Conceptual Development

- Inspired by Hilda Doolittle’s poem “The Dancer” (1935), modern dance pioneer Isadora Duncan, and the male poets whose oppressive gaze they sought to overcome
- Analyzed representations of female dancers in modernist poetry for English Honors Thesis
- Expanded on Thesis research by looking at more archival images/videos of Duncan
- Exploring differences between historic depictions of the female dancer and the identity she crafts for herself in the modern era

Film Creation

- Plan to create a hybrid, half-film/half-stage dance arose partially from COVID-19 concerns, but the film component creates a sense of distance or removal while emphasizing that the image of the dancer on screen is a projection (not real)
- Collaborated with film student Megan Salters
- Filmed at Maymont Park in October 2020 with two cameras to capture many different angles
- Final film was crucial in studio rehearsals to sync live and recorded movement

Costume Design

- Design for film costume derived from Duncan’s Greek-inspired costumes
- Adapted pre-existing costume by dyeing it pink with purple ombre on underskirt and ribbons
- Design for stage costume developed to create the image of a modern woman
- Dyed fabric a dark pink, constructed top and shorts by hand

Lighting Design

- Collaborated with student designer India Henderson
- Leaf gobos to add texture to stage during first section
- Bright lighting during second section to show strengths

Set/Projection Design

- Collaborated with Phil Hayes and Josafath Reynoso to develop ideas for dropping hanging fabric
- Collaborated with Robby Williams on projection design

Performance

- le poème / La Danseuse was filmed on February 24, 2021 in the Alice Jepson Theatre and premiered virtually as a part of TIME | IN | SPACE, University Dancers 36th Annual Concert, on March 19, 2021
- Performance streamed for one week

Costume Design

- Design for film costume derived from Duncan’s Greek-inspired costumes
- Adapted pre-existing costume by dyeing it pink with purple ombre on underskirt and ribbons
- Design for stage costume developed to create the image of a modern woman
- Dyed fabric a dark pink, constructed top and shorts by hand

Lighting Design

- Collaborated with student designer India Henderson
- Leaf gobos to add texture to stage during first section
- Bright lighting during second section to show strengths

Set/Projection Design

- Collaborated with Phil Hayes and Josafath Reynoso to develop ideas for dropping hanging fabric
- Collaborated with Robby Williams on projection design

Performance

- le poème / La Danseuse was filmed on February 24, 2021 in the Alice Jepson Theatre and premiered virtually as a part of TIME | IN | SPACE, University Dancers 36th Annual Concert, on March 19, 2021
- Performance streamed for one week

Photos by Karen Fleming

Photos by David Van Gelder