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The Gray presents *Nine Lives*

An evening of brand new futuristic performances inspired by the works of Ursula K. Le Guin, created by three of Seattle's most exciting emerging choreographers

March 29-31 / 7:30PM
Base Experimental Arts Space
Donation-based admission

SEATTLE—Seattle dance company The Gray is thrilled to present their third major performance project *Nine Lives*, an evening of three brand new dance works inspired by Pacific Northwest superstar author Ursula K. Le Guin. The evening will feature world premieres of original dance works by **Joseph Blake, Cameo Lethem, and Beth Terwilleger/The Gray**. The evening-length triple bill will be a veritable who's who of Seattle's emerging dance artists, including up-and-comers like **Alicia Pugh, Liz Houlton, Jane Cracovaner** (Whim W'him) and **Ivana Lin** (Khambatta Dance) in the mix. While Blake, Lethem, and Terwilleger have each gotten significant individual attention for their choreography, this will be the first time the three present their work together.

Tackling themes ranging from environmental disaster to individuality in an age of massive digital replication and everything in between, choreographers Blake, Lethem, and Terwilleger bring the prescient questions of Le Guin's fiction to life in a night of new dance that are sure to resonate with audiences long after the performances have ended.

"Blake's skill made the difficult task of repeating each motion exactly as before—at the same level in space, with the same energy—look effortless." —Charlotte Hart, *Seattle Dances*, 2016

"'only he might know?' by Joseph 'jo' Blake...was a very personal, very moving commentary on the dilemma of men who are trapped in the macho universe of physical performance." —*Seattle Gay News*, 2018

West Coast audiences may know jo Blake best for his work over the past ten years as a star dancer with the Salt Lake City company Ririe-Woodbury, where he danced for over ten years to the delight of audiences in Salt Lake

and beyond. Since coming to the University of Washington in 2015 for his masters in dance, Blake has quickly become one of the choreographers to watch in Seattle's next generation of choreographers.

"By the end of Effecting Galatea, I was completely immersed in the world Lethem had created, fully ready to witness the events that could have transpired there." Philippa Myler, *Seattle Dances*, August 2017

"The audience might be witness to the future of the human race—a being that thinks differently" Fox Whitney, *Seattle Dances*, August 2016

As a neuroscientist/dance artist powerhouse combo, Cameo Lethem will bring to the evening's performances her singular eye for imagining alternative worlds and modes of consciousness through the human body. Though she is a relatively recent arrival in Seattle, Lethem has already shown original works at On the Boards, Velocity Dance Center, Electric Lodge, Yaw Theater, and more, and has danced with some of the city's most cherished artist like Alice Gosti, Kate Wallich, and Hayley Shannon. Known for her immersive, strange, and engrossing choreographic worlds, Lethem is almost too perfect a choreographic voice to evoke and explore Le Guin's themes of alienation, empathy, and the future of human love and kinship.

"Terwilleger's choreography has...a vocabulary well-matched to the antiquated and fanciful qualities we associate with Shakespeare. Animalistic qualities—fawn-like leaping and crawling on tiptoes—give a wild edge that suggests the play's forest setting on the bare stage." –Kaitlin McCarthy, *City Arts Magazine*, 2018

The most recent arrival of the three choreographers and artistic director of The Gray, Beth Terwilleger's performance for *Nine Lives* will be one of three she is presenting in the coming season, with another world premiere at Base's 12 Minutes Max and a second brand new work debuting at Converge Festival, both in mid-March. With an creative curiosity only matched by her ambition, Terwilleger's presentation of *Nine Lives* comes directly out of her mission for her company The Gray: to create new, accessible dance works and events that connect with audiences on a very personal level, and using dance to build empathetic bonds between audiences and performers.

