroline Carter, Kirsten Eveland, Katherine Gordon, Auguste Guiraudet, Dylan Hahn, Sema Lew, Gillian Mahl, Nicole Murdock, Samantha Murphy, Mia Perkins, Eva Porter, Olivia Roman, Eden Schott, Karen Severson, Sara Sjoblom, Lauren Van Neck, Sofie Zalatico

LEFT ME BLUE

CHOREOGRAPHY Kathleen Ford (Faculty) in collaboration with the dancers

MUSIC "Does Your Heart Beat For Me" performed by Patsy Cline, composed by Arnold Johnson, Mitchell Parish, and Russ Morgan, "Your Kinda Love" performed by Patsy Cline, composed by Roy Drusky, "Who Can I Count On" performed by Patsy Cline, composed by Sammy Masters, "Blue Moon of Kentucky" performed by Patsy Cline, composed by Bill Monroe

DANCERS Daylin Atwood, Abby Denton, Olivia Ferreri, Aviv Kesar, Sam List, Jaymie Louie, Maya McClain, Amelia McManus, Melissa Nemec, Emily Olster, Araceli Ramos, Karen Severson, Joyce Shen, Sara Sjoblom, Alena Wachowski, Riley Young

RAW LANGUAGE

CHOREOGRAPHY Megan Waller (Student) with contributions from the dancers

MUSIC "Raw Language" by Forest Swords

DANCERS Lisette Abundez, Daylin Atwood, Hannah Bielcik, Kate Blevens, Maddie Bredek, Abby Denton, Gaby Khalfin, Sema Lew, Jaymie Louie, Julia McDonald, Amelia McManus, Samantha Murphy, Araceli Ramos, Olivia Roman, Sara Sjoblom, Karen Severson, Elena Venner, Olivia Wilson, Riley Young

SYNERGY

CHOREOGRAPHY Lisette Abundez (Student) in collaboration with the dancers

MUSIC "Plage Coquillage" composed and performed by Tao Mon Amour

DANCERS Hannah Bielcik, Olivia Ferreri, Samantha Garrett, Aviv Kesar, Gaby Khalfin, Jaymie Louie, Annia McCormick, Julia McDonald, Emily Olster, Karen Severson, Joyce Shen, Lauren Van Neck, Elena Venner, Alena Wachowski, Megan Waller, Olivia Wilson

TYPE 1

CHOREOGRAPHY Araceli Ramos (Student) with contributions from the dancers

MUSIC "Intercepted Message," "Die Laughing," and "Submerged Building" performed and composed by Thee Oh Sees, Osees

DANCERS Maddie Bredek, Abby Denton, Olivia Ferreri, Samantha Garrett, Gaby Khalfin, Sema Lew, Sam List, Julia McDonald, Gracie Mitchell, Melissa Nemec, Emily Olster, Joyce Shen, Alena Wachowski, Sofie Zalatico

BREAK AWAY

CHOREOGRAPHY Horacio Heredia (Faculty) in collaboration with the dancers

MUSIC "Heaven's Dust 3" by Michael Wall, "Kyoko's House ('Stage blood is not enough') and "November 25: The Last Day" by Phillip Glass, Kronos Quartet, Michael Riesman

DANCERS Lisette Abundez, Hannah Bielcik, Olivia Ferreri, Aviv Kesar, Sema Lew, Maya McClain, Megan Waller, Sofie Zalatico

UPRISING

CHOREOGRAPHY Mike Esperanza (Guest Artist) in collaboration with the dancers

MUSIC "Motives and Thoughts" by Lauryn Hill, "Put Your Hands Where My Eyes Could See" by Busta Rhymes, "United in Grief" by Kendrick Lamar, "Freedom" by Beyonce

DANCERS The Orchesis Dance Company

Curtain Call music: "Ain't No Stoppin' Us Now" by McFadden & Whitehead

ARTIST STATEMENTS OF INTENT

To learn more about the creative development and intent behind all the artists' work, we invite and encourage you to explore the Artist Statements of Intent at the link below.

