

The Dance Complex Presents its annual Summer Sizzle Dance Festival

Two weeks of Workshops and Special Events Taught by Renowned Artists

Cambridge, MA- July 21, 2018: When the August heat hits Cambridge, The Dance Complex throws open its doors in celebration with its annual **Summer Sizzle Dance Festival**; two weeks of workshops and special events taught by Internationally renowned Teaching Artists, both Boston-based and from around the world.

This year's festival will be held August 5-18. Dancers of all levels are invited to get into the studio with leading teachers and dance companies including Alexander Davis (Contemporary), Amy Miller (Contemporary), Bill Evans (Laban/Bartenieff Fundamentals), Drika Overton (Tap), Godfrey Muwulya (East African), Hollis Bartlett (Contemporary), Janelle Gilchrist (Ballet), Laura Sánchez (Flamenco), and Nattie Trogdon (Contemporary).



In addition to technique workshops and classes, the **Summer Sizzle Dance Festival** will feature performances, pedagogy workshops, and opportunities for socializing and community building:

August 12 at 4pm: The reoccurring *Sunday Soiree* program with Michael Winward/ *Steps in Time* is partnering with **Summer Sizzle Dance Festival** to feature pop-up performances by Hollis Bartlett, Nattie Trogdon, and Laura Sanchez within their afternoon of social dance. With no experience or partner necessary, this free event features music from the 1940's to today, within instruction offered throughout the party in a variety of social ballroom dance styles: Foxtrot, Waltz, Tango, Cha cha, Rumba, East Coast Swing.

August 14 at 1:15pm: Social, educational, technological, economic, and artistic changes, innovations, and challenges emerging in the 21st Century suggest the need for a re-envisioning of dance in higher education. The blind reviewed think tank entitled *DANCE 2050: What is the Future of Dance in Higher Education?* formed in 2011 and at this workshop lead by MADEO and Stephen Ursprung, local educators will continue to deeply examine the roots, current state, and future projections for dance in academia. Light refreshments will be served.

August 15 at 6pm: If you want to help your dance students to become independent thinkers and to better understand and embody movement, this workshop is for you! Through moving, discussing and journal writing, participants in this workshop, lead by Dr. Donna Dragon, will identify ways to use problem-solving methods in teaching dance to assist students across genres of dance including modern, ballet, jazz and tap.

August 18 at 5pm: Repertory work created during the festival with artists Drika Overton and Janelle Gilchrist will be presented in an informal showing. This event is free, although donations are kindly accepted, and light refreshments will be provided.

More information about the **Summer Sizzle Dance Festival**, including the schedule, registration, and ticketing information, is available at www.dancecomplex.org.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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The Dance Complex's Summer Sizzle Dance Festival 2018: Participating Artists:

Hollis Bartlett & Nattie Trogdon

Repertory | August 5-11

Masterclass with Hollis | August 5, 7, & 10

Masterclass with Nattie | August 6, 9, & 11

Hollis Bartlett is a performer, teacher, creator, administrator, and advocate for the arts. His curiosity for movement and performance began at an early age, and eventually led him to NYU's Tisch School of the Arts where he received a BFA in Dance. While at Tisch he also studied abroad at the Salzburg Experimental Academy of Dance. He has been a member of Doug Varone and Dancers since 2011 and also has had the pleasure of working for Brian Brooks, Adam Barruch, Steeledance, Sydney Skybetter, and the Metropolitan Opera. In addition to dancing for Doug Varone, he manages the company's licensing and staging projects and has reset Varone's repertory on colleges across the country. As an educator, Hollis has taught at the Bates Dance Festival, The Dance Complex (Boston), NYU, SUNY Purchase, UNC School of the Arts, The Hartt School, Connecticut College, and Hofstra University; and has ongoing open classes at Gibney Dance Center (NYC). From 2010-2015, Hollis served as a member of Dance/NYC's Junior Committee; an incubator for the next generation of dance leadership working to bolster the dance community through research, discussion, and community action. As a creator, his collaborations with partner Nattie Trogdon have been presented at various venues including Dixon Place, Triskelion Arts, Gibney Dance Center, and FIRST LOOK at Brooklyn Ballet.

Nattie Trogdon is a performer, educator, and dance-maker based in Brooklyn, NY.

As a freelance artist, she has had the pleasure of working for Oliver and Teri Steele, Kendra Portier, Elizabeth Dishman, Annie Kloppenberg, Nelly Van Bommel, Kensaku Shinohara, Mark Dendy, Michael Foley, David Dorfman and Doug Varone.

