



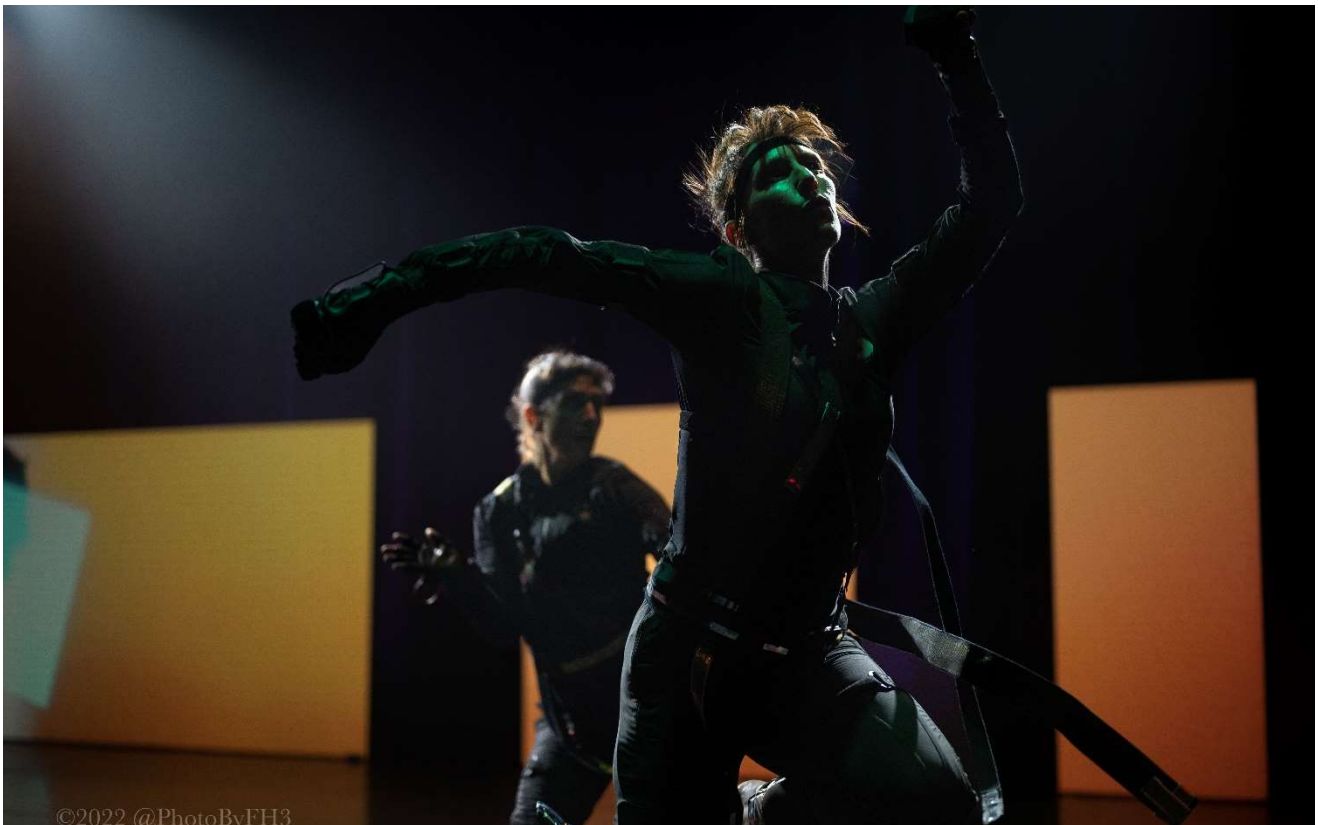
MIDDLEBURY  
PERFORMING ARTS SERIES  
P R E S E N T S

Large  
Print

# *The Wilds*

*Laurel Jenkins (dance), Jesse Fleming (visuals),  
Lewis Pesacov (music)*

FRIDAY-SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 24-25, 2023  
MAHANEY ARTS CENTER, ROBISON HALL



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*The Wilds*

Created by Jesse Fleming, Laurel Jenkins, and Lewis Pesacov

*The Wilds*

Prelude

Act 1: Severance

Scene 1: Afternoon

Scene 2: Sunset

Scene 3: Dusk

Act 2: Threshold

Scene 1: Evening

Scene 2: Deep Night

Act 3: Return

Scene 1: Dawn

Scene 2: Sunrise

Scene 3: Morning

Laurel Jenkins, performer  
devika v. wickremesinghe, performer  
Miguel Alejandro Castillo '18, performer  
Lewis Pesacov, live electronics  
Jesse Fleming and Shane Bolan, live visuals

*The performance will be approximately 60 minutes long with no  
intermission.*

Commissioned and developed by the Lied Center for  
Performing Arts at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln  
in partnership with Johnny Carson Center  
for Emerging Media Arts.

