

## Calculated Movements Performers' Biographies

[MoveSpeakSpin.com](http://MoveSpeakSpin.com)

**MoveSpeakSpin** is a Santa Cruz based dance ensemble co-directed by Karl Schaffer and Erik Stern since 1987. They have toured throughout North America and to Europe and Asia and have received five grants from the National Endowment for the Arts for their math and dance integration work. Schaffer and Stern are designated Teaching Artists with the Kennedy Center Partners in Education program. Their collaborative dance work has ranged from *Two Guys Dancing About Math* performed over 500 times throughout North America to the 1987 dance-theatre work *4-Footed Hamlet* which was proclaimed a reverent parody of Shakespeare's classic. Through performances, workshops, writings, and their TEDx talk, they have reached artists, mathematicians, teachers, and students of all levels with their seminal contributions to the field of arts integration.

### **Karl Schaffer, Co-Artistic Director of MoveSpeakSpin**

Schaffer's recent dance concerts include *Nevertheless She Persisted*, celebrating great women mathematicians, *Pitter Pattern*, exploring beautiful and enchanting patterns in dance, rhythm, and shape; *Choreocopia*, a festival of food, song, and dance; and *Mosaic*, on issues of culture, conflict, peace, and justice in Palestine and Israel. He has created touring dance and math school shows for dance companies in Colorado and Alabama, has been a Mellon Creative Resident artist at the Tri-Colleges in Pennsylvania, and has recently directed a two-year California Arts Council funded Arts Integration Training program for teachers at the K-8 Watsonville Charter School of the Arts on integrating dance with math and science. He has published over 30 papers on dance and mathematics, one featured in *Best Writing on Mathematics*, received a Ph.D. in mathematics from the Univ. of California Santa Cruz, and is an emeritus professor at De Anza College, where he has integrated movement and dance activities in his math classes for many years. His ongoing explorations of astonishing patterns in dance, rhythm, & shape has resulted in groundbreaking innovations in math education for which he received the 2023 Rosenthal Prize from the National Museum of Mathematics.

### **Corrine Yap, Guest Artist**

Corrine Yap is a mathematician, performer, and playwright. She is currently based in Atlanta as a Visiting Assistant Professor at Georgia Tech but has spent this past spring in residence at the Simons Laufer Mathematical Sciences Institute in Berkeley. She earned her Ph.D. in mathematics in 2023 from Rutgers University and her B.A. in mathematics and theater from Sarah Lawrence College.

As a mathematician, Corrine does research related to algorithms and probability. In her "spare time" she also teaches at and directs a summer program for high school students called MathLy-Er. As a playwright and performer, Corrine focuses on issues of race and gender in contemporary society. Her works reflect her cultural experiences as an Asian-American woman born and raised in rural Missouri. Since 2016, she has performed *Uniform Convergence* at 30 different venues, including academic institutions, national math conferences, and off-Broadway with the Pan-Asian Repertory Theater. [www.corrineyap.com](http://www.corrineyap.com)

### **Laurel Shastri, Assistant Director of Calculated Movements**

A lifelong love of learning, science, and dance coalesced when Laurel Shastri (MS in Geology) became a teaching artist nearly thirty years ago. Her creative mission to integrate dance authentically yielded a number of unique units, including 'The Scientific Dancer', 'Meaningful Movement', and 'DANCE as ACTIVism.' Her work is featured in the college text 'Creating Meaning Through Literature and the Arts,' by Claudia Cornett. She inspired thousands of students through Arts Council Santa Cruz County Artist-Teacher Partnership, Montalvo Teaching Artist Program, and Tennessee Art Commission arts education programs and was honored to receive Ballet Tennessee's Dance Alive Legacy Award, where she served

as Associate Director, company dancer, grant writer, and instructor over two and a half decades. She has led interactive, well-received workshops for educators in Tennessee, Florida, and California. She is a dancer with MoveSpeakSpin since 2013 directed by her husband, mathematician and choreographer, Karl Schaffer. His influence and love of math inspires her to create mathematical artwork using textiles, an avocation she enjoys when not dancing. Two of her creations (*Octonion* in 2023, *The Story of How We Met, and Look! Pretty Buttons!* in 2024) first displayed in the Bridges Exhibition of Mathematical Art, Craft, and Design and the second of which is currently on exhibit in the Seattle Universal Math Museum's 'Intersections Math Art Truth Humanity' art gallery.

