



HANCHER AUDITORIUM



REGGIE WILSON /
FIST AND HEEL PERFORMANCE GROUP
POWER

Friday & Saturday
February 16 & 17, 2024

Photo: Tony Turner

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REGGIE WILSON / FIST AND HEEL PERFORMANCE GROUP

POWER

Friday, February 16, 2024, at 7:30 p.m.
Saturday, February 17, 2024, at 2:00 & 7:30 p.m.
Hancher Auditorium, the University of Iowa
The Auditorium / Hadley Stage / Onstage Seating

Choreographer: REGGIE WILSON
Costume Designers: NAKO NAGATA and ENVER CHAKARTASH
Lighting Designer: JONATHAN BELCHER

PERFORMERS

HADAR AHUVIA
RHETTA ALEONG
PAUL HAMILTON
LAWRENCE HARDING
MICHEL KOUAKOU
CLEMENT MENSAH
ANNIE WANG
ROCHELLE JAMILA WILBUN
HENRY WINSLOW
MICHELLE YARD

with REGGIE WILSON

Outside Eyes: SUSAN MANNING and PHYLLIS LAMHUT
Math Advisor: JESSE WOLFSON

MUSIC

The Staple Singers; John Davis, Bessie Jones, and St. Simon's Island Singers;
Meredith Monk; Lonnie Young, Ed Young, and Lonnie Young Jr.; Craig Loftis;
Henry Williams, Henry Thomas, George Roberts, Allan Lovelace;
Omar Thiam with Jam Begum & Khady Saar;
Edna Wright, Henry Thomas, Henry Williams, and Margaret Wright

Live vocals selected and arranged by REGGIE WILSON

DONATED MATERIALS

Indigo batik cloth: Lynden Sculpture Garden,
Arianne King Comer with Adjua Nsoroma and Fist and Heel
Shaker peg rails: Lorraine E. Weiss of the Shaker Heritage Society (Watervliet)
and Richard Flanders of the Northeastern Woodworkers Association

Running time: 70 minutes

POWER is dedicated to The Dead

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Derek & Pamela Willard



ABOUT THE ARTISTS

FIST AND HEEL PERFORMANCE GROUP

Fist and Heel Performance Group is a Brooklyn-based dance company that investigates the intersections of cultural anthropology and movement practices and believes in the potential of the body as a valid means for knowing. Our performance work is a continued manifestation of the rhythm languages of the body provoked by the spiritual and the mundane traditions of Africa and its Diaspora, including the Blues, Slave, and Gospel idioms. The group has received support from major foundations and corporations and has performed at notable venues in the United States and abroad.

REGGIE WILSON

(Executive and Artistic Director, Choreographer, Performer)

Reggie Wilson founded Fist and Heel Performance Group in 1989. Wilson draws from the cultures of Africans in the Americas and combines them with post-modern elements and his own personal movement style to create what he often calls “post-African/Neo-HooDoo Modern dances.”

His work has been presented and workshops taught nationally and internationally at many venues. This list is a sample and by no means exhaustive: Brooklyn Academy of Music, New York Live Arts, Summerstage (NY), Jacob’s Pillow Dance Festival, Summer Stages Dance @ ICA Boston (MA), Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, UCLA Live, Redcat (CA), VSA NM (New Mexico), Myrna Loy (Helena, MT), The Flynn (Burlington, VT), Contemporary Arts Center (New Orleans), Dance Umbrella (Austin, TX), Linkfest, Festival e’Nkundleni (Zimbabwe), Dance Factory (South Africa), Danças na Cidade (Portugal), Festival Kaay Fecc (Senegal), The Politics of Ecstasy, and Tanzkongress 2013 (Germany).

