

20TH ANNIVERSARY SHOWCASE

**DEFINING
MOVEMENT
PRESENTS:**

ROOTS



04.09.22
PAGE AUDITORIUM

20TH ANNIVERSARY SHOWCASE



Roots

Our Theme

As DefMo has reached its 20th anniversary, we reflect on where we came from and where we're going. DefMo has expanded and grown, but we always remember our roots and our founding, which are fundamental to the life of DefMo. We've blossomed so much but are still so connected to our roots.

Our Cause

In thinking about where we stem from, our hearts go out to those whose homes are affected by the crisis in the Ukraine. We want to provide support in whatever way we can, so please help us in doing so by donating to our organization of choice to help families in need: USA for UNHCR.

Link to Donate: <https://tinyurl.com/yzkper7v>





SHOWCASE ORDER

PAGE AUDITORIUM, 5PM

ACT I

DefFenty

Remembrance

Cross My Mind

DefMed

Lung

Cross Cultural Love

- INTERMISSION -

ACT II

Freedom in the African Diaspora

Remembrance

Home

New Beginnings

F For You

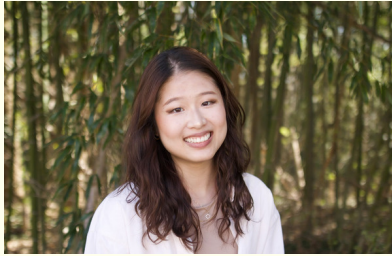
Myths and Legends

The Journey

I Like Dat



MEET DEFMO



Alice Chun (Fullerton, CA)

WANTED: Alice Chun (aka alicechunshine)
Frequents BC steps with Beyu iced chai. Last seen wearing beige, earth-toned clothing and sunglasses Most likely to initiate DefMo group selfies "I see the vision" REWARD: a weekend KBBQ and karaoke outing



Angelo Guo (West Windsor, NJ)

Angelo graduated from Duke in December but he loves DefMo so much he stayed just to perform in this showcase. He can be found on campus asking Defmembers for food points and then inhaling said food within 5 minutes. He loves sweet tea, shaking his booty, and rotating between combinations of his windbreakers/black t shirts/sweatpants. Angelo is forever grateful to DefMo for being a loving family during his time at Duke.



Antonio Marrujo (Albuquerque, NM)

Antonio, the head band king, is the quiet guy in the group BUT not when he dances! If you see someone that looks like they just got out of the shower after dance class that's him. He gives everything 150% and sweats that much too. He is so kind and gives the best hugs so if you ever need a sweaty cuddle buddy you know the guy!! :)

MEET DEFMO



Arushi Bhatia (Apex, NC)

Arushi is from the big ol' ~city~ called Apex, North Carolina (you've heard of it, right?) and is a proud DefMo carpool mom for the drive back from rehearsal. You'll probably find Arushi frantically planning a Duke Diya event, complaining about a computer science problem set, or perreando to the latest Bad Bunny hit (or a little bit of all three). Arushi practically never leaves her room without her dangly gold earrings, and almost always has an oat milk cappucino with hazelnut syrup in her hand (shoutout Bella Union!). If you want to talk about the latest Bollywood movie, Arushi is your gal!



Catherine Livingston (Davidson, NC)

Catherine is a senior MechE who wishes she could have majored in DefMo Studies!! While Duke figures out how to make this possible, she has been spending all four years trying to do hip hop like Izzy Bank. So far, she has been found it to be impossible. Nonetheless, she enjoys all of the new styles of dance she has learned over 4 years and can't wait to do them all on stage at showcase.



Claire Tan (San Jose, CA)

If Claire makes it out of her room, you can probably catch her with an oatmeal cookie or pita chips. She loves snacking, so you can ask her to introduce you to the best desserts at WU or bribe her with hot cheetos and sour patch.

