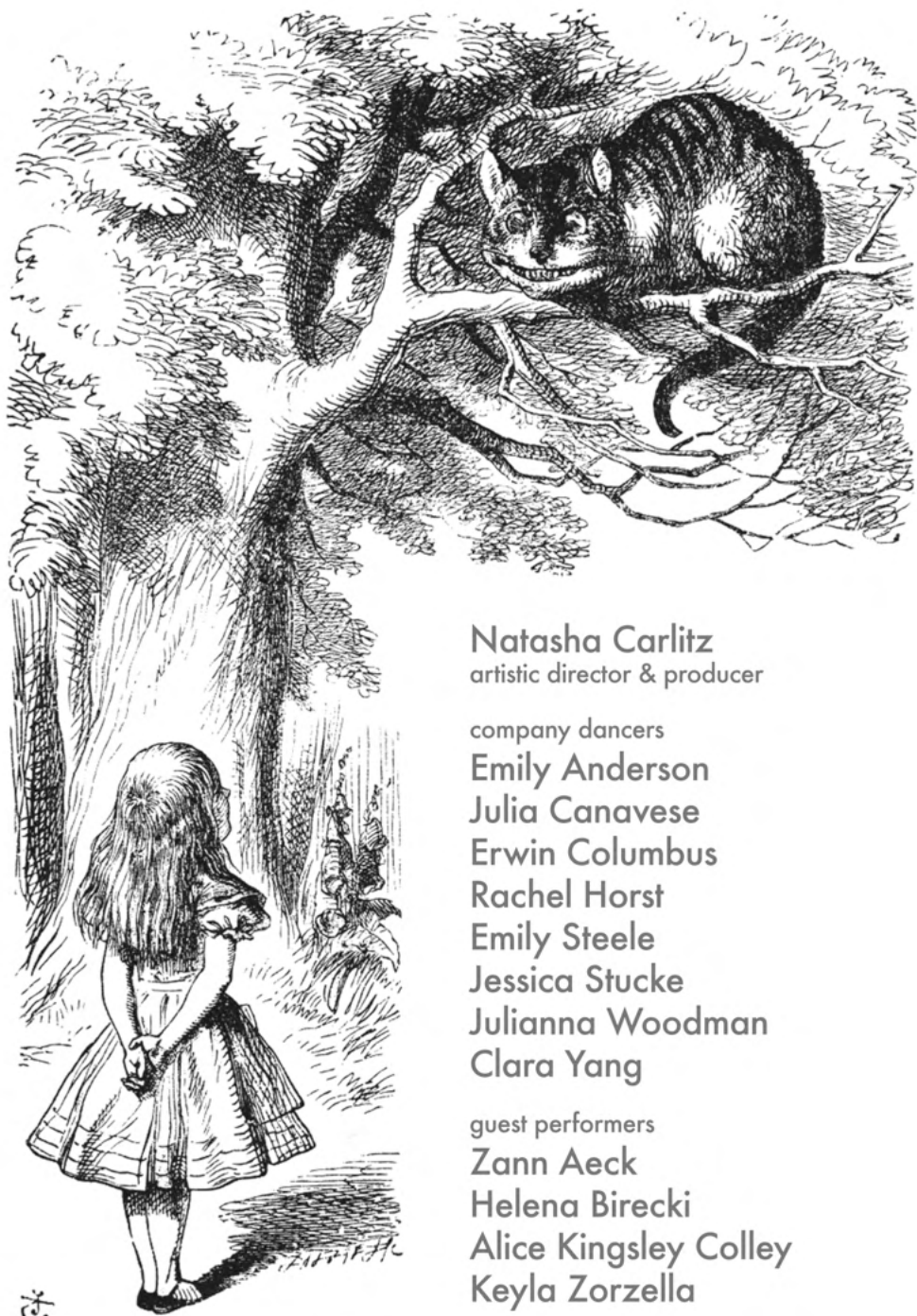


The
Episodic



Alice

Natasha Carlitz Dance Ensemble
October 27+28, 2017 | Z Space



Natasha Carlitz
artistic director & producer

company dancers
Emily Anderson
Julia Canavese
Erwin Columbus
Rachel Horst
Emily Steele
Jessica Stucke
Julianna Woodman
Clara Yang

