

BREAKING THE ICE

The dance department works alongside every major to showcase collaborative talent in the Winter Arts Medley

By Ben Seelig and Ava McCaulley

When they step off stage, dance majors performing in the Winter Arts Medley weave around band members with their instruments ready, actors going through the blocking, and the masters of ceremonies, communications senior **Josiah Manners**, practicing their lines. The Winter Arts Medley, founded by dance department dean **Heather Lescaille**, gathered every major in one Winter themed concert.

“Some kids will never have the experience of performing in front of their peers, so our goal was to get as many kids on the Meyer stage as possible,” Ms. Lescaille said.

Dance majors signed up with the sheets lining the halls of building 4 from late Oct. through Nov. Other majors were guided by their teachers to arrange a complimentary performance. Soon after, they began practicing on their own time as the show was one month away. The day before the show, all the performers practiced once together to get a feel for the show. One of the main challenges was navigating the backstage corridors of Meyer Hall, since they were never meant to be so full.

“There were what felt like 50 kids from each major, which is a lot of people to fit in those tiny hallways,” dance senior **Isabella Passos** said. “For some of the dances, we had to run over to the other side (of the stage) while the dance was still happening. Getting around all the people in the short amount of time was a little difficult, but we were all able to make it work.”

The performance premiered Dec. 8 and sold 366 out of 588 seats. In the span of 90 minutes, the show moved between orchestra and dance collaborations about reindeers to student films and monologues. The new tradition of Winter Arts Medley will be carried into next year.

“All the parents and teachers I talked to were saying how much they loved it,” dance junior **Sheyanne Harris** said. “Even some of my friends were saying how excited they are to do it next year... This performance was not like any other show I’ve been a part of, and I can’t wait to do it again.”

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Mini copy about the challenges and problems/successes with winter arts medley

Dance teacher Heather Lescaille

Mr Pena choreographed the Rockette style

Relied on people practicing

The next show after “Synergy”

Dance Senior Isabella Passos

“There were a lot of people backstage, and we were all trying to fit in the small spaces, so it was definitely chaotic.”

“We only had a month (to practice), which is like a super short amount of time for the amount of pieces we did and the number of people we had. We had to stay really focused during our one day of rehearsal, and be ready to adapt to the changes around us.”