MEET DEFMO



Devanshi Pandya (Seattle, WA)

Devanshi is both a pre-med and a compsci major, because one pretentious academic label wasn't enough. Devanshi speaks English, Gujarati, and Hindi, but can't write more than a page of academic work without complaining that STEM people should not be subjected to such torture (her humanities friend is writing this bio for her). You will never fail to find Devanshi wearing her footwear of choice: flip flops. Even in freezing temperatures. She is often accompanied by her beloved roller "Jared" because she is always sore from dance. She wears earrings much more often than she wears pants, and is famous for her great success in wearing pants 37% percent of the time!



Florence Wang (Columbia, SC)

Flo is a junior from SC who has considered every major possible and still doesn't know what she's doing with her life. When she's not at dance you can find her drinking a crap ton of coffee, skipping class, or wandering wu aimlessly trying to decide what to eat and ultimately deciding on soy nuggets. She also loves sneakers. And earrings. Oh and apples.



Gus Milhizer (Dallas, TX)

If you've seen somebody on the quad wearing sweatpants and a hoodie during all months of the year, it's probably Gus. Gus is Defmo's resident chem major from Texas, who will improv to just about anything. Unfortunately his drink of choice is sparkling water, but he makes up for it with his bboy skills. Make sure to say hi to Gus if you want at least a nod of acknowledgement in your general direction, if not a smile and friendly hug.

MEET DEFMO



Harrison Pak (Irvine, CA)

It's Harrison! You've possibly heard maybe a little too much about him and a little too much from him. His self-obliterated vans can be seen causing intentioned chaos. With the "thrifed" Mercari windbreakers, you'll never catch him charging his computer in public.



Hiwot Shaw (Goldsboro, NC)

Hiwot Shaw - a true Aries. Word around town she is a bully. But instead of punching Antonio, she channels her anger into her dancing. If you see a flaming ball of fire on stage dancing her heart out, that's how you know it's Hiwot. She is probably the most sarcastic person you'll ever meet, so don't take anything she says seriously. . . she tells everyone she hates children, puppies, and especially dancing! On a real note she loves laughing and spending time with her Defmo family and is so excited for the next couple of years with some of her best friends!



Imani Hall (Martha's Vineyard, MA)

Known for her spontaneous handstands, Imani Hall spends more time on her hands than on her own two feet. As a sophomore she enthusiastically said yes being on Defmo exec, even though she has no idea what she's doing. In terms of career, she is much more sound... most days. Imani is definitely not on the premed track anymore (except every other day when she decides she still is). However, one thing remains consistent: her undying love for Brussels sprouts. You will often see Imani sporting her "just a girl who loves Brussel sprouts" tee at dance rehearsal.

MEET DEFMO



Izzy Bank (Old Westbury, NY)

When YG recorded “Big Bank” ft. 2 Chainz, Big Sean & Nicki Minaj, he meant it as an homage to DefMo co-pres Izzy Bank. Izzy is a senior majoring in civil engineering but she daydreams about moving to France and becoming a pastry chef. She's also from NY if she hasn't already told you for the millionth time. If you ever see Izzy without her hoop earrings, do NOT approach—she is likely having the worst day of her life. DefMo has been and always will be such an instrumental part of Izzy's life at and after Duke. DefMo has put their ALL into this showcase and she's so excited to dance on stage with her favorite people one last time!



Jasmine Daniel (Howard County, MD)

If you hear someone yelling “OKAY ___” backstage, it's definitely Jasmine as the self-appointed hype woman of DefMo. Let her lead a warm-up before practice and it will definitely make her day. Also, if you need a hug after a long day, she's your girl! The way to her heart is coffee & conversations about anything and everything (psych major vibes). You'll know she's in the room because she's always laughing and loves DefMo that much :)



Juliet Jiang (Winchester, MA)

