

# DESERT BLOOM

## A CELEBRATION OF DANCE



THURSDAY, MAY 1<sup>ST</sup> AT 7:00PM  
FRIDAY, MAY 2<sup>ND</sup> AT 7:00PM  
SATURDAY, MAY 3<sup>RD</sup> AT 7:00PM

ASNMSU CENTER FOR THE ARTS  
100 E. UNIVERSITY AVE  
LAS CRUCES, NM 88003

TICKETS:  
[HTTPS://DESERTBLOOM.BPT.ME](https://desertbloom.bpt.me)  
\$10 GENERAL ADMISSION

New Mexico State University Dance Program  
Department of Kinesiology  
Desert Bloom, A Celebration of Dance  
May 1st–3rd, 7:00PM

*Bulerias*

Choreography: Antonio Granjero, staged by Applehelen Kirby

Performance: Anistacia Aragon-Sharma, Joshua Bustillos, Samantha Hernandez, Applehelen Kirby, Antonella Palma, and Sofia Quintana

Music: *Oriente Mediterraneo* by Vicente Amigo edited by Applehelen Kirby

*Polverete*

Choreography: Sophie Ostos

Performance: Anistacia Aragon, Adriana Beltran, Alicia Diaz, Amelia Dunn, Layla Gaston, Maria Nuñez, Sophie Ostos, Isabel Rivera, Kimberly Robles Gil, Ashley Sanchez, Chelsea Singer, Anahi Telles, Areli Telles

Music: *Mariachi Orgullo de Nuevo México*: Annika Aragon, Ashley De La Rosa, Angie Dueñez, Natalia Enriquez, Alan Gonzalez, Lindsey Magallenes, Ana Mendez, Quentin Ortiz-Ortiz, Daniela Robinson, Luis Saldana

Advisors: Carley Casey, Ken Tanuz

*Paso Doble*

Choreographer George Torres Jr

Performance: Samantha Hernandez, Sebastian Rodriguez

Music: -DJ DLVG- by Espana Cani '2013'

*Remembering The Why*

Cinematographer and Director: Annie Ersinghaus

Editors: Annie Ersinghaus, Ryan McMullen

Courtesy of the College of Health, Education, and Social Transformation

*Danza del Venado*

Choreography: Abraham Quintero (Guest Artist)

Performance: Antonella Palma

Music: *Pascola/La Danza del Venado* by El Grupo Nahucalli

*Kintsugi*

Performers: Graven Babe and Sophia DerGregorian

Choreographer: Applehelen Kirby in collaboration with dancers

Music: *Human* by Sevdaliza and *Fall Back* by James Blake mix by Applehelen Kirby

*Die With A Smile*

Choreography: George Torres Jr

Performance: Jarhec Arreola, Jesse Parrent, Antonella Palma, Sebastian Rodriguez, Kayla Mathewson, Luke Patterson, Kaylynn Krenek, Arslan Atangulov, Samantha Hernandez, Stryder Baka Fox, Alexis Ramirez, George Torres Jr

Music: *Die With A Smile* by Lady Gaga and Bruno Mars

*A Landscape Triptych*

Original Performance: Chris Smith and Nicole Wesley

Poem: Chris Smith

Reinterpretation and Performance: Jakob Reynolds and Anne Wharton

\*May 1st & May 2nd Performance Only

*Joy*

Choreography: Ana Suffle'

Performance: Sinae Barraza, Briana Becerril

Music: *100% Pure Love* by Crystal Waters

\*May 3rd Performance Only

*Jus Soli*

Choreographer: Jermey J. Edmonson in collaboration with Ivan Rios (Ocelotl Martial Arts Academy)

Performance: Dafne Carrillo, Lara Chavez, Valerie Dalce, Denisse De La Cruz, Naidelyn De La Rosa, Noelle Hernandez, Joanna Mitchell, Andres Ontiveros, Alexis Serrano, Ines Ponce, Alba Quintero, Ana Silveira, Skye Skilling, Karina Vargas

Music: *All Human Beings- Pt. 1* by Max Richter, Kiki Layne, and Mari Samuelsen, and Robert

