UCONN DANCE COMPANY TAKES CENTER STAGE AT FALL 2026 SHOWCASE



The UConn Dance Company held its Fall 2026 Showcase at the Jorgensen Center for Performing Arts on Wed, Nov. 18. The showcase featured a variation in styles of dance including jazz, contemporary, tap and hip-hop.

PHOTO BY GAVIN FOSTER, GRAB PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

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The University of Connecticut Dance Company (UDC) held its Fall 2026 Showcase at the Jorgensen Center for Performing Arts on Wednesday, Nov. 18. The show began at 7 p.m. and featured almost 50 dancers — all of whom were choreographed by their peers.

The showcase featured a variation in styles of dance including jazz, contemporary, tap and hip-hop. There were 11 group performances in total, also featuring a variety of solos, duets and a finale to end the night.

With about 200 tickets sold just two days prior to the event, President of UDC and seventh-semester student Jenna Coplon recalled all the challenging work that went into planning the evening.

"Our e-board has been working endlessly on coordinating details so we can perform at Jorgensen," Coplon said. "Our company has been having weekly rehearsals for 10 weeks to learn and perfect the dances that we will be showing."

The show opened with a fun group jazz performance to "Macarena" by Los Del Rio, displaying various formations in front of the bright orange backdrop. Immediately the crowd began to roar, cheering on its favorite dancers.

Special performances were also given by Encore Dance Team and a cappella group A Minor between UDC performances, uplifting the vibe of the crowd and bringing fresh and flawless presences to the stage.

This event was not just a recap of what the students have been planning this semester, but a testament to all the hard work they put into every detail of the show.

Choreographer and seventh-semester student Julie Carver had been preparing dances for the special night for two months. For choreographers, she said the experience is not just about creating a piece that is visually captivating but also one that displays deeper meaning.

Carver said that "each choreographer puts so much artistry and time into creating their piece."

But as she explained, the process of putting a dance together is not always easy and usually includes a series of trials and errors to make sure that the movements she envisioned not only tell a story but work well with each dancer.

When mapping out a dance Carver would usually "keep what looks great, feels great and is best for all dancers."

Near the end of the show, there was a sharp contemporary group piece to "I (Who Have Nothing)" by Tom Jones. There were tons of eye-catching micro movements as each dancer remained in perfect sync to capture the intensity of the dance as the music began to build.

It was beyond captivating to see the expressions on each performer's face even during the still moments, bringing the audience into the story they were trying to tell. The formations were also very challenging but looked effortless as everyone moved to their spot with ease.

For solos, Sophomore Jacob Cuazitl-Rojas gave a bold performance to "Mannequin" by Lu Brown, featuring Trish. With every step across the stage, he held the audience in his hands through each leap and turn. It was very impressive to see the way he stayed in character from the moment he stepped into the spotlight to the moment he walked offstage.

A striking moment was also provided by fifth-semester student Madison Amendola to "Dirty Diana" by Michael Jackson. As the song began to fill the room, she opened with a precise turn sequence. Amendola gave a phenomenal performance that was enhanced by a deep red background and dark silhouettes.

Not only do UDC dancers have to choreograph and arrange pieces, but they must also work with the tech crew at Jorgensen to use effects that enhance the expression of each performance.

The collaboration was visible during a dance choreographed by Carver called "Sway," where she shared her hopes to transport the audience into another experience.

Each dancer brought a fierceness that embodied the essence of the song. For specific beats, the lighting would change to enhance it, bringing the audience into the performance just as Carver had hoped.

For dancers still amidst their experience at UDC, the showcase is just another example of how much of a tight-knit community it is. Showcase Manager and third-semester student Sophia Ghagare has seen the show grow into what it is.

"Behind the scenes, we truly have become the closest family, and our bond just makes our dances so much stronger," Ghagare said. "We've shared so many laughs and memories that will last forever."

One example of this was the tap duet given by third-semester students Ellie Langille and Ava Loughlin. In the middle of their performance, each tapper got a chance to move to their choreography and show what they can do. Watching them was a true personification of the bond Ghagare described, as they walked off together at the end of their performance.

The showcase was one to remember. Every performance brought new depth to the show, pulling everyone into the journey from start to finish. There wasn't a single dance that failed to capture the audience and tell a story through various styles.

UDC is not just a space where dancers can do what they love, but it is an outlet that creates growth, community and fun.

Vice President Julia Peyton has been a part of the dance company since the fall semester of her freshman year. Since then, she has continued to dance and choreograph, playing a crucial part in making the environment what it is.

Now a senior, she looks back with gratitude at all that she's been given from the extracurricular that has grown into something more.

"I have met so many of my best friends through this group and have been able to connect with so many people that share my passion," Peyton said.

Peyton described UDC as "one of the greatest gifts this university has given me."

The camaraderie and support could be seen on stage, especially during the brief semester recap video made by the Public Relations Chair and seventh-semester student Taedra Tsecaris.

The clips showed a variety of memories the students made over the semester, not just in the studio but also across campus, showing that the community they have built means so much more than just dancing side by side.

After the finale, which was a medley of popular Michael Jackson songs such as "Beat It," "PYT" and more, the students took turns coming to the front of the stage for bows.

It was heartwarming not only to see them look back at all they have done but to continue to encourage and embrace one another in celebration. Audiences can look forward to the spring semester, where UDC will return in April for their Spring Showcase.

SUBOG Weekly Events:

November 15th - November 22nd

November 18th – Comedy Bingo @ 7PM in the Student Union Theatre

November 19th – Asian Cultural Night @ 7PM in the BUSN 106

Any questions? Email subog@uconn.edu!