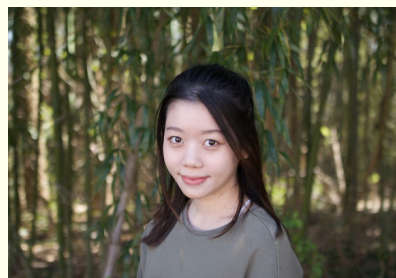
Juliet Jiang is a DefMo newbie who's spirit animal is a chipmunk. She takes pride in her hugs and being Cigarettes After Sex's #1 fan, kinda. Besides being notorious for losing her water bottles (she's on #5), umbrellas (#3), and succulents, she spends maybe 80% of her day raving about tiramisu or math, and spends more of her food points on coffee than actual food (except on pints of ice cream). She's always looking for a thrifting buddy, cat people, or a Japanese city-pop lover to jam with :) <3!

MEET DEFMO



Linus Li (Fremont, CA)

A senior on DefMo who used to think a mark meant “full-out” as a freshman, Linus announces his presence in a room with the crackles and pops of his joints. Flavored with a sprinkling of sleep deprivation and 21 years’ worth of blankie and Great Pumpkin puns, Linus is caffeine dependency anthropomorphized; you can probably find him cold-brewing liters of Earl Grey in his apartment, going on boba runs with friends, or chugging a Bang right before practice (s/o to Staci Grimes). Linus is grateful he’s been able to spend all four years of undergrad growing with DefMo, and he can’t wait to keep dancing after college with the love for dance that DefMo has fostered in him.



Maria Lin (Tapei, Taiwan)

DefMo is Maria’s home on campus! If she’s not lazing about in her dorm, she’s probably hanging out with the cool kids at DefMo B-) Besides dancing, she also enjoys reading, doing makeup, and crocheting her problems away. Also, hugs are VERY rarely unwelcome, so feel free to give her a hug if you don’t mind her perpetual post-rehearsal sweatiness.



Neha Rodricks (Livingston, NJ)

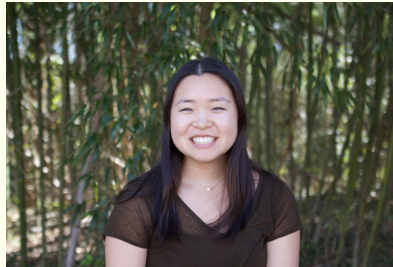
Neha’s favorite hideaway is right under bella union were she spends all of her food points on espressos, chai lattes, and trolli gummy worms. Between classes, dance and Economics problem sets, you can guarantee Neha is squeezing in a power nap. Neha is happiest performing on stage or cuddling with her dog Nala.

MEET DEFMO



Niam Kothari (Fairfield, CT)

Niam doesn't like writing about himself, so when he does, he keeps it short - he likes storytelling and meeting new people, and he's grateful DefMo has given him the chance to do both. He hopes you enjoy the show!



Nicole Park (Stevenson Ranch, CA)

Nicole is feeling the pressure because everyone else's bios are so damn funny and quirky. She would like hers to be damn funny and quirky too but it's not looking great. Here are the facts: She's a junior from "LA" who wants to work in TV and film. She is singlehandedly turning @nicolio.raviolo into the next big global food blog/insta account (#plug). She is a walking billboard for Jeni's Ice Cream. She is utterly unaffected by coffee, Celsius, Yerba mate, Redbull and could fall asleep on any surface at any time ... the one exception is the amazingly amazing DEFMO Showcase!!!! She hopes you enjoy the show woot wootttttt



Rahel Petros (Laurel, MD)

Does she even go here???... Catch Rahel zooming between UNC and Duke on 15-501 (gas \$ donations would be greatly appreciated – cashapp \$rahelzp, Venmo: @RahelZPetros), OR holding three beverages at a time (one for hydration, one for taste, one for energy), OR collecting parking tickets like infinity stones (again, donations please I'm begging). She's all over the place but she makes up for it through her award-winning a**-throwing and endless love for her team. And if she hasn't already said it a thousand times: she's from the D(M)V. DMYK!