Ziegler, *Rekere Tribute* by European 305, *Mano Delson On The Beat, All Human Beings- Pt. 2* by Max Richter, Kiki Layne, and Mari Samuelsen, and Robert Ziegler

*Innerbloom*

Choreography: Ryan McMullen in collaboration with the Contemporary Dance Ensemble

Performance: Jarhec Arreola, Graven Babe, Sinae Barazza, Briana Becerril, Josh Bustillos, Amelia Dunn, Samantha Hernandez, Hannah Valdez Islas, Kayla Mathewson, Antonella Palma, Sebastian Rodriguez, Delaney Sivils

Projection Design: Jennifer A. Petuch

Music: Original Score composed and performed by Andy Hasenpflug, 2023

**Intermission (15 minutes)**

**Act II**

*blameless creatures*

Choreography: Graven Babe in collaboration with dancers

Performance: Amelia Dunn, Sophia DerGregorian, Samantha Hernandez, Kayla Mathews and Antonella Palma

Music: *Simmons with Modular* by Adam Crawley

*Rodeo*

Choreography: Abraham Quintero (Guest Artist)

Performance: Anistacia Aragon, Adriana Beltran, Alicia Diaz, Amelia Dunn, Layla Gaston, Anthony Herrera, Edgardo Malave, Maria Nuñez, Sophie Ostos, Isabel Rivera, Kimberly Robles Gil, Ashley Sanchez, Anahi Telles, Areli Telles

Music: *La Vieja* by Los Andariegos Del Norte

*A New Journey*

Choreography: Joshua Bustillos

Performance: Joshua Bustillos

Music: *Home to You* by Sigrid

*Divine Feminine*

Choreography: George Torres Jr.

Performance: Rowan Denton, Amelia Dunn, Carmen Herrera, Kaylynn Krenek, Jocelyn Luna-Duarte, Kayla Mathewson, Isabel Montano, Antonella Palma, Alexis Ramirez

Music: *Show Me How You Burlesque* by Christina Aguilera

*A Magical Moment*

Choreography: Ana Suffle' and dancers

Performance: Amelia Dunn, Graven Babe, Josh Bustillos

Live Accompaniment: Josh Bustillos

Music: *Crystallize* by Lindsey Stirling

*temporary orbit*

Choreography: Graven Babe in collaboration with dancers

Performance: Samantha Hernandez, Kayla Mathewson

Music: *144 bpm in 3* by Adam Crawley

*(Precept)itation*

Choreographer: Hannah Victoria Thomas (Guest Artist)

Dancers: Dafne Carrillo, Valerie Dalce, Naidelyn De La Rosa, Noelle Hernandez, Skye Skilling, Karina Vargas

Music: *Let It Fall (Harlum Mix)* by Lady Alma and The Rainmakers

*New York Salsa!*

Choreography: George Torres Jr

Performance: Rowan Denton, Carmen Herrera, Kaylynn Krennek, Addison Yoder, Jaymie Marie Hernandez, Jarhec Arreola, Samantha Hernandez, Jocelyn Luna Duarte, Kayla Mathewson, Isabel Montano, Luke Patterson, Alexis Ramirez, Sebastain Rodriguez, George Torres Jr, Jesse Parrent, Stryder Baka Fox, Arslan Atangulov

Music: *NUEVAYoL* by Bad Bunny

*Diary (redacted)*

Choreography and Performance: Amelia Dunn

Music: *Pearl Monologue (Excerpt)* by Mia Goth, Ti West; *The Way He Looks at Me* by Trent

Reznor & Atticus Ross; *Holidays* by Julien Glabs, edited by Amelia Dunn & Ryan McMullen

*Tu Camisita de Flores*

Choreographer: Lucilene de Geus, staged by Applehelen Kirby

Performers: Anistacia Aragon-Sharma, Joshua Bustillos, Samantha Hernandez, Antonella Palma, and Sofia Quintana

Music: *Tu Camisita de Flores (Tangos)* by Duquende, edited by Applehelen Kirby

## Student Choreographer Biographies

**Graven Babe** is a passionate and dedicated dancer/choreographer with a unique background in a variety of performing arts and mental health recovery. Beginning their training at three years old in the RAD Ballet curriculum, Graven spent sixteen years immersed in dance as a performer and six years as an educator. They also spent eight years training in classical music performance and dabbled in both theatre performance and production. However, in their early adulthood, they took a six-year break from the arts to pursue a career in social work and counseling, focusing on helping individuals in mental health recovery.

