

Content Description: *Under Momentum*

We know that some audience members prefer to enter into a performance space and be surprised by the art, and others prefer to be informed about the work itself, its content, or any potential triggers/activations in advance. This content outline is for those of you who would like some additional information.

Under Momentum (UM) celebrates the joys of continuous motion, the allure of speed, and the beautiful futility of resisting gravity. Laurel Lawson and Alice Sheppard perform on a series of differently-sized planar and curvaceous ramps designed by artist and design researcher Sara Hendren. As the dancers push up their steep surfaces and freewheel downhill, the ramps become a geographical stage for the unfolding, exhilarating meditation on love and the delights and perils of relationship.

UM is not a traditional story ballet: there is no single linear narrative throughout the work. However, UM does explore a series of different moments in the unfolding relationship of the dancers on stage.

ACT ONE

Section 1: On the Mountain Range

Statuesque on the upended ramps, Dancers A + L inhabit their own worlds, each lost in their own environments. Two moments of connection awaken their curiosity about each other. They descend from the mountain range to explore this connection further.

Section 2: On The Island

With the ramps pushed close together to form an island on the stage, Dancer L floats dreamily at the edge, reaching, searching. Her reverie is interrupted: Dancer A appears, breaking the spell. They search for each other, trying to hold on. Dancer L disappears; she is replaced by Dancer A, floating dreamily at the edge, reaching and searching.

Section 3: In The Meadow

With the ramps pushed together to form a hill, Dancers A + L appear to each other in the meadow. Playfully, they push up and down the ramps, reveling in the slopes, chasing each other in a playful courtship.

Section 4: Undressing

With the ramps as a witness, Dancers A + L finally catch each other. A “undresses” L from her chair; then L does the same for A. Embracing, they roll behind the hill out of sight.

Section 5: Underworld

With the ramps now hiding their activity, Dancers A + L enjoy an intimate moment.

Section 6: On the Peak

Emerging from their tryst, Dancers A + L try to find connection and flow with each other, but all is not well. A pushes L; L throws A; the dream world is broken.

ACT TWO

Section 7: From the Peak

Act 2 opens with a burst as Dancer L descends from the peak and crashes into Dancer A. They toss each tumble and turn in a play fight /duet for control of L’s chair. Dancer A wins and tosses the chair high.

Section 8: On The Mountain Range

Now in her own world, A swings between two mountainous ramps. Up and down, a fierce response to the happenings of the relationship. Pounding and stamping, Dancer A marks her territory and takes control of her world.

Section 9: The Rocky Terrain

With the ramps scattered everywhere, Dancer L scampers over and under the rocky terrain. Each ramp provides a different surface to change her movement as she playfully reflects.

NOTE: There are loud banging noises in this section, made from the ramps crashing to the ground as Dancer L rides over them.

Section 10: Between the Cliffs

Between mountains and sea, the upended ramps become cliffs. Tucked at first in the pockets of the ramp undersides, Dancers A + L reflect on what has transpired. Each transforms as they leave the protection of the large ramps, embarking cautiously into a new terrain with ramps scattered everywhere. They find their chairs and connect once more.

Section 11:**Dead Reckoning**

Dancers A + L launch themselves from the ramps into the space. Fiercely focused, they fly across the scatter of ramps. Up and down. Around and around, connecting and disconnecting as they fight forces unseen in a united effort. A whirl of lifts, rolls, descents, and drags takes them on an exhilarating ride that concludes with a leap into the future.