

Dance with Horses

Presenter

- Hilary Bowen, Senior, [English \(Creative Writing\)](#), Dance: Creative Studies UW Honors Program

Mentor

- Jennifer Salk, Dance

Session

- [Session 1S: Researching Dance/Dancing Research](#)
- Meany Studio Theatre
- 12:45 PM to 2:15 PM

I am a movement artist interested in the intersection between dance and horses. My primary focus is contemporary and postmodern dance and more specifically in the way that our bodies can become not just the storyteller, but also the story. For this project I am creating a personal movement practice for myself with horses, as well as choreographing a duet for myself with a rider-less horse. I am working with one of my mentors, JoAnna Mendl Shaw, founder of the Equus Projects and with an Arab-cross named Cato. I am spending time in the arena and in the pasture with Cato playing and honing in on my nonverbal communication skills and my ability to partner with him. This communication is accomplished through the use of techniques like send and recall, which is where I ask Cato to move around the arena using intention and directed energy. I will also spend time on my own and with my mentor in a studio coming up with an improvisational movement score to various types of instrumental music and sound scores. These scores are the tools that I will take back to the arena to set my final piece of choreography with Cato. After I set the final duet I plan to film it and create a short dance film detailing the experience. I will also use the tools I learn in the arena with Cato to create a solo to be preformed at the Undergraduate Research Symposium.