MEET DEFMO



Reagan Razon (Morrisville, NC)

Reagan is like 4'11, which is why you probably can't see her on stage. She is extremely allergic to nuts and pollen—the weakest link, per se. In her free time, Reagan can probably be found—wait never mind, she never actually has any free time. She is a Computer Science major. She also has an awesome twin brother & younger brother that she never stops talking about. Even though she's probably running off 3 hours of sleep right now, she loves Defmo and can't wait to perform!



Rishi Salwi (Marlboro, NJ)

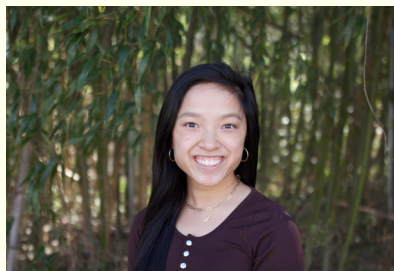
Just another brown kid from Jersey, Rishi is a junior on Defmo. He may be an upperclassmen but he still gets lost on campus like a freshman. You can find him at pitchforks at 2 am eating his second or third dinner or struggling to wake up for his noon class. He loves the defmo family with all of his heart, and he's so excited to share the stage with such talented and amazing people!!!



Staci Grimes (Bronx, NY)

Staci is from the greatest city in the world (New York City) and they'll never let you forget it! When they aren't at practice, which is a rare sight to see as they are a passionate dancer on both DefMo and Street Medicine, you can probably catch them in a random bathroom mirror creating choreography for the next big finale set! Staci loves DefMo so so so much, not only for the wonderful opportunity to engage with and learn about various cultures through dance, but also because of the beautiful connections they have made with the people on the team. Staci is absolutely honored to be part of this legacy!

MEET DEFMO



Sydney Chen (Oak Hill, VA)

Defmo Newbie Sydney Chen turned down Mike's offer to be on his legacy basketball team so she could perform for Defmo's 20th showcase. Her life is full of these tough decisions like whether she's actually hungry or just bored. Speaking of music: Sydney unapologetically plays Christmas music in the summer because who doesn't want to feel merry year round? When she's not competing with her dog to be the favorite child, Sydney is either dancing or wishing she was dancing.



Tess Foote (West Chester, PA)

Tess is a red head. That's all you need to know to identify her in this show. She loves defmo and chocolate and her dog Archie and that's basically it. Don't ask her about the new music podcast she's listening to or she'll never shut up.

MEET DEFMO



Tessa Grabowski (Randolph, NJ)

Tessa loves DefMo like SO much. It is her defining personality trait, so this bio was very difficult for her to write. When she is not in rehearsal or blabbering about DefMo, she is most likely resisting the urge to make a Spongebob reference. Her red flags include Harry Styles and firmly believing that Pitch Perfect is the greatest movie of all time. She is looking forward to tomorrow's Wordle and to be taking the stage one last time with her forever family! If you happen to have a dog in the audience, please see Tessa after the show.



Vinitha Sunkara (Charlotte, NC)

Vinitha slept in as usual and had to give only the essential favorites in bullet form:

- major: cs
- fashion: pajamas + bathrobes
- backpack: samsonite
- food: acai bowls
- drink: vita coco
- brand: costco
- song: bussin nicki minaj
- app: notion
- social media: venmo @Vini-Sun
- love: defmo



Showcase Order



Intro Video

Dancers: DefMo

DefFenty

Choreographers: Angelo Guo, Catherine Livingston, Izzy Bank, Niam Kothari, Rahel Petros, Tess Foote, Tessa Grabowski, and Staci Grimes

Dancers: DefMo

A tribute to queen RiRi, this set is a high-energy, fast-paced compilation of songs and styles.

