



UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO **BOULDER**
Department of Theatre & Dance

Spring 2020 Commencement Ceremony
Graduation Program

May 14th 2020 | VIRTUAL PROGRAM



Theatre & Dance

UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO **BOULDER**



Theatre & Dance

UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO BOULDER

Congratulations graduates!

As stated in the Norlin Charge, graduation does not mean that your relationship with the University is severed, rather it is strengthened.

The University is not the campus, not the buildings on the campus, not the faculties, not the students of any one time -- not one of these or all of them. The University consists of all who come into and go forth from her halls, who are touched by her influence and who carry on her spirit. Wherever you go, the University goes with you. Wherever you are at work, there is the University at work.

-- Chancellor George Norlin, 1935

We look forward to all you have to offer the world! Please stay connected and know you always have a home here in Theatre & Dance.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Erika Randall". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Erika" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "Randall".

Erika Randall
Department Chair



Program Degree List & Biographies

Minor in Theatre

Kelsey Gallotte
Alika Magas

Minor in Dance

Mesa Martorell
Hadleigh Swarts

Certificate in Hip-hop Studies

Taylor Madgett

Bachelor of Arts in Theatre

Caleb Sharp
Joseph Edgerton Shaver
Katelyn Whitedove Skeen
Sarah Sweet

Bachelor of Arts in Dance

Nicole Ann Armstrong
Alexandra Carlson
Joanna Ashleigh Dubisher
Gianna Golden
Catherine Jansury
Amy Marie Linhoff
Emma Claire Randall

Bachelor of Fine Arts in Theatre

Maria Aki
Samantha Cox
Nathan Robert Dow

Leandra Fischman
Katherine Ann Folz
Sean Robert Guderian
Brittany Lewis
Brendan Lynch
Isobel Rosie Makin
Teresa Orosco
Stephanie Saltis
Madelyn Salvucci
Mei Taylor
Jason Toennis
Katharine Turner

Bachelor of Fine Arts in Dance

Hattie Jean Houser
Attiyya Fortuné
Samantha Scovel

Master of Fine Arts in Dance

Kristen Holleyman
Gretchen LaBorwit
Taylor Madgett
Laura Ann Samuelson
Kshitija Saturdekar
Kelley Ann Walsh

Doctor of Philosophy in Theatre

Erin Kaplan
Jashodhara Sen

Maria Aki

Maria is graduating from the BFA in Design, Technology, and Management program with an emphasis in Scenic Design and Scenic Art. In her time at CU, she has designed for three shows in the Loft theatre and has been the scenic charge artist for numerous shows in the Loft, Acting Studio, and University Theatre. She has worked in the scene shop as a painter, carpenter, and welder for four years and in the Irey Theatre as an electrician for two years.

BFA in Theatre

Nicole Ann Armstrong

Nicole is graduating with a Bachelor of Arts in Dance. During her time at CU she has participated in two shows within the department. In addition to her dance major, she was a sports marketing intern with the CU athletics department and was a member of the C-Unit executive board for three years. In her final year, she became a Co-Vice President of C-Unit, primarily overseeing

BA in Dance

football in the fall and women's lacrosse in the spring. She has loved her experience here and will forever be a Buffalo. Sko Buffs!

Samantha Cox

BFA in Theatre

Sam is graduating with a BFA in Acting. She was involved in multiple productions while at CU, both musicals and straight plays.

Joanna Ashleigh Dubisher

BA in Dance

As a first generation and non-traditional student Joanna is proud to be graduating with a BA in Dance and a Minor in Arabic Studies. During her time at CU she received multiple talent and creativity awards, and the Duffy award which is a Theatre and Dance scholarship given once annually to those who spread love, radiate generosity, and share joy through both the process and the performance of art making. She worked and collaborated multiple times with CU MFA Graduate in Dance, Leah Woods. Additionally, she was a part of the collaborative group project, The Sovereign Collective, spearheaded by Associate Professor Donna Mejia, which presented work in The Current faculty concert as well as at Elevation. Joanna is looking forward to pursuing further transnational fusion teaching, performing, research and archiving opportunities post graduation.

Leandra Fischman

BFA in Theatre

Leandra is graduating with her BFA in Acting. While she's been at CU Leandra has been in a department production every semester and as of her last performance she's done a show in every venue! She has performed in the CU Fringe Festival and New Play Festival. Leandra has also been cast in the Colorado Shakespeare Festival as her internship and her last CU credit.