Terwilleger's choice of Le Guin's work as the common ground for this evening goes hand in hand with the Gray's mission, and Terwilleger's vision for Seattle Dance. With *Nine Lives* Terwilleger is trying to do much more than produce another dance show. In the forum of experiences and ideas that circulate around Le Guin's stories and characters, Terwilleger, Lethem, and Blake are to hold a space for audiences and artists alike to wrestle with some of the most pressing questions that are on our horizon, so that we may face tomorrow with empathy, curiosity, and courage.

Performance Dates + Times:

Sat March 23 / 7:30PM

Sun March 24 / 7:30PM

Location: Base Experimental Arts + Space / 6520 5th Ave S #122, Seattle, WA 98108

Tickets: Donation-based admission

[Event Page](#)

[Facebook Event Page](#)

ARTIST BIOS

Joseph “jo” Blake (choreographer) earned his M.F.A. from the University of Washington (2017) and B.F.A. from the University of Utah ('03). As a member of the Salt Lake City-based Ririe-Woodbury Dance Company, he taught and performed internationally for ten years dancing in works by such artists as Alwin Nikolais, Doug Varone, Wayne McGregor, Carolyn Carlson, Bill T Jones, Susan Marshall, Charlotte Boye- Christensen, as well as many other influential dance makers. His interest in educational theory, community-based engagement, and social justice have led him to work with community outreach projects such as Yoga Behind Bars and Mark Morris's Dance for Parkinson's Disease. Last year, jo spent eight-months on a UW Bonderman Travel Fellowship visiting Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, Chile, Australia, Nepal, Thailand, and Bali, re-kindling his appreciation and passion for community and culture. Currently, jo is a part-time lecturer with the University of Washington's Department of Dance, guest artist with NOW-ID Interdisciplinary Dance, certified movement instructor for Minding Motion for Graceful Aging, and choreographer of new works for future national festivals.

Cameo Lethem (choreographer) is a choreographer living and working in Seattle. As a choreographer, Cameo creates physical systems that produce specific responses from the body. Whether it's through architecture, creative limitations, or a commitment to a single movement idea, she seeks to elicit emotional and physical reactions through adjustments of the body and/or the environment. With each new choreographic work, she is committed to pursuing a mental and physical rigor in order to challenge her own creative capacity and to push her curiosity to new places. After graduating from Skidmore College with a degree in Dance and Neuroscience, she came to Seattle in 2015, where she's since shared work at venues like On the Boards, Velocity Dance Center, Yaw Theater, The Pocket Theater, The National Museum of Dance, Electric Lodge, and more. She's also had the great opportunity to perform for choreographers Alice Gosti, Kate Wallich, Hayley Shannon, Dylan Ward, Nathan Blackwell, and Coleman Pester. As a selected artist for Ellenore Scott's *The Breaking Glass Project*, she received additional choreographic and administrative mentorships from Sidra Bell and Nia-Amina Minor. Cameo is a recipient of the Margaret Paulding Award for Outstanding Performance and Choreography, a SeattleDances 2017 DanceCrush Award, as well as a 2018-2019 James Ray resident supported by the Seattle International Dance Festival.

Beth Terwilleger (choreographer, Artistic Director of The Gray) grew up training with Santa Cruz Ballet Theater in Northern California and spent her summers training with Richmond Ballet, Pennsylvania Ballet, Miami City Ballet, and Ballet Austin. In addition to dancing for 10 years with Ballet Austin, she worked with a diverse range of choreographers such as Thaddeus Davis, Dominic Walsh, Nicolo Fonte, and Stephen Mills before moving to San Francisco where she danced with Post:Ballet. Her time in San Francisco inspired her to broaden her training, technique, and choreographic approach, eventually taking her to London, where she launched her choreographic career. Beth arrived in Seattle in 2018, where she has had three choreographic debuts and has cultivated her pedagogy. As a teacher and choreographer, she is committed to nurturing dancers' technical and artistic growth through her choreography and teaching.

