

*Rose Woods Dance Collaborative presents*

## **They Sat There, Feeling Happy Together**

Directors/ Choreographers/ Narrators/ Performers: Jenna Gross and Jillian MacLaughlin

Dancers/ Performers: Emily Bartnicki, Jennifer Binversie, Amy Jill, Eliza Malecki, and Abigail Ripin

Musicians: Brian Fitzgerald and David Micale

Learn more about RWDC at [rosewoodsdancecollaborative.com](http://rosewoodsdancecollaborative.com)

### Show Order

*~40 minutes and no intermission*

**Where the Wild Things Are** by Maurice Sendak

Max: Emily Bartnicki

Monsters: Jennifer Binversie, Amy Jill, Eliza Malecki, and Abigail Ripin

Music By Brian Fitzgerald

Dancer contributions: Max solo material choreographed by Emily Bartnicki and then modified by RWDC. Monster character work created by Jennifer Binversie, Amy Jill, Eliza Malecki, and Abigail Ripin, with artistic direction of RWDC.

**The Mountain Climbers** by Shel Silverstein

Dancers/ Performers: Jenna Gross and Jillian MacLaughlin

**US** by Shel Silverstein

Dancers/ Performers: Amy Jill and Eliza Malecki

Dancer contributions: material choreographed by Emily Bartnicki, Amy Jill, and Eliza Malecki with artistic direction of RWDC

**The Unscratchable Itch** by Shel Silverstein

Soloist: Abigail Ripin

Dancer contributions: solo material Choreographed by Abigail Ripin with artistic direction of RWDC

**Abigail and the Pony** by Shel Silverstein

Abigail: Jennifer Binversie

The Pony: Abigail Ripin

Dad: Emily Bartnicki

Mom: Eliza Malecki

Dancer contributions: Abigail Ripin character work choreographed by Jennifer Binversie with artistic direction of RWDC

**Frog and Toad** by Arnold Lobel

Frog: Abigail Ripin

Toad: Emily Bartnicki

Music by David Micale

**Boat** by Shel Silverstein

Soloist: Jennifer Binversie

Dancer contributions: solo material choreographed by Jennifer Binversie with artistic direction of RWDC

**Shadow Wash** by Shel Silverstein

Soloist: Emily Bartnicki

Dancer contributions: solo material choreographed by Emily Bartnicki with artistic direction of RWDC

**Star Polisher & The Moon Catcher** by Shel Silverstein

The Polisher and Catcher: Amy Jill

The Star: Eliza Malecki

The Moon: Jennifer Binversie

Music by David Micale

Dancer contributions: polisher/catcher solo material choreographed by Amy Jill, star solo material choreographed by Eliza Malecki, moon solo material choreographed by Jennifer Binversie. All material under artistic direction of RWDC

**Hug o War** by Shel Silverstein

Dancers/ Performers: Jenna Gross and Jillian MacLaughlin

## *What Is This?*

Rose Woods Dance Collaborative is a performance art-focused dance theatre company founded by New England dancers and choreographers, Jenna Gross and Jillian MacLaughlin. Their work approaches social commentary through pantomime-inspired comedy and absurdism. The main focus of their choreographic work is to make serious topics into jokes and to take jokes seriously. Jenna and Jillian are striving to bring New England comedic levity in dance. Their work brings together the excitement of full bodied athleticism while maintaining dramatic physicality.

On Sunday, April 7, Rose Woods Dance Collaborative will be presenting “They Sat There, Feeling Happy Together”, a theatrical modern dance performance at the Maine Jewish Museum in Portland ME. The movement behind this show is inspired by the choreographers’ favorite childhood stories written by Jewish authors. This performance will highlight the work of Arnold Lobel (Frog and Toad), Shel Silverstein (Where the Sidewalk Ends & A Light in the Attic), and Maurice Sendak (Where the Wild Things Are). RWDC will dive into the pages and bring audiences on an escape to the whimsical worlds inside of these iconic childhood stories.

Before the show, RWDC will be hosting a free movement workshop for kids 6 and up. This workshop will demonstrate the creative tools they used to make “They Sat There, Feeling Happy Together”. Students are encouraged to bring their favorite book(s) to help them create their own movement.

