

Kennedy Theatre



UNIVERSITY of HAWAI'I at MĀNOA

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 14, 2016

SHAZAM! Strikes UH Mānoa

Annual Dance Concert Fuses Art and Science

The Department of Theatre + Dance at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa is proud to present the fourth and final Mainstage production of this season, *SHAZAM! Dance + Science*. The dance concert features choreography by UHM faculty and special guest artists. The show will be performed on April 15, 16, 22, and 23 at 7:30 p.m. and April 24 at 2 p.m. A free pre-show chat will precede the performance on April 16 and 23 at 6:45 p.m.

SHAZAM! Dance + Science features collaboration between several departments at UH Mānoa. With subjects ranging from engineering to physics, tropical agriculture to neuroscience, the choreographers and their collaborators illuminate the nexus of art and science while demonstrating the essential role of Art in S.T.E.M. education, forging S.T.E.A.M.

In addition to pieces created by UH dance professors Betsy Fisher and Gregg Lizenbery, the Department of Theatre+Dance is bringing in multiple guest artists to choreograph for the concert. Matt Del Rosario, a native of Hawai'i and former member of the world-famous dance ensemble Pilobolus, returned to O'ahu to create a piece commissioned by Professor Emeritus Richard Criley of the Department of Tropical Plant and Soil Sciences. Greg Dolbashian, founder and artistic director of The DASH Ensemble, is an up-and-coming New York choreographer who created new choreography for the show.

A madcap science lecture serves as the concert's framework. Written by professor of English and Director of the Center for Biographic Research Craig Howes, the lecture will be given by The Professor (played by Maseeh Ganjali), an eccentric, bumbling educator who will address various scientific principles illuminated poetically by the dancers. His group of masked steampunk assistants were choreographed and directed by local favorite, Yukie Shiroma.

Fisher, who is also the director of *SHAZAM!*, wants to emphasize the connections between dance and science. This collaboration between arts and sciences is partially inspired by a movement among educators in this nation to add art to STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) creating STEAM. Fisher is an ardent proponent of this idea. "Something we both (Arts and Sciences) have in common is the honest and wondrous search to understand who we are and how we fit into the a greater scheme. We're all digging around in the same garden. The tools we use may be different, but the goals are the same."

Tickets to *SHAZAM! Dance + Science* can be purchased online at www.etickethawaii.com, by phone at (808) 944-2697, at official outlets, and at the Kennedy Theatre Box Office during sale periods only.

EVENT:

SHAZAM! Dance + Science

PRESENTED BY:

UHM Department of Theatre + Dance

WHEN:

April 15, 16*, 22, and 23* at 7:30 p.m.

April 24 at 2:00 p.m.

*Free pre-show chat at 6:45 p.m.

WHERE:

UHM Kennedy Theatre Mainstage

1770 East-West Rd.

Honolulu, HI 96822

TICKET PRICES:

\$25 general admission

\$22 seniors / military / UH faculty and staff

\$20 UHAA

\$15 students

\$8 UHM students with validated Spring 2016

UHM photo ID

Ticket prices include all service fees.

PURCHASE INFO:

Tickets are available online at etickethawaii.com, by phone at (808) 944-2697, at participating outlets, and at the Kennedy Theatre box office.

The box office is open from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Monday through Friday during show weeks, with extended hours on performance dates.

ADDITIONAL INFO:

Outreach activities made possible in part with funding from



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