



Dance Nation

By Clare Barron

Directed by Sarah Gazdowicz

David Thayer Theatre | UI Theatre Building

Please be advised that this play contains haze, strong language, discussions of suicide, violence, self-harm, sexual violence, sexual themes, and depictions of self-harm, violence, and simulated masturbation.

Pre-teen competitive dancers prepare for Nationals, and their number's coveted solo has yet to be assigned. As the pressure of the looming competition builds, the dancers must navigate shifting ground-changing bodies and bursting ambitions—together. Clare Barron's *Dance Nation* presents the euphoric highs and devastating lows of dawning adolescence alongside a shared devotion to art that can bring a group together and bring you back to yourself.

"Dance Nation" is presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals on behalf of Samuel French, Inc. www.concordtheatricals.com

Special thanks to Harry's Custom Trophies in Coralville for their donation of trophies used in the show!

Performances:

Friday, Feb. 2 at 8 p.m.

Saturday, Feb. 3 at 8 p.m.

Sunday, Feb. 4 at 2 p.m.

Wednesday, Feb. 7 at 8 p.m.

Thursday, Feb. 8 at 8 p.m.

Friday, Feb. 9 at 8 p.m.

Saturday, Feb. 10 at 8 p.m.

Tickets:

Purchase your tickets in advance through Hancher Box Office by calling 319-335-1160 or online through [their website](#).

The Box Office at the Theatre Building opens one hour prior to the performance, with tickets on an as-available basis, unless the production is sold out.

Individuals with disabilities are encouraged to attend all University of Iowa sponsored events. If you are a person with a disability who requires a reasonable accommodation in order to participate in this program, please contact the Department of Theatre Arts at 319-335-2700 in advance of the event.

Designer Moodboard

DANCE NATION

2024 February 2-4, 7-10
University of Iowa
David Thayer Theatre

By Clare Barron
Directed by Sarah Gazdowicz

COSTUME DESIGN
BY ABBY GARRATY

DANCE NATION 1.10 SAILORS

uhh Vanessa...you good???

little white keds <3

"I JUST WANT TO STAY HOME & EAT CHIPS"

STAR DANCER DOWN

"That's what happens when you don't roll through your feet properly when you land"

-Dance teacher Pat

DIRECTOR: SARAH GAZDOWICZ COSTUME DESIGNER: ABBY GARRATY PAGE 1

DANCE NATION REHEARSAL CO-ORDS

besties!

"Eat, Sleep, Win!"

rehearsal <3

Sanora

#TWINNING

DIRECTOR: SARAH GAZDOWICZ COSTUME DESIGNER: ABBY GARRATY PAGE 2

DANCE NATION 1.10 WORLD OF GANDHI

Isadora Duncan-inspired silhouette

makeup inspiration

MVP!

"Eat, Sleep, Win!"

Do you adore Isadora? Here's some more info on the legend herself!

rehearsal <3

DIRECTOR: SARAH GAZDOWICZ COSTUME DESIGNER: ABBY GARRATY PAGE 3

DANCE NATION **1.10 WORLD OF GANDHI**

TREND ALERT!
dip-dyed chiffon skirts w/ asymmetrical hem

DANCER DOWN: THE SEQUEL

DIRECTOR: SARAH GAZDOWICZ COSTUME DESIGNER: ABBY GARRATTY PAGE 4

DANCE NATION **AMINA**

makeup inspiration

warm-up booties and sweats w/ puffer vest

rehearsal 3

AMINA'S 12-STEP NO-FRIZZ SOCK BUR

DIRECTOR: SARAH GAZDOWICZ COSTUME DESIGNER: ABBY GARRATTY PAGE 5

DANCE NATION **ZUZU**

color / pattern clashing

besties!

gold lame performance skirt

Philadelphia!!!

