

Studio Dansu presents...

CROSSROADS

A decade of
10
DANSU

Saturday March 7th, 2026
2:30pm & 6:30pm
Bartell Theatre

Tickets: \$20 / \$16 (children under 10)
bartelltheatre.org or call 608-661-9696



Studio Dansu Presents

Crossroads

Choreographers

Alexis Lepperd

Jayne Shimooka

Artistic Director

Jayne Shimooka

Costume Design

**The Choreographers
and Students**

Lighting Design

Collin Koenig

Dansu Corps de Ballet

Amalia Junker

Willow Randall

Tiana Shimooka

Eleanor Ziemlewicz

Genevieve Ziemlewicz

Dansu Dance Company

Eva Cummings-Garcia

Tenzin Holinbeck

Quinn Horton

Amalia Junker

Zarmeena Nu'man

Tiana Shimooka

Teagan Weller

Eleanor Ziemlewicz

Genevieve Ziemlewicz

Dansu Crew

Zarmeena Nu'man

Jiayi Shi

Zoe Shimooka

Teagan Weller

As a courtesy to others:

- Please turn off cell phones and refrain from texting during the performance
- Photography, audio recording, and videotaping of any kind are not permitted
- Smoking including the use of e-cigarettes is prohibited
- Food or beverages can be purchased and consumed in the lobby

Artistic Director's Note

Life is full of crossroads. Some are small choices we make every day, while others shape the direction of our lives. For young artists especially, these moments can feel both exciting and uncertain.

This concert explores those moments of reflection, courage, and discovery. Through each piece, our dancers examine the paths we take, the people who walk beside us, and the choices that guide us forward. Some works reflect quiet moments of pause, while others celebrate connection, resilience, and the excitement of stepping into something new.

I am incredibly proud of these performers and the work they have done to bring this program to life. Their dedication, creativity, and willingness to grow as artists are what make evenings like this possible.

Thank you for joining us and for supporting the arts and the young artists who continue to inspire our community.

Land Acknowledgement

Studio Dansu recognizes that our arts center and the theatres that we perform in occupy the land that is the ancestral home of the Ho-Chunk Nation, who have called this land Teejop (day-JOPE) since the time immemorial.

We acknowledge the circumstances that led to the forced removal of the Ho-Chunk people, and honor their legacy of resistance and resilience. We recognize and respect the inherent sovereignty of the twelve First Nations that reside in the boundaries of the state of Wisconsin. We celebrate their rich traditions, heritage, and culture that thrived long before our arrival.

Studio Dansu respectfully recognizes this Ho-Chunk land and affirms that we are better when we stand together and can work towards a collaborative future. We recognize this as a part of our core belief in the transformative power of the arts and our commitment to educating, enriching, and celebrating our shared human experience.

About the Performances

Crossroads

Music: 'Crossroads' - by John Mayer

Choreography: Jayme Shimooka and Dancers

Dancers: Eva Cummings-Garcia, Tenzin Holinbeck, Quinn Horton, Amalia Junker, Zarmeena Nu'man, Willow Randall, Jiayi Shi, Tiana Shimooka, Zoe Shimooka, Teagan Weller, Eleanor Ziemlewicz, Genevive Ziemlewicz

Introduction

Jayme Shimooka

Guardians of the Keys

Music: 'Aleph' - by Gesaffelstein, 'Feral Love' by Chelsea Wolfe, 'Shadow Journal' by Max Richter (voice of Tilda Swinton)

Choreography: Jayme Shimooka

Dancers: Eva Cummings-Garcia, Tenzin Holinbeck, Quinn Horton, Amalia Junker, Zarmeena Nu'man, Tiana Shimooka, Teagan Weller, Eleanor Ziemlewicz, Genevive Ziemlewicz

Inspired by the mythology of Hecate, guardian of crossroads and keeper of the keys, this work explores the moment when multiple paths lie before us and the power we hold to choose which door to open.

Should I Stay or Should I go

Music: 'Should I Stay or Should I Go' - by The Clash

Choreography: Zoe Shimooka (Student Choreographer)

Dancers: Zarmeena Nu'Man & Zoe Shimooka

For Now

Music: 'For Now' - by Marissa Lauren

Choreography: Alexis Lepperd

Dancers: Eva Cummings-Garcia, Tenzin Holinbeck, Quinn Horton, Amalia Junker, Eleanor Ziemlewicz, Genevieve Ziemlewicz

Every difficult time or situation you have ever been through in your life has only been temporary. Bad times don't last - they're only for now, and you will get through!

