

Spring into Dance VIII: A Moment of Magic and Heartache

BY KALYNN FULLER

Since the end of January, many dancers at Concordia had been rehearsing multiple nights a week preparing for the Spring into Dance 2019-2020 Showcase. Some dancers, being in 6-7 numbers, rehearsed 10-15 times every single week. March is usually peak season because dancers learn the final movements of each dance from their choreographers and begin polishing before tech design and costumes. With excitement just starting to flood the dance studio, devastation came quickly after the COVID-19 email was released on Thursday, March 12, at 5:13 pm, canceling all spring events and moving classes online.

Dancers huddled near the theatre, feeling confused and frustrated as to why the dance season had to be over. Wiping tears away from their eyes, they questioned how they could perform one last time. It was at 7:30 pm that same Thursday when a couple of upperclassmen and the show director made the decision to have an open Spring into Dance rehearsal at 8:30 pm that night with one specific mentality: the show must go on.

Within 55 minutes, every dancer and choreographer, besides five, showed up to perform everything they had been working on since January. Over 65 students, staff, and faculty came to support the artists, even though they had been notified in under an hour before the show. Some even left a concert off-campus to support Spring into Dance.

The open rehearsal began with warm-ups, a group prayer, and a Sprance chant. Following this, each choreographer introduced their dance and explained what their choreography meant to them. The dancers then performed their very best with what they knew of the dance. The audience loudly cheered after every performance. There were moments where the dances made audience members laugh and cry. Every emotion was felt in one room. With both sadness and joy, everyone came together as one to support each other.

Spring into Dance VIII brought community at a time that felt extremely lonely, brought magic in the midst of complete heartache, and brought performance one last time in a space some thought they would never dance in again. Although the dancers will not be able to dance these pieces in full costume, hair, makeup, and lights come this April, this mid-March show will forever be the most unforgettable moment in the Concordia dance department.

