

Tempest Productions and VanDance Inc present

The Starlight Revue

June 24-25, 2022

The State Theatre

5th Annual Central PA Theatre & Dance Fest

The Programme

(in order of appearance)

The Old Time Radio Show presented by Tempest Productions. It's the 1950s and the Golden Age of Radio. 10 Radio Personalities vie for the lead roles and center stage as they bring you reminders of years gone by on this WTMP station!

Adam Swartz Puppets pops in to make a guest appearance to help calm down (or rile up) the studio audience as we prepare for the broadcast.

The Extra-Ordinary Capvara mixes the ridiculous and the extraordinary through his circus techniques and abilities. Inspired by the classics, he performs juggling, physical comedy, mime with crowd interaction, stunts and tricks, provoking smiles from people of all ages around the world!

Mairi's Wedding performed by Luke Marcinkevage and Holly Foy

Lara Vracarich, Creative Spirit Fusion presents Alma Fuego Flamenco (Soul Fire Flamenco). Lara brings Spanish Flamenco dance to the stage with a Soul-Fire fusion flare.

RAM Squad A mix of freestyle and choreographed pieces made just for the Starlight Revue to showcase street/urban dance!

Michele Dunleavy and Stacy Glenn Tibbetts

Lullaby of Birdland, S'Wonderful, and Lulu's Back Town

Sock & Buskin Theatre Company presents *The Appointment* by Dewan & Claire Demmer

It's just before midday and Jim is sitting down for a quick cup of coffee before his next appointment. Little does he know that in the next twenty minutes his day will quite literally turn to hell. Why? Because he has completely underestimated the mentality of the average client and their belief in good customer service. So when they literally all turn up at once, including one that's five hours early (She knows he won't mind seeing her a bit early) and one that's three hours late (She did call to say she'd be late), and all expect to be seen immediately, what can he do? Never mind the poor guy who's actually on time.

with

Gregg Baptista as Jim

Stefanie Austin as Sally

VanDance Inc. presents *Driftwood Spirit (world premiere)*

Choreography: Ann Van Kuren

Music: Ambedo by Rachel Panitch, recorded by Cardamom Quartet, 2018 with Lisa Goddard, Rachel Panitch, Gillian Gallagher, and Ariel Friedman

Written as a part of Artist Residency at Acadia National Park, in particular, inspired by time spent at Isle au Haut. The title comes from John Koenig's Dictionary of Obscure Sorrows -- a collection of invented words for shared human experiences. His definition for ambedo is: "a kind of melancholic trance in which you become completely absorbed in vivid sensory details—raindrops skittering down a window, tall trees leaning in the wind, clouds of cream swirling in your coffee—briefly soaking in the experience of being alive, an act that is done purely for its own sake."

Preludes, Book 1, No.2: Voiles (Sails) by Claude Debussy

Suite Bergamasque: Claire De Lune (Moonlight) by Claude Debussy

Text: "The Dreamer-Moodas (The Dream Spirit)" by Molly, Spotted Elk, arranged by Cynthia Mazzant

Film: Jessica Cook

Performers: Cynthia Mazzant and Ann Van Kuren

This project was made possible by the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts, a state agency. The Pennsylvania Council on the Arts is supported by the National Endowment for the Arts, a federal agency.

Special Thanks!

Jim Colbert

Holly Foy

Stephanie Gates

Hot Styles Dance Company

IGAR

Josephine Pirrone

Mary Rohrer-Dann

The State Theatre

Jon Vicker-Jones

Webster's Bookstore Cafe

about the artists (alpha order)

Stefanie Austin (the assistant) is the President of Sock & Buskin Theatre Company and is also playing "Sherry" in their debut show, *Sibbleger*. Stefanie's been an actor, director, and various other roles in a number of productions since 2014; her most recent role was as "Miss Scarlet" in SCCT's *Clue* in April.

Gregg Baptista (the doctor) worked in high school and community theatre in his native Massachusetts and returned to theatre last year after a long hiatus. He was most recently seen as Mr. Green in State College Community Theatre's production of *Clue* and is serving as producer on Sock & Buskin Theatre Company's first production, *Sibbleger*.

The Community Players is comprised of community members dancing together. This month we concentrated on period dances from the Regency Period, the Victorian Period, and 40s-60s pop dance. Our Pop-Up Dance Parties are for all ages, all experiences, all abilities and offered free. www.centralpatheatre.com

Jessica Cook is a filmmaker and photographer from Saint Augustine, Florida. She graduated from Pennsylvania State University with a BA degree of Film Production and the Smeal Business Certificate in May 2022. In her future, she will be continuing her film and photography career wherever she ends up.

