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**UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA'S DANCE PROGRAM TO PRESENT  
ANNUAL SPRING DANCE CONCERT**

**March 29-31 at 8PM and March 31 at 2PM in the Helms Theatre**

**Program Features Original Modern Dance Works  
by Student, Faculty and Guest Choreographers**

**CHARLOTTESVILLE, VA- March 19, 2012-** The University of Virginia's Dance Program will present its annual Spring Dance Concert on Thursday, March 29 and Friday, March 30 at 8PM, and on Saturday, March 31 at 2PM and 8PM, in the Helms Theater.

Featuring original contemporary dance works by student and faculty choreographers, as well as two dance works by visiting choreographers, Danah Bella and Susan Wiesner, the Spring Dance Concert reflects the collaborative spirit of this expressive art form and challenges U.Va.'s student dancers in new and exciting ways, according to U.Va. Interim Dance Program Director Kim Brook Mata.

"We are thrilled to have Danah Bella and Susan Wiesner join us this semester. Their work is inspiring and it is so important that our students have the opportunity to engage with and learn from artists outside the U.Va. community. It is absolutely vital to their creative and artistic development as dancers," Mata said.

Susan Wiesner, who received her PhD in Dance Studies from the University of Surrey, UK, has performed and choreographed throughout the US and the UK. She has written as a critic and scholar, worked as a librarian for dance, and taught at several universities and colleges. A Visiting Scholar at U.Va., Dr. Wiesner's research uses motion capture to study intersections of language, metaphor, and movement.

Danah Bella is a choreographer, dancer and educator. Her work has been presented in festivals throughout the US, Mexico and Italy. She is the Artistic Director of d a n a h b e l l a DanceWorks, a contemporary dance company based in Southwest Virginia and is currently on faculty in the Department of Dance at Radford University.

"This concert is very much inspired by the onset of a new season," said Mata. "As evidence of life and vitality re-emerges with the coming of spring, the dancers and choreographers have asked themselves how we as people also re-emerge from our winter cocoons. These dance compositions reflect a reawakening of the spirit, evoking a range of emotions, from joy to desperation," Mata said.

Tickets can be purchased online at [www.artsboxoffice.virginia.edu](http://www.artsboxoffice.virginia.edu), by calling 434-924-3376 or in person at the U.Va. Arts Box Office, located in the lobby of the U.Va. Drama Building. Tickets are \$10 for adults and seniors, and \$5 for U.Va. students, children, faculty, staff, and alumni association members. Free parking is provided in the Culbreth Road Parking Garage, located next to the Drama Building.

For more information on the Spring Dance Concert, U.Va. Dance Program, and more, please visit <http://www.virginia.edu/drama/danceproductions.htm>.

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