Press Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The University of Michigan, Department of Dance presents *Derivatives of Identity*, a modern dance concert. This concert features choreography by Senior Dance majors GingerAnn Neslund, Jessica Hoyt, Briana Stuart, and Kalila Kingsford Smith. Performances will take place at the Betty Pease Studio Theater, April 5-7 at 8pm. Tickets cost $5 and can be purchased at the Betty Pease Box Office starting at 7pm prior to each performance. The theater is located at 1310 N. University Ct., Ann Arbor, MI, behind the University of Michigan Central Campus Recreational Building. For more information regarding this performance, please call 734-763-5461.

GingerAnn Neslund will be presenting a group work based on the Yellow Ribbon Organization motto, “Ask 4 Help,” which is geared toward preventing teen suicide. She will also be performing a solo inspired by the feeling of shame one experiences associated with their body, that follows rejection by a significant other.

Jessica Hoyt is creating a group work based on the influences of personal relationships and how they shape an individual’s journey toward success. The dancers will unfold stories of how different types of influence uniquely affect their own personalities. Starting with a positive influence, evolving into negative influence, and leading to personal doubt, the dance will reveal the hidden forces behind the power of others. In a solo work, Hoyt plays a character struggling to escape anxiety. Working with bounded tension, quickly paced weight changes, and geometric body angles, the dance evolves to find a momentary lapse of freedom, and she is eventually chased back to the tension she cannot escape.

Briana Stuart’s group piece, *The Walk*, explores the taboo topic of privilege in society through intriguing movement, bold text and innovative music. She explores the idea of how people connect with one another within the structure of society and as individual people in space. Her solo, *Just My Reality*, explores her identity in different social spaces in quirky, yet highly technical movement, exploring vulnerability and strength.

*Café Noir*, choreographed by Kalila Kingsford Smith, is inspired by the era and genre of Film Noir. Using the themes and characters present in a genre known for sharp lighting and angular perspectives, she transforms the stage space into a dark city, ridden with shadows lurking in every corner. By exploring the relationships between separate characters onstage, she comments on the nature of personality, bringing to life the unknown masks and shadows within one’s own identity.

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