guest performers
Zann Aeck
Helena Birecki
Alice Kingsley Colley
Keyla Zorzella

The Episodic Alice

The Episodic Alice

vignettes from the story by Lewis Carroll

dramatis personae

Alice in Oxford.....	Alice Kingsley Colley
Alice in Wonderland	Emily Anderson
White Rabbit	Erwin Columbus
Eaglet	Julianna Woodman
Mock Turtle	Clara Yang
Gryphon	Erwin Columbus
Lobsters	Rachel Horst & Emily Steele
Dormouse	Julia Canavese
Mad Hatter.....	Julianna Woodman
March Hare	Jessica Stucke
Cheshire Cat.....	Helena Birecki
Mushroom	Julia Canavese, Erwin Columbus, Rachel Horst, Emily Steele, Clara Yang
Rose Trees	Emily Steele, Julianna Woodman, Clara Yang
Gardeners	
Two of Spades	Emily Anderson / Julianna Woodman
Five of Spades	Julia Canavese
Seven of Spades	Erwin Columbus
Queen's Guards	
Three of Hearts	Rachel Horst
Four of Hearts.....	Emily Steele
Six of Hearts	Jessica Stucke
Queen of Hearts.....	Zann Aeck
Flamingo.....	Fabian Cardenas

understudies

Rachel Lovett, Angela Steele

choreography (2016 - 2017)

Natasha Carlitz with the dancers,
unless otherwise noted

special effects

Tom Stucke

projection drawings

Franzi Paetzold

projection photo

Mike Faherty, River Itchen - Eastleigh

costumes

Alice & Alice.....	Mary Beth Steele
Menagerie.....	Heather McDougal
Queen of Hearts.....	Karen McWilliams
Playing Cards.....	Natasha Carlitz
Rose Trees	Natasha Carlitz & Emily Steele



Down the Rabbit-Hole

- music Skeewiff, "Down the Rabbit Hole"
Carl Orff, "Wordless Song"
Claude Bolling, "Poursuite Automobiles"
Claude Bolling, "La Polka des Demoiselles du Vésinet"
dancers Alice Kingsley Colley, Erwin Columbus, Emily Anderson

The Caucus-Race

- music Skeewiff, "A Caucus Race"
dancers Emily Anderson, Julia Canavese, Erwin Columbus, Emily Steele,
Jessica Stucke, Julianna Woodman, Clara Yang

Mushroom Sans Caterpillar

- music Hideyo Moriya / California Guitar Trio, "Komorebi"
dancers Julia Canavese, Erwin Columbus, Rachel Horst, Emily Steele, Clara Yang

The Cheshire Cat

choreography by **Helena Birecki & Sonya Smith**

- music Daniel Berkman, "The Cheshire Cat"
dancer Helena Birecki

A Mad Tea-Party

- music Spike Jones, "William Tell Overture"
Claude Bolling, "Suite for Cello and Jazz Piano Trio - Cello Fan"
dancers Emily Anderson, Julia Canavese, Jessica Stucke, Julianna Woodman

The Lobster-Quadrille

- music Jacques Offenbach, "La Vie Parisienne - Quadrille"
Louis Armstrong, "Ory's Creole Trombone"
dancers Erwin Columbus, Rachel Horst, Emily Steele, Clara Yang

Jabberwocky

- music Natasha Carlitz & Mike Coffin, "Jabberwocky" / lyrics by Lewis Carroll
singers Keyla Zorzella (performance), Jeannine Charles (rehearsal recording)
shadows Helena Birecki & Jessica Stucke

In the Rose-Garden

- music California Guitar Trio, "Cantharis"
Penguin Cafe Orchestra, "Oscar Tango"
Carl Orff, "Riddles" & "Recorder and Timpani"
dancers Zann Aeck, Emily Anderson, Julia Canavese, Erwin Columbus, Rachel
Horst, Emily Steele, Jessica Stucke, Julianna Woodman, Clara Yang

