



Presents

*something familiar*



DSDP  
DAWN SPRINGER DANCE PROJECTS

Choreography and Direction by Dawn Springer

Performance by Sejain Bastidas, Natalie Dellutri,  
Janel Meindersee, and Sophia Roth

Film by Rachel Malehorn featuring Marielle Allschwang

Original Music Composition by Michael Rossetto

Additional recordings by: The Dillards, Johann Sebastian Bach,  
Bob Dylan, Arlo Guthrie and Pete Seegar, The Andy Griffith  
Show, Jessica Lea Mayfield, Joan Baez

Costume support by Christy Seibers

*Something Familiar* was originally developed in the Department  
of Dance in the Peck School of the Arts at the University of  
Wisconsin, Milwaukee.

A 30 minute piece for four performers, *Something Familiar*  
explores a shifting cultural identity of generational memory from  
the Ozark Mountains. It uses song, movement, scenery and  
design to capture real and imagined versions of an American  
mythos, and the loss experienced through the ephemeral.

ONE-OFF EXHIBITIONS is a curatorial project dedicated to showcasing  
experimental, interdisciplinary, and often overlooked work. ONE-OFF  
provides a flexible platform for individuals working in the visual and  
performing arts to explore new ideas outside the constraints of commercial  
expectations.

Founded on the belief that meaningful experiences often exist in the  
margins, our programming centers on process-driven exhibitions and  
collaborative explorations. Whether emerging or established, artists are

encouraged to share new ideas and expand the boundaries of what can take place within a small space.

ONE-OFF EXHIBITIONS is run by curator/director Tina Schinabeck.

## Artist Biographies:



Sejain Bastidas is a former professional ballet dancer who has performed as a soloist with several National Ballet companies across Venezuela, Ecuador, and Peru, as well as with The Metropolitan Ballet in Minneapolis, Minnesota. Her career is marked by notable international appearances, including the opening gala of the 2019

Pan-American Games and a finalist at the World Ballet Competition in Orlando, Florida. In recognition of her contributions to the field, she has been featured in dance history books in her native Venezuela.

Beyond the stage, Sejain is a powerful advocate for the arts. She collaborated with the United Nations on a social media campaign regarding arts and immigration in Latin America, and her journey as an immigrant artist was the subject of a dedicated mini-documentary. In 2024, her impact on the community was recognized with a nomination for Teaching Artist of the Year by the City of Milwaukee.

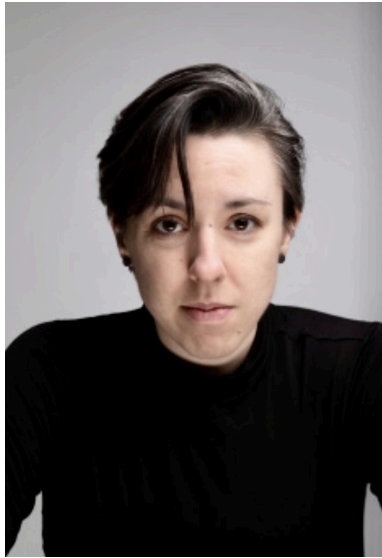
Currently, Sejain is a collaborator with the Dawn Springer Dance Project and serves as a ballet lead faculty member at the Milwaukee Ballet School & Academy and a teaching artist at Danceworks. She also leads her own

initiative dedicated to making ballet accessible to adult students throughout the Milwaukee area.



Natalie Dellutri, a Milwaukee native, trained at the Milwaukee Ballet School & Academy from ages six to eighteen. Subsequently, she pursued higher education at the University of Utah, receiving a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Ballet and Bachelor of Science in Psychology. Returning to the Midwest in May 2019, Dellutri began freelancing and subsequently joined both Banks Performance Project and Kaley Pruitt Dance companies as a leading artist, participating as a company member across multiple seasons. Her work extended to guest appearances with several dance companies and organizations, effectively establishing her presence within the vibrant freelance dance communities of Milwaukee and Chicago. Throughout the course of her career, Natalie has had the privilege of collaborating with and learning from a diverse spectrum of esteemed artists and choreographers. She has had the opportunity to perform works by Michael Pink, Alonzo King, Jules Perrot, Alejandro Cerrudo, Ohad Naharin, Nacho Duato, Mats Ek, and Crystal Pite. Dellutri has mainly gained recognition, however, for her work with Roderick George, Anouk van Dijk, and Dawn Springer. She has also become an established choreographer and director herself, with eight staged works and two screen dances.

In November of 2022, Dellutri joined Milwaukee Ballet School as a Part-Time Faculty Member. Now, she serves as Milwaukee Ballet's School Operations Coordinator while continuing her involvement as a Full-Time Faculty Member, and pursuing personal choreography and performance projects within the Milwaukee dance community.



Rachel Malehorn is a creative human who lives and works in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. A former professional ballet dancer, Malehorn danced with the Milwaukee Ballet for 13 years. Known for her on-stage presence, power, and dramatic storytelling, Malehorn's dancing career deepened her knowledge of the classical balletic form and contemporary modalities, and sparked her interest in

experimenting with different ways of committing dance to film both still and moving, leading her to a position as a Creative Consultant for the Milwaukee Ballet while dancing. Since retiring from her professional performance career, Malehorn has received her BA from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, graduating Summa Cum Laude with a major in Dance, minor in Business, and a certificate in Arts & Social Entrepreneurship. Malehorn has been a teaching artist throughout the city of Milwaukee, maintains an active photographic presence in the area, and creates dance for film with companies such as the Traverse City Dance Project (Michigan/NYC) and Chamber Dance Project (Washington, DC) for whom she created *Berceuse*, an award-winning screen dance film shot at the

Milwaukee Art Museum. She currently serves as the Creative Content Manager for Milwaukee Ballet.