As an educator she has taught at Purchase College, The Dance Complex (MA), NYU's Gallatin School, and Gibney Dance Center teaching contemporary forms, improvisation and partnering classes.

Her choreographic work and collaborations have been presented at various festivals including Dixon Place's Under Exposed, Mark Morris Dance Center's Shared Space, The Boston Contemporary Dance Festival, Brooklyn Ballet's First Look, and Slice & Dice at The Joffrey School; and at venues such as The Agnes Varis Performing Arts Center at Gibney Dance, Triskelion Arts, Skidmore College, The College at Brockport SUNY, The Dance Complex (MA), and the Taipei National University of the Arts in Taipei, Taiwan.

Born and raised in North Carolina, her desire for making and performing began at an early age. Her love of the stage led her to train classically as a singer and musician, as well as perform in musical theater and pursue ballet, tap, and jazz. Her training eventually led her to be accepted into the high school program at UNC School of the Arts where she studied in both the ballet and modern departments. She later graduated with a BFA from SUNY Purchase and was fortunate enough during her time there to perform and share her work in Taipei, Taiwan as part of the 2012 daCI/WDA Global Dance Summit.

Amy Miller/Gibney Dance Company

Contemporary Masterclass | August 7-9

Community Movement Workshop | August 8

Amy Miller, Senior Director of Gibney Dance Company and highly involved in Gibney's Community Action initiatives, offers a movement class which aims to tap into both the joy created through sustained physical rigor and satisfaction encouraged by a safe environment where personal choice and instinctual exploration are valued. While continuing to use her creative expertise to perform the work of world-class choreographers with Gibney Dance Company, Miller also harnesses that artistic power to reframe dance as a mechanism for forward movement in the studio, on the stage and in the community. We practice self-reflection, personal expression, collaboration and self-care in this class as a way of building somatic-based tools that can transcend to all aspects of our lives.

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Godfrey Muwulya

East African Masterclass | August 7

Godfrey Muwulya, Master Teacher and performing Artist, began training as a dancer and musician in his native country of Uganda at the age of 5. He was a member of Ndere Troupe, Uganda's cultural ambassadors to the world as a leading dancer and instrumentalist and in 2007 began his solo performing career. Godfrey has traveled to numerous countries including Japan, Netherlands, and the U.S. In the U.S. he performed at Dance Africa at BAM and was featured in the New York Times and in Martha's Vineyard through the Yard. He has collaborated with the NYU January study abroad program, and has performed at NYU at the Loewe Theater, Skirball Center, and Radio City Music Hall. He has taught in numerous K-12 schools in NYC in collaboration with NYU Dance Education alumni.

Laura Sánchez

Dance to Express: Connect to Your Inner Dancer | August 10 & 11

Laura Sánchez, born in Spain, is a flamenco dance educator and expressive arts researcher at Lesley University where she is developing her unique theory and approach of Expressive Flamenco © by conducting auto-ethnographic expressive arts-based research. Laura got her Expressive Arts Therapies Certificate on June 2018 and has presented some of her creative work at the New England Dance Therapy Conference in 2018, the Scholarship Day of Lesley University in 2018 and Group Process in DMT in June 2018. Laura has been offering an experimental class of Expressive Flamenco© at the Dance Complex since 2017. In this experiential class all participants explore the possibilities of flamenco dance as a tool for individuals to connect with their bodies, develop self-stem and find their unique way to express themselves through flamenco dance.

Laura Sánchez is the founder of LS Flamenco, an organization which mission is to bring flamenco dance to the US to help individuals connect with themselves and their communities through this art form. For the past four years Laura has brought flamenco dance to hundreds of people in Massachusetts and collaborated with organizations such as Boston Ballet, Jose Mateo Ballet Theater, The Dance Complex, Boston College of Fine Arts, Ramon de los Reyes Spanish Dance Theater, Cambridge Center for Adults Education, National Ballet of Spain, Flamenco Vivo Carlota Santana, Spanish Embassy or Cervantes Institute among others. She has been teaching flamenco dance for adults and children at The Dance Complex since 2014 and is a teaching artist at Boston Ballet and Flamenco Vivo Carlota Santana in NYC.