Hannah Cavallaro (dancer) is a California native with a deep rooted love for dance. After attending four different universities, she has graduated with a BFA in dance from Cornish College of the Arts in May 2018. She is a certified Pilates instructor and a freelance dancer/choreographer in Seattle. Hannah currently dances with Michele Miller/Catapult Dance and is delighted at the opportunity to work with Beth Terwilleger/The Gray.

Jane Cracovaner (dancer) received her BFA from the Hartt School. Here she performed works by Martha Graham, Jose Limon, Gregory Dolbashian, and Loni Landon among others. Jane has taken part in the HJS Intensive in Amsterdam, ImPulsTanz, Northwest Dance Project's Launch and was a scholarship student during the Martha Graham School of Contemporary Dance's summer program. As a freelance dancer in NYC she worked with various artists including Gabrielle Lamb's Pigeonwing Dance and Joshua Beamish's MOVETHECOMPANY.

Natalie Fernandi (dancer) is in her fourth year at University of Washington majoring in dance and biology. She grew up dancing in Seattle at Dance Fremont under the direction of Vivian Little and Mary Reardon and spent summers at San Francisco Conservatory of Dance, Central Pennsylvania Youth Ballet, and The Rock School for Dance Education. She has performed in University of Washington's Dance Faculty Concerts, MFA Concerts, Dance Majors Concerts and with Chamber Dance Company.

Corbin Hall (dancer) hails from Collinsville, Illinois, and graduated from Webster University with his BA in Dance, in the spring of 2016. While there, he learned and worked with such artists as; Beckah Reed, Michael Uthoff, Maggi Dueker, Monica Newsom, and Alicia Graf Mack. During his undergrad, Corbin studied ballet, jazz, modern, capoeira, Thai Classical Dance and aerial. In addition to this, he also found a passion for breakdancing, and hip hop. Corbin moved to Seattle in January, 2017 to pursue Dance performance and choreographic opportunities.

Maeve Haselton (dancer) is a freelance dancer/performer based in Seattle, WA. She earned a BFA in Dance at Cornish College of the Arts through the Advanced Degree Program. Haselton has performed in the works of choreographers such as Danielle Agami, Netta Yerushalmy, Bruno Roque, and Bruce McCormick, among others. She is so grateful for the opportunity to work with Beth and the cast of The Nine Lives!

Elizabeth Houlton (dancer) is a dance director, producer and performer based in Seattle, WA. Liz has presented work at Captiol Hill's Art Walk with LoveCityLove, Chop Shop Contemporary Dance Festival, Seattle International Dance Festival, Seattle Fringe Festival, 3rd Shift Dance's Battle for the Dance Belt, Velocity's Bridge Project and Fall Kick Off. Alongside Alyssa Casey produced home home, an evening length at the Erickson Theatre Off Broadway in March of 2018 with collaborators Emma Lawes, Ashley Jade Pietro, Shane Donohue and Maya Tacon. She is a graduate of California Institute of the Arts with a BFA in Dance Performance and Choreography (2015). Liz is also the Dance Director for BenDeLaCreme's Halloween spectacular "Beware the Terror of Gaylord Manor" and produces a podcast called Artist to Artist.

Melissa Krienke (dancer) Melissa started dancing at age 3. She trained at Ballet Chelsea in Michigan through high school in their pre professional program. She graduated from Cornish College with a BFA in dance, and has performed and taught internationally in festivals and youth programs. Melissa currently dances for Forthun+Rome Dance Theater, PRICEarts N.E.W., and is excited to perform with The Gray for the first time as a part of The Nine Lives.

Anna Joswiak (dancer) is a dance artist originally from Chicago, Illinois. She is a previous member of Midwest Dance Collective, a pre-professional dance company under the direction of Ellen Werksman. In 2015 she earned a BFA in Dance from Columbia College Chicago, where she worked with Margi Cole, Paige Caldarella, Colleen Halloran, Liz Burritt, and many others. She has performed at events and venues throughout Chicago, including the Adler Planetarium, the Inaside Youth Summit for the Arts, The Harris Theatre, The Auditorium Theatre, and the Giordano Dance Chicago Collaborative project. She is very excited to be dancing in Seattle and working with Beth Terwilleger and The Gray!

