

Starr Foster Dance
CURIOUS INTENTIONS



Starr Foster Dance presents
CURIOUS INTENTIONS

Firehouse Theatre, 1609 W Broad St, Richmond, VA 23220

Thursday, April 11th 7:30PM

Friday, April 12th 7:30PM

Saturday April 13th 5:00PM & 7:30PM

Sunday April 14th 5:00PM

Starrene Foster

Starr Foster Dance; Artistic Director

Douglas Hayes

Starr Foster Dance; Art Director

Michael Jarett

Starr Foster Dance; Lighting Designer

Daniel Deckelman

Starr Foster Dance; Music Director

Fran Beaumont, Shannon Comerford, Madison Ernstes,

Molly Huey, Mosca Mavrophilipos-Flint,

Angela Palmisano

Starr Foster Dance; Performing Artists

Roya Baker-Vahdani, Olivia Gotsch,

Cassidy Kinney, Janelle Ragland, Julia Straka,

Audrey Smothers (SFD Mentee)

Guest Artists

Familiar Stranger (premiere)

Choreography by Starrene Foster
Performed by Fran Beaumont, Shannon Comerford,
Madison Ernstes
Original Music Composition by Daniel Deckelman
Lighting Design by Michael Jarett
Costumes Designed and Constructed by Starrene Foster

Last Call (2016)

Choreography by Starrene Foster
Lighting Design by Michael Jarett
Costumes Designed and Constructed by Starrene Foster

Un

Performed by Fran Beaumont
Music composed by Charles Dumont with lyrics written by
Michel Vaucaille, performed by Edith Piaf; *Mon Dieu*

Deux

Performed by Madison Ernstes, Mosca Mavrophilipos-Flint,
Angela Palmisano
Music composed by Ángel Cabral with lyrics written by Michel
Rivgauche performed by Edith Piaf; *Le Foule*

Trois

Performed by Shannon Comerford, Molly Huey
Music composed and performed by Jacques Brel; *Au Suivant*

15 minute intermission

Sisterhood (2022)

Inspired by a story written by Judith Bice

Choreography by Starrene Foster

Performed by Madison Ernstes, Molly Huey

Music by Mike Lazarev; *When You Are*

Lighting Design by Michael Jarett

Costumes Designed and Constructed by Starrene Foster

Adjusting to the Dark (premiere)

Choreography by Starrene Foster

Performed by Fran Beaumont, Shannon Comerford,

Molly Huey, Mosca Mavrophilipos-Flint,

Angela Palmisano with Roya Baker-Vahdani, Olivia Gotsch,

Cassidy Kinney, Janelle Ragland, Julia Straka,

Audrey Smothers

Music by Franz Schubert, Arr Prizeman; *Ave Maria*, Uno
Helmersson; *Timelapse*, Jeff Russo, Zoe Keating; *Savir Arrives*
in Oslo, Adrián Berenguer; *Forzisimo*, *Continent*, Jim Perkins;

A Ritual for Saying Goodbye

Lighting Design by Michael Jarett

Costumes Designed Johann Stegmeir

Please join us in the theatre following the Thursday and Saturday evening performances for a Q&A. Join us for a champagne toast with the dancers and artistic team following the Friday evening performance.

Sisterhood

Written by Judith Bice

They played with Barbies. The younger one made up the stories. The older one moved the dolls around.

They slept in twin beds in their shared room. The younger one spun the bedtime stories to accompany the older one to dreamland.

They faced fierce discipline with a steely front until the younger one could not hold her tongue from slinging its stinging insults at their punishment for being children.

She suffered the withdrawal of the scant affection the most.

The older one took the parental harshness mutely- letting it seep into her soul.

They grew up to live their damage.

They married.

They had children.

They projected the ideal of normalcy and success.

The younger fought to train her tongue, to curb its insults but retain its truth. The older buried the damage under false memories. She filled her house with art that did not speak to her. She filled her circle with false faces. Her soul became entangled with the lies she told herself and she did not recognize it.

The younger one kept protective care of the older one for a long time.

“My sister cannot help it.”

“My sister is not strong.”

“My sister needs me.”

But the sister’s need became too great. The sister’s reach extended too far into the younger’s life. Her childhood docility became visceral darts of rage. The protective care the younger had felt for the older dissolved with her sister’s poison.

