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Filtered and forward - rewind: finding a new artistic voice through collaborative dance-making processes

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FILTERED AND FORWARD - REWIND:
FINDING A NEW ARTISTIC VOICE THROUGH COLLABORATIVE
DANCE-MAKING PROCESSES

by

Angella Betina Asuncion Carlos

A thesis submitted in partial fulfillment
of the requirements for the Master of
Fine Arts degree in Dance
in the Graduate College of
The University of Iowa

August 2018

Thesis Supervisor: Associate Professor Eloy Barragán

Graduate College
The University of Iowa
Iowa City, Iowa

CERTIFICATE OF APPROVAL

MASTER'S THESIS

This is to certify that the Master's thesis of

Angella Betina Asuncion Carlos

has been approved by the Examining Committee for the thesis requirement for the Master of Fine Arts degree in Dance at the August 2018 graduation.

Thesis Committee:

Eloy Barragán, Thesis Supervisor

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PUBLIC ABSTRACT

Filtered and *Forward - Rewind* are two of the four dances that consisted my and fellow MFA candidate Ashley Bassett's shared thesis concert, *TRACING. IMPRINTING. BEING*. The production took place on March 29, 30, and 31, 2018 at the University of Iowa's Space Place Theater.

My research for this thesis is focused on the creative processes and resulting performances of *Filtered* and *Forward - Rewind*, created by and with two highly diverse dance artists, Chicago-based Hanna Britson and Philippine-based Michael Que respectively. In the early stages of these processes, my primary role was to be a performer. But in the midst of constructing these dances, I had to step into the roles of choreographer and collaborator in different aspects of the production, and this caused a shift in my priorities as a performer. In this thesis, I discuss and examine: 1) my experiences in working with these two artists with very distinct choreographic styles and practices, 2) my transition from performer to choreographer and collaborator, and the challenges of assuming these multiple roles, and 3) how I discovered and developed a new artistic voice, and how my values as a performer changed through these collaborative creative processes. Finally, I assess and reflect on the valuable information I learned from being immersed in these collaborative dance-making practices, and how I can bring this knowledge into my future endeavors as a dance artist.

TRACING. IMPRINTING. BEING.

Filtered

Choreography: Hanna Bricton

Music: Soundscore by Hanna Bricton featuring excerpts from *(I've Had) The Time of my Life* by Bill Medley and Jennifer Warnes with spoken text by the dancers

Costume Design: Ashley Bassett, Angella Betina Carlos, Arianna Russ

Lighting Design: Courtney Schmitz

Dancers: Ashley Bassett, Angella Betina Carlos, Arianna Russ

Forward - Rewind

Concept & Choreography: Michael Barry Que and Angella Betina Carlos

Music: *Standing in Silence* and *Still* by Rhian Sheehan
When the Body Breaks by Hammock

Costume Design: Michael Barry Que and Angella Betina Carlos, in collaboration with Juliana Waechter

Lighting Design: Courtney Schmitz

Dancers: Angella Betina Carlos, Michael Barry Que

Biography



Angella Betina “Abbey” Carlos is a graduate student at the University of Iowa, where she was awarded the Iowa Arts Fellowship and is currently receiving her MFA in Dance/Performance. Her dance training is rooted in the Philippines—she was privileged to be mentored by prominent Filipino dance artists such as Nonoy Froilan, Steve Villaruz, Noordin Jumalon, Ava Villanueva, and Elena Laniog-Alvarez to name a few. Abbey studied dance as a scholar at the Philippine High School for the Arts, and graduated cum laude with a BM in Dance degree from the University of the Philippines Diliman in 2014. She has essayed major roles in various performances, competitions and festivals in Asia and the United States such as the WiFi Body Contemporary Dance Festival, Pasinaya and Sayaw Pinoy (Philippines), Global Dance Summit DaCi/WDA (Taiwan), M1 Contact Contemporary Dance Festival (Singapore), TARI ’13 International Dance Festival (Malaysia), American College Dance Association Central Region Conference (Kansas), and the Martha Graham Dance Company’s University Partners Showcase (NYC). She was given the Luva Adameit Award (Special Award for a Female Dancer) during the 1st CCP National Ballet Competition, and received Distinction in the Royal Academy of Dance Intermediate Ballet Examination. Abbey is a teaching assistant with the Department of Dance, and a ballet teacher with the UI Youth Ballet Program.