The Queen's Croquet Ground

- music Claude Bolling, "Tiger Shimmy"
Gypsy Jazz Caravan, "Sinister Amusement"
puppetry Fabian Cardenas
dancers Zann Aeck, Emily Anderson, Julia Canavese, Erwin Columbus,
Rachel Horst, Emily Steele, Jessica Stucke, Julianna Woodman

Afterword

- music Double Bass in Wonderland, "The Lobster Quadrille"
dancers Alice Kingsley Colley with the company

Acadia Suite

choreography (2015 - 2016)

Natasha Carlitz

music

Mike Coffin

Soundings

music "Somes Sound"

costumes Natasha Carlitz & Karen McWilliams

dancers Helena Birecki, Julia Canavese, Erwin Columbus, Rachel Horst,
Emily Steele, Jessica Stucke, Julianna Woodman, Clara Yang

understudies Rachel Lovett, Angela Steele

Daily Bread

music "Little Notch"

costumes Erika Tingey

dancers Julia Canavese, Erwin Columbus, Emily Steele, Julianna Woodman,
Clara Yang

understudies Rachel Lovett, Angela Steele

Waiters' Waltz

music "Jordan Pond"

dancers Emily Anderson, Helena Birecki, Rachel Horst, Jessica Stucke

understudy Emily Steele

Echo Lake

music "Echo Lake"

costumes Julia Canavese, Fabian Cardenas, Natasha Carlitz, Monika Chock,
Maggie Hurd, Thea Patterson, Alyse Romano, Jessica Stucke,
Deanna Woodman, Julianna Woodman

dancers Helena Birecki, Julia Canavese, Erwin Columbus, Emily Steele,
Jessica Stucke, Julianna Woodman, Clara Yang

understudies Emily Anderson, Rachel Horst, Rachel Lovett

Summer 2017 marks the 101st anniversary of Acadia National Park and the 25th anniversary of Natasha's annual visits to Acadia, located on Mount Desert Island in Maine. Mike Coffin's "Acadia Suite" pays tribute to some beloved Acadia landmarks: Somes Sound is the only natural fjord on the East Coast of the US, slicing through the middle of MDI. Sailboats tack back and forth up the Sound. Little Notch is the name of both a divide between two mountains and a bakery/cafe that makes great bread and pizza and possibly the world's best brownies. Beautiful, placid Jordan Pond has a restaurant at one end, famous for serving tea on the lawn. On Echo Lake, kayaks ply the waters starting early in the morning, and in the afternoon families gather at the Ledges, a swimming hole where the cliff face slides low into the water. In evening the wind drops, and small boats make one last pass, going home for the night.

About the Company

Founded in 2005, the Natasha Carlitz Dance Ensemble presented its inaugural concert in partnership with the internationally acclaimed California Guitar Trio, and since then has performed an annual full-length program as well as appearing in group concerts and festivals around the Bay Area. Athletic and spirited, NCDE dancers bring both strong technique and emotional depth to their performances. The Dance Ensemble uses a wide variety of music, from classical to contemporary rock, and critics have commented on the company's musicality: "Serious and graceful work... displays creativity and talent that are worth seeing... One of the really successful features of Carlitz' work is that the selected music and choreography fit so well together," writes Michael Phelan of baydance.com.

In 2010, NCDE was invited to represent the United States at the Egyptian International Modern Dance Festival, performing evening-length concerts in Cairo and Alexandria. "Last week the Natasha Carlitz Dance Ensemble presented a breathtaking show," wrote Rania Khallaf for Cairo's *Al-Abram Weekly*. "A choreographer and dancer, Carlitz imbued the stage with a spirit of enthusiasm, romance and joy. The ensemble... resonated with a sense of ecstasy and challenge."

Tonight's program offers the company's first foray into extended story-telling with "The Episodic Alice," as well as a reprise of last year's collaboration with composer-in-residence Mike Coffin.



