



THIS EVERYDAY HOUR



Mauriah Donegan Kraker and Nat Evans

Friday, October 2, 2026, 7 p.m.

Saturday, October 3, 2026, 2:30 p.m.

Esch-Hurvis Studio, Warch Campus Center

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Movement composition, performance: Mauriah Donegan Kraker

Sound composition, performance: Nat Evans

Costuming: Leslie Vaglica

Dramaturgy: Billy Greene

Lighting: August Hendrix

Do you ever close your eyes in full sunlight Here close your eyes

You are everything that has not yet been lost. Aerial, Joanna Klink

PROGRAM NOTES

Prairies are more than what first meets the eye. Their canvas is more subtle than majestic mountains or towering forests. Shaped by open sky and gently sloping hills, the essence of prairie is space. A closer look within reveals an abundance of color, energy, and life. Their deep soils, tall grasses and plants support a variety of animals and pollinators.

—Missouri Department of Conservation

Tallgrass prairie once covered 170 million acres of North America, but within a generation most of it had been transformed into farms, cities, and towns. Today less than 4% remains intact, mostly in the Kansas Flint Hills. Established in 1996, the Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve in Kansas protects a nationally significant remnant of the once vast tallgrass prairie ecosystem. Here the tallgrass makes its last stand.

—National Park Service

This work calls to familial and terrestrial histories of place, specifically midwestern grassland. The choreography is built upon and references research into deep and resilient prairie root systems of the tallgrass prairie, tectonics that have formed place, and extraordinary and quotidian experience of absence, grief. Performed as a duet between a sound artist and a movement artist who met on the Tallgrass National Prairie Preserve in Kansas, the work was birthed from a moment of both artists standing on Midwest soil, orienting westward.

The work runs 50 minutes.

Please turn off your phones. Please, no photo/video.

BIOS

Mauriah Donegan Kraker is a midwesterner, a choreographer, a long-distance walker invested in slow travel. She walks place as a means of attending to the choreographic unfolding of time cycles in body + land. This walking practice is a driver in the creation of dance works that live in heightened states of physicality, dreaming and walking. She has led folks on walks through the Italian alps, sound walks in southern France, outings to rivers, prairies and highway underpasses. Her dance work has been presented in the Midwest, South Korea, Italy, New York, and in galleries and outdoor spaces in Thailand. As a collaborative performer, she has danced at New York City's Danspace Project, 92nd St Y, The Chocolate Factory, Dance Theater Workshop, Center for Performance Research and Roulette. She has performed in the works of Jennifer Monson and is a longtime collaborator with Wild Space Dance Company. She is a recent recipient of Volland, Ucross + MacDowell Fellowships. Her current research involves supporting and facilitating Dance for Parkinson's spaces in the Fox Valley as well as developing a new minor + interdisciplinary program at Lawrence University: Dance: Embodied Collaborative Practice.

Nat Evans is a composer and artist based in Seattle and Los Angeles. His interdisciplinary works range from site-specific events and installations to chamber music, scores for dance and film, conceptual works based in ecology and social practice, to meditations on everyday life. His work is regularly presented across the United States, as well as internationally. Works and events by Evans have appeared in *The New York Times*, *The Believer*, *The Quietus*, and numerous other publications as well as on WNYC, the BBC and other radio stations across the U.S.

Billy Greene is a poet, mover, and musician from Milwaukee, Wisconsin and the Gulf Coast of Florida. Their interdisciplinary practice has been supported by Sundress Academy of the Arts, University of Auckland, Residency on the Farm, among others. Their hybrid manuscript and ensemble performance, *Return Address*, was awarded summa cum laude honors from Lawrence University. They arrive to dramaturgy holding fast to intimacy and distance, the articulated and the ineffable.

August Hendrix is a multidisciplinary artist and designer working in the Milwaukee area. He comes at his work with a sense of curiosity no matter the task in both scenic and lighting design. Experimentation with shape, color, and texture is a hallmark of his work, and he believes there is something new to be learned from every show he does. He graduated from Lawrence University in 2025 with a Bachelor of Arts and is excited to return to the dance space he called home during that time.

Leslie Vaglica is a Milwaukee-based costume designer whose sense of humor, love of movement and simplicity infuse the characters she costumes. She has designed for dance, theater, opera, ceremony, roller derby, and commercials.

This is a work performed by two people. It is made possible by many more. My deepest thanks: Allison Hinze/Warch Campus Center – I am grateful to collaborate with you and this beautiful space. Your commitment to Dance at Lawrence is singular. Facilities staff led by Ava – you keep our space running every day of the year. Dance + Theatre Arts at Lawrence – your spacious support allows me to shift into this new part of my making. Nat Evans – I am buoyed forward and held secure by your sound, the rituals you create. You make this work possible. Billy Greene – your eyes and conversation always remind me of what I’m actually doing. Izzy Hytry – the last section of the work started as a duet between you and I. You are with me as I dance it. Brennen Hussey – you keep my body working with your magic PT. August Hendrix + Leslie Vaglica – I am adorned, held secure by your costume and light. Deb Loewen – your mentorship-love over the past 20 years gives me courage to keep on. Steve Schlei – you always see what’s missing, where the wildness belongs. Krakers – you gift me slow travel practices bound up in imagination, grit, joy. Volland Foundation/Friends of Volland/Autumn Phillips – you first witnessed a rough draft of this work and believed, challenged, supported my vision. **This work was imagined at + made possible through** fellowships at MacDowell, Volland, and Ucross Foundations, residency time at the Museum of Loss and Renewal/Orkney Islands + the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, and grants from Lawrence University.

We collectively acknowledge that Lawrence University is situated on the ancestral homelands of the Menominee and Ho-Chunk people.

2026-27 DANCE SERIES EVENTS

WINTER TERM

U.F.O. (Uncharted Forms of the Occasion)

Saturday, January 23, 2027

2:30 p.m.

Esch-Hurvis Studio, Warch Campus Center

SPRING TERM

Marjani Forté-Saunders + Everett Saunders

Saturday, April 17, 2027

2:30 p.m.

Location to be Announced



LAWRENCE UNIVERSITY
CONSERVATORY OF MUSIC