About the Performances

My Future

Music: 'My Future' - by Billie Eilish

Choreography: Jayme Shimooka

Dancers: Willow Randall & Tiana Shimooka

At certain crossroads in life, the future feels wide open. This duet explores friendship, possibility, and the excitement of discovering what lies ahead.

Synergy

Music: 'Synergy' - by Tash Sultana

Choreography: Týra Lex

Dancers: Eva Cummings-Garcia, Tenzin Holinbeck, Quinn Horton, Zarmeena Nu'man, Tiana Shimooka, Teagan Weller, Eleanor Ziemlewicz, Genevive Ziemlewicz

The work traces her process of navigating the storm — reshaping and integrating these fractured parts of herself — until they no longer control her, but move with her. Through this transformation, she shifts from resistance to collaboration, discovering freedom in learning to exist in synergy with the very forces that once weighed her down.

Check Point

Music: 'Meet Me Halfway' - by Black Eyed Peas

Choreography: Peyton Yang

Dancers: Zarmeena Nu'Man, Jiayi Shi, Zoe Shimooka, Teagan Weller

This song was chosen for the piece because, on some road trips, we need a checkpoint or halfway point where we can meet each other before continuing the big adventure together.

About the Performances

Taking Pause

Music: 'Experience' - by Ludovico Einaudi

Choreography: Jayme Shimooka

Dancers: Amalia Junker, Willow Randall, Tiana Shimooka, Eleanor Ziemlewicz, Genevieve Ziemlewicz

Before choosing which path to take, there is often a quiet moment of reflection. This piece explores the stillness and clarity that can come from taking a breath before moving forward.

Let You Break My Heart Again

Music: 'Let You Break My Heart Again' - by Laufey and the Philharmonia

Choreography: Jayme Shimooka

Dancers: Tenzin Holinbeck & Quinn Horton

Better Days

Music: 'Better Days' - by Dermot Kennedy

Choreography: Lily Crochet

Dancers: Tenzin Holinbeck, Quinn Horton, Amalia Junker, Zarmeena Nu'man, Tiana Shimooka, Teagan Weller, Eleanor Ziemlewicz, Genevieve Ziemlewicz

The main message of this piece is about using the support from those around you to help you out of a string of bad days. They help each other turn the corner to take on the better days in life.

My Way

Music: 'My Way' - by Calvin Harris

Choreography: Jayme Shimooka and Dancers

Dancers: Eva Cummings-Garcia, Tenzin Holinbeck, Quinn Horton, Amalia Junker, Zarmeena Nu'man, Willow Randall, Jiayi Shi, Tiana Shimooka, Zoe Shimooka, Teagan Weller, Eleanor Ziemlewicz, Genevieve Ziemlewicz

About the Choreographers

Jayme Shimooka - Artistic Director - Jayme Shimooka has been sharing her love for the performing arts with students for 25+ years. She has a BA from UW-Eau Claire in Theatre Arts, Dance, and Music. She also has a BS in Dance Theory from UW-Madison. She has certifications in American Ballet Theatre, Acrobatic Arts, and Giordano Technique, among others. Jayme founded Studio Dansu in 2015 to bring a performing arts studio to the Madison area. She created these performance groups to provide space for students who wanted to take a dedicated approach to their dance education, and is so proud of all of their hard work!

Lilly Crochet - Guest Choreographer - Lilly Crochet grew up locally, training and competing for West Side Performing Arts and Synergy Dance Academy. By high-school, she earned a spot in the Tremaine Performance Program. She furthered her dance education at The American Musical and Dramatic Academy in NYC to immerse herself in Musical Theater. Taking everything she learned in college, Lilly began teaching and choreographing for Synergy's competition team. Her works consistently earn accolades at competitions, where judges praise her creativity and ability to tell compelling stories through movement. Alongside teaching, Lilly became a 3 year member and Assistant Director for Madison Contemporary Dance.

