

THEATRE & DANCE

2024-25



CU ★ PRESENTS



Theatre & Dance

UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO BOULDER

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LATECOMERS are seated at the discretion of house management. You may be seated in the nearest available area to minimize disruptions. Some venues may not be able to accomodate late seating.

PHOTOGRAPHY and **AUDIO / VIDEO RECORDINGS** are **PROHBITED** during the performance.

SILENCE CELL PHONES AND OTHER PERSONAL DEVICES, and refrain from using them during the performance.

Feel free to view this program at the event on your device anytime before or after the show, or during intermission.

CU Boulder is a **SMOKE-FREE CAMPUS**.

The University of Colorado Boulder, Colorado's flagship university, honors and recognizes the many contributions of Indigenous peoples in our state. CU Boulder acknowledges that it is located on the traditional territories and ancestral homelands of the Cheyenne, Arapaho, Ute and many other Native American nations. Their forced removal from these territories has caused devastating and lasting impacts.

THE CONVERSATION SERIES

Stitching the Geopolitical Quilt to Re-Body Belonging Iteration #3 (Premiere)

7:30 p.m., Sept. 12 and 13, 2024

2 p.m., Saturday, Sept. 14, 2024

Roe Green Theatre

Photography and video recording of any kind are strictly prohibited.

CARE STATEMENT

The artist recognizes that art can provoke. This care statement is offered as an action to support an atmosphere of mutual respect and sensitivity by informing audiences that the program includes references to violence and the sound of gunshots.

PROGRAM

Concept and Direction

Helanius J. Wilkins

Choreography

Helanius J. Wilkins

(Movement vocabulary created in collaboration with A. Ryder Turner and Brandon Welch)

Performers

Helanus J. Wilkins

Brandon Welch

Music

Original sound score composition, arrangement and performance by Andy Hasenpflug

Additional sound includes:

Prelude and Creole folk song performed by vocalist Erica Fox

Welcome to DC performed by Mambo Sauce

Scenic Design

Iain Court

Steven Frost

Components created in collaboration with community members

Costume Design

Jasmine Lewis (Jasmine Lewis Design)

Lighting Design

Iain Court

Video Production Content Creation and Editing for Stage Production

Roma Flowers

Video/Cinematography

Jesse Barlow, Benjamin Cheney,

Carlos D. Flores (Watcheye Studios), Jeremiah Hutchens,

DeJuan Jordan, Reinhard Lorenz (First Eye Film),

Steven Tucker (Big Horn Films)

Interactive Technology Design and Programming

Peter Gyory

Technical Director

Iain Court

Dramaturgs

elle hong

Gesel Mason (Performance Doula)

Stage Manager

Alston Tyndall

COMMUNITY COLLABORATORS

This premiere performance features sections inspired by conversations with Colorado state residents between 2021 and 2024 during community programs and workshops organized in collaboration with:

- The Collective Community Arts Gallery (Lafayette)
- Mi Chantli Art & Movement Sanctuary (Boulder)
- CU Boulder (Boulder)
- Dance Initiative and the LaunchPad (Carbondale)
- University of Colorado - Colorado Springs Visual and Performing Arts (Colorado Springs)
- Lafayette Youth Advisory Commission (LYAC) (Lafayette)
- RedLine Contemporary Arts Center (Denver)

PERFORMANCE FUNDING

This performance premiere is made possible in part by Visit Boulder and Create Boulder and CU Boulder Department of Theatre & Dance.

The Conversation Series: Stitching the Geopolitical Quilt to Re-Body Belonging is a National Performance Network (NPN) Creation & Development Fund Project co-commissioned by Redline Contemporary Art Center in partnership with CSPA Legion Arts, Dance Place, The Clarice Smith Performing Arts Center and NPN/VAN.

The Creation & Development Fund is supported by the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation, the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, and the National Endowment for the Arts (a federal agency). For more information, visit npnweb.org.

For a complete list of funders and supporters for the work, please visit helaniusj.com/the-conversation-series

PROGRAM NOTES

This is the feature program for the CU Boulder Dance Program's annual (UN)WRAP series.

The Conversation Series: Stitching the Geopolitical Quilt to Re-Body Belonging is a multi-dimensional evening-length dance production that confronts and celebrates heritage, resilience, justice, and hope.