Katherine Ann Folz

BFA in Theatre

Katherine is graduating with a BFA in Stage Management and a Minor in Communication. While at CU, Katherine has stage managed four productions and assistant stage managed two productions for the Theatre and Dance Department including Into the Woods, Great Expectations, and Spring Awakening. Katherine was also on the Dean's List for four semesters and spent a semester studying abroad during her four years at CU.

Attiyya Fortuné

BFA in Dance

Attiyya is graduating with a BFA in Dance and a minor in business. During her time at CU, Attiyya has performed in a variety of works in and out of the dance department. Attiyya has been involved in being a member of the student organization CUDC, working as part of the production crew, and the dance costume coordinator. Attiyya has been awarded several Talent & Creativity scholarships, the Jamie Redmond scholarship, and the Undergraduate Research Opportunities Program (UROP) grant that funded her thesis works "cathexis" and "blue disappearing". Attiyya is honored to have been a part of the Be First program, a program which supports first generation students. Attiyya plans to remain in Colorado next fall and pursue her dance career. She is thankful for the faculty, staff, graduate students, and fellow undergraduates for their support, mentorship, friendship, and encouragement throughout her journey at CU.

Gianna Golden

BA in Dance

Gianna is graduating with a BA in Dance. She was on the University of Colorado Buff Gold Dance Team from 2018-2019 and spent two years as a Denver Nuggets Dancer. Gianna is also a member of Kappa Kappa Gamma. She has a love for sound design and has worked on four shows in the Department of Theatre & Dance.

Sean Robert Guderian**BFA in Theatre**

Sean Guderian spent five years completing two bachelors, a BFA in acting from the CU theater program, as well as a BA in journalism from the college of media, communication and information. He graduates with cum laude honors awarded for his theatrical study and practice with Colorado veterans in constructing and producing a testimonial stage play that explores how vets strive toward healing from service trauma, and what others can learn from them. Sean's future plans include arranging his testimonial work as a one-man-show to present and refine at various festivals and events across the nation. He will be forever thankful to the faculty and staff of the CU theater department for all their love and support.

Kristen Holleyman**MFA in Dance**

Kristen Holleyman graduated from The University of Colorado, Boulder with a B.A. in Spanish Literature, Secondary Education, and a Minor in Dance. During her performance career in Los Angeles, she created with artists Daft Punk and Mya, movement collectives The Iris Company, Intersect Dance Theatre, Heidi Duckler Dance Theatre, and with filmmakers Floria Sigismondi, Justin Gum, and Obba Babatundé. As the founder of Embodied Arts (co)LAB, Kristen's choreographic works have been presented at festivals in Mexico, the United States, and Portugal. She has been teaching dance for 14 years to local, international and bilingual communities, at-risk youth, and children with disabilities, and taught Spanish at Kallpachay Spanish Immersion Program in Los Angeles. Returning to her roots at CU in the Dance/Choreography M.F.A. program, she studied multimedia performance with a secondary emphasis in somatics as a Gyrokinesis® apprentice. During her graduate experience, she has been teaching technique courses such as Beginning Ballet with Experience, Beginning Contemporary, Intermediate Advanced Contemporary, and a T.A. for Dancing Histories. She was awarded the Program Fee Grant, Charlotte York Irey Scholarship, University of Colorado Graduate Travel Grant, and Eaton Travel Grant, making it possible to present her choreographic work "5" at Quinzena de Dança Almada International Dance Festival in Portugal in Fall, 2019. In the community, she has been teaching at local schools and studios, and is a principal performer for Chadash Contemporary Dance Movement. Her thesis concert, *A Onda (The Wave in Portuguese)*, was a multimedia, site specific, contemporary performance, a bricolage exploring consciousness, interconnectivity, U.S. and Mesoamerican women's spirituality, and ecofeminism through the lense of starfish anatomy and movement. As a practitioner of floorwork, contemporary forms, Gaga, improvisation, Hip Hop, and single-point trapeze (a newer student), she integrates these movement forms through research in starfish movement modalities, Spirit-based sacred movement practice, nature/water-immersive movement research, and multilingualism (Spanish, Portuguese); she is interested in how interactive film/projection collaborates with these experiences. She is dedicated to an embodied practice that cultivates freedom and sanctuary of the body/mind/spirit through feminist and somatic pedagogy, radical care in empathy, healing, and her own reclamation as a female movement artist. Today she graduates as a Master of Fine Arts in Dance, and extends her gratitude to all of her teachers, mentors, fellow grads, and family who have made this experience rich, life-changing, and unforgettable.

Hattie Jean Houser**BFA in Dance**

Hattie was born and raised in the Sonoran Desert of Tucson, Arizona. They studied spatial sciences and are graduating with a BFA in Dance and a BA in Geography. They love to practice pessimism and love the sun.