### **Saki, Assistant Director of *Calculated Movements***

Saki arrived in the bay area after receiving her BFA in Modern Dance from the University of Utah. Nationally and internationally for 3 decades she has performed, directed, emceed, choreographed and taught dance, circus arts, theatre and gymnastics with *Dr. Schaffer & Mr. Stern Dance Ensemble / MoveSpeakSpin, Tandy Beal & Co., Japanese Cultural Fair, Project Bandaloop, Rhythmix Cultural Works, Rising Star & Ohana Gymnastics, New Pickle Circus, Moving & Storage Performance, WEST Creative & Performing Arts, Sea World of San Diego*, and in countless schools in art education programs from coast to coast! Saki is honored to have been a part of all of the meaningful collaborations throughout the years that have filled her life with joy, passion and a responsibility to share the values instilled and enhanced by heART in community, mind, body and soul :0)

This past 1/4 century under the direction of Karl Schaffer and Erik Stern in math dance she has toured to fun countries such as Korea and Hungary along with numerous states from New York to Hawaii. Saki loves sleeping in hammocks, hanging up-side-down, is a reiki practitioner, children's yoga teacher, warm ocean swimmer, believer of science, food lover and ... still has yet to learn how to ride a bike! Enjoy the performance. Arigatou to all who came out and to the cast and crew om, peace, love, mahalo kindly and aloha nui loa/until we meet again!

### **Jane Real**

Jane Real has an MA in Dance and a MS in Elementary Education. She has been Rehearsal Director and performer with Bill T. Jones/ Arnie Zane and Co. and Director of the Dance Network of Brooklyn, NY, Locally, Jane has worked with Tandy Beal and Company and teaches dance and music at Starlight Elementary School in Watsonville. She has performed with MoveSpeakSpin for 12 years.

### **Elizabeth Musco**

Elizabeth Musco (she/they) began her dance journey in her hometown of Fort Wayne, IN, where she started with hip-hop classes at a local dance studio and got to travel to Monsters of Hip-Hop every year. MOHH inspired them to grow as a dancer, and this fire led Elizabeth to study dance at University of Dayton in Ohio where she trained under the direction of past and present Dayton Contemporary Dance Company members, earning the "Dr. G Award for Excellence in Mainstage Theatre." She graduated Summa Cum Laude with dual degrees: a BME in Mechanical Engineering and a BA in Theatre, Dance, and Performance Technology. After moving to California to work as an Education Coordinator at a Redwood City nonprofit, Elizabeth has been performing in various works including multiple with Natasha Carlitz Dance Ensemble. She is eager to continue to grow as a dancer as she explores the vast Bay Area dance community. Elizabeth has danced with MoveSpeakSpin since 2023.

### **Hannah Woolfenden**

Hannah (she/they) absolutely loves being a part of this team! Hannah was recently onstage in *Nevertheless She Persisted* (MoveSpeakSpin), Oklahoma! (Cinnabar Theater), Elephant and Piggie's We Are in a Play (PLAY Theater Company), Beauty and the Beast (Opera San Luis Obispo), A Chorus Line (San Francisco Playhouse), and as a dancer for the opening of the new Stanford Robotics Lab. They graduated from the Alonzo King Lines Ballet Bachelor of Fine Arts program at Dominican University of

California where they also earned a degree in dance with a minor in mathematics. Additionally, she trained at various summer dance intensives including Cincinnati Ballet, Salt Dance, Ballet West, and VerdonFosse Legacy. You can find her performing, choreographing, and frequently cartwheeling throughout the Bay Area. Hannah is forever thankful for the support of her family and artistic community. Hanna has danced with MoveSpeakSpin since 2023. [Hannahwoolfenden.com](http://Hannahwoolfenden.com).

## **MoveSpeakSpin welcomes the following dancers in their first performance with the ensemble**

### **Ava Barrett**

Ava Barrett is a dynamic and expressive dancer known for her captivating stage presence and technical precision. Trained primarily in Garth Fagan modern technique under the guidance of Micha Scott at Tannery World Dance and Cultural Center, Ava has also cultivated extensive expertise in contemporary, ballet, hip-hop, and jazz. Her artistic curiosity extends to Latin, folkloric, and African styles, further enriching her versatility.

Through rigorous training and performance experience, Ava has refined her craft, aiming to evoke emotions, tell stories, and inspire audiences. Her passion for dance fuels her drive to push boundaries and explore innovative creative paths. Ava Barrett has studied under esteemed artists, including Babatunji Johnson of Lines Ballet, Gervais Tomadiatunga, Sharon Skepple Mayfield, and Norwood Pennewell of Garth Fagan Dance. She has also had the privilege of attending Fagan's Summer Movement Institute in Rochester, New York, three times, enriching her training and experience. Ava is now eager to further her dance journey by pursuing a BFA at California State University, Long Beach (CSULB), with plans to continue her graduate studies at CalArts, working towards an MFA.

### **Sian Ferguson**

Siân Ferguson is a dance teacher, Labanotator and choreographer with many years experience in the US and Europe at venues including the Juilliard School, the Dance Theatre of Harlem, Stanford University and the Oakland Ballet Company. She is on the faculty at Cabrillo College and San Jose Dance Theatre and just completed a project with FKA twigs. When not dancing, Siân loves to travel and has recently visited Costa Rica, Mexico, Hungary, Austria, Korea and Scotland! Her interests include writing bad poetry, playing saxophone and making banana costumes. But not all at the same time. Have a great show!

