

**vcuarts** | dance +  
choreography



# dance

The VCUarts Dance community seeks to shape the future of the field. We are a vital, energetic department with an established reputation, diverse guest artist program and professionally active faculty dedicated to student success. Graduates of our program thrive as performers, makers, teachers, administrators, and in many other facets of the field of dance.



VCUarts Dance's teaching and learning environment offers a high level of student/faculty interaction. It is housed in the VCU School of the Arts, which is ranked in the top six arts schools nationally. Our production calendar is full of opportunities for students to perform and choreograph. Our facilities include eight dance studios with floor-to-ceiling windows and a fully-staffed theater designed for dance.

The Virginia Commonwealth University Department of Dance and Choreography is a pre-professional program that provides students with numerous opportunities for individual artistic growth in a community that values communication, collaboration, and self-motivation. VCUarts Dance provides an invigorating educational environment designed to prepare students for the demands and challenges of a career as an informed and engaged artist in the field of dance.

*Preparing students for lifelong careers in dance*

# choreography

Virginia Commonwealth University is committed to providing accessible and equitable living, learning and working environments free from discrimination and harassment based on race, color, religion, national or ethnic origin, age, sex (including pregnancy), political affiliation, veteran status, genetic information, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression or disability.

**CURRICULUM** // VCUarts Dance offers a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Dance and Choreography, with a focus in modern/contemporary dance. The degree requires a total of 120 credits, with 89 of those credits as the major curriculum. Alongside University Core courses, dance-focused academics, and creative process classes (i.e. composition and choreography), dance majors are typically required to take two technique classes daily throughout the majority of their studies. The continuous study of modern/contemporary dance and ballet is a strong component of the curriculum. In addition, elective courses in partnering, jazz, hip hop, West African, contact improvisation, yoga, Pilates, and other studio experiences are offered, rounding out a curriculum that also involves studies in anatomy and dance science, dance history, and music, among other areas. Within the core there are opportunities for repertory experience and for independent study. VCUarts Dance is an accredited member of the National Association of Schools of Dance.

## curriculum

*One of the nation's "top ten schools for choreography."*

—SeattlePI

## faculty

**FACULTY** // The department's full-time faculty possess rich professional backgrounds and remain vitally active in the field. The current full-time faculty includes Courtney Harris (Interim Chair), MK Abadoo, Sinclair Ogaga Emoghene, Lea Marshall (Associate Chair/Producer), Trebien Pollard, Scott Putman, Eric Rivera, E. Gaynell Sherrod, Ed.D., Kate Sicchio, Ph.D., Judith Steel, Autumn Proctor Waddell, as well as Lighting Designer/Technical Director Carrie Cox, and Music Director Robbie Kinter. The department also has 10 part-time faculty members (including a physical therapist, several accomplished ballet instructors and a noted dance writer/critic), a support staff for the management of the dance office and Grace Street Theater, as well as musicians who play for classes and collaborate with choreographers.

The teaching roster also includes nationally recognized guest artists whose residencies range from a single workshop to entire semesters. Recent guest artists have included Ballet Hispanico, Robert Battle, Dawn Marie Bazemore, Camille A. Brown & Dancers, Nora Chipaumire, Dallas Black Dance Theatre, Rennie Harris, Akram Khan, Gregory Maqoma, Stephen Petronio Company, Michael Sakamoto, Helen Simoneau Danse, Urban Bush Women, Doug Varone, and Kate Weare Company.

### For more information

Department of Dance + Choreography  
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Virginia Commonwealth University  
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Tel 804-828-1711  
[arts.vcu.edu/dance](http://arts.vcu.edu/dance)



# school of the arts

SCHOOL OF THE ARTS // The VCU campus supports a diverse student population with a strong focus on inclusivity. VCUarts is comprised of sixteen programs and more than 3000 students, and includes a campus in Doha, Qatar with six additional programs and 250+ students. The School began as one night class taught by artist Theresa Pollak in the fall of 1928.

## students

STUDENTS // The VCUarts Dance student population numbers between 80-100 majors and attracts a culturally diverse and highly motivated group of young artists. A high percentage of incoming students are from outside of Virginia. They choose VCU because of the strong reputation of its dance program.

## the city

THE CITY // Richmond is a growing metropolis that supports a large arts community, including Richmond Ballet, Richmond Symphony, Virginia Opera, Dogtown Dance Theatre, Modlin Center for the Arts, and several theater companies. It is also home of the prestigious Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, and VCU's new Institute for Contemporary Art. In addition to VCUarts Dance, other presenters bring an exciting variety of dance companies to the Richmond area from across the nation and abroad.

PRODUCTIONS // The production calendar is full of many opportunities for dance majors to perform and choreograph. A typical season usually includes an informal Salon, a Student Concert,

## productions

two Senior Projects, and VCUarts Dance

NOW, a concert of students performing guest artist and faculty work. Added to this are performances by nationally and internationally recognized guest artists and their companies.

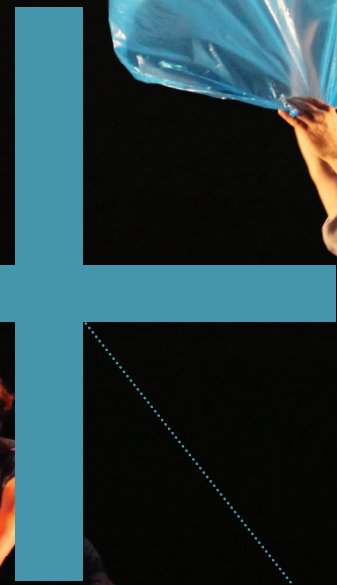
OUR ALUMNI // VCUarts Dance alumni have performed with companies such as Urban Bush Women, Limón Dance Company, Kate Weare Company, and in the Broadway cast of *The Lion King*. They run their own companies and

## our alumni

studios around the country, and work at well-known dance organizations such as the American Dance Festival and New York Live Arts, and in the office of *Dance Magazine*.

“In completing my BFA at VCUarts Dance, I rediscovered my joy in learning while also teaching their wonderfully talented and dedicated students. What a delight to be a part of the inspiring and generous VCUarts Dance community! I am proud to be an alumna.”

– Gerri Houlihan, Master teacher and former Dean of the school of the American Dance Festival



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