Wilson is a graduate of New York University, Tisch School of the Arts (1988, Larry Rhodes, Chair). He has studied composition and been mentored by Phyllis Lamhut; performed and toured with Ohad Naharin before forming Fist and Heel. He has lectured, taught, and conducted workshops and community projects throughout the U.S., Africa, Europe, and the Caribbean. He has traveled extensively: to the Mississippi Delta to research secular and religious aspects of life there; to Trinidad and Tobago to research the Spiritual Baptists and the Shangoists; and also, to Southern, Central, West, and East Africa to work with dance/performance groups as well as diverse religious communities. He has served as visiting faculty at several universities including Yale, Princeton, and Wesleyan. Mr. Wilson is the recipient of the Minnesota Dance Alliance’s McKnight National Fellowship (2000–2001). Wilson is also a 2002 BESSIE-New York Dance and Performance Award recipient for his work *The Tie-tongued Goat and the Lightning Bug Who Tried to Put Her Foot*



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Down and a 2002 John Simon Guggenheim Fellow. He has been an artist advisor for the National Dance Project and board member of Dance Theater Workshop. In recognition of his creative contributions to the field, Mr. Wilson was named a 2009 United States Artists Prudential Fellow and is a 2009 recipient of the Herb Alpert Award in Dance. His evening-length work *The Good Dance—dakar/brooklyn* had its world premiere at the Walker Art Center and NY premiere on the Brooklyn Academy of Music's 2009 Next Wave Festival. In 2012, New York Live Arts presented a concert of selected Wilson works, *theRevisitation*, to critical acclaim and the same year he was named a Wesleyan University's Creative Campus fellow, received an inaugural Doris Duke Performing Artist award, and received the 2012 Joyce Foundation Award for his successful work *Moses(es)* which premiered in 2013. His critically acclaimed work *CITIZEN*, premiered 2016 (FringeArts – World; BAM Next Wave 2016 – NYC); both these works continue to tour. Wilson was curator of Danspace Project's *Dancing Platform Praying Grounds: Blackness, Churches, and Downtown Dance* (Platform 2018) and created the commissioned work *...they stood shaking while others began to shout* specifically for the space at St. Mark's Church in-the-Bowery. In 2019, he curated *Grounds That Shout! (and others merely shaking)*, a series of performances in Philadelphia's historic sacred spaces. *POWER* is his current touring work.

NAOKO NAGATA (*Costume Designer*). Naoko's evolution into costume making is a long story. With literally no formal training, she has been creating for a diverse group of choreographers and dancers non-stop since 1998. She has collaborated with David Thomson, Ralph Lemon, Reggie Wilson, Vicky Shick, Kyle Abraham for Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, Bebe Miller, David Dorfman, David Neumann, Doug Elkins, Gina Gibney, Jimena Paz, Liz Lerman, Nora Chipaumire, Urban Bush Women, Zvi Gotheiner, and many, many others. Recently, designer for Raja Feather Kelly's second stage production of *we are going to die*. Working closely with collaborators, Naoko helps bring to life what she herself calls, "the creation of a shared dream."

ENVER CHAKARTASH (*Costume Designer*) is a New York based costume designer and wardrobe stylist. He has designed costumes for: Tony Oursler, The Wooster Group, Young Jean Lee, and Half Straddle. Enver began collaborating with Reggie Wilson/Fist and Heel Performance Group in 2016. Since then, he has designed costumes for *CITIZEN* and consulted on costumes for *...they stood shaking while others began to shout*. Working with Naoko on this project has been one of the most rewarding experiences of his life.

JONATHAN BELCHER (*Lighting Designer*) was born in Rochester, NY, and now lives in Brooklyn. He is the lighting director, set designer, and studio manager for City University of New York Television. Previously, he was resident lighting designer at The Kitchen, The Harkness Dance Festival 2001, The University of Michigan Musical Society, SUNY Purchase Conservatory of Dance, Dance Theater Workshop, and The Yard. Jonathan's career has most recently been distinguished with a Bessie Award winning performance of *Exhausting Love* at Danspace Project by Luciana Achugar; one of three lighting designers featured in the 2009 *New York Times* article by Roslyn Sulcas entitled *Lighting Designers Illuminate Ballet*; a Bessie Award; and designing a number of projects with Amanda Loulaki, Bill Young, Luciana Achugar, the BLK|MARKET Membership, Dean Moss, Maria Hassabi, Jill Sigman, Jeremy Wade, Sara Michelson and most notably Mr. Reggie Wilson. Mr. Belcher's guiding principal



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ABOUT THE ARTISTS

in lighting design is, "Look at things differently, if for no other reason than it's a lot more fun that way."