### **Teo Lin-Bianco**

Teo Lin-Bianco (they/he) is a Bay Area-based choreographer, performer, and movement artist with a background in contemporary, modern, and jazz dance. They have been dancing since childhood, drawing inspiration from their early experiences in gymnastics and circus arts before specializing in tap, modern, and contemporary styles. Teo studied dance at UC Berkeley, where they co-founded Tether Dance Company, the university's premier modern dance troupe, and choreographed multiple works exploring themes of identity, connection, and transformation. Their choreography blends structured technique with improvisation, often integrating elements of poetry, gesture, and site-specific exploration. Teo's work has been featured in the AFX-[M]ovement and Danceworx showcases at Zellerbach Hall, as well as in collaborations with Printz Dance Project and APAture, an Asian American arts festival. Their ongoing project, Soulmates, delves into intimacy and relationships through movement, evolving each year to reflect new experiences.

### **Elizabeth Randall Rains**

Elizabeth Randall Rains is a mama, dancer, creative collaborator and movement educator who grew up in Santa Cruz. She earned her MFA in Dance Performance and Choreography from NYU's Tisch School of the Arts and her BA in Dance from San Francisco State University. Elizabeth is currently on faculty at

Cabrillo College and Motion Pacific Dance and enjoys teaching creative movement at her children's elementary schools. She is delighted to be performing with MoveSpeakSpin for the first time.

### **Holly Rudnick**

Holly Rudnick is a wife, mom, and a late-blooming dancer. She discovered her love of dancing three years ago at an adult ballet class at Santa Cruz Ballet Theatre. Since then, she has continued her learning at the International Academy of Dance, Dance Center, Motion Pacific, and the Cabrillo College dance program. This is her 2nd onstage performance, and she is thrilled to be back. She wants to thank Karl for the opportunity and her fellow dancers for their guidance and inspiration!!!

### **Raina Sacksteder**

Raina is a dancer, dance educator, choreographer, and visual artist residing in the Bay Area. She began dancing in the small town of Grass Valley, CA, and then trained in Sacramento at Capitol Ballet Company under the instruction of Stuart Carroll and Sharon Newton. She also attended intensives with American Ballet Theatre, Cincinnati Ballet, and LINES Ballet. As a dancer, she has performed with Peninsula Ballet Theater, Alma Esperanza Cunningham Movement, eMotion Arts, Tandy Beal and Company, and many independent choreographers. She has been a ballet teacher in several schools, including the Tannery World Dance and Cultural Center, Elaine's Dance Studio, and Motion Pacific. She holds a Pointe Safe certification from SF Performing Arts Physical Therapy and is currently the director of the Youth Ballet Company at the Tannery World Dance and Cultural Center. As a visual artist, she has sold her work in nearly all 50 US states and in more than 15 different countries. She also holds a Bachelor's of Arts in biology from Reed College and a Master's of Science in microbiology from UC Santa Cruz.

### **Tatianna Steiner**

Tatianna/Tati Steiner (she/her) is a versatile Asian American movement artist and educator based in San Francisco, with a focus on contemporary and modern dance. She began training at age five in ballet, jazz, tap, hip hop, improvisation, and modern dance, developing a strong passion for choreography and performance. A 24' graduate of UC Berkeley (Cal) with a B.A. in Dance and Performance Studies, Tatianna had the honor of working with renowned choreographers such as Lenora Lee, Iu Hui Chua, and Lisa Wymore. While at Cal, she co-founded Tether Dance Company, a premier modern dance troupe, where she cultivated a cooperative and inclusive environment and explored innovative movement and scoring techniques. She also choreographed and taught contemporary, jazz, and modern dance for Cal organizations like Danceworx and [M]ovement.

### **Contributors/Collaborators**

**Lane Lucas** is a dancer/choreographer/director from New Mexico. She has danced in New York, Mexico City and taught at the University of NM. She founded her own company Lane Lucas Dance Co. She now lives in Maine with her family where she enjoys marathon swimming in the ocean.

**Zambra** is a Santa Cruz women's global vocal music ensemble that performs songs in over 15 languages and has collaborated with MoveSpeakSpin on several previous concerts. "Mathemusician" **Vi Hart's** videos integrating math, music, and zany humor have become an internet sensation. **Kevin Lee** has created software for interactive design of tessellations, including the "hit" software Tesselmania. **Sue Geller** is a mathematician who has created a number of skits about micro-inequities in mathematics.

This concert is produced under the auspices of **MoveSpeakSpin**, a non-profit, tax exempt organization which supports the arts and educational work of Karl Schaffer and Erik Stern. Donations are welcome, and may be sent to MoveSpeakSpin, PO Box 8055, Santa Cruz, CA 95061. We may be contacted at (831)-480-5114 email: [MoveSpeakSpin@gmail.com](mailto:MoveSpeakSpin@gmail.com), or visit [www.movespeakspin.org](http://www.movespeakspin.org).