

SPRANCE 2021

BY ALEXANDRIA GOSEN

THEY SAY THAT LIFE is about adapting. Birds beaks adapt over time, language adapts to culture, and now artists adapt to the pandemic. Last spring's impromptu open rehearsal/ performance of Spring Into Dance (SPRANCE) was a somber event for many. It was the beginning of the end of many things. It was the end of life on campus, the theatrical and athletic season; some friendships; and even some professors' careers. But now things have changed, and we have learned to work around obstacles like this disease. So, what does SPRANCE have in store this season?

To start, SPRANCE is significantly smaller than it has been in previous years with only six choreographers and ten numbers. Several of these have been choreographed by the new dance professor Giselle Mejia the show will be much shorter. It is also planned to be held in various locations, including outdoors.

Despite being small, there are still a wide variety of pieces. When asked about her piece and dancing during the pandemic, choreographer Ruth Elkerton said, "My piece is called 'In Dreams,' and it is about how in times

like these; it's easy to want to escape the harsh reality we live in. We want to go back to how things used to be, or back to sleep to dream of a different place. In the piece, the dancers will work to show the struggle between our dreams and reality, and they will find the beauty even in the most difficult of times. I think that some people may think that rehearsing and choreographing has changed immensely in these covid times, but I don't think it has too much. While the number of dancers may have changed, and there's less lifts and close contact in the choreography, I think a lot of it has remained the same. Through difficult times, dance and all arts have remained a constant."

When presented with the same questions, choreographer Erika Soukup answered, "The entire process isn't too drastically different for me. This is my first time choreographing a full piece and the thing that's most different is trying to ensure the dancers are at a COVID safe distance from each other, so in my piece there isn't any touching or partnering. Dancing and performing with masks isn't anything new so at this point I don't even think about it. Something that is fun with this year's

SPRANCE is that there are quite a few stages being used instead of just the Pearson. My dance will be on an outdoor stage, and I have the ability to create a customized stage with the designers, which is something that would have been more difficult to do in years past. I'm just grateful I have the opportunity to choreograph and dance again."

So, for choreographers, though things are different, it appears that dancing life is not too different. SPRANCE is still going to be the most anticipated event of the year, and it will be a blast as per usual. One of the biggest changes is some dances will be on outdoor stages, some in the Pearson theatre, and others will be held in the chapel. SPRANCE is anticipated to be a live event.

Last year, SPRANCE became a symbol of comradery and support at Concordia. It was the event that sent us off in tears, but showed each other that we would always stand, or in this case, dance together. Be sure to continue this tradition and support the dancing Golden Bears. SPRANCE will be held in various on campus locations on April 22-25.

Sexual Assault Awareness Month

BY DAVINA BELLINGER

APRIL IS SEXUAL ASSAULT AWARENESS month. Concordia University-St. Paul, along with others, wants to bring awareness of sexual assault to all college campuses. Milissa Becker is the Title IX Coordinator and has been a member of the Crisis Team at Concordia for four years. Programmings will be shorter this year because of Covid, but there will be visual reminders on campus in the form of yard signs and the teal blue ribbons. There will also be a denim day where students and staff can wear jeans during the month of April. There will also be a travel wagon and members will go around campus and have a spin the wheel educational questions and prizes.

The Crisis Response Team is here at Concordia as a resource and support for students who may have experienced sexual assault. They want students who have been victims of it feel supported and encouraged to get the resources that they need. Awareness is about creating the alert of stigma in reporting and then really supporting people in that process. Milissa Becker said, "We are a star for believing campus, which means our response team is alerted. Someone who has experienced sexual assault has people to believe and support them, provide an objective resource, and find ways on how to help them move forward." Becker also mentions that even though there is much media attention towards sexual assault, there is still a very low reporting rate, so anyone who has been a victim of assault should feel supportive and encouraged to using the resources that they need.

People should really feel empowered to use their voices when crises like these happen because it encourages other people to do the same.. Becker said, "The most important thing is that people should feel empowered to use their voice to advocate, and to have resources if they have been a victim of sexual assault or someone else they know, as well or in need of supportive measures." She says this because we all want to be a supportive community to everyone here at Concordia and to ensure that all are truly supported wherever they came from.

This is how someone could report concerns regarding Sexual Assault: emailing TitleIX@csp.edu, filing a report through the University's Title IX Grievance page at <https://www.csp.edu/student-life/title-ix/>, or by calling Milissa Becker directly at 651.641.8268. In addition, victims and advocates can seek confidential support through Counseling Services or Campus Ministry.

Book Review: In Cold Blood

BY REBECCA BEASLEY

TRUE CRIME DOCUSERIES and novels have become increasingly popular. Even fictitious TV shows based on crime-solving are among today's favorites. The novel that began all of the true crime/crime-solving popularity is Truman Capote's "In Cold Blood."

Capote worked with his childhood friend Harper Lee (yes, The Harper Lee) to research the murders that are documented in this novel. While their research into the murders began right after they took place in 1959, "In Cold Blood" was not complete until 1966. Capote's best known works are "In Cold Blood" and "Breakfast at Tiffany's." Many of his works have been adapted into movies, but "In Cold Blood" is well known because of how it changed literature. It is nonfiction that is written in a narrative style.

The novel begins by introducing the Clutter family. Each family member is given a distinct description, which is reinforced by scenes pieced together from memories of family friends. The scenes described lead up to the night of the murder. In addition to describing the Clutter family in the weeks prior to the murder, Capote dives into the lives of their murderers themselves. The novel reads like a fiction book, and even has eyewitness accounts embedded in the story. The reader unravels the mystery of that night along with the detectives, and experiences the fear and distrust that shook the community. While describing the aftermath of the murders, Capote includes what the murderers did before they were eventually caught. Their personalities and backstories are explained, and the reader starts to understand why the title is "In Cold Blood."

The best part about "In Cold Blood" is that it covers all the bases. There is no incomplete feeling. Every loose end that could leave the reader wanting more is wrapped up. Nothing is left out, not even the stress put on agent Dewey and his family. The weeks leading up to the murders, the effect it had on the community, and the years following the murders are all included in the novel.

I would recommend this novel to any true crime or crime-solving lover. If you watch the "Ted Bundy Tapes" or enjoy "Criminal Minds," you will enjoy this novel. Any fan of thriller novels like "In a Dark, Dark Wood" or "The Couple Next Door" would also enjoy "In Cold Blood." Don't let the age of the novel, or its technical description as nonfiction scare you off. There are a couple over-descriptive moments, but they are easy to skip. Some outdated language is used, as well, which is similar to that seen in Harper Lee's writing. In spite of these aspects, I would still give "In Cold Blood" a positive review.