HADAR AHUVIA (*Performer*) is a performer, choreographer, Jewish educator, and ritual leader. She is grateful to have been performing with *Fist and Heel* since 2017. Previous work credits include Sara Rudner, Jill Sigman, Anna Sperber, Kathy Westwater, Molly Poerstel, Tatyana Tenenbaum, Donna Uchizono, and Trisha Brown Dance Company, among others. Her writing on choreographing an Israeli identity beyond Zionism is featured in *The Oxford Handbook of Jewishness and Dance*. Ahuvia is a two-time finalist for the Jerome Hill Artist Fellowship, a recipient of a Bessie nomination for Outstanding Breakout Choreographer, and was one of *Dance Magazine's* "25 to Watch in 2019."

RHETTA ALEONG (*Company Administrator, Performer*). Her performance roots are grounded in community theater, performance art, and a good Catholic all-girls high school in Trinidad and Tobago. She has a BFA in journalism, with an art bent, from School of Visual Arts and is a fifth-degree black belt. Aleong began working with Mr. Wilson in '91 and began "wearing many hats" within *Fist and Heel Performance Group*. Creative artists of special significance to Aleong: Pat Akien, Michael Steele, Helen Camps, Noble Douglas (Trinidad), Anita Gonzalez, Ms. Hattie Gossett, Tiyé Giraud, Cynthia Oliver, and Lawrence Goldhuber. Respect to those before, after, above, and below.

PAUL HAMILTON (*Performer*) is a Jamaican-born Bessie-nominated dancer/choreographer who has collaborated with a wide range of choreographers. His longest ongoing collaboration, with Reggie Wilson *Fist and Heel Performance Group* since 2000, has yielded five original works: *Black Burlesque (revisited)* (2003), the Bessie-winning *Big Brick* (2004), *The Good Dance dakar/brooklyn* (2009), *the duet* (2012), and *Moses(es)* (2014). With Keely Garfield: *Scent of Mental Love* (2005), *Telling the Bees* (2013), *Wow* (2014), and *Pow* (2016). With National Medal of Arts winner Ralph Lemon: *Scaffold Room* and *Chorus* (2015). For MoMA, he has restaged Bruce Nauman's *Wall Floor Position* in the largest-ever retrospective of the artist's work and performed in works by David Gordon and Deborah Hay. Other notable performances include two Bessie-winning productions—Jane Comfort's 40th Anniversary Retrospective and David Thomson's *he his own mythical beast*—and works by Melinda Ring and Neil Greenberg. He has toured and lectured internationally. His work as a choreographer was seen in Kevin Beasley's *Sound of Morning*, Performa 2021 NYC, and most recently at Judson Memorial Church NYC. He is currently a Movement Research artist in residence.

LAWRENCE A.W. HARDING (*Performer*) was born in Sierra Leone and now practices physical therapy in New York. He is the Director of Fitness at The Axis Project, a multidisciplinary center that serves people with physical disabilities and empowers them to pursue a healthy and active lifestyle. He is also the developer and president of Spinal Mobility, a novel manual technique that enables clinicians to improve their rehabilitative interventions for people with spinal cord injury and other neurological diseases. He has been a member of *Fist and Heel* since 1993 and continues to delight in discovering himself in Reggie's work. He gives continued thanks to Remi, D.Z. Martha, Samuel, and all the dead ones. Big love to the 'rents and the family.

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ABOUT THE ARTISTS

MICHEL KOUAKOU (*Performer*) is a choreographer and dancer from the Ivory Coast. He is the founder and director of Daara Dance. Michel received an MFA in dance from Hollins University. He is the recipient of the Vilcek Prize for Creative Promise in Dance (2012), a Jerome Foundation Fellowship for research in dance (2012), winner of a New York Foundation of the Arts Artist Fellowship (2008), and winner of the U.S. Japan Fellowship (2008) to conduct six months of research in Tokyo and Kyoto. In 2008 he was nominated for the Rolex Mentor and Protégé Arts Initiative and in 2010 was a finalist in The A.W.A.R.D. Show in New York City and Los Angeles. Mr. Kouakou moved to New York in 2004 and subsequently to Los Angeles, where he is now based and has been a lecturer at UCLA since 2009. He maintains an active touring and teaching schedule across the globe and continues to pursue his long-term goal of building an “artistic bridge” between his origins in the Ivory Coast and the U.S. Michel Kouakou’s company has moved to Minnesota due to a new job position at the University of Minnesota where he was an assistant professor in dance at the Barbara Barker Center for Dance for two years.