Michelle Dunleavy Michele has choreographed and performed extensively throughout the Mid-Atlantic region. She works in a variety of dance forms including tap, jazz, and modern, and her choreography has been presented in Chicago, Pittsburgh, Philadelphia, Minneapolis, NYC, Maryland, and West Virginia. In addition to performing her own work Michele has danced with Kompitus Rhythm Collective, Take it Away Productions, Pittsburgh Opera, Junction Dance Theatre, Physical Theatre Project, DANA Movement Ensemble, ETCH Dance Co., and B3W.

Michele's most recent project, Steel Valley Rhythms (SVR) is a percussive dance piece and community engagement project that investigates the connections between place, memory, and embodiment as experienced by generations of Pennsylvania iron and steelworkers. Other recent projects include, 5/4 Ever a tribute to the life and music of Dave Brubeck, and choreographic commissions by jorsTAP (Chicago) and The Lady Hoofers (Philadelphia). Michele's work has been supported through grants from the Greater Pittsburgh Arts Council, the Galaxy Arts in Education program, and Penn State's College of Arts and Architecture, where she was an embedded researcher in the Arts and Design Research Incubator.

Michele is a Professor of Dance in the School of Theatre at Penn State University, where she teaches Tap Dance, Intro to Jazz Dance, and Supporting Communication Through Performance. She also contributes original choreography to Penn State Centre Stage. Favorite productions include: The Wiz, Rent, Good Kids, American Idiot, She Kills Monsters, and the Wild Party.

Stephanie Gates (Peggy Parker) Stephanie has worked with many local theatre groups, onstage and off. Favorite onstage roles include Big Mama in *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*, and Aunt Abby in *Arsenic and Old Lace*. She is employed at the Penn State University Libraries Music and Media Center and helps to manage the audio and video collections.

Megan Irwin (Penelope Pruitt) Megan Irwin is a fourth year BFA Acting major at Penn State. Recent credits include *Results Will Vary* (Swing), *Lonely Together* (Sophie), and *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Nighttime* (Ensemble/Lady in Street/Station Policeman). Megan is so excited to be part of the 2022 Theatre and Dance Festival!

Evan Marcinkevage has enjoyed theater since elementary school. He's appeared in productions with Singing Onstage, Park Forest and Delta Middle Schools, Tempest Productions, and most recently in *Fallout* by Mary Gage. Some of Evan's favorite roles include Lumierre in *Beauty and the Beast*, and Evan Goldman in *13!*. Evan enjoys playing music, and playing and commentating Esports. A recent graduate of the Delta Program High School, he is excited to be an incoming freshman at Penn State in the Electrical Engineering and Computer Science Program.

Luke Marcinkevage (Jim Johnson) will be starting his 10th grade year at the Delta Program High School. He has performed in shows with the Delta Program Middle School (*Into The Woods, Once On This Island*), Singing Onstage (*Annie*), and with Tempest Productions (*Medea*), and in *Fallout* by Mary Gage. Luke is a talented artist and musician who likes dancing, singing, writing, playing piano and composing music, and creating digital art.

Paul Marcinkevage (Fred Franklin) After years of supporting his children's theatrical interests, Paul decided to become involved himself and over the years has performed in productions with the Central PA Theatre and Dance Fest, Tempest Productions, and the Next Stage. In addition to his bucket-list role of Benedick in Shakespeare's *Much Ado About Nothing* opposite his actual wife's role as Beatrice, Paul's other favorite performances include *Jekyll and Hyde, An Ideal Husband, Under Milkwood, Poe: Deep Into That Darkness, My Dear Friend: The Letters of John and Abigail Adams*, and *Fallout*.

Cynthia Mazzant is a member of the Society for Stage Directors and Choreographers, The Dramatists Guild, and the National Dance Education Organization. She serves as the Artistic Director of Tempest Productions and the Central PA Theatre & Dance Fest. She has been awarded several National Endowment for the Arts grants for her work with arts-in-education and literacy through the arts. As a performer, Cynthia has toured throughout the US, Europe, and South America. www.cynthiamazzant.com

Rachel Panitch is a Boston-based violinist, improviser, composer, and teaching artist. Rachel performs Classical music with the Cardamom Quartet, is a dance fiddler with French Roast, and improvises with audiences as a part of Thread Ensemble (a trio of violins and vibraphone).

