



WORDS IN ACTION 2022

A MULTILINGUAL STUDENT PERFORMANCE
CELEBRATING LINGUISTIC DIVERSITY
AT UC BERKELEY

FRIDAY APRIL 15 • DURHAM STUDIO THEATER • 3-7 PM

ORGANIZED AND DIRECTED BY
ANNAMARIA BELLEZZA
DEPARTMENT OF ITALIAN STUDIES

WITH THE PARTICIPATION OF

Haitham Mohamed (Arabic), **Myrna Douzjian** (Armenian), **Li Liu & Michelle Lin** (Chinese), **Rachel Shuh** (French), **Junghee Park** (Korean), **Nikolaus Euba** (German),
Bori Kozek (Hungarian), **Nora Melnikova** (Hindi),
Cristina Farronato & Annamaria Bellezza (Italian),
Yuriko Miyamoto Caltabiano (Japanese), **Reza Ghahramani** (Persian),
Sebastião Macedo (Portuguese), **Jvala Singh** (Punjabi),
Ros Herling (Russian), **Ben Papadopoulos** (Spanish),
David Kyeu (Swahili), **Bharathy Sankara Rajulu** (Tamil and Telegu),
Nataliia Goshlyk & David Kurkovskiy (Ukrainian)

SPECIAL THANKS TO

Jamila Cobham - Production Manager, Durham Studio Theater
Emily Fassler - Assistant Production Manager, Durham Studio Theater
Eugene Palmer - Theater Supervisor, Durham Studio Theater
Kimberly Vinall, Marina Romani, Billy Heidenfeldt - Backstage Coordinators
Tiffany Hernández - Lighting Technician
Haitham Mohamed - Sound Technician
Keith Hernandez - Recording and Sound Technician
Marina Romani - Program Designer
Victoria Williams - Performer Assistant and Publicity
Orlando Garcia - Master Greeter

Kimberly Vinall, Mark Kaiser, Rick Kern, Claire Kramsch, BLC Directors
for their unwavering support and encouragement

All the volunteers backstage and offstage that made this event possible!

WORDS IN ACTION IS GENEROUSLY SPONSORED BY
THE BERKELEY LANGUAGE CENTER

For information, please contact
ambellezza@berkeley.edu

PROGRAM

CHINESE

The Crown Prince Who Pleased the Gods – 太子悦神

Chinese Classical Dance Sword Solo.

Original choreography based on modern Chinese literature.

Performed by Fei Tian Dancers

ARABIC

As they used to say – على رأي المثل

Proverbs are used in many cultures. Now they've taken a new form: memes. Proverbs are the result of people's experiences and used in a situation similar to these experiences. They are very central in Egyptian and Arab culture. Students will be enacting a group of proverbs and at the end of each scene they will say the proverb in Arabic. Students chose proverbs that have an equivalent in English. Our audience is encouraged to think of the English equivalent in the hope of delivering the message.

Performed by second semester students of Egyptian Colloquial Arabic (ECA)

HINDI

Kuch gaane – कुछ गाने

Three Hindi songs of different genres - beauty in diversity.

Performed by second semester students of Hindi

GERMAN

"Schneewittchen" by Michael Kumpfe and "Sie war ein Blümlein" by Wilhelm Busch

Two short poems from the annual German Cabaret Program: one is a modern take on *Snow White*, questioning gendered identities; the other is celebrating the romantic love between a butterfly and a flower.

Performed by fifth semester students of German

ITALIAN

Il Festival di Sanremo: Tributo al passato

The Sanremo Music Festival is the most popular and longest running contest for new Italian songs on a national level. The first edition was held in 1951 in the city of Sanremo, Liguria. Students will re-create their own version of Sanremo

presenting three songs as a tribute to past singers: 883' *Hanno ucciso l'uomo ragno*, Mina's *Parole Parole*, Nek's *Laura non c'è*.

Performed by beginner, intermediate, and advanced students of Italian

KOREAN

노래방 (Literally, "a singing room")

Students will perform a skit about hanging out at 노래방, where they will sing their favorite Korean songs: 60s K-pop, contemporary K-pop (BTS & Super Junior), a children's song, a song from a K-drama.

Performed by students of intermediate Korean for non-heritage learners

PORTUGUESE

"Chora me liga" by João Bosco & Vinícius

This song talks about a couple that broke up. The man does not want a serious commitment and wants to enjoy his party life, however he still wants her to cry and suffer for his absence. This is a traditional song danced in the popular celebration of "Festa unina" which translates to "Junine Party".

Performed by native Portuguese speakers

PERSIAN

Persian Dance Performance

After a short intro to the culture of Iran, we will perform a dance routine featuring a Persian song.

Performed by students of elementary Persian (Persian 1B)

PUNJABI

Punjab Has Talent

There will be a variety of different presentations: one musical performance, a martial art demonstration, a dance, and a folk song.

Performed by students from elementary to intermediate Punjabi

JAPANESE

Japanese Rock through the Ages

We will be performing Japanese rock songs. Enjoy!

