



Dear Friends of Wake the Arts,

Welcome to another exciting lineup of events featuring both our own artists and special guest performers. I would like to highlight the series of events coming up next week: the dance performance, **“Half the Sky,”** on March 31 (7:30-8:30 p.m., Brendle Recital Hall), performed to live accompaniment by a team of guest artists from **Yin Mei Dance** (New York, New York), followed by two lectures by its director Yin Mei: **“Artist, Body, Rupture in Warped Time”**, on April 1 (5-6:30 p.m., ZSR Auditorium), and **“Wellness through Dance and Somatic Education”**, on April 2 (5-6 p.m., Benson 409). These events will kick off Wake’s celebration of AAPI Heritage Month this April.

Yin Mei is an acclaimed dancer, choreographer, visual artist, and Professor of Dance and Director of Graduate Dance at Queens College, City University of New York. Shaped by her personal history and cross-cultural journey and her training in both traditional Asian performance and contemporary Western dance, her work has been described as “category-defying”, bridging geographic, technological, artistic, and cultural divides and forging a distinctive movement language.

A fortuitous meeting with Professor Yin Mei in the summer of 2018 during my research trip to Shanghai marked the beginning of a transformative journey into the intersection of art and history, leading me to better appreciate the power of

the arts to confront historical trauma and to bring about deeper self-understanding and healing for survivors. Several of Professor Yin's dance productions engage her early experiences growing up in Mao's China, particularly during the turbulent decade of the Cultural Revolution (1966–1976). *Half the Sky* is her latest work in this genre. Set against the background of the Party's rhetoric of gender equality, as encapsulated in Mao's call for women to "hold up half the sky," that often dictated the erasure of femininity, the performance follows her experiences as a dancer portraying revolutionary women and "iron girls" on stage while centering on her own as well as other women's real stories from that era as archived by their bodies, stories of trauma and pain, resilience and survival. In her guest lecture, "Artist, Body, Rupture in Warped Time," Professor Yin will articulate and expand on the underlying concept of the performance — that the artist' body is "witness, sensor, and counter-memory", illustrating it with her personal experiences of, and reflections on, the Cultural Revolution era.

These events were organized for the Department of History and the interdisciplinary minor in East Asian Studies and are integrated into the instructional program of my class HST 352, "Ten Years of Madness: The Chinese Cultural Revolution, 1966-1976). A number of other classes in History, Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies, Theater and Dance, East Asian Languages and Cultures, and Art are involved in this event series as well.

I am grateful to have had the generous support from the Blaisdell Fund, Wake The Arts Center, and seventeen other co-sponsoring departments, offices, and programs and the consultations and logistic help of numerous colleagues across Wake, especially Christina Soriano, Matthew Buie-Nervik, and Steve Morrison. It has truly taken a village to make this happen. I sincerely hope many of you will be able to attend! We have many events in April featuring our very own artists as well. I've been so inspired by the collaboration I've seen and been part of with the arts this semester. Don't miss another collaborative project with the Department of Theatre & Dance and the Department of Music in the upcoming musical "**Alanis Morissette's Jagged Little Pill: The Musical**," directed by Stephen Wrentmore and opening April 3. More information below.

Sincerely,

Qiong Zhang

Associate Professor, Department of History



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What's Happening

Giles-Harris Music Competitions

Saturday, March 28

10 a.m. Piano Competition

1 p.m. Open Competition

The Department of Music invites you to join us for our 49th annual Giles Harris Music Competitions! The Christopher Giles and Lucille S. Harris Competitions in Musical Performance began in 1977. The impetus came from 1967 alumnus Paul Sinal's gratitude for his experience as an undergraduate at Wake Forest. The first "Competitions," as they were originally called, have grown into a central event on the Department of Music's annual calendar and a beloved tradition. This event is free and all are welcome!



[Read more](#)

Indian Classical Music at Wake Forest University

Saturday, March 28

5:30 p.m., Carswell Hall 111

Please join us for an evening of Indian Classical Music at Wake Forest University. The concert will feature Rhitom Sarkar, an internationally recognized master of the Indian slide guitar in a blend of Indian classical music and Spanish guitar, accompanied by Pratap Mishra on the tabla. The concert is free and open to all.



