ORIGINAL DANCE WORK
DIRECTED BY BLAKE NELLIS

HIGHWAY

57

MAY 2, 3, 8, & 9 at 7:30 pm
MAY 3 & 10 at 1:30 pm

JEWEL THEATRE
CENTER FOR THE ARTS

tickets.luther.edu
CAST
Pablo Lopez Alonso ’17
Matthew Andreas
Taylor Berg ’16
Josh Dale ’13
Megan Gress ’14
Catherine Lewis ’16
Sarah Matthesen ’15
David Mendez ’14
Deveny Miles ’17
James Mueller ’16
Jenna Nelson ’16
Travis Niertet ’15
Chelsey O'Connor ’15
Colleen Oster ’14
Marah Owecke ’17
Christie Owens ’16
Jennifer Schmidt ’15
Bethany Seavers Templeton ’16
Holly Williams ’15

COMPOSERS
Jon Ailabouni ’10
Ted Moore ’09
Justin Nellis ’10

LIVE MUSICIANS
John “Jungleboy” Griesheimer, DJ
Aidan Schmitt ’17, piano
Justin Nellis ’10, piano (May 3)
Patrick Pauloski ’16, cello
Ramsey Jones ’16, voice
Jared Oelke ’17, percussion
Jon Ailabouni ’10, trumpet

RECORDED VOICE
Dr. James Griesheimer

TEXT
Spoon River Anthology by Edgar Lee Masters, with adaptations by Blake Nellis ’07

PRODUCTION TEAM & TECHNICAL CREW
Director/Choreographer............Blake Nellis ’07
Stage Manager.......................Holly Fusco ’14
Set Design............................Ben Moore
Lighting Design.......................Tom Berger
Costume Design.......................Lisa Lantz
Light Board Operator.............Mrlam Harries ’16
Sound Board Operator..........Gavin Markee ’14
Costume/Makeup Assistant...Abbey Syme ’16
SCENERY CONSTRUCTION
Aaron Busch '15    Timothy Komatsu '15
Jessica Dobson '15    Hannah Miller '17
Sarah Forsythe '15    Skye Newcom '17
Holly Fusco '14    Chelsey O'Connor '15
Evan Gammon '17    Christie Owens '16
Sam Gathje '15    Jake Putnam '15
Taylor Graydon '15    Cydney Roelandt '14
Mim Harries '16    Stephen Ster '17
Ethan Heller '16    Maggie Sulentic '16
Ehren Kluge '16    Josh Weisenburger '17

COSTUME CONSTRUCTION & STOCK MANAGEMENT
Gabby Boisseau '14    Erika LeMunyon '14
Becca Chapin '15    Brian Nnaoji '14
Emily Chiapik '17    Abbey Syme '16
Pedro DeCosta '16    Abby Wacholz '14
Hailee Feig '16    Alyssa Wildenauer '17
Elaena Hoekstra '17    Holly Williams '15

SPECIAL THANKS & INSPIRATIONS
❖ To Jim Griesheimer, for giving me Spoon River Anthology years ago, inspiring me to bring George Gray to life, and being my friend;
❖ To Jane Hawley, for helping me find dance at Luther and bringing me back;
❖ To all the VPA faculty, for allowing me to come and go and always feel at home;
❖ To Jenn & the J-term Dance Lab participants, for nurturing the baby version of this piece;
❖ To Ted, Justin, & Jon for making things sound like they feel;
❖ To DJ Jungleboy, for making things sound a bit crazier;
❖ To Tom, for bringing creative ideas to life and living in the theatre when it’s crunch-time;
❖ To Kristen Underwood, for embodying Lucinda and giving freely of your time & talent;
❖ To Leah, for helping, cleaning, questioning and supporting as much as ever, I love you;
❖ To this cast of movement artists, for bringing yourselves, being brave and helping me tell this story.
DIRECTOR’S NOTES
I did the most dangerous thing on the way to work today...I drove a car. Every week I drive 305 miles from my house to Luther College and back. I have time to think. Highway 57 has grown from these solitary moments, with inspiration from Spoon River Anthology, a book of first-person epitaphs. I fell in love with the memory of George Gray, Lucinda Matlock, William Goode and Sergepa Mason. I haven’t always been a nostalgic person, but for the past few months I have thought more and more about where I’m going and what I’m leaving behind. When I think about all the time I’ve spent driving up and down Hwy 52, I often think back to my childhood, growing up in a small town just off of Hwy 57. And so the story begins...of life and death and this gamble we call driving.

THE EXPERIENCE OF VIEWING ART
Look for what you desire. Remember what you’re attracted to. Trust what you see: movement, emotion, human connection. These performers will do more than demonstrate virtuosic dance or narrate stories from the past; they will invite you into their world, our world, beneath the layers that keep us apart. Honor your fears. Appreciate the unknown. Know that “getting it” is not a fixed point. Understanding is a not a zero sum (A+B doesn’t have to = C). Experiencing art is fluid. Memories are fractal and composed, not recorded. This narrative is non-linear, partially fictitious, partially yours! We are creating with both hemispheres of the brain. We are artists. Dance is the art form being used to address our fears. This piece is just a jumping off point, something for you to sink your teeth into and feel. Knowing is not the goal. Thank you for being here.

This piece is for everything we’re afraid of and everything we’ve driven past.