Catherine Jansury**BA in Dance**

Caty is graduating with a BA in dance and a Minor in Political Science. While at CU, Caty performed in several BFA, MFA and faculty showcase works. She also received the Thompson Writing Awards Honorable Mention and First Prize for Poetry, in 2016 and 2018 respectively.

Erin Kaplan**PhD in Theatre**

Erin came to CU from the CUNY Graduate Center's PhD program after earning an MA in Educational Theatre in Colleges and Communities from New York University, and a BA from the University of Michigan. Erin taught courses in Acting, Theatre & Society, and Development of American Musical Theatre at CU, and also worked as an Inclusive Excellence Coordinator at the Student Academic Success Center. While at CU Erin presented at multiple conferences, published two peer-reviewed articles, and several book and performance reviews.

Gretchen LaBorwit**MFA Dance**

Gretchen received her B.A. in Dance from Point Park University in Pittsburgh in 2009 before coming to CU Boulder. During her time in the program as an MFA candidate in Dance she has had the opportunity to continue her interest in film and photography by being the archival director for the Dance Department. Gretchen taught Beginning Contemporary Dance for non-majors and assisted in teaching Dance in Popular Culture. She also had the pleasure to work with Erika Randall, Helanius J. Wilkins, and Keith Haynes.

Amy Marie Linhoff**BA in Dance**

Amy transferred from Naropa University and is completing a BA in Dance with an emphasis in somatics. She has performed on stage and behind the scenes in numerous CU productions, participated in dance related research studies, and has worked with choreographers within and outside of the department.

Brendan Lynch**BFA in Theatre**

Brendan has loved his time as a double degree student as a BFA in Musical Theatre and a BS in Electrical and Computer Engineering with a minor in Computer Science. He has been a part of a department show each of the last 8 semesters, and has taken part in 11 shows in total, with 8 of those being musicals. Some of the shows he is most proud of are *Spring Awakening*, *Next to Normal*, and *Into the Woods*. He will be graduating with honors in both majors, and could not be more thankful for all of the peers and mentors who helped him grow here at CU Boulder.

Taylor Madgett**MFA in Dance with a Certificate in Hip-Hop Studies**

Taylor Madgett is so ecstatic to be receiving her Masters of Fine Arts in Dance from the University of Colorado Boulder. She was born in Atlanta, Georgia and received her Bachelor's of Arts in History from Emory University. She specializes in Hip-Hop dance and urban choreography. Taylor is excited to be among the first generation of CU students graduating with the Hip-Hop Studies Graduate Certificate. Taylor has had the pleasure of teaching Hip-Hop to undergraduate students at CU Boulder and Front Range Community College as well as serving as a TA for the departments of Theatre and Dance and Women and Gender Studies at CU. She is a member of Rennie Harris' Grassroots training company and has had the pleasure of performing in many shows including Fresh, The Current, and [UN] W.R.A.P. Her thesis work, Remnants, premiered October 2019 at the Charlotte York Irey Theatre. Her show focused on exploring identity and heritage through movement. Through this research she aimed to make connections between Hip-Hop and African culture by tracing the lineage between the two. Her solo within the show was nominated to perform at the American College Dance Association festival this spring. She was also invited to perform in Larry Southall's piece Civility for the

American College Dance Association as well. While at CU she was proud to be one of the founding members of the Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Committee. She received the Katherine J. Lamont scholarship in May of 2019. Taylor is so grateful for the education, training, memories, and family that she has gained from being a student in the Theatre and Dance program at CU. She is thankful for the unwavering support of her family, friends and mentors.

Alika Magas

Minor in Theatre

Alika Magas is a theater minor and a creative writing major. I never thought I could combine the two until Sarah Johnson showed me that playwriting is my *jam*. A massive thank you to Mom, Dad, Lizzy, Maryann, Jude, Issy, Markas, Kevin, Justin, and the countless other stunning people who've helped me along the way! It's been quite the journey and I would have turned back if it wasn't for you all :)

Isobel Rosie Makin

BFA in Theatre

Isobel is excited to be graduating from the University of Colorado Boulder with a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Acting. While at CU, Isobel appeared in *The Marriage of Bette and Boo* (Bette), *The Comedy of Errors* (Luciana), *Great Expectations* (Estella), *The Kingdom of Jinn* (Lois), *The Virtue of Reality* (Mallard), and rehearsed as Jaques for the spring 2020 production of *As You Like It*. Isobel worked in the 2019 Colorado Shakespeare Festival Season, acting in *Twelfth Night*, *Romeo and Juliet*, and playing Arthur in *King John*. Many thanks to her professors, family, and friends for supporting her over the past four years!