Presidents' Speech

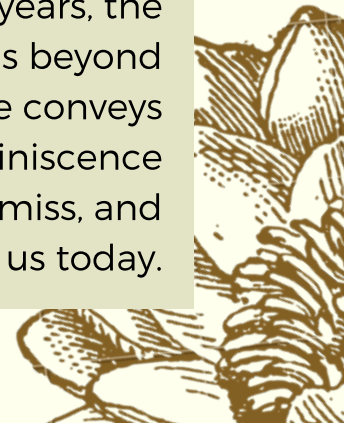

Izzy Bank and Tessa Grabowski

Remembrance

Choreographers: Niam Kothari and Sydney Chen

Dancers: Angelo Guo, Antonio Marrujo, Arushi Bhatia, Claire Tan, Gus Milhizer, Linus Li, Niam Kothari, Rishi Salwi, Sydney Chen, Tessa Grabowski

Defmo has been a highlight and home for twenty generations of dancers. Whether you are currently in Defmo or are returning for the first time in years, the memories we build as a family stay with us beyond our time on the team. We hope this piece conveys those same feelings of nostalgia and reminiscence about something you love, something you miss, and something you'll be happy to celebrate with us today.





Founder's Speech

Christina Peng



Cross My Mind

Choreographers: Catherine Livingston and
Tessa Grabowski

Dancers: Angelo Guo, Catherine Livingston, Florence Wang, Imani Hall, Izzy Bank, Neha Rodricks, Rishi Salwi, Sydney Chen, Tess Foote, Tessa Grabowski

Our piece was created as a space for Defmo dancers to explore contemporary and lyrical movement. That being said, there is no story line. We try to enjoy the movement and let the music guide us through that. From the choreographer's perspective, this piece should feel light-hearted and free, and we were so lucky to be able to share our choreography with an amazing group of dancers.



Why We Love DefMo

Part 1

DefMed

Choreographers: Angelo Guo, Leah Esemuede,
and Staci Grimes

Dancers: Angelo Guo, Annika Allado, Antonio Marrujo, Catherine Livingston, Izzy Bank, Jasmine Daniel, Kamryn Stafford, Katherine Barbano, Leah Esemuede, Lihua Mo, Linus Li, Max Meister, Michelle Huang, Neha Rodricks, Nicole Park, Rachel Irengo, Sara Burpeau, Staci Grimes, Sydney Chen, Sydney Coffield, Tess Foote, Tessa Grabowski, Shashank Vege, Vinitha Sunkara



DefMo and StreetMed bring the collab you've been waiting for.



Nathan Cho

Although he can't be with us in person, Nathan still brings the heat! We are counting down the days until we can dance together with him again!



Lung

Choreographers: Antonio Marrujo, Hiwot Shaw, Juliet Jiang, and Reagan Razon

Dancers: Alice Chun, Antonio Marrujo, Catherine Livingston, Devanshi Pandya, Hiwot Shaw, Juliet Jiang, Rahel Petros, Reagan Razon, Sydney Chen

Our piece encompasses all the emotions that deal with needing help but not having the energy or courage to ask for it. With movement inspired by breath, flow, and expansion, we hope to exhibit a piece that is small in size, but feels enormous. "Lung" is a song about suffocation and desperation that contains very few words and has a rather slow build-up and an intense release. The piece highlights what dance, especially contemporary, is at its roots: expression powered by raw, pure emotion. Our intent is to show that we all go through hard times, yet our passion and love for dance, as well as each other, is what keeps us grounded during troubling times.

Alum Wiggle

Choreographers: Josh Wu

Alumni: Adriana Okoye, Amy Cheng, Josh Wu, Michael Xie, Milan Peyton, Mitchell Fleszar-Friedman, Ozi Boms, Prath Patel, Shana Abraham, Travis Smith

Alum are back and better than ever. Watch them wiggle.





Cross Cultural Love

Choreographers: Arushi Bhatia, Devanshi Pandya,
Rishi Salwi, Tess Foote, and Vinitha Sunkara

Dancers: DefMo

This set is about cross-cultural unity, which is depicted through a love story between two women from different regions of South Asia. They meet unexpectedly, fall in love, get married, and celebrate with their friends. In order to represent unions between many of the abundant subcultures in South Asia, we are performing a myriad of styles. Their story is told through the incorporation of styles from across the region, highlighting garba, bhangra, bollywood, bharatanatyam, kathak, and kutthu while using elements of western styles as well.

