



2021 Wisconsin Dance Council (WDC) Conference



Welcome to the 2021 Wisconsin Dance Council Annual Conference. After a two year hiatus, we are very excited at the prospect of seeing you on Saturday, November 6 at the Oconomowoc Arts Center located at 641 E Forest St in Oconomowoc, Wisconsin.

During this one-day in-person gathering, you will have the opportunity to: interact with guest artists in classes, participate in college auditions, and be a part of the awards ceremony and performance. Below is the schedule for the day and more information about the artists and workshops. We hope you will be able to join us!

Simone Ferro, President,
Wisconsin Dance Council

Schedule for Saturday, November 6, 2021

	Group A	Group B	Educators and Parents
8:30	Registration 8:30-9:00		
9:00	African Dance with DeMar Walker 9:00-10:30	Contemporary Dance with Gina Laurenzi 9:00-10:30	Gaga/people Class with Maree ReMalia (50 min) 10:45-11:45
9:30			
10:00			
10:30	Break 10:30-10:45		
10:45	Contemporary Dance with Gina Laurenzi 10:45-12:15	African Dance with DeMar Walker 10:45-12:15	
11:15			
11:45	Lunch and Vendor Visits		Lunch and Vendor Visits
12:15	Lunch and Vendor Visits		Lunch and Vendor Visits
12:45	Lunch and Vendor Visits		Lunch and Vendor Visits
1:00	College Auditions 1:00-2:30	Body Percussion with Katherine Kramer 1:00-2:00	YPAD with Katie Gatlin: "Supporting mental health and dance in our youth" 1:00-2:00
1:30			
2:00	Vendor Visits 2:30-3:00		
2:30	Dress Rehearsal Begins 3:00-4:30		

Awards Ceremony and Performance Begins at 5:00



2021 Wisconsin Dance Council (WDC) Conference Classes with Guest Artists



African Dance with DeMar Walker



[DeMar Walker](#) is the Artistic Director of [Ko-Thi Dance Company](#) which specializes in the dance & musical forms of Africa & its Diaspora. He has choreographed & performed in numerous company productions including “JUBA-LEE” which premiered in August 2019 celebrating the organization’s 50th Anniversary. He is also a contributor to the 2020 publication entitled “Black in the Middle: An Anthology of the Black Midwest”. In Fall 2021, he directed & released his first dance short film “The Beckoning” which has been screened in the multiple local & national film festivals. It has received several accolades including the 2021 Mozaik Philanthropy Future Art Award, as well as, Best Director & Best Film for the VOICES HEARD program at this year’s Milwaukee International Short Film Festival. Currently, DeMar is a first year graduate student pursuing a Master’s in English at Marquette University with an emphasis on Black performance arts history in the Midwestern U.S.

[Kumasi Allen](#) and [Tarence Spencer](#) will perform live music for this class.

Contemporary Dance with Gina Laurenzi



[Gina Laurenzi](#) graduated from the University of WI - Milwaukee (UWM) with a BFA in Dance. Laurenzi serves as the Studio Manager for [Danceworks, Inc.](#) where she is also an instructor and member of the performance company. Laurenzi is a guest choreographer for the Makaroff Youth Ballet (Appleton, WI), an associate lecturer at UWM, and director of the Gina Laurenzi Dance Project.

Before beginning her chapter in Milwaukee, Laurenzi lived and trained in Chicago where she performed with Giordano II and Inaside Chicago Dance. For seven years, Laurenzi owned and operated Laurenzi Dance in her hometown of Kenosha, WI.

As a member of Danceworks Performance MKE, Laurenzi has had the experience of working with Dani Kuepper, Daniel Burkholder, Kym McDaniel and Dawn Springer among others. Laurenzi’s own work has been shown at the University of Wisconsin - Milwaukee, Next Act Theatre, Danceworks Studio Theater, Milwaukee Fringe Festival.

Laurenzi’s Contemporary Class will begin with tuning in with the body and mind. Class will progress through a series of floor work and standing phrases designed to help dancers explore the possibilities for movement range, quality and expression. Combining gesture with dynamic movement, dancers will investigate the choreography in their own body but be encouraged to maintain the intricacies and details throughout.