In 2023, Graven returned to their love for movement, enrolling in the dance program at New Mexico State University. Since their return, they have been an active participant in the NMSU dance program, choreographing works that were selected for multiple concerts and receiving the title of Dancer of the Year in 2024. Their work as a choreographer is marked by a creative, thoughtful approach to movement exploration.

In the summer of 2024, Graven further expanded their experience by joining the Bates Dance Festival as a production intern. During this time, they had the opportunity to work with renowned dance companies like Sean Dorsey Dance and TRIBE, gaining invaluable exposure to the professional dance world. They have also worked with Dark Circle's artistic director Joshua Peugh, contributing to both performance and creative projects.

Graven's journey reflects a deep commitment to both the art of dance and to supporting others in their artistic journey. Their diverse blend of experiences makes them a unique and empathetic voice in the dance world, always seeking to bridge the connection between physical movement, personal growth, and emotional expression.

**Joshua Bustillos** is an emerging choreographer and dance artist currently pursuing a Bachelor of Arts in Dance at New Mexico State University. Rooted in Las Cruces, his passion for movement began at age 13 with Ballet Folklórico at La Academia Dolores Huerta.

Josh's artistic journey includes five years with the Pride of New Mexico, where he honed his performance skills in both Color Guard (four years) and Piccolo (one year). These experiences provided opportunities to perform at college bowl games in Detroit, Michigan, Albuquerque, New Mexico, and a championship game in Lynchburg, Virginia. Since 2023, he has shared his expertise and passion as the Color Guard Instructor for the Las Cruces High School Showcase Band.

A highlight of his development as a choreographer was the New Mexico State University Dance Theatre mentorship program, during which he created *A New Journey*. This solo piece was selected for presentation at the 2025 American College Dance Association High-Desert Conference Informal concert in Laramie, Wyoming.

**Amelia Dunn** is from Albuquerque, New Mexico where she developed a love for performing at Baila!Baila! and NDI New Mexico. During her time as a student, Amelia has been a part of the NMSU Sundancers, Contemporary Dance Ensemble, DanceSport Ensemble, and Ballet Folklórico Orgullo de NM. In addition to performing, Amelia has been able to develop her own choreography as part of NMSU Dance Theater and had work selected to be part of the dance program's mainstage show of the 2024 and 2025 season. Her solo, *Diary* (2023), was presented at the 2025 American College Dance Association High Desert Regional Conference adjudication concert in Laramie, WY. Amelia has attended dance intensives with New Century Dance Project, Noblemotion Dance, Carmel Dance Festival, and Dark Circles Contemporary Dance. Amelia will graduate with a Bachelor of Arts in Dance from New Mexico State University, May 2025. After graduation, she will be travelling for new dance training opportunities and auditions.

## **NMSU Dance Faculty Biographies**

**Ana Sufflé** has been a dancer and dance educator for over thirty years. Ana received a Bachelor of Arts in Elementary and Secondary Education with a Minor in Dance and Master of Education in Educational Psychology from University of Texas at El Paso. Ana has studied Modern Dance, Jazz, Tap, and Clogging, most notably with master teacher and dancer Bill Evans and currently with Dr. S. Ama Wray. Ana has performed with International Dance Theatre, Turley's Dance Company, and other dance groups. A major influence in Ana's dance career has been Dr. Debra Knapp.

Ana has taught dance at Ysleta Independent School District, Gadsden School District in New Mexico, El Paso Independent School District, El Paso Community College, University of Texas at El Paso, and sporadically teaches dance for Texas Commission for the Blind and students with special needs at Bowie High School.