ZUZU
From Hebrew roots, its meaning is 'Joy'. Zuzu is a variation of Zuzu (Czech, Polish, and Yiddish)

DIRECTOR: SARAH GAZDOWICZ COSTUME DESIGNER: ABBY GARRATTY PAGE 6

DANCE NATION **CONNIE**

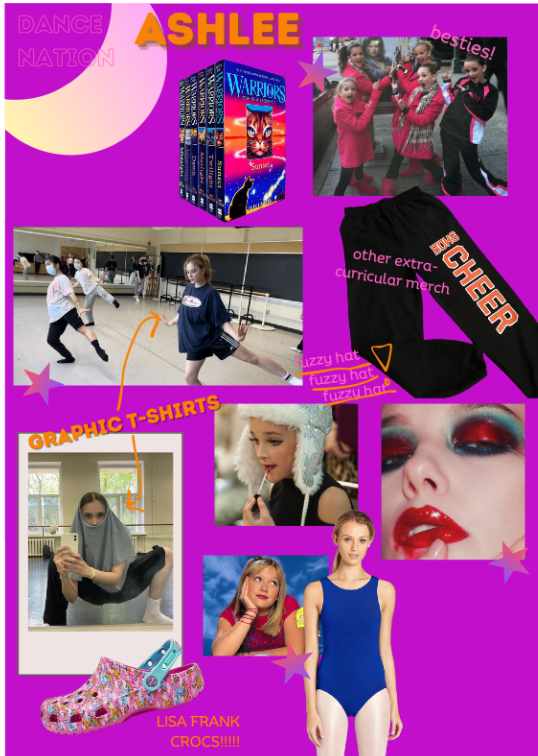
Auditions

Break a leg!!!

warm-up pants, rolled up

Connie

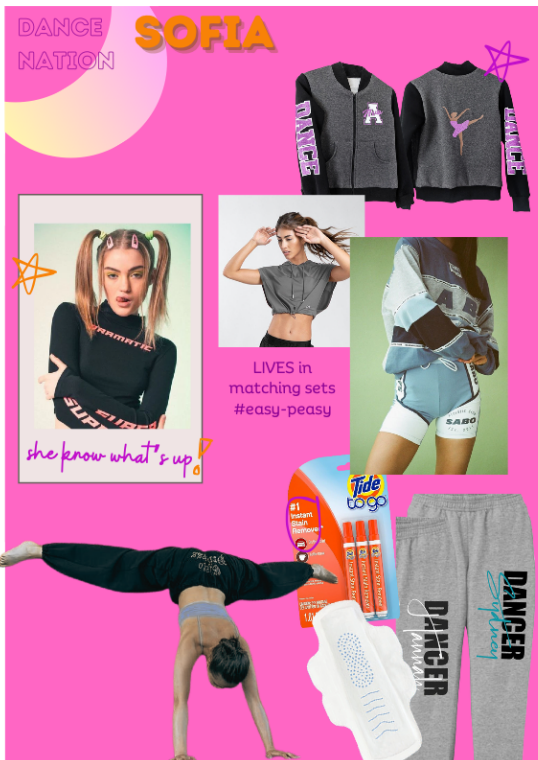
DIRECTOR: SARAH GAZDOWICZ COSTUME DESIGNER: ABBY GARRATTY PAGE 7



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DANCE NATION **DANCE TEACHER PAT**

COORDINATING TRACKSUIT

"Eat, Sleep, Win!"

competition day ready!

CRISP white tennis shoes

DIRECTOR: SARAH GAZDOWICZ COSTUME DESIGNER: ABBY GARRATY PAGE 12

DANCE NATION **VANESSA & MOMS**

rip Vanessa's knee

LUKE'S MOM

ZUZU'S MOM

mom jeans

working mom/nurse

MAEVE'S MOM

DIRECTOR: SARAH GAZDOWICZ COSTUME DESIGNER: ABBY GARRATY PAGE 13

DANCE NATION
BY CLARE BARRON
DIRECTED BY SARAH GAZDOWICZ
MEET THE CAST



Amina | OLIVIA FOSTER

Olivia Foster is a third-year MFA actor at the University of Iowa. She attended Kennesaw State University and received a BA in Theater and Performance Studies with a Concentration in Acting. Some of her recent productions include *Twelfth Night* and *Fefu and Her Friends* at Riverside Theatre, as well as *Our Lady of 121st St.*, *The Children's Hour*, *BLKS* and *Macbeth* here at the university. Olivia would like to thank her parents for all of their love and support through the years!



Zuzu | MADDIE RODRIGUEZ*

Maddie is over the moon excited to bring this terrifying, empowering, hormonal show to life. Some of her previous works at Iowa include *Men on Boats*, *Braided Sorrow*, and *Mother:Knife*. Her heart is incredibly full from working with such incredible people on a project that means so much to her. She wants to express her deepest gratitude to her friends, family, professors and mentors who have helped her reach this milestone. And with that... Zuzu bolts!