Josephine Pirrone first performed with Tempest Productions in Nora and Della Ephron and Ilene Deckerman's *Love, Loss, and What I Wore*. She has been involved with the Central PA Dance & Theatre Fest since its inception in 2018. She participated both behind the scenes and on-stage and on-line as the Fest went virtual in 2020 and 2021. As are all of us, she is thrilled that Fest goes live in 2022. Previously, she performed in the SCCT productions of two of Wendy Wasserstein's plays; *The Heidi Chronicles*, in which she played the role of Heidi, and *The Sisters Rosensweig*, as the more boisterous Dr. Gorgeous. More recently, she played Grace in The Next Stage's production of Susan Griffin's *Voices*. Josephine is a long-time educator and has assisted in several of Tempest's arts in education programs.

Kim Plummer (Bitsy Bidwell) is employed as the Assistant Director of Alumni Relations for the School of International Affairs at Penn State University. She resides in Pa Furnace and is the mother of two children ages 19 and 21 along with 3 fur babies (two dogs and a

cat). She has appeared in many local theatre productions, most recently in the role of Mrs Peacock in State College Community Theatre's production of Clue: Onstage. Other stage credits include: Violet Newstead in 9 to 5 the Musical, Billie Dawn in Born Yesterday, Elvira in Blithe Spirit, Belinda Blair in Noises Off, Gabriella in Boeing, Boeing, and Margaret in Much Ado About Nothing.

Raw Aesthetic Movements, better known as **RAM Squad**, is Penn State's only freestyle organization on campus. RAM's purpose is to promote the art and expression of street/urban dancing in an informal environment where club members can observe, participate and learn. If you would like to learn how to dance and explore hip hop a little bit more, look them up on Instagram @ram_squad and come to any of their open practices. Anyone is welcome to join the RAMily.

Gordon Robinson (Tom Thomas) is a transplant from Philadelphia who has lived in State College since the late nineties, he is hoping that in another twenty five years he will be considered a "local". Since moving to the area Gordon has acted with darn near every theater company in the State College area and is always thrilled to be given another opportunity to take to the stage. In his non-theater spare time he is the Co-Owner and manager of IGAR Games, the brand new hobby level game store on Martin street in State College. Gordon is eternally grateful to Tempest Productions for allowing him this shameless plug.

Sock & Buskin Theatre Company is the area's newest community theatre. Established in May 2022, S&BTC is committed to building a welcoming, vibrant, community-driven theatre group in Centre County. *The Appointment* (revue skit) and *Sibbleger at the Central PA Theatre & Dance Fest* are S&BTC's debut shows and will host dinner theatre shows in the fall. Thanks for supporting local theatre and dance! <https://sockandbuskintc.org/>

Adam Swartz Puppets Adam Swartz has a degree in Integrative Arts from Penn State University. He has been traveling the United States since 1999, using his powers of storytelling and puppetry for good. He has a background in performance, multimedia visual art, technical theater, and education. Adam gained much insight and experience training with the Brooklyn Puppet Conspiracy at a series of workshops, as well as Sesame Workshop puppeteers at a week-long invitational workshop. He also ventured from Pennsylvania to the University of North Texas for "Beyond the Sock," another week of training with skilled muppeteers.

For Adam Swartz Puppets, Adam creates and performs original, interactive puppet shows to entertain and educate crowds of all ages. He directs summer theater camps and presents year-round workshops for children and adults and is a registered artist with the Pennsylvania Council of the Arts and participates in extended residency programs with Galaxy Arts in Education and Arts Erie in Pennsylvania.

Adam also designs and builds puppets for other artists. In addition to puppeteering, acting, and doing technical work for his own theatre company and others, Adam is a storyteller for Middle Earth Studios in Stony Run, Pennsylvania.

Tempest Productions and The Central PA Theatre & Dance Fest. The Central PA Theatre and Dance Fest showcases the Centre region's vibrant professional and pre-professional theatre, dance, and other performing arts groups through one immersive weekend each summer. The Fest invites both local residents and visitors alike to experience State College as a thriving destination for the performing arts. Enjoy groundbreaking performances from local and national artists, learn a new skill at a workshop, and take in all our community has to offer.

The Fest intends to lift up the local performing arts community year-round. Check under the Live Performance tab to learn more about our area's talented community of artists in theatre, dance, and other performing arts as well as to stay updated on upcoming performances throughout the year.