Esther Sojung Lim (dancer) is originally from South Korea, Seoul and graduated from Gyeonggi Art High School with the Diploma in Theatre and Film. She began her dance when she was 18 receiving training from Junhee Park, a former dancer in CNN de Nantes in France. When she was in South Korea, she danced in MOAM Danse Company (2013-2015), earned Certificate of Practical Dance Instructor from Korea Coaching Development Centre (2014) and had workshop with Kamchatka Street Theatre from Spain (2015). After she came to Seattle, she started advanced dance training under Laura Peterson at Bellevue College and has performed with Bellevue College Dance Company as a choreographer and dancer (2016-2019). Also, she performed K-pop dance with youth members in Bellevue Sarang Church as a representative of South Korea in 20th Annual New Year Celebration by Asia Pacific Cultural Centre (2018) and Promise of Green by Slio3, working with Ms Peterson

(2018). Currently, Esther is an undergraduate student at the University of Washington in Dance. This is her first work by Jo Blake.

Ivana Lin (dancer) began her dance training at the Pacific Northwest Ballet School (PNBS) at the age of six. In 2008, she had the opportunity to perform with the Alvin Ailey Company during their 50th Anniversary tour. Eventually joining the Evergreen City Ballet's performance division in 2012, Ivana performed the role of Cinderella in Cinderella. She has completed a B.A. in dance as well as a B.S. in Physiology at the University of Washington. She has also had the opportunity to perform with PNBS, the Chamber Dance Company, Bandaloop, Khambatta Dance Company, and now The Gray.

Alicia Pugh (dancer) began her formal dance education at the age of 6, when her mom and dad decided it was time to put all that energy twirling around the kitchen, into a dance studio. Pursuing this training took her all over the country: Boston, Chicago, San Francisco, and lastly Seattle. Nowadays, when she's not working on her chef's skills, or taking her cat on walks, Alicia is thrilled to be working with artists of the likes of Beth Terwilleger!

Sean Tomerlin (dancer) began his dance training in 1999 at the Severance Fresno Ballet School and later attended Cornish College of the Arts where he received his BFA. Sean has had the privilege of dancing for such companies as the Fresno Ballet, Ballet Met, Arc Dance, Dance Kaleidoscope, Thodos Dance Chicago, Lingo, Khambatta Dance Company and UW's Chamber Dance among others. In his free time he enjoys playing the bass guitar, gardening, swimming and spending time with his pet bunny. Sean also works as an LMT and remodels houses.

Bri Wilson (dancer) began dancing at age seven in her hometown of Petoskey, Michigan. She earned her BFA in dance and minor in Creative Writing from the Alonzo King LINES Ballet BFA Program at Dominican University of California, where she had the opportunity to work with Christian Burns, David Harvey, and Maurya Kerr. Since moving to Seattle in September 2018, Bri has performed with Elia Mrak and Hannah Wendel at Performance and a Party, and with The Three Yells in A Crack In The Noise, choreographed by Veronica Lee-Baik.

ABOUT THE GRAY

The Gray was founded with the mission to cultivate empathy through art. Artistic director Beth Terwilleger draws inspiration from minds that are different from hers and strives to connect with others through dance and movement. The Gray is a research company with experimentation and risk at its core" driven by the aim to develop a new relationship between the public and dance. The goal for Terwilleger and her company is always to play" learn" and evolve.

LINKS

Beth Terwilleger/The Gray

Instagram: @thegraydance
Facebook: @TheGrayDance
Website: thegraydance.com

Jo Blake

Instagram: @jobdanceco
Website: joblakedance.com

Cameo Lethem

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