Teresa Orosco

BFA in Theatre

Teresa is graduating with a BFA from the Design, Technology, and Management program with an emphasis in Stage Management. Teresa has stage managed many productions in the department, including *Shakuntala*, *Next to Normal*, *The Current*, and *The Comedy of Errors*. She has also worked with the Colorado Shakespeare Festival along with other colleagues in the department. Teresa has been a production assistant in the scene shop as well as in the dance department for 3 years at CU, and in her last semester, served as the assistant production coordinator for Theatre & Dance.

Emma Claire Randall

BA in Dance

Emma is graduating with a BA in Dance and a BA in English with a focus in Creative Writing. While at CU, Emma performed in over seven dance department shows, was an officer on CUDC for two years, was a member of VerVE Collisionz, the CU street dance team, for three years, and was a captain on VerVE this past year where she choreographed multiple dances for the team.

Stephanie Saltis

BFA in Theatre

Stephanie is excited to be graduating from CU Boulder with a Bachelor in Fine Arts for Acting. After this long journey and being able to take part in several productions here at CU, she is ready to see where life takes her now. She is currently looking forward to being a part of *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and *The Odyssey* at the Colorado Shakespeare Festival next summer-she will also be a part of the OP production! A huge shout out to her mom for all the support and love she's given her throughout these years-can't thank her enough!

Madelyn Salvucci

BFA in Theatre

Madelyn is graduating with a BFA in Design, Technology, and Management, with a focus in Management, and a Minor in Technology, Arts, and Media. While studying at the University of Colorado Boulder, Madelyn has been involved with the Stage Management of eight shows, including *A Broadway Christmas Carol* and *As You Like It*. Madelyn was also a Production

Assistant in the Scene Shop for all four years at CU and helped with the construction of every production's technical elements.

Laura Ann Samuelson

MFA in Dance

As an MFA in Dance at CU Boulder, Laura Ann has taken courses in choreography, sculpture, video, sound, technology, writing, somatics, and performance. Their research has centered around the transmission of feeling across objects, sites, and bodies. In 2017, Laura Ann received a graduate student fellowship from the Center for the Humanities & Arts (CHA), and has served as a fellow for CU Boulder's Roser Grant Committee for the past two years. In 2019, Laura Ann performed in Michelle Ellsworth's Post-Verbal Social Network at On The Boards in Seattle and at CU as part of UNWRAP. Laura Ann graduates today with a certificate in Emerging Technologies and Media Arts Practices from the College of Media, Communication, and Information, and secondary emphases in visual art and somatics.

Kshitija Saturdekar

MFA in Dance

All the way from Mumbai, India, Kshitija began her dance training at age seven in the traditional Indian classical dance form, Kathak, and eventually expanded her dance training to include Indian Folk, Bollywood, Hip hop, Jazz, Contemporary and Ballroom dance forms. She received a BA in both Sociology and Psychology and later received her MA in Sociology from the University of Mumbai. During this time, she was also a professional dancer and choreographer with the Terence Lewis Contemporary Dance Company in Mumbai. Dance provided the opportunity for Kshitija to travel internationally and experience a variety of cultures, something that she hopes to continue doing in the future. Inspired by these experiences, Kshitija's passion for dance and cultural exploration deepened, so she moved to Colorado to pursue her MFA in Dance with a secondary emphasis in Hip-hop studies from the University of Colorado, Boulder. During her time at CU, Kshitija has taught Indian Contemporary Fusion Dance and served as a Teaching Assistant for Dance in Cultural Perception and Expression, Dance in Popular Culture and Media, and Hip-hop History. Kshitija has trained, worked and performed a variety of shows choreographed by the faculty and peers that include Rennie Harris, Donna Mejia, Larry Southall, Iain Court, Helanius J. Wilkins, Keith Haynes and herself. Her thesis concert *Prathā*, which premiered at the Charlotte Irey Theatre in October 2019 and her research includes interrogating the historical gender binaries and hierarchies of movements in traditional Indian dances. Kshitija was also the recipient of the KCACTF meritorious achievement award for her choreography for *Shakuntala*. Kshitija is grateful for all the mentorships, support, encouragement and friendships she has made and received from the faculty and staff as well as her fellow graduate and undergraduate students throughout her journey.