The creation of “They Sat There, Feeling Happy Together” has been a collaborative effort of dedication and passion. RWDC’s collaborative team consists of six performers, two musical composers, and countless generous mentors behind the scenes. RWDC’s mission at its core is to create an equitable working environment for artists with compensation that reflects justly for their invaluable contribution to the art. With that in mind, this work has been fully self funded by RWDC’s founding directors, Jillian Maclaughlin and Jenna Gross, without any additional financial support from grants or organizations. We are reaching out to our community to help us support, not only our creative dreams, but our incredible collaborative team. If you are interested in supporting our team of local artists and our creative endeavors, please consider donating! <https://gofund.me/1c6a4159>

You can learn more about the total investment made by RWDC for this project by viewing our Price Transparency Breakdown:

[+ They Sat There Happy Together - Budget Breakdown](#)

## MEET THE DIRECTORS



**Jenna Gross** is a dancer, choreographer, and multimedia artist from Westford, MA. They have received their BA in Dance and Performance with a minor in Graphic Design Communications from Roger Williams University in 2020.

Jenna has worked with Lorriane Chapman (LCTC), Cathrine Siller, Eliza Malecki, Natalie Johnson Dance, Providence Ballet Theatre, Karen Bray, and the Milton branch of the Isadora Duncan Company. Her current

research and practice revolves around kinesthetically sound movement and exploring dynamic partnering. Their passion for comedy intertwines within their practice by discovering quirky movements and poking fun at the prestige of dance. Jenna is also the co

director of Rose Woods Dance Collaborative. When Jenna is not dancing she can be found knitting, creating ceramic pieces, or acquiring another craft hobby.



**Jillian Maclaughlin** is a choreographer, dance performance artist, singer, administrator, educator and artistic director currently based in Boston and the Seacoast of New Hampshire. Jillian graduated summa cum laude from Roger Williams University in 2020 where she received her BA in Dance and Performance.

Jillian has an innate passion for sharing dance on and off the stage. She has had the pleasure of dancing under the direction of artists such as Lorraine Chapman (LCTC), Natalie Johnson Dance, Amy Stacy Curtis, Dance Lab Creative, Eliza Malecki, Karen Bray and the Milton branch of the Isadora Duncan Company. In the classroom, she focuses on technical kinesthetic movement safety and creative individualism for dancers of all ages across New England.

Her professional choreographic work explores themes of politics, climate justice, mental health, and the nature of human connection through an absurdist, comedic, and fantastical lens. In 2021, Jillian co-founded Rose Woods Dance Collaborative, a Boston-based experimental modern dance and performance art company. As co-director of RWDC, she collaborates with artists of multiple media to create dimensional performance works with idiosyncratic humor at the forefront.

When Jillian is not dancing she can be found singing a tune, cuddling with her cat or wandering around vintage stores or flea markets.

### MEET THE PERFORMERS



**Emily Bartnicki** graduated summa cum laude from Roger Williams University in 2020 with degrees in Dance/Performance Studies and Political Science. There, she trained under esteemed faculty, performed works by invited guest artists, and studied ballet and modern styles in the university's London Dance Program. She has performed in numerous festivals and productions, most recently including the Providence Ballet Theatre production of 'Twas the Night Before Christmas. Currently, she is a dancer with Project31, Rose Woods Dance Collaborative, and teaches in the New England area, while also pursuing a career in the software industry.



**Jennifer Binversie** is a professional dancer, arts advocate, and dance educator invested in the development of her students and how the arts can benefit all those who dare to explore.

A Midwest native, Jennifer Binversie began her dance training at the Jean Wolfmeyer School of Dance and continued on scholarship at the Virginia School of the Arts, later graduating from the Alabama School of Fine Arts under the direction of David Keener. Growing up, her summers were spent studying at various dance intensives, most notably Interlochen Arts Camp, Atlanta Ballet, and Hubbard Street Dance Chicago.

Upon graduating from the University of Hartford- Hartt School, Binversie began dancing overseas in the South Pacific aboard Holland America Cruise Line. Returning to the U.S. in 2017, Binversie accepted the position as head of the dance department at a private boarding high school in downeast Maine, where she developed a new curriculum for the dancers and brought abstract movement to an isolated community.

To present, her performance career has included works by George Balanchine, Antony Tudor, Martha Graham, Jose Limon and Isadora Duncan. Binversie is also an active company member of Dances for Isadora performing classical Duncan technique and Rosewood Dance Collaborative.

While consistently eager to grow in her teaching knowledge, Binversie has completed educational teacher trainings at various institutions such as the Central Pennsylvania Youth Ballet as well as Boston Ballet's Adaptive Dance Teacher Training, where she has consistently been a guest presenter.