About the Choreographers

Alexis Lepperd - Dansu Teaching Artist - Alexis Lepperd has dedicated her life to dance and finds joy in sharing her art with others. Since age 3, she has studied ballet, jazz, tap, lyrical, hula, modern, acro, and musical theatre. She earned her BA in Dance Therapy and Theatre from UW-Whitewater. She is a member of Dance Masters of Wisconsin and Wingspan Dance Company. Alexis taught at studios in Wisconsin and Illinois, and previously owned a studio and international dance teacher networking business. Alexis is excited to continue to share her passion for dance and artistic expression with dancers from all walks of life!

Zoe Shimooka - Student Teacher - Zoe has been dancing on and off for 11 years now and has been growing as a student throughout those years. She mostly does street styles but loves to try other styles. She is super excited to be choreographing a piece for this show and hopes everyone enjoys it!

Peyton Yang - Dance Teaching Artist - Peyton Yang, known in the dance community as Skrollz, is a Hmong American hip hop practitioner who found his rhythm in breakin' at just 12 years old. What began as curiosity quickly became purpose. Through movement, he discovered not only a passion, but a voice. From performing with the Next Generation of Majestic Dance Crew and collaborating with East High School's Hip Hop Movement, to now moving with The Hitterz Collective and Madison Contemporary Dance, Peyton continues to evolve as an artist. His foundation spans breakin', hip hop freestyle, and krump styles that challenge both body and spirit.

About the Performers

Eva Cummings-Garcia - Eva has been dancing most of her life and loves lyrical, modern, and contemporary. She also enjoys acting and running, which help her shine on stage. Eva loves sharing emotion through movement and is happiest whenever she gets to perform. She is grateful to her teachers and teammates for inspiring her.

Tenzin Holinbeck - Tenzin has been with dancing with studio dansu for 5 years. Her favorite style is contemporary and lyrical, she's very excited for you to see the show!

Quinn Horton - Quinn has been dancing for about 5 years, she does modern, acrobatics, lyrical, jazz, and ballet. Her favorite styles are jazz and ballet, and she can't wait for you to see the show!

Amalia Junker - Amalia is a tenth grader at Madison East Highschool. She is completing her second year on the Dansu Dance Company. Amalia's favorite styles of dance are Ballet, Lyrical, and Modern.

Zarmeena Nu'man - Zarmeena began dancing at 3 and now dance is proudly in Company and Crew. She especially loves Lyrical. The studio community means everything to her and has become her second home.

Willow Randall - Willow was 3 when she started dancing at Betty Hayes school of dance. She then took figure skating, but returned to dance and has adored it ever since. She takes ballet, pointe, and ballet company. Willow likes dance because it helps her express emotion through movement. She hopes you love the show.

Jiayi Shi - Jiayi has been dancing in hip hop for 4 years now. She likes breakin', and enjoys dancing with her friends. She also does synchronized swimming for about 4 years too, and plans to go to junior nationals this summer.

Tiana Shimooka - Tiana has been dancing with Dansu for 11 years, and loves ballet and pointe. Her mother is a true inspiration to her and her dance training. She wants to become a professional dancer along with studying hair and makeup, and someday follow in her mother's footsteps with teaching dance and owning a studio.

About the Performers

Zoe Shimooka - Zoe has been dancing on and off for 11 years now and has been growing as a student throughout those years. She mostly does street styles but loves to try other styles. She is super excited to be choreographing a piece for this show and hopes everyone enjoys it!

Teagan Weller - Teagan is a very passionate dancer. She's been dancing since she was 3 years old and started off with ballet. She then slowly worked her way through different styles of dance to land on the ones she loves the most! She does mostly hip hop and modern dance. She's 15 years old and is still very passionate about dancing!

Eleanor Ziemlewicz - Eleanor is an eighth grader at Cherokee Heights Middle School. She has been dancing at Studio Dansu for seven years, but taking lessons since she was three. Her favorite styles are Ballet and Tap. Eleanor also enjoys Musical Theater and can be seen in VACT's production of Bye Bye Birdie this April.

Genevive Ziemlewicz - Gen is a sixth grader at Cherokee Heights Middle School and this is her first season with Dansu Dance Company and Corps de Ballet. She has been dancing at Dansu for seven years and was excited to get her pointe shoes this fall. In addition to dancing, Gen also enjoys horseback riding lessons.

Thank you!