According to “the education of myself” that the younger had pursued she created a ritual to sever the bond of sisterhood, already frayed from the persistent friction. She went to the tree in the woods that had been the home of their childhood games. Under that tree she buried a Barbie doll and a string of beads, like a rosary, that marked her forgiveness. With the burial came the phoenix of herself, released from the bonds of her blood.

Sisterhood, written by Judith Bice, was provided by the author and made available to audience members with permission.

Please do not copy, duplicate or distribute without permission. To learn more about Judith, please visit her website <https://judithbice.com/>

BIOGRAPHIES



A Richmond native, **Starrene Foster**, is a choreographer, dance educator and the Artistic Director of Starr Foster Dance. Starrene has been honored to be the recipient of Theresa Pollak Award for Artistic Excellence, Choreographer of the Year by RVA Dance Awards, Richmond's Most Prestigious 25 Arts Innovators, Style Weekly's The Top 40 under 40, and the VCU Star Alumni Award, where she is in her 25th year of teaching in the Department of Dance and Choreography. Starr Foster Dance has been thrilled to be recognized as one of the Best Dance Companies in Richmond's Style Weekly Magazine Readers Choice Award and featured on PBS *Virginia Currents*. Starrene has received grants from the Virginia Council for the Arts, and many commissions for new dance works from universities and various dance companies. She guest teaches throughout the country and her choreography has been presented nationally including ShortNorthStage (OH), The Philadelphia Fringe Festival (PA), The New Albany Dance Festival (OH), The Jack Guidone Theatre (DC), SUNY Buffalo (NY), The New World School (FL), Old Dominion University (VA), Cornell University (NY), James Madison University (VA), Dance Charlotte (NC), The Goose Route Dance Festival (WV), the Demetrius Klein Dance Festival (FL), Scranton Cultural Arts Center (PA), Baltimore Theatre Project (MD), The Lorton Workhouse (DC), International Festival of Music, Big River Dance Festival (WV), Scranton Fringe Festival (PA), Stockton University (NJ), The Richmond Ballet, University of Richmond, and the Festival of Choreography (NC). She has had the pleasure of performing works by Mark Taylor, Doug Varone, Sharon Kinney, Ronald K. Brown, Chris Burnside, Mark Dendy, Pewan Chow (Hong Kong), and Raul Parro (Mexico). In addition to her work with concert dance, Starrene has choreographed for commercials, music videos, and musical theatre. Starrene is an advocate for enriching the world with more art and is dedicated to mentoring young artists so they are able to do the same. Starrene continues teaching at VCU and is also on faculty at The Richmond Ballet.

Fran Beaumont, originally from Richmond, Virginia began her training with the School of the Richmond Ballet. After graduating from Appomattox Regional Governor's School, with a focus on dance, she continued her education in England at The Hammond School where she studied dance and choreography. In 2016, she graduated with a Level 6 Degree from Trinity College in Professional Dance and received her teaching certificate in Pilates. Fran has trained with Jasmine Grace, Starrene Foster, Jane Elliott, David Needham, Anthea Garratt, Alison Hughes, Tara Penick, Arnott Mader, Lee Johnston, Antonia Barron, and Christine Eccleston-Tuohy. She currently works as a stagehand with the Richmond Ballet and is a baker at Proper Pie Co. Fran joined Starr Foster Dance in 2016.

Shannon Comerford, who grew up in Amelia, VA, got her start dancing at Joy's School of Dance. She continued her dance education at Radford University and graduated with a BFA in Dance Performance in 2015. While at Radford, she performed in many main stage productions, as well as at the New York Jazz Choreography Project and served as an apprentice for d a n a h b e l l a DanceWorks. Since graduating, Shannon has danced as a guest dancer for local RVA and DMV artists and was a company member with RVA Dance Collective for several years. Through her time with the company she worked with several notable choreographers including Eric Rivera, Miguel Perez, LaWanda Raines, Vicki Fink and Kelly Bartnik. In addition to performing Shannon has a huge passion for choreography and teaching. She loves creating and continuing to help nurture and cultivate other dancers' journeys. Shannon joined Starr Foster Dance in 2022.

Madison Ernstes, born in China and raised in Richmond, Virginia, began her dance training at Dancers' Studio and later danced competitively at Dance Destination. She continued her dance journey at the University of Richmond where she served as both a member of and company captain for the Department of Theatre and Dance's company, University Dancers. She was also a member of the Department's Electrics Crew. Additionally, she choreographed two original dance works that premiered in University Dancers' Annual Concerts. After graduating with a BA in Dance and BS in Biology in 2020, Madison attended Radford University and received her Doctorate in Physical Therapy in May 2023. She is currently working with Fox Rehabilitation in Richmond, VA. Madison joined Starr Foster Dance in 2023.