Please access the QR Code below OR LINK:

[Artist Statements of Intent - ELEVATE](#)



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Theatre & Dance
COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS

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Please make your check payable to "Cal Poly Foundation"

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT:

Theatre and Dance Department Office (805) 756-1465

MAIL TO: Cal Poly Theatre and Dance Department
One Grand Avenue
San Luis Obispo, CA 93407-0331

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ARTIST BIOGRAPHIES

LEANN ALDUENDA Leann Alduenda, Assistant Professor of Dance, is Southern California native and has been a dancer, choreographer and educator for over 30 years. She holds a B.A. in Dance Magna Cum Laude from UC Riverside, where she also received a Chancellor's Scholarship, and holds an M.F.A. in Dance from UC Irvine where she was awarded the Leo Freeman Foundation Fellowship for choreographic and academic excellence. As a professional performer, Leann has danced with numerous companies and was a founding member of BARE Dance Company, Artistic Director Mike Esperanza, which she performed with for over 10 years. She is currently dancing with Fuse Dance Company, Artistic Director Joshua D. Estrada-Romero, and has been with the company since 2012. Leann was the Artistic Director of the Jimmie DeFore Dance Center in Southern California for 15 years, was an Associate Professor of Dance at Santa Ana College for eight years, and served as a lecturer at Chapman University, UC Irvine, and Riverside Community College.

CLINT BRYSON serves as the Production Manager for the Performing Arts Center, coordinating production elements and advancing shows. He is the Lighting Designer for Cal Poly's Orchestis Dance Company and has designed scenery and lights for select Theatre Program productions. Clint teaches production classes in the areas of Stagecraft, Stage Management and Lighting Production. In addition to production and design work for companies in Arizona, Southern California and along the Central Coast, he spent seven seasons as the Resident Lighting Designer for The Rogue Theatre Company in Tucson. Clint has a BFA in Theatre Production from the University of Arizona.

ARTIST BIOGRAPHIES CONT.

KATHLEEN FORD is a Part-Time Lecturer in the Theatre and Dance Department, teaching courses in Ballet and Jazz Dance. She received her M.A. in Dance Education with a K-12 teaching credential from Hunter College, M.F.A. in Dance from CSU Long Beach, and B.S. in Recreation Administration and Minor in Dance from Cal Poly. Kathleen was a dancer in Chicago's Deeply Rooted Dance Theater and has performed in works by Rebecca Bryant, Kevin Iega Jeff, Gary Abbott, Helen Pickett, Ohad Naharin, Paul Taylor, Mike Esperanza, Robert Moses, Andrew Vaca, Gerald Casel, Melissa Younker, Diana Stanton, Lisa Deyo, and Michelle Walter. Her choreography has been presented at Chicago Freelance Dance (Hubbard Street Dance Chicago), CSU Long Beach, Cal Poly, SoCal Dance Invitational (Goldenwest College), Dance 4 the Camera Film Festival, American College Dance Festival Gala (U. of Montana), Doug Varone's CHIN Project (92nd Street Y), Wave Rising Series (92nd Street Y), DUMBO Dance Festival (Gelsey Kirkland Center for the Arts), Split Bill (Triskelion Arts), Comedy in Dance Festival (Triskelion Arts), WAXworks (Triskelion Arts), Under Exposed (Dixon Place), 8 in Show (Dixon Place), and she was named a 2015 Breaking Glass choreographer, a platform that recognizes young and emerging female choreographers. Kathleen was a teaching artist and educator in New York City at Bank Street School for Children, Blue School, Dancewave, Mark Morris Dance Center, and the YMCA.

HORACIO HEREDIA currently teaches dance at Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo. He also teaches at various local dance studios in the community. Heredia's choreography work has been presented at Allan Hancock's Dance Department, Orchesis Dance Company, the American College Dance Festival's Baja regional conference and the HH11 Dance Festival in Santa Barbara. He has performed with dance companies such as Variable Velocity Performance Group, Ballet Theater San Luis Obispo, Deyo Dances, and Civic Ballet San Luis Obispo. He earned a degree in civil engineering from Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo.

DIANA STANTON Professor of Dance at Cal Poly, directs the Dance Program within the Theatre and Dance Department. She directed the Orchesis Dance Company from 2009-2014 and from 2021 to the present. She has choreographed for Cal Poly Music Department's RSVP/Soundings performance and the Cal Poly Symphony. Her dances for the camera, "Breaking Bread," and "State of Grace," were selected for screening at several film festivals in the U.S. including the San Luis Obispo International Film Festival. Stanton was also the Co-Founder, and Co-Artistic Director of Variable Velocity Performance Group in San Luis Obispo where she created original choreography for more than 12 years. She earned a Master of Fine Arts degree in dance from the University of Colorado at Boulder and a Bachelor of Arts degree in dance from the University of California, Irvine. www.dianastanton.com