Performed by students of advanced Japanese

CHINESE

Whisper of Pipa – 琵琶语

Dunhuang Style Chinese Classical Group Dance. Original choreography including poetry.

Performed by Fei Tian Dancers

SWAHILI

Mzungu Kutuita Bwana, Alhamdulillah

A poem by the late Abdallah Mwasimba, a well respected Kenyan poet from the Kenyan coast. It was first recited by UC Berkeley students of Swahili in 2016 during the Words in Action event. The poem translates to "A white person referring to us masters, thanks be to God". The Swahili-speaking region of East Africa has historically been ruled by foreigners such as the Arabs, Portuguese, Britons, Germans and French.

Due to power dynamics, Swahili people used to refer to them as masters during that period. But after independence, things changed. This poem is Swahili people's natural response that they are finally "free" with no need to continue referring to former colonial bosses as masters.

Performed by elementary, intermediate, and advanced students of Swahili

SPANISH

Primera escena de *Rebelde* – First scene from *Rebelde*

In this opening scene from perhaps the most popular Latin American (especially Mexican) teen telenovela, Mia Colucci establishes herself as the most popular girl in school, accepting flowers from admirers and catching gazes wherever she walks. But when Mia's performance at the school assembly is a little more exciting than planned, she finds herself in trouble both with her father and her school. This scene has been adapted for Words in Action 2022.

Performed by students of elementary Spanish (Spanish 2)

FRENCH

***L'Ecole des femmes (The School for Wives)* by Molière**

In this scene from Act 2 of the comedy, the ingenue Agnès explains to Arnolphe, her guardian and would-be husband, how she met the young and handsome Horace and how she gave him her... hair ribbon!

Performed by students of fifth semester French

ARMENIAN

Կիսաբաց լուսամուտներ – Half-Open Windows

The students in our class wrote this script by putting their own twist on an Armenian reality talk show. In this production, the characters are trying to uncover the truth behind what seems to be an unfaithful marriage. Through several interviews, a physical altercation, and the appearance of a doctor, the truth is eventually revealed.

Performed by intermediate and advanced Armenian heritage learners.

HUNGARIAN

Balancing Act

Two original spoken word poems: one in Hungarian, entitled "Az idő" (Time) about my relationship with time, and the other in English, "Balancing Act," about the "ups and downs of Hungarian-Americanness."

Performed by a Hungarian native speaker

RUSSIAN

We will read Lyudmyla Khersons'ka's 2014 poem "Пуле в человеческой шее..." ("Buried in a human neck, a bullet..."), and perform Bulat Okudzhava's song "Молитва" ("A Prayer"). Khersons'ka's poem is an example of Russophone Ukrainian anti-war poetry (both she and her husband Borys are among the country's most prolific Russophone poets). Okudzhava's "Prayer" comes from the Soviet Bardic tradition of the 1960s, and can be understood as a call for peace.

We will then read two poems in UKRAINIAN: the first will be an excerpt from Taras Shevchenko's 1845 poem "І мертвим, і живим, і ненарожденим землякам моїм в Україні і не в Україні моє дружнєє посланіє" ("Letter To My Countrymen Dead, Alive, and Not Yet Born"); the second will be contemporary Ukrainian poet Vasyl' Lozynsky's poem titled "COMEBACK". Both Ukrainian poems speak to the defense of and longing for one's home in what we might view as a conversation among Ukrainian poets spanning three centuries.

Performed by graduate students

from the Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures

TAMIL

Oskiyum Puliyum - Oski and the Tiger

This skit is about a tiger and bear. Once they arrive in Berkeley, students fall in love with the bear and name him Oski. Conflicts arise and they get into a fight eventually causing both of them to die, devastating the students of Berkeley. In heaven, they make up as friends and the ghosts try to sabotage the Berkeley-Stanford football game. In the end Berkeley wins the football game and all the students are happy.

Performed by second semester students of Tamil

TELUGU

Telugu Saahityam - Telugu Literature

The skit is a conversation about Telugu poetry, including work from the Poet and philosopher Vemana and one contemporary poem by a student's grandfather, author Jalajam Satyanarayana. The poems discuss philosophies of life and provide wisdom for the students. After reciting the poems, the students will discuss the relevance to their current lives.

Performed by second semester students of Telugu

UKRAINIAN

Serhii Zhadan - Візьми лише найважливіше

Take only the most important

This poem tells about people who have to flee their city, their home. Things they intend to take are telling about human life and its material embodiment.

Oleksandr Irvanets - З міста, що ракетами розтрощене

From a city shattered by missiles

This poem that was written in Irpin (near Kyiv) in March talks about the emotions of the persons whose life is in danger.

Nataliia Goshylyk - Скоро додому

Home soon

The poem tells how difficult it is to live everyday life and to know that there is no coming back to normal. At the same time, everyone wants to come back home.

Performed by Nataliia Goshylyk

CHINESE

Yue Shen 悦神

Chinese Classical Group Dance.

Original choreography based on modern Chinese literature.

Performed by Fei Tian Dancers