Intermission

Freedom in the African Diaspora

Choreographers: Angelo Guo, Antonio Marrujo,
Hiwot Shaw, Jasmine Daniel, Rahel Petros, Staci
Grimes. and Vinitha Sunkara

Dancers: DefMo

“Freedom in the African Diaspora” is a set embodying the five principles of the Africanist aesthetic. The principles are embracing conflict, polycentrism/poly-rhythm, high affect juxtaposition, ephebism, and aesthetic of the cool. Overall, the Africanist aesthetic can be summarized as embracing opposition and contrasts, which can involve a lot of irony, double entendre, and subtext. The first piece embodies the aesthetic of the cool, where difficult movement inspired by Ghanaian and South African dances is carried out with effortlessness and composure. The second piece incorporates a juxtaposition of moods/attitudes and again the aesthetic of the cool, using a call and response pattern to carry this out. The third piece represents ephebism, being energetic and dynamic with influences from styles based in South Africa, Nigeria, Ghana, and more. The final song Shosholozza means “go forward,” and it is a Soweto freedom song from the Apartheid era. This set expresses the freedom of the Africanist aesthetic and its divergence from what is considered “acceptable” in European aesthetics and recharacterizes African styles, which are often considered historically “primitive” as beautiful, elegant, and technical.



Home

Choreographers: Alice Chun

Dancers: Alice Chun, Angelo Gup, Antonio Marrujo, Claire Tan, Devanshi Pandya, Harrison Pak, Maria Lin

The pandemic has forced us to spend a majority of the past 2 years at home. This piece reimagines various meanings of “home” and its representations in physical spaces, relationships, and ourselves, especially during difficult circumstances. We also wrestle with external pressures to find belonging and the stigma of wandering or feeling lost. The differing choreographic styles and songs in both English and Korean symbolize the complexity and universality in all of our individual searches for “home.” We hope this piece inspires you to celebrate your past, current, and future “homes,” the roots and buds of our blossoming identities.

Fue Mejor: A Concept Video

Choreographers: Angelo Guo, Catherine Livingston, and Tess Foote


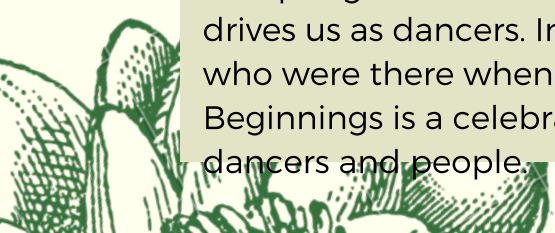
Dancers: DefMo

New Beginnings

Choreographers: Florence Wang and Gus Milhizer

Dancers: Florence Wang, Gus Milhizer, Izzy Bank, Neha Rodricks, Nicole Park, Tessa Grabowski

This piece takes place at a crossroads. Bon Iver’s song simultaneously looks backwards and forwards, yet stays decidedly in the present. A newfound optimism washes over the uncertainties of the future and anxieties of the past, leaving a life full of possibility. Moving within the moment, accepting whatever has been and will be, is what ultimately drives us as dancers. Inspired by phrases from the teachers who were there when I first found my love for dance, New Beginnings is a celebration of our perpetual growth as dancers and people.





Crossing Paths II

Violinist: Angelo Guo

Dancers: Catherine Livingston and Hiwot Shaw

F For You

Choreographers: Tess Foote

Dancers: Angelo Guo, Antonio Marrujo, Catherine Livingston, Imani Hall, Juliet Jiang, Maria Lin, Rishi Salwi, Tess Foote, Tessa Grabowski, Vinitha Sunkara

F For You is a jazz funk piece that's all about having fun and jamming out with your friends! It's full of contrast between both edgy and flowy movement that's just supposed to feel good. Sometimes dancing with your besties is the best way to express yourself, and this is simply an upbeat piece where people get to let loose, get funky, and dance their hearts out.