*Undergraduate student. UI Theatre is dedicated to providing hands-on theatre experience for both undergraduate and graduate students.

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MEET THE CAST



Connie | NIYATI DESHPANDE*

Niyati Deshpande is a third-year undergraduate student double-majoring in Theatre Arts on the Musical Theatre track and Educational Studies & Human Relations as well as minoring in Psychology. She is so excited to be part of such an awesome show! Favorite credits include *Natasha in Natasha*, *Pierre & the Great Comet of 1812* (Riverside Theatre), *Love in Everybody* (Riverside Theatre), and Marie in *Reflections* (University of Iowa Theatre). Niyati would like to thank her loved ones and mentors for their support, as well as the creative team for their dedication. ZALMSAC forever!



Luke | JASON VERNON*

Jason Vernon is in his second-year at the University of Iowa with a major in Theatre Arts, pursuing a certificate in Social Justice and the Performing Arts. This is Jason's fifth production with the University of Iowa Theatre Department; previous credits include: *Macbeth*, *Lil G: A Gatsby Remix*, *Braided Sorrow*, and *The Bacchae: A Tragedy in One Act* (from Kneehigh Theatre). Jason is thrilled to be a part of *Dance Nation*, the process has been worlds of fun, and he hopes you enjoy! (Instagram: @jasonv_)

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MEET THE CAST



Maeve | JORDAN KINNEY*

Jordan Kinney has been in numerous productions starting from middle school. She could not be more thrilled to be a part of *Dance Nation*. Her most recent work was doing her second workshop at the University of Iowa this fall and New Play Festival last spring.



Sofia | ELLA SIRNA*

I'm Ella Sirna and I'm a first-year theatre arts major on the musical theatre track. I'm from Story City, Iowa and I've been doing theatre since I was 8. My first show was actually with Jason Vernon (Luke)! Some other favorites include *Matilda*, *Newsies*, and *Mary Poppins*. Thank you to my patient friends and family who have kept me somewhat sane this year. Enjoy the show and don't forget to dance from your PICA!

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MEET THE CAST



Ashlee | KAT GUERRERO

Kathleen M. Guerrero is a third-year MFA Acting Candidate from Crystal City, Texas. She is a proud Mexican-American first-generation graduate from The University of Texas at Austin's Theatre and Dance Department. Her recent credits include *Men on Boats* directed by Mary Beth Easley, *Braided Sorrow* directed by Natalie Villamonte Zito, *The Bacchae* directed by Sarah Gazdowicz, *England's Splendid Daughters* by Ann Kreitman, *La Ruta* by Issac Gomez, *Three to Five Days* by Olivia Clement, and much more. She would like to thank her friends, family, and faculty for helping her get to where she is now. Gracias

por todo! Follow her on instagram @kats_k15 !!!



Crumpled Sailor AKA Vanessa, The Moms | ZOE MAE NOLTE*

Zoe is ecstatic to be in her first mainstage show with the University of Iowa. She is a sophomore theatre major and hopes to do what she loves professionally after she graduates from the program. Huge thanks to Sarah, her castmates, and the team for making this show possible, she hopes you enjoy the show!

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MEET THE CAST



Dance Teacher Pat | ORLANDO LOPEZ

Orlando Lopez (He/Him/His) is a graduate acting student at the University of Iowa. Hailing from Hialeah, a suburb of Miami, Orlando completed his BFA in Acting from the University of Central Florida. Some of his favorite credits: *Macbeth* (Macbeth), *Braided Sorrow* (Carlos), *Our Lady of 121st Street* (Edwin) at the University of Iowa.

Everybody (Everybody/Somebody), *Twelfth Night* (Sebastian), *Henry V* (Duke of Orleans) at Riverside Theatre, among many more. He thanks his parents and his friends for their endless support.

DANCE NATION
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MEET THE CREATIVE TEAM



Director | SARAH GAZDOWICZ



Choreographer | BRADY VAN PATTEN

Brady Van Patten is a queer, physical theater performer and creator from Chicago, Illinois, currently a Master of Fine Arts graduate student in the Department of Dance at the University of Iowa with a choreographic emphasis. Existing at the intersection of theatre and dance, Van Patten champions queer spirit in his research and celebrates sharing queer truths to challenge heteronormative political and social constraints. During his time at the University of Iowa he has performed at the American College Dance Festival's Gala in Stephanie Miracle's work *SqE8ty6R^y7* (Glitch Code), co-created and performed *One Giant Leap*, an evening length clown show through collaboration with the Department of Theatre Arts, and most recently assisted in movement direction for the Department of Theatre Arts' production of *Men On Boats* under Johanna Kasimow.