This work was also made possible with support from The  
French Institute, Cité Internationale des Arts, the Middlebury  
College Dance Department, Midd.Data, the Rothrock Family  
Residency Fund, the Middlebury Performing Arts Council,  
and the Middlebury Performing Arts Series.

## *Program Note*

We trace our way through space  
they were one-in-same  
Mama's timeless arena  
sightless ears perceive the unseen  
trace what the senses can't  
arcane data  
an underworld ceremony where healing rages on  
echo and rapture  
dawn arrives  
we share an embrace within the dew  
at sunrise we understand this place  
revived by Earth song  
together, fruition  
Enter nature.

— The story of *The Wilds*, in conversation with GPT3

***The creators would like to thank:***

*Allison Coyne Carroll and the Middlebury Performing Arts Series; Liza Sacheli, Christa Clifford, Molly Andres, and the Mahaney Arts Center; Pieter Broucke and the Middlebury Performing Arts Council; the Middlebury College Dance Department faculty and staff: Lida Winfield, Christal Brown, Karima Borni, Meshi Chavez, Tiffany Wilbur, and a big thank you to Michael Abbatiello for technical leadership! Thank you to Jim Ralph, William Stephan, and the Lied Center for Performing Arts; Susan Ourada and the UNL Dance Program; the Johnny Carson Center for Emerging Media Arts; Annelie Persson, Jinku Kim, Jeff O'Brien, Sean Strough, Jeff Chen, Brian Cronin, and Tristen Gilbert; the French Institute, Cité Internationale des Arts, Matt Kent, Sonnie Jenkins-Kent, Desi Jenkins-Kent, Elizabeth Pesacov, and Althea Pesacov.*

## *About the Artists*

**Jesse Fleming (co-creator, emerging media director)** Jesse Fleming is a trans-disciplinary and multi-sensory artist working at the intersection of designed perception, well-being, visual media, and Extended Reality (XR). He is the Founding Director of the Awareness-based Design Lab and Assistant Professor at the Johnny Carson Center for Emerging Media Arts at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Fleming is an award-winning and internationally-exhibiting artist with artworks in the permanent public collection of the Whitney Museum of American Art in New York, Cedars-Sinai in Los Angeles, and the Borusan Contemporary in Istanbul, Turkey. He was the winner of the NYC Armory show of Moving Image for exceptional vision and previously listed by Artforum as one of the top ten artists in Los Angeles. Notable exhibitions include MASS MoCA, Borusan Contemporary, the National Film Museum of Frankfurt Germany, the San Francisco

Symphony, the Walt Disney Concert Hall, the Hammer Museum, and Creative Time New York City.

**Laurel Jenkins (co-creator, choreographer, performer)** is a dancer, choreographer, educator, and mother. Her choreography emerges from a desire to reimagine our collective human experience. Jenkins' work has been presented by Lincoln Center, Disney Hall, REDCAT, Automata, the Getty Center, Show Box LA, Danspace, Berlin's Performing Presence Festival, Tokyo's Sezane Gallery, and Paris' Cité Internationale des Arts. She choreographed Bernstein's MASS with the LA Philharmonic and the Mostly Mozart Festival Orchestra. In addition, she has choreographed for the LA Contemporary Dance Company, The Wooden Floor, and many universities including the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Jenkins was a member of the Trisha Brown Dance Company from 2007-2012, and has danced in works by Vicky Shick and Sara Rudner. Jenkins performed in the opera *Oedipus Rex/Symphony of Psalms* by Peter Sellars and solos by Merce Cunningham in the Night

of 100 Solos: A Centennial Event. Jenkins is the recipient of a Vermont Arts Council Grant, an Asian Cultural Council Grant, a French Institute Fellowship, holds a BA from Sarah Lawrence, and an MFA from UCLA's Department of World Arts and Cultures/Dance. She is an Assistant Professor of Dance at Middlebury College.

**Lewis Pesacov (co-creator, composer, performer)** is a Grammy-nominated producer, composer, and multi-instrumentalist based in Los Angeles, California. Pesacov works distinctively in and between genres spanning classical, contemporary opera, indie rock, and experimental sound art. His music takes the form of experiential installations, durational performance, public art, scores, albums, and concert pieces. Pesacov's works have been featured in museums, galleries, concert halls, rock clubs, and music festivals including the Getty Museum, SFMOMA, the Walker Art Center, the Denver Biennial of the Americas, Walt Disney



Concert Hall, the Hollywood Bowl, Michigan Opera Theatre, the Darmstädter Ferienkurse, and the Glastonbury Festival.