CLEMENT MENSAH (*Performer*) is also a choreographer and an educator. He is a third-culture kid who was born and raised in Ghana, West Africa. After living and going to school in the Netherlands, U.S., and the U.K., where he did postgraduate degree at Trinity Laban Conservatory, Mr. Mensah is humbled to have performed, taught, and traveled with many dance companies to at least forty-nine countries. Mr. Mensah founded the *Off the Radar* creative project in 2015 to educate the young generation. Mr. Mensah joined Reggie Wilson/Fist and Heel Performance group in 2012.

ANNIE WANG (*Performer*) is a freelancer with training in classical ballet, Graham technique, wushu, taiji, and software engineering. In addition to Fist and Heel Performance Group, she has also worked with Same As Sister, Emily Catalyst Johnson, and Carrie Ellmore-Tallitsch. Her own choreography has been presented by Five Myles, CPR in Brooklyn, the 92Y, the Exponential Festival, Pioneers Go East, BKSD, WestFest Dance, BRIC, and Triskelion. She has been artist-in-residence at BRIC, the Atlantic Center for the Arts, and the Marble House Project and an invited guest teacher at Amherst and Smith colleges.

ROCHELLE JAMILA WILBUN (*Performer*) is a Brooklyn-based dancer, choreographer, and doula from Memphis, Tennessee. She graduated from Columbia University in 2017 with a Bachelor of Arts in dance and women’s, gender, & sexuality studies. Rochelle has performed for Ebony Noelle Golden, Jasmine Hearn, Jodi Melnick, Beth Gill, Maria Bauman, Joanna Kotze, and many others. Rochelle’s work imagines liberation inspired by nature’s cycles, folk practices of the African diaspora, and the physical and psychic realms of bleeding people. She has presented work at Judson Church, AUNTS!, Chez Bushwick, Triskelion Arts, The Buckman Theater, University of Amsterdam, and spaces across Turtle Island. Rochelle is elated to join Fist and Heel.

HENRY WINSLOW (*Performer*) grew up dancing in Bellingham, Washington. At 17 he moved to Oregon to study in The Portland Ballet’s Career Track program. He has attended summer programs at Hubbard Street Dance Chicago, Batsheva, Jacob’s Pillow, and Springboard Danse Montréal. He graduated with a BFA in contemporary dance performance from Boston Conservatory in 2021. Currently he works as a

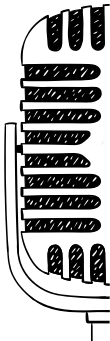
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ABOUT THE ARTISTS

freelance dancer living in Brooklyn and hopes to build a sustainable and enjoyable career in the arts.

MICHELLE YARD (*Performer*). Brooklyn native Michelle Yard stands firmly on her Caribbean foundation. Yard joined Reggie Wilson/Fist and Heel Performance Group in 2017 for *...they stood shaking while others began to shout, and POWER* (2019). Upon her graduation from NYU Tisch School of the Arts (BFA dance), she began dancing with the Mark Morris Dance Group, where she enjoyed an illustrious twenty-year career. Ms. Yard also dances with Vanessa Walters. In 2020, she earned an MA degree in arts administration from CUNY/Baruch College. She is a certified Pilates instructor and a freelance arts administrator. a mis padres, gracias.

FIST & HEEL BOARD

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BOOKING

For booking information, contact Sophie Myrtil-McCourtly at Lotus Arts Management 72-11 Austin Street, Suite 371; Forest Hills, NY 11375; Tel: 347-721-8724; email: sophie@lotusartsmgmt.com; website: lotusartsmgmt.com

FUNDING CREDITS

POWER was made possible by the New England Foundation for the Arts' National Dance Project, with lead funding from the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation and The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation; was co-commissioned by Jacob's Pillow alongside with Hancock Shaker Village, created in part during multiple residencies in the Pillow Lab which included deep research at Hancock Shaker Village and premiered at Jacob's Pillow July 10, 2019. *POWER* is made possible with public funds from the Decentralization Program of the New York State Council on the Arts, administered in Kings County by Brooklyn Arts Council; creation of this project is supported in part by an award from the National Endowment for the Arts.