MICHELLE WALTER is currently a faculty member at Cal Poly in the Theatre and Dance Department and is an assistant director for the Orchesis Dance Company. She also teaches at the Academy of Dance and for the Civic Ballet of San Luis Obispo. Walter earned her Master of Arts degree in dance education from Stanford University and her Bachelor of Science degree in business administration from Cal Poly SLO. While at Cal Poly she was a member and choreographer with Orchesis and was invited as a guest performer for the company after graduation. She studied ballet under former Ballet Russe dancers Mara Lysova and Gilbert Reed and has been a member of the Civic Ballet of San Luis Obispo and the Gilbert Reed Ballet Company. While on sabbatical, she studied in London and Cambridge, performing at the Cambridge Arts Theatre. She has also studied at Julio Bocca's studio in Buenos Aires. Walter taught at Cuesta Community College for more than 20 years, developing and writing the curriculum for the dance program, and she founded the Entourage Dance Company. She lives in San Luis Obispo with her husband Bill and their twins, Silas and Alessandra.

GUEST CHOREOGRAPHERS

MIKE ESPERANZA is an acclaimed artist from New York City who has established an international presence in dance community. Mike has presented on prestigious stages including the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, Sergerstrom Center for the Arts, McCallum Theatre, Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, Salvatore Capezio Theater at Peridance, The Royal Conservatory in Cordoba, Spain, and the Australian Circus Festival. The Los Angeles Contemporary Dance Company, Dark Circles Contemporary Dance, Whim W'him and other universities around the United States have commissioned Mike's work. Mike's experience garnered Dance: Creation for Performance grant presented by Dance/USA and the Irvine Foundation, "Innerstate" tour presented by ODC Theater, the paid engagement award at the Palm Desert Choreography Under the Stars Festival, the Reverb Dance Festival commission award, and the CUNY Dance Initiative.

Originally from California, Mike obtained a degree in graphic design from California State University, Fullerton. Mike relied on his education to sustain a dance company for twelve years in Los Angeles and New York City, where marketing and photography became an integral part of building a business brand, including print and online presence. Mike's organic approach to photography captures the body in its shape-shifting form. "I treat the frame the same way I compose movement on the stage. The visual context is created based on the need of the client. Some are simple and forward while others generate tension to push the flow in and out of frame."

Mike is currently continuing his visual and creative exploration through film. Two of Mike's recent works have been screened nationally and internationally. The National Center for Choreography in Akron, Ohio and the San Francisco Dance Film Festival named Mike a choreographer for the 2018 "Co-Laboratory" Project. The Project pairs a choreographer with a film director to create a dance film in ten days using the City of Akron as a backdrop. The film "But first..." will premier at the San Francisco Dance Film Festival on October 11th through 14th.

Mike's work has been described as "bold, athletic movement and theatricality – the latter clearly the coming together of Esperanza's many talents – the company epitomizes the dance of the new millennium: shape-shifting, vernacular-blending with a prescient focus on the brave new world in which we live." ~ Jessica Abrams, Explore Dance.

DANA LAWTON Artistic Director of Dana Lawton Dances, a modern dance company in the Bay Area, Dana is a tenured faculty member at Saint Mary's College in the Performing Arts Department, a faculty member at Shawl-Anderson Dance Center and Co-Director of the Enchanted Ridge Dance Workshop. A founding member of Bay Area's acclaimed dance company, Janice Garrett & Dancers (Garrett+Moulton), Dana has had the honor of performing works by Joe Goode (Joe Goode Performance Group), Randee Pauve (Pauve Dance), Nina Haft (Nina Haft & Company), Rebecca Salzer (Rebecca Salzer Dance Theater) and Cathy Davalos (Davalos Dance Company) among others. Artist-In-Residence at Shawl-Anderson Dance Center in 2006, Dana founded Dana Lawton Dances. She was Artist-In-Residence at The Flight Deck, a new theater in the heart of downtown Oakland in 2015. Dana Lawton Dances was awarded Company-In-Residence in 2016.

Lawton has been presented at the Isadora Duncan Awards Ceremony, San Francisco, The Work Gallery, Brooklyn, New York and The Dallas Hub Theater in Dallas, Texas in addition to the Women on the Way Festival, 2nd Sundays Series, The Harvest Festival, the Vision Series, Pilot and, Flight Series at ODC, Summerfest Dance, and the San Francisco International Arts Festival. Her dance company toured to France and participated in the Royère de Vassivière in Chamberet (2014), Belfast, N. Ireland (2016) and Bangkok, Thailand (2018 & 2022).

Lawton holds an MFA in Choreography from Mills College and a BFA in Dance from California Institute of the Arts.