**devika v. wickremesinghe (performer)** is a dancer, performance maker, and somatics facilitator originally from New York City. Now based in Los Angeles, they have had the pleasure of working with artists such as Annie-B Parson's Big Dance Theater, The Dance Cartel, Milka Djorjevich, Lee Sunday Evans, Maria Hassabi, KJ Holmes, Laurel Jenkins, and JennieMary Tai Liu. They were also part of WXPT led by taisha paggett. wickremesinghe creates film and live performance through the INSTITUT IDGAF.

**Miguel Alejandro Castillo '18 (performer)** is a queer, interdisciplinary artist born and raised in Caracas, Venezuela. A choreographer, director, installation artist, theatre deviser, and performer, he is drawn to the permeability of art forms and the new inquires that arise from cross-disciplinary and

multicultural collaborations. As a dancer, Castillo has performed in the U.S. and internationally in the works of Jeanine Durning, Laurel Jenkins, Maria Hassabi, Xan Burley & Alex Springer, and Delfos Danza Contemporánea, among others. Miguel was a 2021 danceWEB scholar at the Impustanz Festival in Vienna. He is currently the movement director for *Prisoner of The State*, a new opera by David Lang commissioned by the New York Philharmonic. In addition, Castillo is a member of Agile Rascal Bicycle Touring Theatre and an artistic collaborator of Double Edge Theatre. Castillo holds a BA in Dance and Theatre from Middlebury College and an MFA in choreography and performance from Smith College.

**Cláudio Medeiros (dramaturge)** is a director and Professor of Theater at Middlebury College. His work for the stage ranges from Shakespeare, Euripides, and Frank Wedekind to Tony Kushner, Sarah Ruhl, and Naomi Wallace. He is currently working on an English translation of three plays by Griselda Gambaro, Argentina's most important female playwright of

the last 50 years. Medeiros is also a master instructor with Pinnacle Performance, and in that capacity he trains and empowers folks to become more effective and engaging communicators. A native of Brazil, Medeiros has lived in North America most of his life. In addition to English and Portuguese, he speaks French and Spanish. Medeiros holds a PhD in Theater from the University of California at Berkeley. He divides his time between Montréal and Vermont.

**Maria Garcia (costume designer)** is a costume designer, director, and live artist whose work spans film, music videos, theater, and performance art. She is a member of the Costume Designers Guild, IA Local 892. Garcia has costume designed for award winning Theatre of the Oppressed company's *Cardboard Citizens*, and made her film debut for "The Answer to Everything" premiering at the BFI Southbank in the UK. In 2021, the short film *Sisters*, costume designed by Garcia, was nominated for the Grand Jury Award at SXSW. In September 2021, she directed and costume designed Gal Musette's award

winning music video for “Julia.” Also in 2021, Garcia’s “Laocoön with Cabiria at 9,” with performing artist and choreographer Samantha Mohr, cinematographer Wes Cardino, and musician Grace Freeman, premiered at REDCAT’s NOW Festival. Her interdisciplinary investigations center around death, “liveness,” and migration, and feature kinetic costumes, projection, noise, and movement.

**Shane Bolan (technical lead)** is the Technical Lead at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln’s Awareness-Based Design Lab. He worked to develop and integrate the many blueprints and tools used to make the visual and technical effects of *The Wilds* into a reality.

**Michelle Harvey (lighting designer)** is currently the Assistant Professor of Lighting Design at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. LOCAL credits: *ShakesFear, Our Town* (Nebraska Repertory Theatre). REGIONAL: *Stillwater, Fire in Dreamland,*

*Lot's Wife, What Would Crazy Horse Do?, Unreliable* (Kansas City Repertory Theatre), *Le nozze di Figaro, The Magic Flute,* and *The Merry Widow* (Show-Me Opera). NATIONAL: *PRESTO!* (The Magic Parlor, Destin FL), *Limitless* (Mirage Theatre, Las Vegas), *Guys & Dolls, Little Shop of Horrors, Hairspray, Singin' in the Rain, The King & I, The Sound of Music* (Signature Productions), *1776, 5 Guys Named Moe, The Music Man, How to Succeed in Business, West Side Story, Ain't Misbehavin'* (Super Summer Theatre), and *The Importance of Being Earnest* (Nevada Conservatory Theatre). Harvey received her MFA in Lighting Design at the University of Nevada-Las Vegas. Her work has also been seen at the Forestburgh Playhouse, the New London Barn Playhouse, and the Santa Fe Opera.

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### Land Acknowledgement

*Middlebury College sits on land which has served as a site of meeting and exchange among indigenous peoples since time immemorial. The Western Abenaki are the traditional caretakers of these Vermont lands and waters, which they call Ndakinna, or "homeland."*

*We remember their connection to this region and the hardships they continue to endure.*

*We give thanks for the opportunity to share in the bounty of this place and to protect it.*