Gaga/people class with Maree ReMalia (photo credit: Alan Kimara Dixon)



2021 Wisconsin Dance Council (WDC) Conference



[Gaga/people classes](#) offer a framework for users to connect to their bodies and imaginations, experience physical sensations, improve their flexibility and stamina, exercise their agility and explosive power, and enjoy the pleasure of movement in a welcoming, accepting atmosphere. Throughout the class, participants are guided by a series of evocative instructions deployed to increase awareness of and further amplify sensation. Rather than turning from one prompt to another, information is layered, building into a multisensory, physically challenging experience. While many instructions are imbued with rich imagery, the research of Gaga is fundamentally physical, insisting on a specific process of

embodiment. Inside this shared research, the improvisational nature of the exploration enables each participant's deeply personal connection with Gaga. Gaga/people classes are open to people ages 16+, regardless of their background in dance or movement. Participants should wear comfortable clothes, be prepared to dance barefoot or in socks, advised to bring water. <https://www.gagapeople.com/en/>

[Maree ReMalia](#) is a choreographer, performer, teaching artist, and certified [Gaga instructor](#). An adoptee born in South Korea and raised in Ohio, movement has supported her in an ongoing process of self-discovery, liberation, connection, expression, healing, and care. Through her roles as a dance artist, this is the kind of process into which she invites participants from across disciplines, identities, and experiences levels as a means of opening to new possibilities and cultivating care in understanding ourselves, each other, and the world of which we are part. Her collaborative performance projects have been presented at venues such as BAAD! Bronx Academy of Art and Dance (NY), Cleveland Public Theatre, Dance Place (DC), Gibney DoublePlus Festival (NY), Kelly Strayhorn Theater (PA), La MaMa Experimental Theater Club (NY), Mahaney Center for the Arts (VT), Movement Research at the Judson Church (NY), New Hazlett Theater (PA), and Daegu International Dance Festival (South Korea). She has been a collaborative performer in the work of Gabriel Forestieri, Bebe Miller, Michael J. Morris, slowdanger, Blaine Siegel and Jil Stifel, and Lida Winfield and she was previously a member of MegLouise Dance, MorrisonDance, and STAYCEE PEARL dance project. Since earning her MFA at The Ohio State University, she was selected as the Andrew W. Mellon Interdisciplinary Choreographer for Middlebury College [Movement Matters Residency](#) and has been faculty at Bates Dance Festival, Colorado Conservatory of Dance, Lion's Jaw Performance + Dance Festival, Point Park University, University of Florida, and University of Wisconsin-Madison. www.mareeremalia.com



Body Percussion with Katherine Kramer

[Katherine Kramer](#) has been a vital presence in the resurgence and evolution of classic jazz and tap dance since the 1970's. Grateful for having had the opportunity to work with many of the finest of tap's masters and contemporary innovators, she maintains a commitment to sharing this legacy. She has received numerous grants and awards, including the 2018 Hooper Award from the American Tap Dance Foundation, an Artist Innovation Award from the Montana Arts Council, a Fulbright Grant, and a Creation Fund Grant from the National Performance Network.

Her one-woman show, "Rhythms of the Heart," toured from 1992 – 2000, including performances at Jacob's Pillow and international festivals, and her innovative choreographies have been commissioned by numerous universities and dance companies. She was one of 12 dancers chosen to work with the late tap legend Charles 'Honi' Coles in America's first creative residency for tap at The Colorado Dance Festival in 1989 and was a featured soloist at the

2021 WDC Conference – Sat., Nov. 6, 2021 – Oconomowoc Arts Center, 641 E Forest St, Oconomowoc



2021 Wisconsin Dance Council (WDC) Conference

1996 Tap Extravaganza in New York. She worked annually as a Master Mentor for YoungArts Org. from 2006 - 2016. Katherine has worked at numerous tap and jazz festivals from New York to Rio, as well as producing 10 of her own Rhythm Explosion Festivals in Bozeman, MT. In Havana, Cuba she has taught tap to Danza Contemporanea and Conjunto Folklorica de Cuba and in 2004 she was invited to Fortaleza, Brazil to work with Co. Vata, directed by Brazilian choreographer, Valeria Pinheiro.

Her incorporation of body percussion into some of her choreographies has been influenced by colleagues, Keith Terry and Nicholas Young, and blended with contemporary dance and tap. At the heart of Katherine Kramer's work is a desire to bring people together, to encourage intimacy, and to promote the value of play as a tool in creating a more humane world. She is currently based near Madison, Wisconsin in the US.

www.KatherineKramerProjects.com



Youth Protection Advocates in Dance® (YPAD) with Katie Gatlin, "Supporting Mental Health and Dance in our Youth"

[YPAD](http://www.ypadnow.com) believes that when you know better, you do better. As a result, YPAD courses are research based, educational courses with a trauma-informed approach for dance professionals and the dance industry as a whole. The mission of Youth Protection Advocates in Dance® is to provide dance professionals with the skills and resources to protect and develop healthy, happy dancers. Through the use of online courses, YPAD courses educate dance studios and communities worldwide on the core elements in constructing an environment focused on the well-being of kids and a sustainable, safe future for dance. www.ypadnow.com