

# Kennedy Theatre



UNIVERSITY of HAWAI'I at MĀNOA

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**March 31, 2017**

## **Kennedy Theatre Presents Spring Footholds Dance Concert**

*Student Choreographers Début Dynamic Contemporary Dance*

The University of Hawai'i at Mānoa's Department of Theatre and Dance is proud to conclude its 2016/17 Primetime Season with *Spring Footholds: Best Foot Forward*. This dance concert brings together four Master of Fine Arts in Dance candidates, dance students, choreographers, technicians, and designers to create an intriguing performance of contemporary dance. Performances take place April 26, 27, 28, and 29 at 7:30 p.m. in the beautiful UHM Dance Studio built in 2013, since much needed upgrades are in progress at Kennedy Theatre.

The title of the show, *Best Foot Forward*, symbolizes this moment in the academic and artistic achievement of four Master of Fine Arts degree candidates at the eve of graduating and launching their professional careers. Each is producing highly involved dance pieces as their thesis, the culmination of their studies, practice and transformation in the UHM dance program.

*Best Foot Forward* dance choreographer and MFA candidate Charlene Katsuyoshi is a world class dancer with performance credits from around the globe. After growing up in Honolulu (Nu'uano), she graduated from U.C. Irvine and worked in the film and television industry. She continued her professional dance career with Momix Dance Company, danced for nine years with Hubbard Street Dance, and was a Lar Lubovitch Dance Company member who toured through Europe, Asia, Africa and the Middle East. Katsuyoshi was cast as the cheetah in the Broadway touring show of Lion King in 2006 and subsequently returned to

Honolulu where she currently teaches dance at Mid-Pacific Institute while pursuing her MFA in Dance from UHM.

This particular *Footholds* also features choreographer and MFA candidate Mike Romney presenting *Tír na nÓg*, a piece inspired by the Celtic legend “Oisín and Niamh in Tír na nÓg.” Romney shares that “I was also inspired by my experience in Irish step dancing and theatre and wanted to do a sort of ‘story ballet’ using folk tales and folk dance” In the story, Tír na nÓg is the Otherworld, a land of everlasting youth, beauty, health, abundance and joy. When asked about his personal and artistic motivation Romney replied, “Why dance? Simply put, because dancing makes me happy and I want to share my happiness and help others find their own happiness.”

Another *Best Foot Forward* choreographer, MFA candidate Terry Lee Slaughter, premieres three movement pieces: *Peering In*, *Happy Birthday*, and *Overheard*. While these pieces don’t share the same subject, they do share a theme of voyeurism. “I was inspired by the curiosity to know more about one another’s most intimate/personal moments,” Slaughter says, “I have always been a curious person. While at UH I have been finding the means in which to explore this curiosity.”

Choreographer and MFA candidate, Christine Maxwell, presents her culminating work *The Loraxian Effect*, a piece inspired by Dr. Seuss’ *The Lorax*. “I wanted to create a narrative that could address environmental concern without the piece becoming too ominous,” Maxwell says, “There is so much power in the arts - developing life skills, healing communities and individuals, preserving culture, engaging in social activism - the list goes on.”

Tickets to *Spring Footholds: Best Foot Forward* may be purchased online at [www.etickethawaii.com](http://www.etickethawaii.com), by phone at (808) 944-2697, at official outlets, and at the Kennedy Theatre Box Office the week of the show. For more information, visit <http://manoa.hawaii.edu/liveonstage/best-foot/>

Television News Broadcast Featuring dancer Charlaïne Katsuyoshi in 2007:  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w\\_TLJKZPLfg](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w_TLJKZPLfg)

**EVENT:**

*Spring Footholds: Best Foot Forward*

**PRESENTED BY:**

UHM Department of  
Theatre + Dance

**WHEN:**

April 26, 27, 28, and 29 at  
7:30 p.m.

**WHERE:**

UHM Dance Studio,  
1820 Edmondson Rd.  
(off Maile Way)  
Honolulu, HI 96822

**TICKET PRICES:**

\$18 General Admission  
\$16 Seniors / Military /  
UH faculty and Staff  
\$13 Students/Youth  
\$8 UHM Students with  
valid UHM photo ID

Ticket prices include all  
service fees.



MFA Dance Candidate Michael Romney and Ariel Gazarian  
*Spring Footholds: Best Foot Forward*  
Photo: Jessica Jacob

April 26-29, 2017  
UHM Dance Building, 1820 Edmondson Rd

**PURCHASE INFO:**

Tickets are available online at [etickethawaii.com](http://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.

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