Fist and Heel's programs are also made possible by the New England Foundation for the Arts with funding from the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation; in part by Dance/ NYC's Dance Advancement Fund, made possible by the Ford Foundation; NYC COVID-19 Response and Impact Fund in The New York Community Trust; Howard Gilman Foundation; Mosaic Network Fund Initiative; the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of the Office of the Governor and the New York State Legislature; Mid Atlantic Arts Resilience Fund made possible by the American Rescue Plan through the National Endowment for the Arts; and the kind support of our many individual donors.

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SPECIAL THANKS

GOD; Ancestors; Ira Sutton Ewing; Lois J. Wilson, A'nt Jean, A'ntie C; A'nt Wilma, Uncle Rev., Uncle Von, Uncle George, Aba, Abba, Saba, David Wilson, Jr., Elaine Flowers, Phyllis Lamhut, Germaine Ingram, Tim O'Brien, the cities of Philadelphia, Watervliet, Hancock, Bellagio and Mt. Lebanon, Mary Ann Haagen and The Enfield Shaker Singers, The Land of the Blacks, Susan Manning and Doug Doetsch, Tara Rodman, Lucia Kellar, Estate of Samuel Miller, DJ McManus Foundation, Inc., Martha Sherman, Cheryl Ikemiya, Tayloria L. Grant, Lois Greenfield, Cathy Edwards, Jean Cook, Elizabeth Harvey, Mike Johnson, Justin Knowlden, Melissa Benson, Madeline Brine, Deborah Sale and Ted Striggles, Susanna Sirefman, Germaine Ingram, Mark Wilson, Lois Wilson, other anonymous donors, Pam Tatge and the full team at Jacob's Pillow, Jennifer Trainer Thompson, Caitlin Spara, Magda Gabor-Hotchkiss, the interpreters and the Hancock Shaker Village crew, Lacy Shutz, Jerry Grant and Sharon Koomler at Shaker Museum | Mt. Lebanon, Adrian Matejka, Nicolas Galanin, Merrit Johnson and the cohort and Administration team at the Rockefeller Bellagio, Polly Morris at Lynden Sculpture Garden, Arianne King Comer and Adjua Nsoroma, Judy Hussie-Taylor and the Danspace Team and St. Mark's Church in-the-Bowery, Sam Miller, Harry Philbrick, Karen DiLossi at Philadelphia Contemporary and Partners for Sacred Places, Arielle Julia Brown, Sophie Myrtil-McCourty Lotus Arts Management, Fist and Heel Board of Directors, members of the Advisory Council members, the performers past and present for their time on this project, their commitment over the years, prioritizing and sacrificing and their relentless talent.

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Friday, March 29

7:30 p.m.

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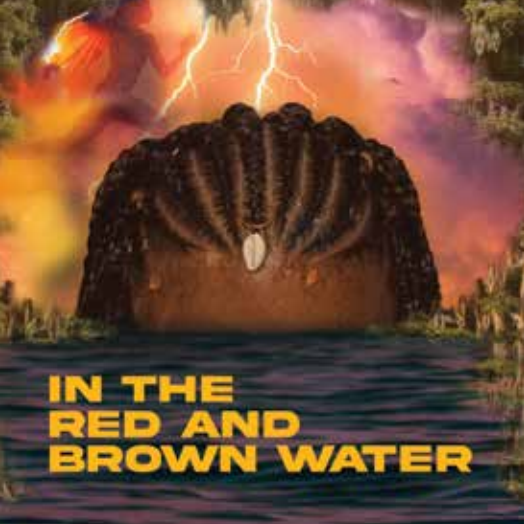
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IN THE RED AND BROWN WATER

By Tarell Alvin McCraney
Directed by Caroline Clay

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San Pere, Louisiana: Oya runs fast, but her collegiate future is placed on hold to care for her mother. Inspired by Federico García Lorca's *Yerma* and Yoruban cosmology, Tarell Alvin McCraney's *In the Red and Brown Water* is a lyrical offering at the intersection of ancestral myth and ritual about a young woman's coming-of-age navigating lovers, community, and her chosen path.