Samantha Scovel

BFA in Dance

Samantha is graduating with a BFA in Dance from the University of Colorado, Boulder. While at CU, Samantha has stage managed and worked as a production crew member in the Charlotte York Irey Theatre. She has also been an active participant and officer in the student organization CUDC for the past four years. While at CU, Samantha has performed in a number of shows in and out of the dance department. She has been the recipient of multiple Talent and Creativity scholarships, the Katherine J. Lamont Scholarship, and the Ace grant, awarded for her BFA show, *i(mage)*, in the Spring of 2020. Samantha plans to remain in Colorado working as a dance instructor and performing when she can. She is grateful to her fellow BFAs, dance community, friends, faculty, staff, and family for supporting her through these times. Without them it would have been impossible.

Jashodhara Sen**PhD in Theatre**

A native of Kolkata, India, Jashodhara Sen is a recent Ph.D. in Theatre and Performance Studies from the University of Colorado Boulder. She earned a Master's in Theatre Arts at Mumbai University and also a Master's in Theatre (Directing Emphasis) at Oklahoma State University. Sen's performance practice, scholarship, and teaching lie in the postcolonial studies and theatre of South Asian diaspora, theatre and social change, digital humanities, and community-based performance practices. Sen's dissertation, "*Conscience on Stage: Revising Jatra in Bengal as a Tool for Representation, Restoration, and Revolution*," investigates the traditional theatre form *Jatra* from West Bengal, India and its contribution to asserting a communal and participatory performance space. By examining the character type that depicts the anthropomorphizing of the "conscience," commonly known as the *bibek* within *Jatra*, Sen examines the nature of contemporary *Jatra* through the *bibek* character. As part of the CU Boulder Department of Theatre and Dance 2019-2020 season, Sen has adapted and directed the play *Shakuntala* by Kalidasa and received an award for directing from the Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival for this show. Sen's research and reviews have appeared in *Ecumenica Journal*, *Journal of Dramatic Theory and Criticism*, *Asian Theatre Journal*, and *New England Theatre Journal*. Sen is the recipient of 2019-2020 Graduate Student Teaching Excellence Award through the Graduate School at the University of Colorado Boulder.

Caleb Sharp**BA in Theatre**

Caleb is graduating with a BA in Theatre and has performed in several CU Productions including *Hair*, *West Side Story*, and *Into the Woods*. He's also acted in and directed local theater outside the university with organizations like Center Stage and Colorado ACTS. Caleb's work in theater has consisted of everything from performing on the stage, to helping build it, to guiding people to their seats. He is a member of the National Society of Leadership and Success and has been placed on the Dean's list.

Katelyn Whitedove Skeen**BA in Theatre**

Katelyn is graduating with a BA in Theatre, a BA in Psychology, and a Minor in Leadership Studies. While at CU, she loved working on the run crew and especially enjoyed working on *The Rocky Horror Picture Show*. During her senior year, she designed and created a theatre curriculum to be used at summer camps. She has made the Dean's List multiple times and is planning on moving to Florida to work for The Walt Disney Company after graduation.

Sarah Sweet**BA in Theatre**

Sarah is graduating with a BA in Theater. She explored many of the courses in the department and discovered her passion lies in costumes and design. She has worked in both the Film and Theater departments. During her time here, she made an 1835 style dress, edited short films, costumed a show, and made a wedding dress.

Jason Toennis**BFA in Theatre**

Jason is graduating with a BFA in Theatre Performance and a Business minor. Jason has performed in six theatre season productions, *The Marriage of Bette and Boo*, *Hair*, *Hecuba*, *Almost, Maine*, *Burning the Old Man*, and *The Popular Mechanicals*, participated in two CU Fringe Festivals, two New Play Festivals, performed as an intern with the Colorado Shakespeare Festival, and worked as a house manager for the theatre department during his junior and senior years.

Katharine Turner**BFA in Theatre**

Katharine is graduating with a BFA in Theatre Performance, BA in History, and teacher licensure in both subjects. She directed the CU Burlesque show in 2019 and 2020 and performed with their production four times. Katharine also performed in shows such as Twelfth Night, Hecuba, and Comedy of Errors and will be performing with the Colorado Shakespeare Festival this upcoming summer in Coriolanus, All's Well That Ends Well, and Pericles.

Kelley Ann Walsh**MFA in Dance**

Kelley Ann is an interdisciplinary performing artist and scholar, Certified Movement Analyst, and Alexander Technique teacher. She makes dances, collaborates, improvises, writes, and cries. Kelley Ann speaks up and fights for change. She is a founding member of CU Department of Theater & Dance's Committee on Equity, Diversity, & Inclusion, and the founder and co-chair of the Appalachian Studies Association's Arts Committee. Kelley Ann is dedicated to supporting Appalachian and neurodivergent communities. She graduates from CU with her MFA in Dance and a secondary emphasis in Women and Gender Studies. Kelley Ann doesn't know where she's headed, but she looks forward to making her way back to Appalachia someday.