[Read more](#)

Half the Sky – Yin Mei Dance

Tuesday, March 31

7:30 p.m., Brendle Recital Hall

Free Admission; Open to the Public



Renowned dancer and choreographer Yin Mei (CUNY, Queens College) presents her latest work, **Half the Sky**, an evening-length dance and visual performance rooted in the language of the body, responding to enduring mythologies surrounding women across generations. Half the Sky merges dance, projection, and installation art into a choreographic laboratory for “becoming”, where there is room for the unexpected moment to strike through space and time, leading to the breakthrough of true creative power.

Prof. Yin Mei will also deliver two guest lectures in the days after the performance:

“Artist, Body, Rupture in Warped Time”

Wednesday, April 1

5-6:30 p.m.

ZSR Auditorium (Room 404)

“Wellness through Dance and Somatic Education”

Thursday, April 2

5-6 p.m.

Benson 409

[Read more](#)



Alanis Morissette’s Jagged Little Pill: The Musical

Directed by Stephen Wrentmore

April 3-4 & 8-11 at 7:30 p.m.
April 12 at 2 p.m.
Tedford Stage, Scales Fine Arts Center

Drawn from Alanis Morissette's 1995 Grammy-winning album, this Tony-award-winning musical delves into the contradictory nature of being a contemporary American family — its rawness, messiness, and hope. This redemptive musical follows the seemingly perfect Healy family as their lives unravel, revealing truths about addiction, trauma, identity, and love.

Theatre and Dance Spring 2026:

Alanis Morissette's Jagged Little Pill: The Musical

April 3-12

Spring Student Choreographic Concert

April 23-26

[Read more](#)

The World According to Sound: Ways of Knowing

Wednesday, April 15
5 p.m., Scales 102

The World According to Sound: Ways of Knowing is a 70-minute sound installation that showcases the forms of knowledge produced by the arts and humanities, followed by a Q&A with the creators, radio producers, Chris Hoff and Sam Barnett, who host a podcast on humanities research with the same title. The piece is an experience of close listening that they describe as follows: "For 70 minutes you are going to put on an eye mask, sit in the dark, and be taken on a sonic trip that asks you to rethink the world through your ears instead of your eyes. You'll hear everything from the vibrations of the Golden Gate Bridge, footsteps of ants, and ancient Latin, to the first piece of musique concrete, a recording of Berlin made in 1930, a sonified essay about the gendering of glial cells, and the theory of how push buttons and Tupperware act as media objects. All the pieces in the show are informed by contemporary humanities research and scholarship, and rendered into soundscapes for an octophonic speaker array."



This performance will be co-sponsored by the Humanities Institute and academic

departments, and will reveal vital forms of knowledge that are generated by the arts and humanities in a new and experimental way.

[Read more](#)

Pangaea Chamber Players: Reynolda Reflections

Thursday, April 16

6 p.m., Reynolda House Auditorium

Cost: \$25; \$20 for Museum Members



This intimate chamber concert features the unique combination of flute, cello, and piano performing works by Dan Locklair, Bohuslav Martinü, Christopher Caliendo, and more. The program spans from 20th century masters to contemporary voices, exploring the versatile possibilities of this ensemble.

[Read more](#)

A visit from acclaimed Irish poet Pádraig Ó Tuama

Monday, April 20

5:30 p.m., Porter Byrum Welcome Center, Kulynych Auditorium)



Pádraig Ó Tuama is an award-winning and widely acclaimed Irish poet and peacebuilder, the author of ten books and anthologies of poetry, the incoming Professor of the Practice in Spirituality at Yale University, and the host of the popular podcast, *Poetry Unbound*, which has over 20 million downloads. Profiled in *The New Yorker*, Pádraig's poems have been featured in *Poetry Ireland Review*, *Ploughshares*, *Academy of American Poets*, *Harvard Review*, *New England Review*, and *Kenyon Review*, among others. His most recent books include *Kitchen Hymns* and *44 Poems on Being with Each Other*. The former leader of the Corrymeela Community, Northern Ireland's oldest peace and reconciliation organization, Pádraig is widely noted for his deep and searching reflections on healing, peacebuilding, and reconciliation and the power of poetry to express and effect personal and social change.