“Making this work, I am less afraid to walk,” says Wilkins. “My hope is that those experiencing the work will feel a similar sense of liberation from the intense pressures of our world in this moment, a sense of belonging, and be inspired to action—in their own way—toward creating a more socially just landscape of potentiality.”

[Click or tap here to learn more and sign up for mailing list.](#)

To stay connected:

Facebook: **[@helaniusjwilkins](#)**

Instagram: **[@helaniusjwilkins](#)**

Post-Performance Talk

Each performance will be followed by Q & A sessions with Wilkins and special guests.

Special Thank You

I am grateful for and thankful to everyone who contributed to making all this possible. A very special thanks to the CU Boulder Dance Program for affording me this opportunity to share my creative research to kick-off our 24-25 season, to the Department of Theatre & Dance administrative and technical teams for their collaborative efforts, and all individual, organizational and community partners, making up the greater ecosystem for this work to be mobilized. A very special thanks to Kate Bashore, director of dance production, for your care and collaboration. To the work's artistic and technical collaborators, and the many volunteers and supporters, I thank you for your extreme generosity and for truly making all the difference in this journey. Thank you to all the amazingly brilliant humans who traveled to Boulder to participate in the (un)WRAP symposium leading up to the public performances. It truly takes a village. Thank you to Gianluca 'Nipun' Fantoni and Boulder Conscious Rolfing® & Myofascial Release for supporting me with keeping my body together. *The Conversation Series: Stitching the Geopolitical Quilt to Re-Body Belonging* is not possible without collective actioning and creating invitations to shape a greater sense of togetherness—belonging.

PERSONNEL

Lafayette, Louisiana native and Boulder, Colorado transplant, **HELANIUS J. WILKINS** (he/him) is an award-winning choreographer, performance artist, educator, certified Colorado Change Leader and activist (artist-activist) who lives in a country where he is continually reminded that he is Black. Wilkins' creative research and projects are rooted in the interconnections of American contemporary performance, cultural history and identities of Black men. His projects examine the raced dancing body and ways ritual can access knowledge. He uses remembering to piece together and liberate Black identity through performance. Having choreographed more than 60 works, honors include the Pola Nirenska Award for Contemporary Achievement in Dance (Washington, D.C.'s highest honor, given by the Washington Performing Arts Society, 2008); Kennedy Center Local Dance Commissioning Project (2002 and 2006). Foundations/organizations including NEA, NEFA National Dance Project and the National Performance Network (NPN) have supported his work. He founded and artistically directed D.C.-based EDGEWORKS Dance Theater, an all-male dance company predominantly of Black men that toured nationally and internationally (2001-2014). He is associate chair and director, and an associate professor of dance at the University of Colorado Boulder. Among his many service efforts, he is a member of the National Board of Directors of the American College Dance Association (ACDA) for the Northwest region and completed a four-year term to the Colorado Council on Creative Industries that he was appointed to in 2018 by Governor Jared Polis. helaniusj.com

IAIN COURT (he/him) (Germany) has lit works in medieval churches, circus tents, on riverbanks and in haunted orphanages as well as many theatres. His lighting in dance and other genres has toured in Australia, Asia, Europe and North America. He is particularly interested in collaborative new media performance and installation. He is also a director and performer, theatre design consultant and has worked in arts education for the Sydney Opera House, National Institute for Dramatic Arts in Australia, CALARTS and several universities. He has collaborated on international award winning performances, dance films and digital arts education programs. He won the David Helfgot award for his contribution to accessible arts in Australia. Recent collaborations have been with critically acclaimed Corningworks Glue Factory Project in Pittsburgh and Europe, award winning immersive performance *The Day Shall Declare it* in Downtown Los Angeles, the English Theatre Cologne and Anna Pillot at the Prague Quadrennial. He is excited to continue this journey with *The Conversation Series: Stitching the Geopolitical Quilt to Re-Body Belonging*.

ROMA FLOWERS (she/her) (Texas), a theatrical lighting and projection designer and screendance maker, her career spans more than thirty years and includes designing the lighting for such diverse performing arts as the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theatre, The Dance Theatre of Harlem, the Doug Elkins Dance Company and Doug Varone Dance, among others. Her work has been seen throughout the United States and abroad including in Brazil, the UK and Singapore. Flowers is a recipient of the New York Dance and Performance Award (aka Bessie) for her lighting designs, the KOI-USA Knight of Illumination Projection Design Award for *A Bon Coeur*, an evening-length work, created and performed by Helanius J. Wilkins. Flowers's screendance collaboration with Wilkins, *Dirt*, was awarded Best Experimental Film in both the New York World Film Festival and the Fine Arts Film Festival. Flowers, as video designer, was a member of the creative design team for the Lyric Opera of Chicago's 2023 premiere of *The Factotum*.