Molly Huey, originally from Pennsylvania, is a dance artist, videographer, and media artist, among other things. They perform, choreograph, teach, capture, create, and recreate often. Molly has a Bachelor of Fine Arts in dance, specializing in performance and choreography, and a Bachelor of Arts in communication, graduating from Slippery Rock University in 2019. A few highlights include performing on the Jacob's Pillow Inside/Out Stage with ACDA selected works, at the Joyce Theater in New York for the University Partner's Showcase, the New Hazlett Theater in Pittsburgh for PearlArt's 3600 Seconds of Solos, at Dixon Place in New York for WhiteWave's SoloDuo Festival, at Schenley Park for Pittsburgh Ballet Theater's Open Air series, in Brooklyn Bridge Park with Currents (take.6), and in Philadelphia for the Koresh Artist Showcase. They look forward to exploring more stages. Molly is the Media Specialist for the Richmond Ballet and joined Starr Foster Dance in 2022.

Mosca Mavrophilipos-Flint graduated from VCU in 2006. There she studied Theater Education and Dance Performance and Choreography. In 2008, Mosca became a certified yoga instructor through Integral Yoga and taught at the University of Richmond, Yogaville, and for educators in Henrico County. She has also taught Theater and English to secondary learners before stepping out of the field to focus on her family. Today she and her husband share three wonderful children and she has had the privilege to return to her passions as a dancer for Starr Foster Dance in 2022.

Angela Palmisano, originally from Baltimore, Maryland, has been dancing since the age of two. She has had the pleasure of training at the prestigious George Washington Carver Center for Arts and Technology in Towson, Maryland and also in the Department of Dance and Choreography at Virginia Commonwealth University. Angela is a private event planner in Williamsburg, Virginia and joined Starr Foster Dance in 2014.

Roya Baker-Vahdani (Guest Performer) began her dance training at the age of 3 with Dance Fremont in Seattle, Washington under the direction of Artistic Directors Vivian Little and Mary Reardon, dancing for them until the age of 17. In 2018-2020 Roya trained under Artistic Director Megan Philipp at State Street Ballet's Professional Training Program in Santa Barbara, California. In 2020 – 2021 she danced for Columbia Classical Ballet in Columbia, South Carolina under the direction of Radenko Pavlovich. Roya moved to Richmond, VA in 2021 to join Stavna Ballet where she danced under Artistic Director Shannon Hunter McConville for the 2021-2022 and 2022-2023 seasons. Since leaving Stavna Ballet, Roya has been focusing on freelance dance and completing her AA degree after which she plans to pursue a degree in Psychology.

Olivia Gotsch (Guest Performer) born and raised in Chicago, began her dance training at Hyde Park School of Dance and spent summers at Hubbard Street Dance Chicago and Deeply Rooted Dance Theater. In 2023, she graduated from Vassar College, where she studied anthropology and performed with Vassar Repertory Dance Theatre (VRDT) for four years, working with choreographers such as Desmond Richardson, Jennifer Archibald, Amy Hall Garner, Mike Tyus, Adam Weinert, Yoshito Sakuraba, and Kirven Douthit-Boyd. While at Vassar, she served as assistant to the director of VRDT for three years and staged several original choreographic works on members of the company. This is her first performance with Starr Foster Dance.

Cassidy Kinney (Guest Performer) grew up in Wisconsin, where she trained at North Shore Dance Studio for 15 years. Following a summer at Interlochen Center for the Arts, she pursued a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Dance, graduating from George Mason University in 2016. After graduation, she taught dance while interning at the Kennedy Center, kickstarting her love of managing performances and events. Cassidy then moved to New York where she managed tours of performance companies like Ballet Hispanico, Farruquito, Hong Kong Ballet, and Pilobolus. This work allowed for many adventures on the road, even to Norway and Dubai. In a classic pandemic pivot, Cassidy found an adjacent passion in planning corporate events that give back to local nonprofits. She is loving getting to make a difference, while also finding her way back to the stage with Starr Foster Dance!

Janelle Ragland (SFD Intern, Guest Performer) from Lynchburg Virginia, is a dancer and an International Social Justice Studies major, with a focus on Nonprofit Organization and Management, at Virginia Commonwealth University. She has immersed herself in the dance world for 16 years, training at LeeAnne Ashley Studio of Dance in Bedford, VA and with various companies across the East Coast in all genres of dance. Starr Foster Dance is excited to have her on their team as an intern for the 2023/2024 Season and a guest performer in *Adjusting to the Dark*.