Secret Artists Series announces 2026-27 season

The **Secret Artists Series** wrapped up the season last week with a sizzling performance by the Pavel Haas Quartet. But don't worry — the series will return in September to kick off its 39th season with a world-class lineup of artists! See the schedule announcement below:

Isidore String Quartet + Sterling Elliott, cello

Thursday, September 24, 2026

Actors From the London Stage: “Much Ado About Nothing”

Thursday, October 22, 2026

Vox Luminis: Monteverdi’s Vespers of 1610

Thursday, November 12, 2026

NexTonal, chamber winds

Tuesday, January 26, 2027

Zlata Chochieva, piano

Thursday, February 18, 2027

Angela Brown, soprano: “When the Caged Bird Sings”

Thursday, March 18, 2027

In Case You Missed It



Wakeville: Student Arts Festival

Students, faculty, staff, and community members attend the third annual Wakeville, a student-led, arts and sustainability festival on Saturday, March 21, at Scales Fine Arts Center. Wakeville had many creative offerings in and around Scales Fine Arts Center, including music, dance, theater, visual art, film, comedy and more. This fourth installment of Wakeville brought a focus on self-care to this campus tradition.

[View the photostory](#)

Experiential Learning in Theatre: Harold Pinter's *Old Times* and Memory

The Wake Forest Department of Theatre and Dance put on a production of Harold Pinter's *Old Times*. Directed by Cindy Gendrich, this play touches on the concept of memory and its subjectivity. For Psychology and Theatre student, Ziqi Huang, this play offers an opportunity to bridge the gap between her interests.



[Watch the video](#)

When the Earth Answers Back: reflections on art and nature

“If we are makers of music and painters of worlds, perhaps it is because we were made to recognize beauty and to respond to it. If nature has informed our greatest works; if forests, oceans and skies have shaped the stories of humanity for centuries, then artists and



musicians carry a particular responsibility. We study and preserve art with care. We maintain performance spaces for the next generation. We protect the education and conditions that allow art to flourish for everyone, not just the few. The same mindset must extend to the environments that have long inspired that art. Our responsibility is to ensure that future generations inherit not only our cultural masterpieces, but the living landscapes that made them possible. The Earth is not simply inspiration. It is a collaborator.”

— J. Aaron Hardwick,
director, WFU Symphony Orchestra

[Read the essay](#)

Wake Forest University Neuroarts Lab partners with Southminster to study creativity and aging

Wake Forest University’s new NeuroArts Lab is embracing an opportunity to become a national leader in arts-integrated wellness within continuous care retirement communities, partnering with Southminster and Lifetime Arts to pilot the Creative Aging on Prescription initiative.



The pilot will test and document how “prescribing” participation in arts, culture and community programs can be effective medicine. The initiative will build on research showing that arts participation supports mental health, reduces loneliness, improves cognitive functioning and fosters social connection among older populations.

[Read more](#)

Wake Forest University partners with RiverRun International Film Festival

We are excited to announce the formation of a new partnership between Wake Forest University and the RiverRun International Film Festival. For those who may not be aware, RiverRun is an Academy Award-qualifying film festival that will celebrate its 28th year this coming April. It is truly one of the crown jewels of the City of Arts and Innovation, and we’re thrilled that WFU will be a Premier Sponsor for this year’s



festival!

The festival will run from April 17-25. For more information, visit RiverRunFilm.com.

Who's Making Things Happen

Alumni Spotlight: Ellie Howell ('25)

“I actually used DeacLink to reach out to a bunch of connections in NYC! Wake prepared me as a human to enter the job world in general because it has made me into a great multitasker, a dedicated hard worker, and a driven professional. Theatre is an industry where doors will open, but you just don't know when the doors are going to open. If you really want it, it will happen because you're doing the things to make it happen.”



[Read more](#)

Five Theatre students awarded at Southeastern Theatre Conference

Wake Forest Theatre has much to celebrate after this month's Southeastern Theatre Conference (SETC), where five students earned awards in design competitions for their work this school year. The annual design competition awarded first place to Carly Galbreth ('27) for her sound design, first place to Ziqi Huang ('27) for her props design, and second place to Maggie Payne ('26) for her costume design — all for their work on the first mainstage production of the season, *Failure: A Love Story*. Payne also received first place in Costume Technology for a ballgown she designed and created to embody the third mainstage production of the school year, *Old Times*. Callie Wittmann ('27) earned second place for her sound design in *Old Times*, and Lauren Summers ('29) received third place in the Costume Crafts category for her work on the student-produced Studio Series play *Barn Wood and Blue Roses* last month.