ERICA FOX (she/her) (Louisiana) is a local griot, community advocate and professional singer with more than 40 commercial recordings. She has performed on stages throughout the country including the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame and the National WWII Museum. Her music has been featured in commercials, TV and movie soundtracks. She is the owner of Attakapas Collective, a BIPOC creatorspace and the founder of Lafayette's first African American cultural museum, Maison Creole de Freetown. She continues to be a champion for music education and cultural preservation in Acadiana. She performed as part of the live production of the second iteration of *The Conversation Series: Stitching the Geopolitical Quilt to Re-Body Belonging* that premiered in Louisiana in October 2023.

STEVEN FROST (they/them) (Colorado) is an assistant professor in the Department of Media Studies at CU Boulder and an interdisciplinary fiber artist. Their research focuses on textiles, queer studies and community engagement. Using weaving, Frost combines traditional materials like yarn and cotton with non-traditional materials from a range of sources, exploring the ways history and time are uniquely embedded in textiles. Frost is a co-founder of the Experimental Weaving Residency, Slay the Runway and the Colorado Sewing Rebellion and is the associate director of the Unstable Design Lab at CU Boulder's Roser Atlas Institute. Frost has exhibited and performed across the United States and internationally. Frost's work can currently be seen at the Denver Art Museum.

PETER GYORY (he/him) (Colorado) is a game designer and creative technologist, who specializes in developing novel interfaces for games and other forms of interactive art. Gyory recently completed his PhD in creative technology and design at the ATLAS Institute of the University of Colorado Boulder. Gyory has previously collaborated with Helanius J. Wilkins on *Multiscapes*, where he built custom electronics for sensing interactions between the environment, the audience and the performers. Peter is currently a lecturer for game development and virtual reality technology courses at the ATLAS Institute while he plans the next step in his academic career.

ANDY HASENPFLUG (he/him) (Pennsylvania) has had the great pleasure of working as a musician in the dance world since 1989. He is the dance music director at Slippery Rock University and the American Dance Festival. As a composer and dance musician, he has collaborated with countless choreographers and film makers over the years, including Rosie Herrera, Helen Simoneau, Helanius J. Wilkins, White Fox Butoh, Dance Alloy, Kate Jewett, Gerri Houlihan, Ursula Payne, Jesse Factor, and The Seldoms. Hasenpflug has also been a professional drummer and percussionist since 1986, having played with the United States Air Force Band, Chicago Shakespeare Theater, COBRA ensemble Cincinnati, tons of weddings, bars, recording studios, houses of worship and many more. He publishes music under the names Andy Hasenpflug and Rabbitplow.

JASMINE LEWIS (she/her) (New York) is an interdisciplinary designer who merges art and fashion through form and material exploration. Her unique garments and accessories make a statement in any wardrobe and are meant to empower the wearer and celebrate individuality. A Denver native, she has been featured in Denver's 303Magazine and her Denver Fashion Week collection was featured in Forbes Magazine. She has created work for film, TV and live performance, including designing a mini collection for HBO and AT&T celebrating the series finale of *Game of Thrones* as well as collaborations with creatives such as Denali for *RuPaul's Drag Race*. Lewis began working with Wilkins in 2021 specifically for the creation of the collection for *The Conversation Series: Stitching the Geopolitical Quilt to Re-Body Belonging*.

ANNA PILLOT (she/her) (Colorado) is a dance artist, teacher, production manager, technical director and adventurer. Her choreography has been featured nationally and internationally, most recently at the 2023 Prague Quadrennial Studio Stage. Pillot enjoys exploring the ways in which technology and dance intersect, coexist and diverge. This research has led her to deepen her exploration of lighting design, projection mapping, video editing and motion capture technology, and to discover enjoyment in supporting the production needs of other artists in the field. She holds an MFA in dance from CU Boulder. She is thrilled to be a part of the team for *The Conversation Series: Stitching the Geopolitical Quilt to Re-Body Belonging*, specifically working in the areas of technical production and project management.