Natasha Carlitz began her dance training in Palo Alto some 40 years ago with Grace Butler, a former Nikolais dancer, and performed as a child and young adult with CHORD (Children's Original Repertory Dance) and SMDC (the Saturday Morning Dance Company). She has studied dance in California, London, Amsterdam, Massachusetts, and Maine—including improvisation and choreography workshops with Pilobolus founder Jonathan Wolken and aerial dance in the Sierras with Bandaloop. For the past 25 years, Natasha has choreographed and performed around the Bay

Area, both independently and as a member of the collective High Release Dance (1998 through 2005 and 2011 through the present). Natasha has shown her choreography in a variety of festivals and showcases, including productions by sjDANCEco, ODC, and Dance Mission. After presenting concerts of her own work in 2002 (San Jose) and 2005 (Palo Alto), in fall 2005 she founded NCDE to bring her work to new audiences. At the Egyptian International Modern Dance Festival in 2010, Natasha led a modern master class with Egypt's national dance company; she now teaches on occasion, and works at Google to support her expensive habits: the dance company, her garden, and her cat, Perboly.



Mike Coffin started playing classical guitar in grade school and began writing guitar music soon after. Thankfully, most of his early music has been lost. In the last few years he has begun composing for other instruments and ensembles as well and has become composer-in-residence for NCDE. His new music sounds as if it might have been written by one of the slower-witted students of J. S. Bach, though he also sprinkles in bits of flamenco, jazz, and blues. You can listen to more of his compositions at <https://soundcloud.com/mhcoffin>.

Company Dancers



Emily Anderson discovered her love for dance in ballet class at the age of four. However, wanting to try a little of everything, she soon moved on to tap, jazz, and hip hop. Upon joining her high school dance ensemble, Emily established her absolute passion for dance and performed lyrical, modern, jazz, and hip hop routines. Emily also competed on her high school cheerleading team and went on to coach cheerleading for four years. She graduated from California State University, Chico with a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology and continues to choreograph cheerleading on a freelance basis. Emily is exceptionally excited and grateful to be dancing with NCDE!



Julia Canavese has been an active member of the Silicon Valley arts scene for over 15 years. Graduating from Santa Clara University with a BA in Theatre Arts with a Dance Emphasis, Julia primarily studied Horton technique, with additional training in Graham, Cunningham, and Lewitzky, as well as jazz, tap, ballroom, and folk dance. In 2012, Julia participated in a two-week dance intensive at the Trinity Laban Conservatoire of Music and Dance in London where she studied a mix of contemporary technique, contact improvisation, choreography, and Flying Low technique. She is

honored to dance with Lauren Baines Dance/Theatre, Kusanovich Dance, NCDE, and High Release Dance. In addition to performance, Julia is an arts administrator working for SVCcreates as Communications & Brand Manager, focusing on web content editing for Content Magazine. Volunteer activities include: Steering Committee Member of genARTS Silicon Valley; Department 2nd / Fanime Black & White Ball; and Board Member of PUSH Dance Company. Julia enjoys every opportunity to engage in expression through the arts.



Erwin Columbus is a Chemical Engineer who discovered dance at Iowa State University in 2012. He has honed his talent performing with Orchesis I and II at ISU, and enjoys choreographing as well as performing. Erwin attended the American Dance Festival and has performed at FACES and Octagon Arts Festival in Iowa. Since moving to the Bay Area, he has appeared with Zohar Dance Company and ArtistEDGE. Currently, Erwin is an active member of ArtistEDGE, NCDE, and High Release Dance.



Rachel Horst hails from southeastern Pennsylvania and has been dancing since her childhood. Prior to coming to the Bay Area in 2015, she danced and performed at Dance New Amsterdam (now Gibney Dance) in New York. Before that, she studied modern technique while getting her BA at Goucher College in Baltimore, MD. Rachel has had the pleasure of dancing for ArtistEdge Dance Company and for Zann Aeck, with the great community of dancers at Dance-Visions and Zohar Dance. She is very grateful to be dancing with NCDE! By day, Rachel works in San Jose at a non-profit promoting health equity in Silicon Valley.



