The Death Star Migration is a practice-as-research project exploring concepts of human-to-place relationships and embodied wilderness through multi-media interdisciplinary performance. In this era of intense human impact on ecosystems, we prioritize what the performing arts contribute to understanding the relationship of humans to place, both wilderness and human-built spaces.

The event you are about to see was built in an ensemble process over five rehearsals over five weeks. The performers learned stilt walking and partner acrobatics as the medium in that short time and worked collectively to create the choreography you will see tonight. This was no small feat and they worked very hard with a spirit of adventure and curiosity I am grateful to have witnessed.
Deirdre C Morris, MFA candidate, Interdisciplinary Dramatic Arts, director, designer, choreographer. Deirdre has worked extensively in collaborative social justice based theatrical formats, with a focus on content driven outdoor site specific work, utilizing unique aerial apparatus, acrobatic stilts and infused ritual and Butoh influenced movement works. She also works in the medium of sound scape and film and designed both for this production. Her choreographic and directing work has been seen at Art Basel's Volta Basel, Switzerland, The Santa Fe Opera, Dia de Los Muertos, Tlalalahuay, Mexico, Jacob's Pillow, The Bioneer's Conference, The Lensic Performing Arts Center, Art Basel Miami and the Adrienne Arsh Center for the Performing Arts of Miami. Deirdre has a passion for sharing what she knows and is deeply grateful for the opportunity to work with such talented performers. Thanks to all of the participants who made The Death Star Migration occur in this temporal iteration.

Brandon Gonzalez, currently working on his MFA in Interdisciplinary Dramatic Arts at UC Davis, is a visual artist, performer and teacher. As an artist he explores the dynamics of human relationship through physical, neurological and psychological perspectives.

Daniel Bear Davis has been dancing on stilts since 2007 when he was whisked off to Mexico by an acrobatic stilt theatre group called The Carpetbag Brigade. He is grateful that Deirdre has offered a way to continue exploration of this apparatus in the midst of his MFA. He also makes dance theatre performance and installation work.

Delaney Mccowen is a first year Dramatic Arts major here at UC Davis. Although she has never really danced before, she has had a blast learning how to move and walk with (and without) stilts.

Hien Huynh: Movement is life. I live to love, move, and snooze!

Kristen Rulifson is an undergraduate majoring in Neurobiology Physiology and Behavior and minoring in Dance and Spanish. She has enjoyed the past three years working with the Dance Department and is now conducting independent research that focuses on teaching young women science through movement.

Mark Crumrine is a third year Dramatic Studies Major with an emphasis in Dance and Choreography. He is excited to embark on this migration to further his understanding of migratory species as well as his understanding of dance.

Roberto Palomino is a visual artist and accidental performer. He has worked in education, editorial projects, and ephemeral interventions. He has a degree in philosophy and is very fond of living creatures and water.

Samantha Nakagaki is super exited to be a part of this ensemble. This is her first time with stilts and hopes everyone enjoys the migration.

Sarah Salem is fourth year Dramatic Arts major and Education minor.

Many thanks to Roberto Palomino, Peter Lichtenfels, Andrea Del Moral, Karen Noziger, Roxanne Femling and Heather Brown, Myke Kunkel and the Wright Theater Tech Crew.

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