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MEET THE CREATIVE TEAM



Fight Choreographer | PAUL KALINA



Dramaturg | MARGARET SMITH

BA (hons) English Literature & Theatre Studies from The University of Sheffield
MA Theatre Criticism & Dramaturgy from Royal Central School of Speech & Drama, University of London. Margaret (She/Her) is a first-year MFA candidate in Dramaturgy. Her most recent credits include Fahrenheit 451 (CDT, Complicité), A Bright Room Called Day (Collaborazione), Scenes from an Execution (Dear Hunter Theatre), and the premiere of W.E.T. (CSSD). She hopes you enjoy the show.

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MEET THE CREATIVE TEAM



Stage Manager | DOROTHY CRAVEN*

Dorothy Craven is a fourth-year Theatre Arts and Ancient Civilizations double major with focuses in Stage Management and Scenic Design. Previous Stage Management credits: *Three to Five Days*, *I Saw You/New Person*, *Fathers and Sons*, *Reflections*. Previous Assistant Stage Management credits: Iowa Directors Festival, *Il Matrimonio Segreto*, and *Something Rotten!*. She would love to thank the *Dance Nation* team for all their wonderful work and making this production such a magical experience!



Scenic Designer | BETHANY KASPEREK

*Undergraduate student. UI Theatre is dedicated to providing hands-on theatre experience for both undergraduate and graduate students.

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MEET THE CREATIVE TEAM



Costume Designer/Makeup Designer | ABBY GARRATY



Sound Designer | MOLLY COSTELLO*

Molly is a third-year Theatre Arts student with focuses in Sound and Digital Media Design, who is also pursuing a certificate in Public Digital Arts. Previous University of Iowa credits *include Reflections and You're Still Here*. She is eternally grateful to the wonderful production team for their unending support, and she is so excited for the stories *in Dance Nation* to be told. Enjoy the show!

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MEET THE CREATIVE TEAM



Lighting Designer | NICOLE BLODIG*

Nicole Blodig is a fourth- year undergraduate Theatre Arts major on the design track, studying lighting design, with an art minor. She has designed numerous shows at the university; recent credits include *In This Sepulcher*, *We Are Fed* (2023), *Ghost Town* (2023) and *rockabye, or: A Play About a Tree* (2022). Over the summer, Nicole worked for Hope Repertory Theatre in Holland, Michigan, designing *Three Little Birds* as well as assisting on *Rock of Ages* and *Boeing, Boeing*. In her designs, she enjoys using lighting in a generative way

that amplifies emotion on the stage through variation in color, texture, and angle. Post-graduation, she plans on moving to the east coast to work as an electrician and freelance lighting designer.



Intimacy Director | OWEN BRIGHTMAN

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MEET THE CREATIVE TEAM



Assistant Stage Manager | CHLOE ANCELL*

Chloe Ansell is a third-year stage management major with an additional interest in scenic design at the University of Iowa. Chloe has been a part of the stage management team for many shows this semester including, *Global Express*, *Brother Brother*, and now, *Dance Nation*! She is very grateful to be a part of this production and many more to come! A huge thank you to everyone who made this show possible! She hopes you enjoy Dance Nation!



Assistant Scenic Designer | CJ JOHNSON

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MEET THE CREATIVE TEAM



Choreography Collaborator | EVAN ZUKIN*

Evan is a second-year undergrad in the Dance program at the University of Iowa, and this is his first time working with the Theatre Department. An Iowa City native, he has been teaching tap dance and choreographing competition pieces for Nolte Academy for three years. Beginning this year, he began Dance Teaching for West High School's varsity show choir. He had a wonderful time working with Sarah, Brady, and the whole cast. Enjoy the show!

MEET THE CREW

Deck Crew Captain	Cayla Odendahl*
Wardrobe Crew Captains	Anna Gordon* Abbie Talken*
Light Board Operator	Margaret Schafer*
QLab Operator/SBO	Jade Anderson*
Run Crew – Deck/Props	Anthony Courant* Ella Crosby* Rhianna Koppes*
Run Crew – Costumes	Riley Atwood* Holland Larned* Ryan Lim* Hannah Lipski*

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