PRESS RELEASE

Contact: Tru Jonkman
Email: ajonkman@umich.edu
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For Immediate Release

The Department of Dance at the University of Michigan presents Other, a dance concert with works choreographed by Anna “Tru” Jonkman in collaboration with dancers and the Community High School Dance Body. The performance will be held at the Betty Pease Studio Theater, 1310 North University Court, Ann Arbor, MI 48109, on March 28, 29, 30 at 8:00pm. Tickets are on sale 1 hour prior to performance for $5 each. For more information, please call the events line at (734) 763-5461.

Other is a choreographic work that takes a performative approach to activism and community building. By combining movement and text, Other uses personal narrative to reveal lived experiences of discrimination based upon gender, sexuality, and/or race. In order to create a communal and safe space for dialogue and expression, audience members will be given the opportunity to share (publicly and/or privately) their own stories of otherness after which seven works will be presented. The evening will close with a question and answer/talk-back session between audience, cast members, and the choreographer.

Same Place, Different Time, co-choreographed by Jonkman and Jessica Post, is a work that looks at the de-facto segregation of Ann Arbor and Jones Elementary School (currently Community High School) in Ann Arbor, MI during the 1950s-70s. Composed of interviews from former Jones Elementary School students and long-time Ann Arbor residents, Same Place, Different Time features Community High School’s Dance Body, a group of high school students who participate in a dance class under the leadership of Community High School teacher Michelle Briscoe. The remaining performance consists of six stories of otherness from the choreographer and cast: The Demons That Haunt (Jonkman), Standing Outside (Carisa Bledsoe), The Orientation of Politics (Brittany Whitmoyer), The Skin We’re In (Maxx Passion), Accepted (Shanna Cruzat), and No Your History (Kyra Hauck).

“END”