

AU Dance Concert will feature original student work created with visiting artist

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Alfred University's Performing Arts Division welcomes Yoshiko Chuma, this year's Marlin and Ginger Miller Guest Dance Artist, for two weeks this month when she will create an original dance work with 17 students. Chuma will guest-teach nine classes during her stay. The piece they create will be performed at the AU Dance Theater Concert Thursday Feb. 17- Saturday Feb. 19 at 8 p.m. in the new Miller Theater, Miller Performing Arts Center. The Dance Concert will also feature new dances by faculty members D. Chase Angier, associate professor of dance, and Robert Bingham, visiting dance artist-in-residence, as well as AU dance students Katie Barlow, Claire Pitts, Laura Smith, and Emily Smith. Among these dances will be small ensemble pieces and large group works; set choreography and structured improvisation; text; singing; sculptures created by Diane Cox, associate professor of sculpture at AU, and Marketa Fantova, assistant professor of theater design at AU; and imaginative sets and props. Fantova will also design the lights for the show and some of the sets and costumes. Chuma is an artistic director and choreographer of The School of Hard Knocks, USA and of Daghdá Dance Company, Ireland. She was born in Osaka, Japan, and has lived in the United States since 1978. She has created more than 45 full-length company works, commissions, and site-specific events for venues around the world. Her work has been presented in New York in venues ranging from the Joyce Theater to the legendary annual Halloween Parade, and abroad in such locations as the former National Theater of Sarajevo, the perimeter of Hong Kong harbor, and at an ancient ruin in Macedonia. Chuma is the recipient of several fellowships and awards, including those from the Guggenheim Foundation, National Endowment for the Arts, New York Foundation for the Arts, and Japan Foundation. She has led workshops and master classes throughout Eastern and Western Europe, Asia, the Middle East, Russia, and the United States.