BRANDON WELCH (he/him) (Colorado) is a dancer, teaching artist and creator with a passion for utilizing movement as a catalyst for social change. He is originally from Indianapolis, Indiana and currently resides in Boulder. Through his work with Helanius J. Wilkins in *The Conversation Series: Stitching the Geopolitical Quilt to Re-Body Belonging*, he seeks to establish connection across difference by exploring themes of identity and ways of advocating for racial equity as a Christian of European-American lineage. This research is informed through experiences facilitating movement workshops in U.S. prisons, Chicago public schools and shelters for intimate partner violence in New York City. Previous artistic and performance work includes Momix Dance Illusionists, Doug Varone and Dancers, Hannah Kahn Dance Company, JK-co and Gibney Dance Company. During his time with Doug Varone, Welch participated in Dance Motion USA's cultural diplomacy program to South America and performed in *Les Troyens* at the Metropolitan Opera.

PRODUCTION TEAM

Technical Production Assistance / Assistant

Project Manager

Anna Pillot

Lighting Technicians

Alessa Oltman

Cheri Bauman

Zoe Gidiere

Costume Shop Assistants

Marie-Antoinette Banks	Kyra MacGregor
Jonathan Bashford	Madeline McRoberts
Alexandria Cox	Hope Mills
Sara David	Adison Palmer
Elena Diederich	Wulfgar Parmenter
Liliana Eurich	Cyrus Porter
Briana Gebhart	Brooke Rawcliffe
Maddy Goldberg	Hailey Roller
Savvy Gullett	Norah Schaefer
Tyreis Hunt	Sydney Sowl
Koral Jackson	Kai Symons
Rebekah Jeffery	Emily Zhou
Shannon Kosman	Khalil Flowers
Kirra Lindauer	

Dance Production Crew

Kaia Schiff	Evan Hunter
Katrina	Nathan Klimpel
Chandrashekhar	Alessa Oltman
Sonwane	Hazel Palmer
Edward Lee	Rory Smith
Devon Beckum	Alston Tyndall
Angela Gumieniak	

Scene Shop Production Assistants

Lilly Bergen	Nathan Klimpel
Gwen Burke	Emily Littlefield
Peyton Burns	Kyra MacGregor
Roan Cochrane	Sam Nicastrò
Hayley Delich	Algie Schneider
Xan Gardner	Kai Symons
Ruth Goldenberg	Sophie Wills
Lauren Haas	Rachel Zwerenz

Run Crew

Elizabeth Ervin
Emily Garza
Ellie Hoffman
Jessica McKay
Alston Tyndall
Angela Gumieniak
Hazel Palmer

Systems for Care & Repair (community engagements): Co-Creation

A. Ryder Turner
Brandon Welch
Helanius J. Wilkins

Systems for Care & Repair (community engagements): Facilitation (past & current)

A. Ryder Turner (2020-2023)
Brandon Welch (2023-present)
Helanius J. Wilkins

Photographic Images

David Dowling
Roma Flowers
Rachel Hansen
Jeremiah Hutchens
Meredith Kennedy
Paul Kieu
Reinhard Lorenz (First Eye Film)
A. Ryder Turner
Helanius J. Wilkins

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Cecilia Pang

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Production Coordinator
Lara Maerz

Director of Dance Production
Kate Bashore

**Graduate Assistant Director of
Dance Production**
Alston Tyndall

Dance Production Associate
Mackenzie Derrick

Costume Production Director
Ted Stark

Technical Director
Jordan Feeler

Associate Technical Director
Stephen Balgooyen

Production Electrician
Monica Bowker

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Jesse Manno

**Assistant Director of Dance
Production**
Alston Tyndall

**Assistant to the Costume Production
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Teresa Gould

Graduate Program Assistant
Moumita Archarya

Administrative Assistant
Madysen Hunter

Student Administrative Assistants
Ellie Barczak
Camden Hornor

Academic Advisor
Jessica Baron

Student Hourly Payroll
Camden Hornor

Costume Rental/Stock Managers
Edie Roth
Savannah Gullet

Production Bookkeepers
Sydney Sowl

Production Shopper
Kyra MacGregor

Wardrobe Supervisors
Brooke Rawcliffe

Dance Costume Coordinator
Tyreis Hunte

Dance Events Coordinator
Harveen Gill

Dance Video Recording/Archivist
Izzy Phipps

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