Audrey Smothers (SFD Mentee, Guest Performer) a Richmond, Virginia native, is currently a junior at Trinity Episcopal School. She has been a student at the School of Richmond Ballet since the age of five and has participated in the School of Richmond Ballet's Summer Intensives studying numerous genres of dance. For seven years, Audrey performed in The Richmond Ballet's production of *The Nutcracker*. In her free time, Audrey enjoys various arts such as painting and photography and is embracing the art of reading.

Julia Straka (Guest Performer) started dancing not long after she could walk. During her youth, she took community classes at the Virginia School of the Arts, and later trained under Mari Mori at Central Virginia Ballet. A journalism and dance major in college, she studied abroad at the Paris Marais Dance School, where she was introduced to Martha Graham technique and continued her classical ballet training. She also danced with the University Dancers company at University of Richmond. She currently lives in Downtown Richmond and works as a content writer in the real estate industry.

Daniel Deckelman (Music Director/Composer) Golden Sea is the brainchild of Dan-O Deckelman whose career spans four decades now. Golden Sea represents the heavily melodic side of his interests which can lean on power pop, new wave, brit pop, British Invasion, and early college indie via the 1980'/90's. Though you can certainly hear traces of earlier work, Golden Sea represents a departure from the bands he's been associated with such as Adam West, Mudd Helmut, Rocket 69, and The Service. Sharing the stage with many noted artists and bands has also left an impression: These have included: Rocket From The Crypt, The Ramones, DGeneration, The Figgs, Supersuckers, Leaving Trains, Demolition Doll Rods, Big Sandy, The Call, Phantom-Rocker-and Slick, The Fleshtones, Electric Frankenstein, and many more. Dan-O is the owner of Snake Oil Recording in Richmond, Va. and co-owner of Sound of Music Studios, where he is also an engineer and producer.

Michael Jarett (Lighting Designer) is pleased to continue his collaboration with Starr Foster Dance. He recently became an Assistant Professor/Design Specialist for the University of Nevada Las Vegas Department of Dance where he supervises the Bachelor of Arts in Dance Production and Management degree program. He was the Lighting Designer/Dance Technical Director for the VCU Department of Dance and Choreography for nine years. Michael received his MFA in Theater Design from Brandeis University, his BA in Theater from the University of Richmond, and held the Gilbert Hemsley Internship at Lincoln Center. Michael has had the pleasure of designing for choreographers and companies including Amaranth Contemporary Dance, Kyle Abraham/Abraham.In.Motion, Agua Dulce Dance Theater, Camille A. Brown and Dancers, Dance Iquail!, FDance, Ground Zero Dance, Thang Dao Dance Company, We Are Artists, BodyTraffic, and the VON HOWARD PROJECT.



ABOUT STARR FOSTER DANCE

Starr Foster Dance, founded by Artistic Director Starrene Foster, is a critically acclaimed modern dance company which calls Richmond, Virginia its home. It has been our goal to provide Richmond audiences, as well as audiences throughout the country, with prolific and engaging productions. Each year we strive to advance our mission, offering community programs and performances nationally.

Known for creating emotionally resonant works, Foster has received numerous awards for her teaching and choreography, and feels strongly about creating work that embraces the human spirit. The SFD dancers have received much praise for their superb technique and the innate sense of connectedness while executing Foster's unique movement vocabulary.

In their quest to make the world richer with art, SFD performs regularly throughout the county and is dedicated to their mission of collaborating with all types of artists. For the last 19 years, Starr Foster Dance has produced the highly recognized Mid-Atlantic Choreographers Showcase, providing more than 250 dance artists opportunities to present work. In 2010, SFD established a mentorship program which offers young dancers an opportunity to train in a professional and safe environment.

Starr Foster Dance is committed to deepen the understanding of dance and the performing arts through artistic excellence, innovative performances, lecture demonstrations, and community outreach. Dedicated to the enrichment of the cultural landscape, Starr Foster Dance thrives to make dance accessible and inclusive for all audiences.



SPECIAL THANKS

Much gratitude to Nathaniel Shaw and everyone at the Firehouse Theatre, Judy Jacob, Tara Penick, The School of Richmond Ballet, David Timberline, Style Weekly, Julinda Lewis, The Float Zone, Andrew Flint, Grace Herndon, Janelle Ragland, Judith Bice and all the ushers and volunteers who have dedicated their time and energy.