Emily Steele began her training in classical ballet at Pacific Ballet Academy where her love of dance and performing followed her through her involvement in community theater as well as intensives at Central Pennsylvania Youth Ballet, the American Academy of Ballet, and the Mark Morris Dance Group. During her undergrad at Humboldt State University she tacked on a minor in Dance Studies to her degree in biochemistry as she discovered jazz, modern, and lindy hop as well as a chance to work as a student choreographer. She now interns for the county crime lab with their forensic biology

department and works approximately too many jobs while applying to graduate school. Emily enjoys knitting, bubble tea, aquariums, and Wes Anderson films.



Jessica Stucke grew up in San Mateo, doing gymnastics and competitive cheerleading, but only when she joined her high school's dance ensemble did she discover dance. Her studies continued at UC Santa Barbara where she refined her modern and ballet technique and explored her own choreography. During her senior year, she joined UCSB Dance Company, learning repertoire from prestigious guest artists and faculty, culminating in an international performance tour throughout California, the Czech Republic, and Italy. An emerging choreographer, Jessica was awarded the UCSB Sherrill C.

Corwin-Metropolitan Award for her BFA. senior project, as well as being selected to self-produce a research-based Honors Project, "The Body as a Metaphor," in collaboration with a classmate. After graduating with a BFA in Dance in 2014, Jessica returned to the Bay Area in search of more dance opportunities, including NCDE. She is honored and excited to be working with the company this season!



Julianna Woodman, born in the Bay Area, began her dance training at the age of six. In 2012 she had her first professional experience when she was invited to perform in Jose Limón's "Missa Brevis" with sjDANCEco. In 2013 she had the honor of performing as a soloist in Nahn Ho's original work "Bridging the Gap 2." In 2014 she was blessed with the opportunity to perform in Adrienne Foley's original trio "Hit 'Em Up Style," as well as joining ArtistEDGE and NCDE. She has been dancing with Natasha for about three years and very much enjoys being with the company!



Clara Yang fell into the wonders and joys of dance through her seven years competing in colorguard and winterguard. She loves the whole rehearsal process and how movement, colors, breath, song, and acting all come together for a moment's connection with a stranger. At Syracuse University, she took a potpourri of dance classes, including Dance in the Classroom and Worlds of Dance. In addition to classes, she danced and choreographed with the campus organization Orange Pulse Dance Troupe. After graduating with a BS in Selected Studies in Education, she returned to the Bay Area

where she pioneered a dance and flag ministry at Forerunner Christian Church and now dances with ArtistEdge and NCDE. She is thrilled for the opportunity to grow as a dancer and performer with such talented and fun people and to be a part of bringing Natasha's creative ideas to life.

Guest Performers



Zann Aeck, a native Houstonian, began her formal dance training with Patsy Swayze, but after a few years narrowed her focus to train professionally as an apprentice for the Greater Houston Civic Ballet. Zann started her modern dance training as a student at the High School for the Performing Arts and continued her study at the University of Houston and then at Southern Methodist University where she received her BA. During this time she performed with Texas-based companies such as Joan Karff's New Dance Group. Now based in the Bay Area, Zann has danced or studied with Jeannine Charles,

Gary Masters, Maria Basile, Bih-Tau Sung, Natasha Carlitz, and Cheryl Chaddick. Zann currently teaches modern dance at DanceVisions in Palo Alto and has choreographed select pieces over the years for DanceVisions as well as Jeannine Charles.



Helena Birecki has been moving to music (and silence) since her third Christmas when her parents put on a record of the Nutcracker and she lost all interest in the presents. She later earned a BFA in dance from the University of Michigan. Since moving back to the Bay Area, she has had the pleasure of performing with groups including number9/kelly kemp, David Herrera Performance Company, Lizz Roman and Dancers, and High Release Dance, and has presented her own choreography at West Wave Dance Festival, Collaboration! Music and Dance, and the San Jose Choreographer's Project. Helena is

thrilled to be performing again with NCDE. When not in the dance studio, she can most often be found teaching Pilates, hiking, or volunteering at the animal shelter.