Janel Meindersee's career in classical ballet includes over a decade of performance with companies including Oregon Ballet Theatre, Nevada Ballet Theatre, and Milwaukee Ballet. During her tenure dancing with resident ballet companies, Janel performed classical, contemporary, and world premier works by local and international choreographers. She cultivated a love for dance as an expressive art form and a passion for impacting communities through dance.

In 2018, Janel began studying full-time at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. While pursuing her education, Janel continued to dance as a freelance artist. She performed leading roles with Madison Ballet, appeared in new works by local choreographers, presented her own choreographic works at art showcases, and developed dance program opportunities for people with disabilities.

Janel earned her bachelor's degree in 2021 and master's degree in 2022 from UW-Madison. She now enjoys coordinating programs for a local nonprofit, leading dance classes and workshops for people with disabilities, and raising her two young sons, Everett and Robin.



Sophia Marie Roth began her formal dance training at the age of eleven, studying a wide range of dance styles and developing a strong technical foundation. She began her theatrical training at an even earlier age, cultivating a deep appreciation for performance and storytelling. Through years of dedicated study and practical experience, she discovered a profound passion for the performing arts, which ultimately led her to pursue formal training at the collegiate level.

Sophia graduated from the University of Wisconsin–Milwaukee in 2025 with a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Musical Theatre and a minor in Dance. During her time at the university, she received comprehensive training in acting, voice, movement, and dance, allowing her to grow as a versatile and disciplined performer. Her academic and artistic experiences have shaped her into a well-rounded artist with a strong commitment to excellence, collaboration, and continued artistic development.

She was in the original cast of *Something Familiar*, and is excited to be back; this piece holds a very special place in her heart.



As the son of Italian immigrants living in the midwest, it is surprising that a banjo found its way into the hands of Michael Rossetto. As a self taught banjoist and guitarist, Rossetto moved from Wisconsin to the Twin Cities in '97 and began writing and recording instrumental music with his quartet, Spaghetti Western String Co. After four records, two MN Music Awards (2005, 2006) and a handful of silent film score performances, the group disbanded in 2010. Their music can be heard in the documentary Winnebago Man.

He spent the last several years working as a sideman for The Pines, David Huckfelt, Pieta Brown, Erik Koskinen and Buffalo Gospel.

In 2015 he began recording what would become Intermodal Blues, a collection of instrumental music that is a homage to the global music well that Rossetto draws inspiration from. Intermodal Blues was produced by Twin Cities drummer/percussionist, JT Bates along with Chris Bates (bass) and Jim Anton (doshpuluur). The collection of songs are heavily influenced by Rossetto's travels to his parents' villages in Italy, the deserts of north western India and the winter back roads in the midwest.



Dawn Springer's choreography has been described as "mesmerizing" (Spin Magazine), "terrific" (Milwaukee's Shepherd Express), "surging and lush" (Philadelphia Inquirer), "subtle yet striking" (Milwaukee Journal Sentinel), and "beautiful composition" (Milwaukee Magazine). Her first evening length contemporary ballet, *Sylph*, was called "a stellar example in both music and choreography" (Shepherd Express).

As a dancer, Springer had a rich performance career for 10 years in New York City and has worked with award-winning choreographers Helen Simoneau, Camille A. Brown, Sara Hook, Sarah Skaggs, Jeff Slayton, Dahlia Nayar, and Aynsley Vandenbroucke, among others. She was a performing member of Brian Roger's Theater Et al at The Chocolate Factory in Long Island City, Queens. Her performance career has taken her to renowned venues and international festivals, including Lincoln Center, The Kennedy Center, The Venice Biennale Danza, The American Dance Festival, The New York Historical Society, and New York Live Arts. She has also performed at the Baryshnikov Arts Center, The Brooklyn Museum of Art, Dance Place (Washington, DC), the United States Botanic Garden, and The Banff Centre.

Her collaborative projects with composer and percussionist Jon Mueller were produced twice by the Eaux Claires Music and Arts Festival. She has choreographed for The Collection of Colonies of Bees in their sold-out performance at the Bradley Center with Grammy Award-winning Bon Iver, as well as for tour appearances with Grammy-nominated Sylvan

Esso. Springer has toured nationally as an adjudicator for the American Dance Festival, held a residency for consecutive summers with Alverno Presents, and was Artist-in-Residence in Dance for two years at the Clarice Smith Performing Arts Center at the University of Maryland. Her teaching engagements include universities across the country, such as The Ailey School, University of the Arts, MIT, Dickinson College, Lawrence University, and Beloit College.

She trained on scholarship at the North Carolina School of the Arts (UNCSA), graduating high school with a concentration in ballet and completing her BFA in Contemporary Dance. She earned her MFA in the inaugural class of the Hollins University/American Dance Festival Program, where her thesis performance was called “a standout” (Durham Indy Weekly). Springer studied choreography intensively with Donna Faye Burchfield (recipient of the Chevalier de l’Ordre des Arts from the French Ministry of Culture) and dance history and theory with Thomas DeFrantz (consultant for the Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture).

Springer is on faculty at the University of Wisconsin–Milwaukee’s Peck School of the Arts and with Milwaukee Ballet’s second company, MBII, and in the Pre-Professional Program with the Milwaukee Ballet School. Her writing is published in *Perspectives on American Dance*, an anthology from the University Press of Florida.

She and her husband have two children.

[www.dawnspringer.com](http://www.dawnspringer.com)

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