Extra love goes to our guest dancers Roya Baker-Vahdani, Olivia Gotsch, Cassidy Kinney, Janelle Ragland, Audrey Smothers, and Julia Straka for making rehearsals an enormous amount of fun. We have absolutely enjoyed sharing the creative space with you.

We are especially grateful to our donors. Because of you, we are able to continue to create art and provide Richmond with prolific productions and events through out the year.

SCAN
TO
DONATE



STARR FOSTER DANCE 2024 UPCOMING EVENTS



JUNE 8TH & 9TH 20TH ANNUAL MID-ATLANTIC CHOREOGRAPHERS SHOWCASE

*Presenting choreographers
from across the nation.
Celebrating PRIDE.*

SEPTEMBER SEASON PREVIEW PARTY

*Details on our website. Amazing fun.
Limited seating.*

DECEMBER 5TH-8TH PAGE TO STAGE III

*First launched in 2015, PAGE TO STAGE
is a cross-discipline project combining the art of writing
and dance. We are currently accepting poetry
and sudden/flash fiction to inspire
new dance works. Interested in joining us? Contact us!*

CONNECT

INQUIRE

SUPPORT

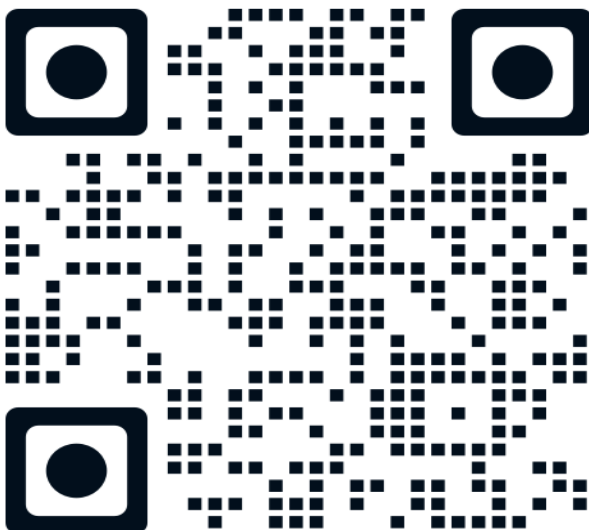
FOLLOW

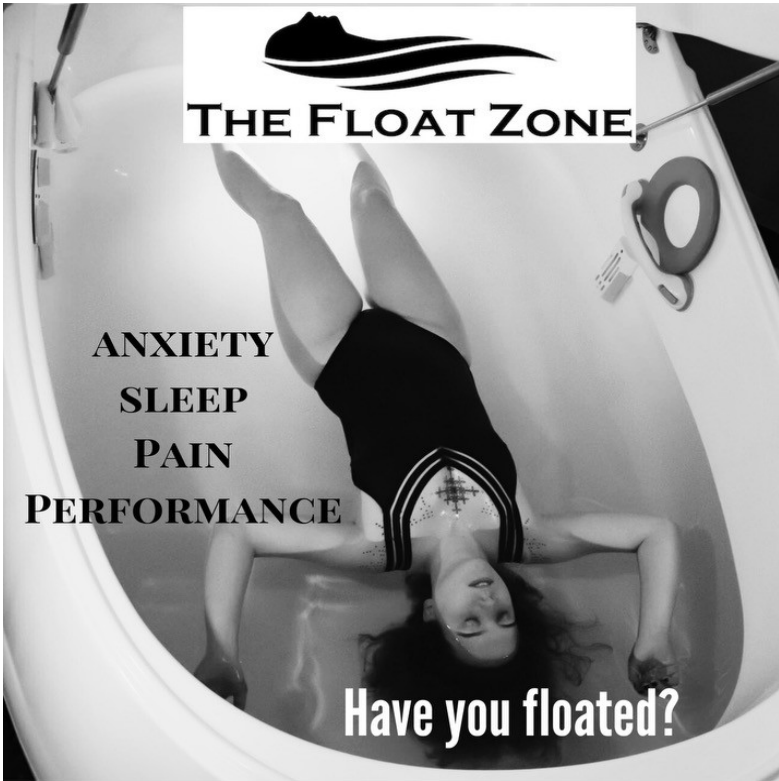
www.starrfosterdance.org

www.facebook.com/starrfosterdance

[instagram/starrfosterdance](https://www.instagram.com/starrfosterdance)