Why We Love DefMo

Part 2





Myths and Legends

Choreographers: Alice Chun, Arushi Bhatia, Claire Tan, Juliet Jiang, Nathan Cho, and Vinitha Sunkara

Dancers: DefMo

This piece is a retelling of three tales rooted in Asian culture, which each hold importance to some of their Asian/Asian American members. These myths and legends are a medium through which values, lessons, traditions, and figures integral to a culture can be conveyed and can sometimes become part of one's cultural identity.

The first story is a Chinese tale called "The Legend of Chang E," which tells a story of a woman Chang E and her husband Hou Yi. She consumes her husband's hard-won elixir of immortality without his knowing, and is sent to live on the moon forever. As time passes, Hou Yi increasingly misses his wife, leaving desserts and fruits out every night until he dies. Today, this tradition is incorporated into the annual celebration of the Mid-Autumn Festival.

The second is a Hindu tale about Young Krishna and the universe in his mouth, which is one of the many tales describing the widely revered deity Krishna as a child. In this tale, Young Krishna gets in trouble for eating dirt while playing with his friends, but when his mother opens his mouth to look inside, she sees the universe in there instead, discovering that he is a deity.

The last story is a Korean tale called "The Tiger Ghost." Tigers are an essential part of Korean culture, revered as highly powerful and regal creatures. It is believed that when a man is killed by a tiger bite, that tiger owns possession of his soul. That soul becomes a chang-gee: a being that subserves the tiger and lures passengers that travel through the mountains as offerings to the tiger they serve.

While understanding that the term "Asian" encompasses more than just these three countries or stories, this piece brings light to history that has impacted the lives of DefMo members, their families, and their communities.

Alumni Game

Hosts: Rishi Salwi and Tess Foote

The Journey

Choreographers: Rahel Petros

Dancers: Arushi Bhatia, Harrison Pak, Hiwot Shaw, Jasmine Daniel, Rahel Petros, Reagan Razon, Staci Grimes, Vinitha Sunkara

It's a path we take time and time again: we struggle, we process, and we find the light at the end of the tunnel. Yet, we struggle to remember that everything happens for a reason, and that light is inevitable. Growth is not linear: the mountains, the valleys, the twists, and turns are all a part of the journey. We hope this piece inspires reflection and allows the deep roots of our emotions and experiences to be unraveled in the healthiest of ways, through the thing we love most: dance.





Senior Flowers

Seniors: Angelo Guo, Catherine Livingston, Izzy Bank, Linus Li, Tessa Grabowski

I Like Dat

Choreographers: Izzy Bank and Staci Grimes

Dancers: Alice Chun, Angelo Guo, Arushi Bhatia, Catherine Livingston, Gus Milhizer, Harrison Pak, Izzy Bank, Rahel Petros, Reagan Razon, Staci Grimes, Tess Foote, Tessa Grabowski, Vinitha Sunkara

We're SO incredibly excited to be closing out Roots with this vibey hip-hop piece. This piece is high energy and pure fun! Get ready to watch 13 T-Pains take the stage.

Bows

20 Years of DefMo!

The End





Roots

DefMo Executive Board

Presidents: Izzy Bank and Tessa Grabowski

Vice President: Tess Foote

Communications Chair: Neha Rodricks

Publicity Chair: Imani Hall

Outreach Chair/Secretary: Angelo Guo



Roots

Special Thanks

Thank you to everyone who helped turn Defining Movement's vision for our Annual Showcase into a reality. Your support and collaboration allow us the rare opportunity to share what we love to do most with the Duke community.

Linda Capers and Center for Multicultural Affairs

Page Auditorium Staff

Cheyenne Kim

Campus Enterprises

John Kang

Alumni