During her career, Ana was nominated *Teacher of the Year*, *Top Ten Teacher of the Year* by the El Paso Independent School District and has also been Nominated by National Association of Latino Artists and Culture. Ana is an Artist in Residence for the Arkansas Arts Council and was recognized by *San Antonio Latino La Salud National Magazine* and *Marketplace National Radio Station* for her continued work in promoting opportunities for underprivileged youth. Ana has taught at The American College Dance Association and World Dance Alliance. Ana is currently working with UTEP Visiting Assistant Professor for the College of Liberal Arts, Paola Lopez Ramirez's project, *Somos Agua, We are Water, Experiencing the Rio Bosque* increasing awareness of the elements through dance improvisation. Ana joined retired UTEP Dance Professor, Lisa Smith, in the development of the Summer Dance Workshop *Empowered Steps: Dancing with Aphasia and Brain Injury*. Ana is proud to be an adjunct Professor of Dance at New Mexico State University.

**Applehelen Kirby** currently serves as an adjunct faculty member for both the Kinesiology as well as the Counseling and Education Psychology departments at New Mexico State University. She has over twenty years of experience training and performing works in multiple dance styles including: ballet, jazz, tap, hip-hop, musical theater, modern, contemporary, lyrical, flamenco, and classical Spanish dance. Her dance studies have led her to travel extensively throughout the US, Spain, and Italy most notably with artists from the Ballet Nacional de España, Seminario de Flamenco y Danza, Bill Evans Teaching Institute, Social Movement Creative Dance, and StaibDance. Applehelen is an alumnus of NMSU receiving a Bachelor of Science degree after double majoring in Microbiology and Biology as well as a Master of Science in Biology specializing in Biotechnology. She conducted field research travelling to the Hawai'i Institute of Marine Biology and the Observatoire Océanologique de Banyuls sur Mer in France with her work incorporated into her Howard Hughes Medical Institute scholar thesis and Sundt scholar research presentations. She then transitioned to clinical work after receiving a Master of Art in Clinical Mental Health Counseling, minoring in Integrative Behavioral Health with Honors. During her undergraduate she minored in dance performance then specialized in dance education during her graduate studies. Her time at NMSU provided her the opportunity to be a company member with both the Contemporary Dance Ensemble and Sol y Arena Flamenco companies under the tutelage of Dr. Debra Knapp, Paco Antonio, & Lucilene de Geus. She has received multiple performance and choreographic awards in both the contemporary and Spanish dance styles with some notable ones including "Best Performing Artist" for *Autumn*, a work choreographed by Dr. Debra Knapp, "Best Performing Flamenco Artist" for *Farruca*, a work choreographed by Paco Antonio, and "Best Spanish Dance Choreography" for *Alegrías de Cordoba*. Applehelen has also worked to promote dance and the arts for youth in southern NM. In addition to her teaching and artistic endeavors, Applehelen currently works as a Licensed Professional Clinical Mental Health Counselor and National Certified Counselor specializing in trauma-informed treatment that incorporates her knowledge of somatics, mindfulness, EMDR therapy, narrative therapy, dance movement therapy, and trauma informed yoga - with a certified yoga teacher credential. She has also presented for the Southern Innovations for Therapeutic Heroes conference with presentations on *Introducing Mindful Movement into your Clinical practice* and *Mind-Body Connection - Finding Emotional Balance through Movement and energetic practices*.

**George Torres Jr** was born and raised in El Paso, Texas. Since he was 10 years old, George knew dance was his passion and wanted to spread inspiration through dance. He holds the title of youngest certified ballroom dancer in Texas as well as a Bachelor of Arts in Dance with a concentration in Dancesport from New Mexico State University. George was trained and taught by many amazing professional dancers/professors from the NMSU Dance Program and from mentors from different studios while he traveled for competitions. George was a very successful student and dancer while at NMSU, he got to travel to San Francisco, Chicago, among others and wants to travel even more. This is how he grew to love the competitive side of ballroom. He has worked as a beloved dance instructor/choreographer for Shundo Ballroom, Sunland Dance Studio, and serves as adjunct faculty at NMSU. George is known for performing/choreographing many ballroom works for the 2017 Fort Bliss Military Ball, Las Cruces Art Show, and Las Cruces USA Dance, and now for New Mexico State University Dance film *Framed*.