starrfosterdance@gmail.com





THE FLOAT ZONE

**ANXIETY
SLEEP
PAIN
PERFORMANCE**

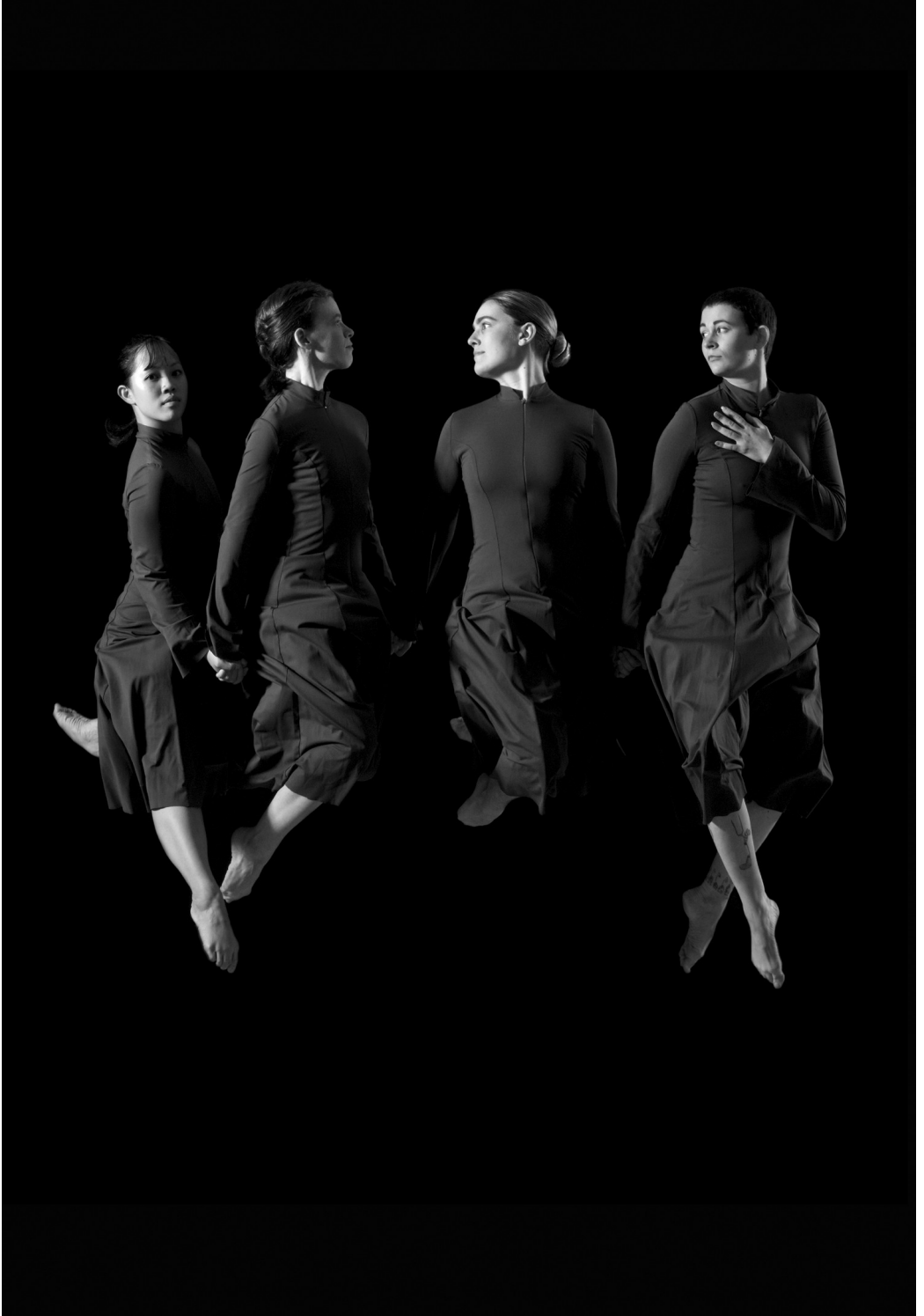
Have you floated?

**\$49 intro float
Scotts Addition
804-551-1413
www.myfloatzone.com**



Elevate your style in a unique and modern space.
Scott's Addition-Cary St -Patterson-Bon Air-Short Pump
hivesalonstudios.com





All cover and insert photography by Douglas Hayes.