

Dance Department



Dear UCI Dance Undergraduates and Graduates,

I hope this message finds you well! I'm excited to share key dates and updates as we begin the new academic year. I look forward to connecting with you all and am here if you have any questions or need support.

New Slate Piece Auditions

- **Piece Auditions** — October 21, 2025 at 6 pm

Walk & Talk

- **Friday, November 7, 2025 at 3:30 PM**
- Meet in front of the Contemporary Art Center — a great chance to connect and catch up.

Injury Prevention & Consultations

Appointments with **Dr. Ashley Wallace-Leon** began on *Thursday, Oct. 2, 10:00 AM–3:00 PM*.

- Book here: <https://calendly.com/danceptuci/30min>

Dance Office Hours

- **Monday–Friday: 9:00 AM–4:00 PM**

Dance Department Scholarship Opportunity- Due on December 5, 2025, by 5 PM.

- UCI Dance Scholarship Opportunities: Scholarship Self-Nomination-[your last name], and e-mail it back to dance@uci.edu . We will not accept any late submissions. Please refer to linked form: https://zotmail.uci.edu/RTE_uploads/16/DanceScholarshipForm_2025.pdf
- Please note that funding for 4th-year students and 2nd-year MFA students will be awarded in Spring 2026. All other funding will be distributed in Fall of the 2026 academic year.

Guest Artist: Mestre Muito Tempo (Phillipos Haile)

Mestre Muito Tempo will be teaching in the following classes on **October 23, 2025**:

- **Hip Hop I – 11:00 AM**
- **Jazz III – 2:00 PM**
- **Hip Hop II – 3:30 PM**
- **Hip Hop I – 5:00 PM**

About the Guest Artist:

- Mestre Muito Tempo (Phillipos Haile) was born and raised in Los Angeles and has been deeply involved in Capoeira for over 25 years. He is the first student of Mestre Amen Santo, founder of *Capoeira Batuque*—one of the oldest Capoeira groups in the United States—to be promoted to the rank of Mestre.
- He grew up in his mestre's dance company, performing Capoeira, Samba, and the music and dances of the Orixás. He has traveled to more than 30 countries to train, perform, and teach Capoeira.
- In addition to his work as a Capoeirista, he is an actor, stuntman, and comedy content creator. He is known for creating a safe and supportive environment in his workshops, where participants feel empowered and inspired to learn.
- **Please check out the attached flyer.**

UROP Research Opportunities- Undergraduate Research Opportunities

- Please visit the UROP website for detailed information:
<https://uop.uci.edu/uop-opportunities/>

- UROP has recently added new resources—please take some time to review the updated processes.
- If you plan to apply for UROP with a Dance Faculty Mentor, send your budget to your faculty mentor **and** Laura Swendson (swendson@uci.edu) **before** submitting your proposal on **November 3, 2025**. Budget pre-approval is required, so please allow at least **one week** in advance for review and approval.

**Blue13 Dance Company Auditions – Paid 2-Year Contracts!
Calling All Expressive Contemporary Dancers**

- Blue13 Dance Company, led by acclaimed choreographer Achinta S. McDaniel, is seeking strong, versatile, and dynamic dancers for upcoming stage, film, touring, and local projects.
 - What's on Offer: Paid 2-year contracts, competitive pay for rehearsals and performances, opportunities to tour and perform in high-profile events
 - About Blue13: With over 20 years of groundbreaking work, Blue13 is a NEFA and NEA grant-winning company rooted in Access, Belonging, Inclusion, Diversity, and Equity (ABIDE). Recent highlights include Bollywood Express at Union Station, Soliloquy at Heritage Square, REDCAT NOW Festival, Performances in Las Vegas, the Bahamas, and the Hollywood Bowl with A.R. Rahman
 - Upcoming Performance: Cleveland's Playhouse Square
 - Audition Dates: Sunday, October 19, 1:00–3:00 PM, Sunday, October 26, 1:00–3:00 PM
Stomping Ground LA, 5453 Alhambra Ave, Los Angeles, CA 90032
 - **Sign up here:** [Audition Form](#)
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Policy Updates & Reminders

1. Do not block doors with gastroc wedges (calf blocks), trash cans, or bars — keep them in their proper homes.
2. Keep all studio doors closed; do not prop them open.
3. Use studios only with reservations (see handbook for details).
4. Avoid wearing lotion or body oils to protect flooring.
5. Keep bags at least 18 inches from fire extinguishers and exits; use designated storage to keep pathways clear.
6. **Classroom Conduct Reminder:**
If you are injured, please check in with your professor to develop an appropriate wellness and learning plan to stay current with class material. Additionally, if you are not dancing in one class due to injury, please refrain from participating in another until you are fully cleared. Take care of yourself, and if you need additional support, please reach out to the Dance Department Undergraduate Advisor to create a modified learning plan that supports your healing process.

Wellness

- Prioritize **care, repair, and recovery!**
- Stay hydrated and nourished.
- Plan ahead for a busy start to the year.
- Remember all dimensions of your wellness — your well-being comes first!

Advising

- **Undergraduates:** Contact Prof. Diefenderfer — dldiefen@uci.edu
- **Graduates:** Contact Prof. Hall — chall1@uci.edu (He will also reach out for goal-setting meetings.)

Helpful Resources

- [UCI Campus Status](#)
- [Student Wellness Center](#)
- [Counseling Center](#)
- [UCI Basic Needs Center](#)

I look forward to seeing you all soon. Let's make this an outstanding and memorable year! Please feel free to contact me if you have specific needs or concerns at ksharp@uci.edu. General questions can be directed to dance@uci.edu.

Warmly,
Dr. Sharp