**Anne Wharton** is an Adjunct Dance Professor at NMSU. Anne has performed, choreographed, and taught dance in Australia, England, China, Trinidad & Tobago, and the USA. Currently a PhD Candidate in Interdisciplinary Fine Arts at Texas Tech University, Anne conducts research across cultural anthropology, dance studies, and ethno/musicology. They hold an AA in Dance from Austin Community College, a BFA in Dance from Texas State University, a BS in Mass Communication and Public Relations from Texas State University, and a MM in Musicology from Texas Tech University.

**Ryan P. McMullen** received his Bachelor of Arts in Dance from Slippery Rock University of Pennsylvania and was awarded *The Excellence in Performance Award* and *The Excellence in Choreography Award*. Ryan has performed choreography by artists such as Rodger Belman, Rennie Harris, Alexandre Munz, Ursula Payne, Andre Zachary, Jawole Zollar, and more. Ryan received his Master of Fine Arts in Dance from Florida State University, where he was a three-time recipient of the Men's Provost Performance Scholarship. In 2022, Ryan was awarded the *Rock Alumni 10 Under 10 Award* for his professional achievements in dance from Slippery Rock University of Pennsylvania.

Ryan presented choreography at American College Dance Association, Bucknell University, Dixon Place, Dogtown Dance Theatre, Small Plates Choreography Festival, Koresh Dance Company's *Come Together Festival*, Gibney Dance Center, NewGrounds Dance Festival, Exchange Dance Festival, and more. Ryan served as the Director of Dance at Louisburg College from 2018-2021, where he was also a company member with *Elevate*, a dance performance and entertainment company based in Raleigh, NC. Ryan performed with *Rennie Harris Puremovement* in 2022 in their work: *LIFTED! A Hip-Hop Gospel Musical* in Pittsburgh, PA. Ryan has been on faculty at Louisburg College, Bucknell University, Slippery Rock University, and El Paso Community College. Ryan currently serves as a College Assistant Professor and the Dance Program Coordinator and Artistic Director of New Mexico State University Dance Theatre. Ryan is also a doctoral student pursuing his Doctorate in Educational Leadership and Administration at NMSU.

## Guest Artists Biographies

**Abraham Quintero (Guest Artist)** is a native of Chihuahua, Mexico. Abraham is a passionate promoter of culture through dance. He has dedicated his career to preserving and promoting traditional Mexican folk dance, fusing it with contemporary techniques. His deep-rooted understanding of Mexico's rich dance heritage is evident in his innovative approach to choreography.

Currently serving as the Director of the University of Chihuahua's Dance Company, Abraham has been an integral part of the company since 2006, both as a performer and now as a leader. Under the mentorship of renowned dance masters Antonio Rubio Sagarnaga and María del Socorro Chapa Rodríguez, he honed his skills and gained international recognition through

numerous performances. Abraham has been a faculty member at the University of Chihuahua in the school of the Arts since 2016. Abraham has also been instrumental in fostering a vibrant dance community among students.

Abraham holds a Doctorate and Master in Arts from the Instituto Superior de Educación Artística “CALMECAC” and a Bachelor of Arts in Mexican Folk Dance from the National Institute of Fine Arts’ Academy of Dance. His research and scholarly work have been published in the renowned dance journal *resDanza*. A committed member of the dance community, Abraham is actively involved in several professional organizations, including the National Association of Mexican Folk Dance Teachers and the Institute for Research and Dissemination of Dance.

