

Migrations, choreographed by David. J. Popalisky with original music by Jon Scoville and costumes by Barbara Murray, premiered on the SCU campus Friday Sept. 24 and Sunday Sept. 26.

Migrations - a dance that "explored the intersecting motion of migrating humans and animals, inspired by the miraculous and courageous journeys of all species that navigate the globe" was made possible by the generous support of the Hackworth Foundation grant that Prof. Popalisky received in Spring 2010. The two on campus performance played to about 150 audience members for each performance as they "migrated" across campus to follow the dancers to three designated performance locations. The "wanderer," part seer, part bag lady led the crowd as she sang her present and future visions of our fragile relationship with the earth and all creatures that inhabit it together.

For the Friday performance the campus community was surprised with the wandering dancers who traveled from the north end of campus at the Bronco garden all the way to Sobrato before returning to where they began an hour later. Along the way they performed three dances *Wonder and Worry* in the Mission Gardens, *Intersecting Motion* outside the library and *Hurry Up and Wait* behind Lucas Hall. The Friday performance witnessed an interesting counterpoint as numerous business students on cell phones inadvertently strolled through this final dance highlighting the economic hardships that fuel much of contemporary human migration.

After the SCU premiere lecture demonstration performances of ***Migrations*** were presented at five schools in the South Bay for approximately one thousand students. After each performance Prof. Popalisky and dancer Claire Calalo (SCU dance grad '07) taught classes connecting dance to the migration theme for twenty-four different classes, approximately 700 students, who were thrilled to experience dance, a performing arts experience which minimally exists in today's schools. Principals and teachers at each site were extraordinarily grateful and remarked on how they wished their district supervisors were present to witness the focus and excitement the performance and classes elicited from their students.

Also introduced at these outreach performances was the extensive ***Migrations*** web site created (with star student Marie Galetto) to serve K - 12 students. Please visit webpages.scu.edu/migrations.

Most recently requests have been made to present some or all of ***Migrations*** for both the Sustainability Teach-In and Preview Days both in April 2011. Plans are underway to facilitate these requests and also to secure funding to provide honorariums for the performers. I am extremely grateful to the Hackworth Foundation for their support of my creative scholarship and commitment to using dance as an opportunity to educate about critical issues of our time.

If interested here is the full promotional blurb and the songs from the performance:

Migrations explores the intersecting motion of migrating humans and animals, inspired by the miraculous and courageous journeys of all species that navigate the globe. In a time of economic stress and global climate change the concept of migration questions the notion of what is “home.”

Wonder/Worry (~ 12:08 and 2:08 in the Mission Church Gardens),
Intersecting Motion (~ 12:25 and 2:25 outside the Learning Commons/Library)
Hurry Up and Wait (~ 12:40 and 2:40 behind Lucas Hall)

You are welcome to witness one dance only or to view the entire dance you will also need to “migrate” across campus (see map). You can either follow the “wanderer” from one site to the next or chase after the migrating dancers as they traverse the campus.

Migrations – Songs and Dance blurbs

Wonder and Worry

Wonder and Worry delights in the miracle of animals traversing the globe, beautiful to behold yet fraught with danger as our earth’s environment changes so rapidly.

The earth turns

Travelers travelling

The earth turns

Wanderers wandering

The earth turns

They come in spring

They leave in fall

They fly by night

They alight by day

The light, the heat

Magnetic forces

Guide them on their way

Watch in wonder

Worry in awe

*Will what we can see
Become what we saw?*

*The woods, the rivers
The skies and the seas
Are closing in
Are closing down
Where will they call home?*

Intersecting Motion

Intersecting Motion explores the interdependence of humans and animals, a precarious balance between hunter and prey that can be sustainable or go wildly wrong as with the demise of the migrating passenger pigeon and the plains buffalo in 19th C .

*The earth turns
We are all passengers
Pigeons and salmon
The buffalo roam
Our paths intersect
Where we call home*

*The guns and nets
So easy to use
The factory's smoke
So easy to cloak
Pigeons and salmon
Our children roam
How to survive
Without a safe home
Our paths intersect
Where we call home*

Hurry Up and Wait

Hurry Up and Wait considers the struggles and uncertainty in human migration poignantly voiced through Animile's story of her parents' flight from Peru to the US. While home may be infrequent, memories and longing close the circle of migration.

The earth turns

Travelers hurrying

The earth turns

Wanderers waiting

The earth turns

Home is a place, a place of safety

Home is illusive, home is in danger

Home is inside, close by or far

Left and returned to

By foot, plane or car

Home is for loved ones

Living and lost

Home we must all find

Whatever the cost

Home is a place, a place of safety

Where will we call home?

Their stories are among us

Their stories everywhere

Waiting to be heard, waiting to be read

Waiting to amaze and anger

Waiting to upset and inspire

Their stories are among us

Their stories everywhere

Waiting for our action, waiting for our care

Hurry, hurry, hurry and wait no more