Alice Kingsley Colley is in the fourth grade at John Muir Elementary School in Berkeley. She loves to read, especially mysteries and fantasy stories, play games, and make things out of cardboard. Alice also likes to play with her friends and with her two cats, Max and Clyde. She has been on a soccer team and taken classes in dance and swimming, and performed hip-hop in a children's dance show at Laney College. Alice just started learning to play the flute. She might want to be either a singer or a builder when she grows up.

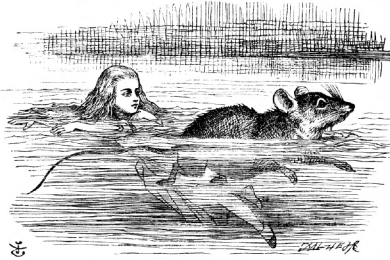


Keyla Zorzella was born and raised in Brazil and grew up singing in her church choir. After coming to the United States she found her passion for singing Brazilian Jazz with and for new friends. Lately, she has also been singing rock with her husband's band, thus finding new ways to have fun with her voice. Though she loves music she also values the sound of silence and regularly practices yoga and mindful/contemplative meditation. For the last twelve years her biggest project has been bringing up two amazing humans beings: her son Alex and her daughter Beatrice. Keyla believes in the power of

sharing through storytelling. She loves telling her life stories to friends and listening to theirs, and she enjoys praying for others. Making vegan desserts is a favorite hobby, and learning the basics of acoustic guitar is her latest challenge.

Guest Choreographer

Sonya Smith has been bouncing around since her first adventures in bungee and chocolate cake with Eat Cake Productions and is delighted to be a part of bringing the Cheshire Cat to life! She holds an MFA in Dance with an emphasis on Aerial Dance from the University of Colorado Boulder as well as Pilates and Gyrokinesis certifications. Formal theoretical and somatic education; clowning with Giovanni Fusetti; contact improvisation; and a delight in quirky physicality inform her practice as a teacher, performer, and creator.



Production Crew

director & producer	Natasha Carlitz
technical director	Tom Stucke
lighting designer	Jack Beuttler
lighting technician	David Lynch
sound technician	Minerva Ramirez
projectionist	Minerva Ramirez
rigger	Spencer Evans
theater manager	Joe Moore
stage manager	I-Heng McComb
stage assistant	Fabian Cardenas
wardrobe mistress	Emily Steele
videographers	Mike Coffin, Krystina Columbus
photographers	Sasakthi Abeyasinghe, Yaron Kidron
graphic designer	Natasha Carlitz
box office manager	Andrew Burmester
house managers	Kat Cole, Michelle Mulholland
ushers	Monika Chock, Louis Coffin, Mike Coffin, Krystina Columbus, Felicia Fong

With Thanks...



Our thanks to DanceVisions / Laura Zweig for their support; to Zaccho Dance Theatre/Joanna Haigood for aerial equipment; and to Z Space staff and crew, particularly the indefatigable Joe Moore.

Thank you to the volunteers and friends who have helped bring this production to life, in particular Tom Stucke for technical guidance and equipment, Heather McDougal for amazing costumes, I-Heng McComb for her time and expertise, Tracey Stanelun for a sharp eye in rehearsals, Jeannine Charles and Keyla Zorzella for their singing, and Fabian Cardenas and Krystina Columbus for always being there and ready to help. Thanks to everyone at work for putting up with Natasha. Thank you to Xiaoming Jia and Nolan Vano for publicity photographs and to John Tenniel for his classic “Alice” drawings, happily now in public domain for our continued pleasure.

A huge thanks to the current and former company dancers who contributed so much to the development of these works, with special appreciation to our summer intern, Angela Steele; to former company member Rachel Lovett, who recently moved to Chicago to work with the Joffrey Ballet; and to Karina Liu, whose brief but timely involvement was instrumental in making the Lobster Quadrille. A debt of gratitude to Helena Birecki and Sonya Smith for getting the Cheshire Cat off the ground (so to speak).

For their consistent encouragement and inspiration, thanks and love to Barbara, to Mike, to Maine, and, as always, to Grace Butler.



“Curiouser and curiouser!” cried Alice
(she was so much surprised, that for the moment
she quite forgot how to speak good English).”
~ Lewis Carroll