**Jennifer Akalina Petuch** is the founder and Artistic Director of Luminous Motion, LLC and a multimedia artist, dancer, digital choreographer, and former university educator of Dance and Dance Technology. Originally from West Palm Beach, Florida, she trained for fourteen years at the Academy of Ballet Florida and performed in professional ballets with the Company of Ballet Florida. She graduated magna cum laudé from the University of South Florida achieving a Bachelor’s in Dance Studies in 2011. At USF, she danced in works by Gretchen Ward Warren and Doug Varone and participated in the USF Dance in Paris Program working with Claudia Lavista and Michael Foley. After graduating, she taught at dance studios in the Tampa Bay area as well as performing, choreographing, and teaching with Shoes at the Door Dance Company. She graduated summa cum laudé from Florida State University’s School of Dance with her Master of Fine Arts in Choreography and Performance with a focus in Dance Technology in 2017. While attending FSU, she performed in works by Tim Glenn, Joséphine Garibaldi, Hannah Schwadron, and a Tedx Talk. She initiated a collaborative project for her MFA thesis with the FSU Computer Science faculty and students creating and publishing an interactive Augmented Reality software for the stage called *ViFlow*. Serving seven years as Adjunct Faculty at the FSU School of Dance, she taught courses of Pilates, Contemporary Dance, Ballet, Survey of Dance Technologies, Dance & Video: Projection Design, and Dance & Video: Camera Techniques. Petuch was an Instructional Assistant Professor of Dance at Texas A&M University School of Performance, Visualization, and Fine Arts for the 2022–2023 school year. She led the creation of multiple interdisciplinary degree programs for the Performance Technology Committee, Film & Television Production Committee, the Dance Technology program and taught Modern Dance, Dance Composition, Dance History, Jazz Dance, and Screendance. Her ongoing commitment to Dance/Motion Technology research has led to interdisciplinary projects with Computer Science, Visual Computing, Computational Media, Theater and Dance professors at Texas A&M University. Her team received two grant awards in support of projects entitled, “Increasing Audience Engagement and Interactions During Immersive Performances Through Augmented Reality,” and “Multi-user, Multi-sensory Augmented Reality Experiences and Workshops to Increase Engagement and Interactions During Immersive Performances.”

Petuch has produced multiple large-scale stage projection designs for evening length works for companies such as South Georgia Ballet, Tampa City Ballet, Louisburg College, Ballet Florida, Florida Atlantic University, Southern Illinois University Edwardsville, Slippery Rock University, and the FSU Chamber Choir and Symphony Orchestra. Her large-scale projection installations have been featured at locations such as the ExCineLab in Tallahassee, the Norton Museum of Art in West Palm Beach, and most memorably in 2023, her work, *Rinse and Repeat* was accepted into the International Projection festival, Digital Graffiti in Alys Beach, Florida. Petuch has produced multiple short and feature length films for community and professional companies, festivals, universities, and WaveAI, a generative music AI application. Her film work has been featured on local news stations and in National and International newspapers such as the The Sydney Morning Herald and the Tallahassee Democrat.

**Jakob Reynolds** is a multi-instrumentalist from Lubbock, Texas. A classically trained violinist, Jakob began studying Irish and American vernacular music traditions in his undergraduate studies at Texas Tech University, where he later graduated with a Master of Music and Doctor of Jurisprudence. When not playing music, Jakob is an attorney, gardener, and community advocate.

## New Mexico University Dance Theatre

Artistic Director: Ryan P. McMullen

Student Directors: Graven Babe, Josh Bustillos, Amelia Dunn

Theater Manager: Jim Wilkinson

Lighting Designers: Graven Babe, Aaron Krohn

Stage Manager: Rebecca Paige-George

NMSU Dance Committee: Katie Hirsch, Maggie Karveller, Ashlee Marin

Student Technical Director: Graven Babe

Videographers: Annie Ersinghaus, Derek Flodmand

Publicity: Ryan McMullen, KRWG Public Media, KVIA-7, NMSU News

NMSU Dance Faculty: Applehelen Kirby, Ryan P. McMullen, Ana Sufflè, George Torres Jr, Anne Wharton

Special thanks to the Department of Kinesiology and the College of Health, Education, and Social Transformation!

## SAVE THE DATE!

### **IGNITE! Summer Dance Camp for Kids**

June 2nd–6th

Rentfrow Hall

### **NMSU Fall Dance Concert**

November 7th–9th, 2025

Rentfrow Hall

### **NMSU Student Adjudication Concert**

December 5th, 2025

Rentfrow Hall

Follow us on social media [@nmsu\\_dance](https://www.instagram.com/nmsu_dance) for future announcements, future performances, and updates.