Coming Soon

Saturday, March 28

Giles Harris Music Competitions

(10 a.m.-5 p.m., Brendle Recital Hall)

A Concert of Indian Classical Music with Rhitom Sarkar

(6 p.m., Carswell 111)

Monday, March 30

Christopher Goodpasture, piano

(7:30, Brendle Recital Hall)

Tuesday, March 31

Half the Sky – Yin Mei Dance

(7:30, Brendle Recital Hall)

Wednesday, April 1

Artist, Body, Rupture in Warped Time: lecture by Yin Mei

(5 p.m., ZSR Auditorium, Room 404)

Thursday, April 2

Wellness through Dance and Somatic Education: lecture by Yin Mei

(5 p.m., Benson Center, Room 409)

made a home: Chase Clark ('26) opening reception

(5-7 p.m., stArt Gallery, Reynolda Village)

Friday, April 3

Alanis Morissette's Jagged Little Pill: The Musical

(7:30 p.m., Tedford Stage)

Saturday, April 4

Alanis Morissette's Jagged Little Pill: The Musical

(7:30 p.m., Tedford Stage)

Tuesday, April 7

Relax & Craft Event

(3-7 p.m., Visual Resource Center, Scales 110)

Wednesday, April 8

Alanis Morissette's Jagged Little Pill: The Musical

(7:30 p.m., Tedford Stage)

Thursday, April 9

Alanis Morissette's Jagged Little Pill: The Musical

(7:30 p.m., Tedford Stage)

Friday, April 10

Alanis Morissette's Jagged Little Pill: The Musical

(7:30 p.m., Tedford Stage)

Saturday, April 11

Alanis Morissette's Jagged Little Pill: The Musical

(7:30 p.m., Tedford Stage)

Sunday, April 12

Maya Angelou Garden Party 2026

(2-4 p.m., Bailey Park)

Alanis Morissette's Jagged Little Pill: The Musical

(2 p.m., Tedford Stage)

Wednesday, April 15

"The World According to Sound: Ways of Knowing" sound installation

(5 p.m., Scales 102)

Thursday, April 16

Pangaea Chamber Players: Reynolda Reflections

(6 p.m., Reynolda House Museum of American Art)

WFU Music Chamber Concert

(7:30 p.m., Brendle Recital Hall)

Friday, April 17

Anomali, I Putu Gede Sukaryana (Balot) gamelan performance

(2 p.m., Scales M306)

Botanical Bridges – Observation and Invention: Reception at The Bridge

(2pm-4pm, The Bridge in ZSR Library)

WFU Choirs Concert

(7:30 p.m., Brendle Recital Hall)

Saturday, April 18

Senior Honors Recital: Riley Seezen, percussion
(3 p.m., Brendle Recital Hall)

Sunday, April 19

Senior Recital: Janani Krishnakumar, flute
(7:30 p.m., Brendle Recital Hall)

Monday, April 20

“Virtue and Verse: What Poetry Can Teach Us about Character” with poet Dr.
Pádraig Ó Tuama
(5:30 p.m., Byrum Welcome Center, Kulynych Auditorium)

Tuesday, April 21

WFU Wind Ensemble Concert
(7:30 p.m., Brendle Recital Hall)

Thursday, April 23

Hanes Gallery Reception: Student Art Exhibition
(5 p.m.-8 p.m., Hanes Art Gallery)

WFU Jazz Ensemble

(7:30 p.m., Brendle Recital Hall)

Student Dance Choreographic Concert

(7:30 p.m., Tedford Stage)

Friday, April 24

“A Night in Italy” with Caryn Greco, soprano
(7:30 p.m., Brendle Recital Hall)

Student Dance Choreographic Concert

(7:30 p.m., Tedford Stage)

Saturday, April 25

Student Dance Choreographic Concert
(7:30 p.m., Tedford Stage)

Sunday, April 26

Student Dance Choreographic Concert
(2 p.m., Tedford Stage)

Monday, April 27

Musical Theatre Showcase

(7 p.m., Brendle Recital Hall)

Wednesday, April 29

Wake Screens: Student Film Showcase

(5 p.m., Annenberg Forum - Carswell Hall)

Thursday, April 30

Senior Toast: Art Department

(3 p.m., Scales Lobby)



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