Binversie is excited to be joining Rose Woods for another exciting season



**Amy Jill** trained at the State Ballet of Rhode Island under the direction of Herci Marsden and Ana Marsden Fox, Festival Ballet Providence, Alvin Ailey Extension, Jose Mateo Ballet Theatre and Liz Lapuh at UMass Boston. She had the pleasure of performing as a company member previously with Contrapose Dance who presented works by Gianni Di Marco, Sydney Skybetter, Marcus Schulkind, Nicole Pierce (Ego Art, Inc.), The Bang Group, Heidi Rood of Les Grands Ballets Canadiens and Courtney Peix, to name a few. She also danced as a company member for Mariah Steele of Quicksilver Dance. She has had the opportunities to perform at the ICA alongside David Parker and the Bang Group and at the Montreal Fringe Festival under Mariah Steele and most recently as a guest artist with [The Click](#) here in Boston. She continues to dance for Boston-based companies Lorraine Chapman, Lynn Modell and RoseWoods!

When she's not dancing or twerking, she is a movement and strength coach in the Boston area. After receiving her certification from the American Academy of Personal Training, a

specialization in prenatal + postpartum care, and a certification with FRC® as a mobility specialist, she now spends her time rehabilitating clients of all ages and walks of life.



**Eliza Malecki** is a Cambridge based dancer, choreographer, producer, thrifter, and all around silly goose with a BA in Dance from Goucher College. Her choreography uses contemporary vocabularies and dance theater to explore how she can create serious art that does not take itself seriously. Her choreographic endeavors have received funding from the Mayor's Office of Arts and Culture, the Transformative Development Initiative, the Maine Arts Commission, and the New England Foundation for the Arts. She has served as a resident artist at Bearnstow (ME), The Iron Factory (PA), The City of Lawrence (MA), and the Studios at Mass MoCA (MA). Eliza's earliest dance influences came from the Happy Hands Club from acclaimed film Napoleon Dynamite and she continues to investigate how creative gestures can tell stories and spark curiosity. You can learn more about her antics at [elizamalecki.com](http://elizamalecki.com). Her Venmo is @slinkymalecki if you would

like to give her money.



**Abigail Ripin** is a dance maker and performer based in the greater Boston-area. Passionate about improvisation and the process of creating, she has presented choreography at Starlight Square at the Dance Complex, the Salem Art Festival, Somerville Artbeat, NACHMO Boston, the Mark DeGarmo Virtual International Arts Festival, The Lilypad, Chelsea Theatre Works, the Boston University Dance Theatre, and Regis College. She is enthusiastic about exploring weird ways to move and fostering creative spaces for all, which she brought into her previous teaching at the Arthur Murray Dance Studio of Boston, the Stuttering Association for the Young, School Moves, and Peirce Elementary School. She currently teaches creative movement to preschoolers through The Click and is performing in projects with Abilities Dance Boston and Rose Woods Dance Collaborative.

## MEET THE MUSICIANS



**David Micale** is a composer, producer, and multimedia artist from Woburn, MA. He has a BA in Music Composition from Roger Williams University, studying under composers like Elliott Miles McKinley and Catherine Hawkes. David has studied and makes use of a variety of genres in his work, trying to use music as a form of communication between sounds and storytelling to break the mold. He's performed at multiple venues as a part of different vocal groups but is focused on purely instrumental work at the moment. Along with being a music nerd, David also enjoys geeking out over basketball and tabletop RPGs.



**Brian Fitzgerald** is a musician and visual artist who graduated from the School of the Museum of Fine Arts in 2014 with a focus in stop motion animation. He is a lifelong, second-generation Boston area arts organizer. He has been touring with multiple musical projects since 2012, including ten years with folk rock outfit Troll 2.

He is also involved in multimedia performance art under the pseudonyms Brian the Constructor and The Map Editor. His personal work typically combines mystical, psychedelic, and science fiction aesthetics with a sense of adolescent levity.

In his daily life, Brian is a father and a wizard.

*We could not have made this show without the support from our family, friends, and New England community. Thank you to the Maine Jewish Museum for collaborating and hosting our very first show. We can't wait to keep making silly shows for your silly eyes! A special thank you to those that donated to our Gofundme to help with equitable pay for our collaborators.*

*Enjoy the show <3*