TICKETS

Adults \$20
Senior Citizens \$15
Youth & Non-UI Students \$10
UI Students \$5

FIERCE

PRESENTED BY HANCHER AUDITORIUM,
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Friday & Saturday
April 26 & 27
7:30 p.m.
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An opera for the 21st Century, *Fierce* follows four teenage girls finding identity and purpose in the world as they write their college essays in a high school writers' workshop. The young women face striking internal challenges—the difficulties of high school popularity and social media, the weight of parental expectations, personal loss, and unstable lives at home—but come together to find community, self-empowerment, and the confidence to embrace new chapters.

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Only beverages purchased from the Stanley Café can be taken into the auditorium. The 2021–2022, 2022–2023, and 2023–2024 Season Cups can be used. Patrons should not bring beverages from home. Also, alcoholic beverages cannot be taken out of Hancher Auditorium in a Hancher Season Cup as this would violate "open container" restrictions.

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(1930–2023) & Marlene W. (1933–2021) Stanford
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Anna & Jeff Stone
Edwin & Mary Stone
Sue (1929–2023) & Joan Strauss

NEUMANN MONSON ARCHITECTS



Lyse Strnad & Tom Leavenworth
Kristin E. Summerwill
Susanne Summerwill & James Flitz
W. Richard & Joyce Summerwill
Mel & Diane Sunshine
Alan & Liz Swanson
The Chuck Swanson Executive Directorship
of Hancher Auditorium Fund
Think Iowa City
James & Robin Torner
Jeffrey R. & Tammy S. Tronvold
Dick & Buffie Tucker
Douglas & Vance Van Daele
Rhoda Vernon
Bill Waldie & Pat Heiden
Anne Wallace & William Gay
Larry & Michelle Weber

Stuart L. Weinstein, M.D. & Mrs. Lynn Weinstein
Paul Weller & Sara Rynes-Weller
Ryan & Amanda West
Stephen & Victoria West
West Music
LaDonna & Gary Wicklund
Candace Wiebener
Derek & Pamela Willard
Barbara Wilson & John Lammers
Sara & Sherwood Wolfson Educational Fund
Stephen Wolken, M.D. & Sue Montgomery
Wolken
George & Carrol Woodworth
Patty & Steve Yeater
Catherine Zaharis & Robert Michael
Deborah & Rodney Zeitler



RIGHT CARE AT THE RIGHT PLACE



UI QUICKCARE

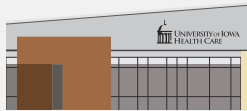
When your primary care provider isn't available, UI QuickCare treats patients with minor illnesses and injuries.

You can even see a provider from the comfort of your own home with a telehealth appointment.



HEALTH CONCERNS

- Earaches
- Eye Infections
- Bladder Infections
- Diarrhea, Nausea, Vomiting
- Rash
- Insect Bites
- Minor Burns
- Seasonal Allergies



UI URGENT CARE

UI Urgent Care treats more conditions than UI QuickCare, including minor injuries requiring X-rays, and can place stitches and administer IV fluids. **Urgent care also offers extended hours, offering a convenient way to receive care during evenings and weekends.**



HEALTH CONCERNS

In addition to conditions treated at UI QuickCare, UI Urgent Care can treat:

- Broken Bones
- Strains and Sprains
- Cuts and Scrapes
- Dehydration



EMERGENCY ROOM

Go to the emergency room if you have serious or life-threatening condition. If a person could die or be permanently disabled, it is an emergency.



HEALTH CONCERNS

- Head Injury
- Stroke
- Severe Bleeding
- Chest Pain
- Abdominal Pain
- Difficulty Breathing
- Severe Pain
- Newborn Fever
- Major Trauma
- Suicidal Thoughts

Learn more about same-day care options from UI Health Care.

→ uihc.org/same-day

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2023-2024