The Central PA Theatre and Dance Fest was founded in 2018 by two long-time members of the local theatre community, [Cynthia Mazzant and Elaine Meder-Wilgus](#), through the nonprofit theatre company [Tempest Productions Inc.](#) Tempest Productions has been providing theatre and theatre-in-education programming to communities since 1996 through access to quality family-oriented theatre. Tempest's community programs – The Journey Series, StoryBook Theatre, and the Shakespeare Festival Series – have reached over 100,000 people with experiential events filled with reading, writing, and arts activities.

Stacy Glenn Tibbetts (guitar/vocals) is grateful to the Central PA Theatre and Dance Festival, Michele Dunleavy, The State Theatre, and his family for this opportunity!

Recent performing credits include the Nittany Lion Inn's PA on the Patio events from 2015-19, The Village at Penn State, and regular appearances at Zola Bistro and Big Spring Spirits with Leah Mueller and Her Rhythm and the Stacy Glen Trio.

Stacy has also played guitar for productions of A Man of No Importance, Smokey Joe's Cafe, Little Shop of Horrors, Dreamgirls, Bye-Bye Birdie, and Hello, Dolly for Penn State Centre Stage, 4th Wall Music Theatre, Fuse Productions, and the Nittany Valley Symphony.

Also a composer/songwriter, Stacy co-wrote Bella Sicilia: The Gourmet Musical (2004) and Dialing for Donna (2011). He has released two CDs of his songs, Alleyways (2001), and Out On the Town (2010), featuring jazz vocalist Catherine Dupuis and the Rick Hirsch Quartet.

In NYC, his originals have been performed at Don't Tell Mama, The Dramatists' Guild's Loewe Room, The Planet Connections Theatre Festivity, and the American Popular Song Society's annual writer's cabaret.

Stacy teaches writing at Penn State and lives in Bellefonte with his wife, Gina, and daughter, Johanna. Member: Dramatists Guild of America, ASCAP, and Theatre Resources Unlimited.

VanDance Inc., State College's own professional dance company for 21 seasons, is dedicated to creating and presenting unique, high-quality contemporary dance works through professional artist collaborations. VanDance delivers dance as an alive and vital art form through integrity in the creative process, education of audiences, and outreach to underserved populations.

Ann Van Kuren is a dancer, choreographer, and teaching artist based in State College, PA. She received a B.A. in dance and mathematics from Butler University and an MA from Ohio State. She is founding artistic director of VanDance Inc. celebrating its 21st season. She has danced professionally with three other companies and was artistic director of Pennsylvania Dance Theatre for ten years, commissioning work and creating more than 40 dances. She has taught and been commissioned by companies and colleges and danced in the works of many acclaimed choreographers. A rostered artist of the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts, she received a Choreographer's Fellowship grant from the PCA and is a certified teacher of Zena Rommett Floor-Barre© Technique. *Floor-Barre© is a registered trademark of Camille Rommett.*

Lara Vracarich is passion about dance, rhythm, the creative arts, and environmental awareness. She offers classes and events in expressive and multicultural dance, body percussion, drumming, vocalization, mindfulness, embodiment practices, and self-care, integrating the visual arts and writing, to explore the healing power of self-expression.

As Creative Spirit Fusion™, she performs expressive and multicultural dance, rhythm, and spoken word (often with live musical ensembles) with the aim to cultivate an appreciation for, and an acceptance of, diversity. As Alma Fuego Flamenco™ (Soul Fire Flamenco), she performs and teaches Flamenco dance and rhythm.

Lara has a BA in "Human Development: Dance Therapy", is a rostered Teaching Artist through Perry County Council of the Arts with a Teaching Artist Certificate from the University of the Arts, and has worked as a Creative Arts Therapist at The Renfrew Center of Philadelphia, facilitating inpatient groups in body awareness, self-acceptance, movement, and spirituality.

Lori Wilson (Ruby Russell) is thrilled to be working with this extremely talented cast! Her previous Tempest shows include Sunshine, Lollipops & Rainbows (Annette), La Scafetta (Cara, Lady in Waiting), The Farndale Avenue Housing Estate Townswomen's Guild Dramatic Society's Production of A Christmas Carol (Felicity), The Bard In Bellefonte (various), The Bellefonte Journeys (various), and several radio shows. She has also appeared in SCCT's production of The Crucible (Elizabeth Proctor) and Dracula (Vampire). She hopes everyone enjoys the festival!