Alexander Davis

Human|Dancer | August 12

Alexander Davis is a graduate of Keene State College where he received a BA in English: Writing, and a BA in Theatre and Dance: Choreography and Performance. Alex has worked, performed and presented with organizations across Boston including Ryan Landry's Gold Dust Orphans, Boston Lyric Opera, Boston Children's Chorus, World Music/CRASHarts and Improv Asylum/Laugh Boston. Alex is currently a company member with Urbanity Dance, where he is also the director of the their Summer Choreographer Intensive Program. As a choreographer and fiber artist Alex has received grant and residency support from The Studios at Mass MoCA, The Boston Foundation, Urbanity Dance, and The Theatre Offensive. Alex and collaborator Joy Davis (The Davis Sisters) were recently awarded a 2018 Schoenberg (Boston) Fellowship Residency at The Yard to develop and perform a new work in September. Alex is a passionate arts administrator, a published memoirist, a college professor, an exhibited fiber artist, a sexual consent educator, and an okay comedian.

Bill Evans

Somatic Dance Lab | August 13-17

Dance Technique & Pedagogy | August 13-17

William Bill Evans has been a pioneering leader in somatic dance research and education since 1977. He has produced summer institutes for dance educators exploring somatic dance annually since 1999. He has hosted international conferences on somatic dance, dance science and dance pedagogy since 2013.

He has been awarded a Guggenheim Fellowship, the New Mexico Governor's Award for Excellence in the Arts, Lifetime

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Achievement Awards from the National Dance Education Organization, American Dance Guild and Dance Teacher Magazine and an honorary doctorate from the Cornish College of the Arts in Seattle. He received the second Outstanding Service Award ever bestowed by the National High School Dance Festival and was the third recipient of the Honorary Member Award by the International Association of Dance Medicine and Science. He was named National Dance Association Scholar Artist in 1997. He has served on the boards of the National Dance Association, the National Dance Education Organization and the American College Dance Festival Association. He has served as ACDA adjudicator and/or guest artist many, many times since 1980. He was named one of three favorite world tap dancers in the Dance Magazine Readers' Poll. His book, *Reminiscences of a Dancing Man*, is available through his website: www.billevansdance.org

Janelle Gilchrist

Ballet Technique | August 14-16

Repertory | August 14-16

Janelle Gilchrist's passion for dance is evident in the various roles she has assumed in her professional career including dancer, teacher, choreographer, and community organizer. Originally from Stoneham, MA Janelle developed her skills and expertise through studies at Harriet Hoctor Ballet School, Boston Ballet School, Jose Mateo Ballet Theatre, Broadway Theater Project, Concord Academy, Dance Theater of Harlem, and the Hartt School in Connecticut where she earned a BFA in Dance. Ms. Gilchrist's training led to roles as a company and/or lead dancer at the Hartford Ballet, the New Jersey Ballet, Island Moving Company, Jose Mateo Ballet Theatre, the "Urban Nutcracker," and Tony Williams Ballet.

Outside of ballet, Janelle showcased her versatility in other dance forms with Legends in Concert, Celebrity Cruises, Anna Myer, and David Parker. Ms. Gilchrist served as choreographer and casting director of two flash mob performances for Media Direct Productions in Boston and Las Vegas. She also flew to Riga, Latvia with Ballet Rox to perform and teach the Urban Nutcracker to Dzinas Dance Troupe.

She was on the staff at Moses Brown School in Providence, RI where she taught dance and choreographed musicals such as "Hello Dolly," "The Music Man," and "Cabaret." Janelle was also the director of in school programming with BalletRox for the Boston Public Schools.

To her dance credits, Janelle added appearances in small roles in several major movie productions, including "27 Dresses" produced by 20th Century Fox and "What's your Number" produced by Contra-films.

Currently, Janelle keeps a very busy schedule dancing, teaching, choreographing, and organizing. She is principal of the Jose Mateo Ballet School in Dorchester. She also teaches ballet at Tony Williams Dance Center and Step by Step. For the past 6 summers, Janelle taught ballet and choreographed for Boston University's Reach program, a dance intensive/service program for teens.

Janelle Gilchrist Dance Troupe is a contemporary ballet company that incorporates ballet, modern, and jazz into its repertoire. Janelle Gilchrist, choreographer and founder, creates pieces that highlight classical and contemporary dance forms showcasing patterns, line, form, and arm fluidity. Gilchrist's choreography is also shaped by music themes, storylines, and relationships. The Troupe often performs to live music. The company has performed in the Boston area at the following venues: the Strand Theatre, Green Street Studios, Mills Art gallery, Somerville Arts Festival, Dance for World Community, the Dance Complex, Salem Arts Festival, and Spring Step.

Drika Overton

Tap Technique | August 13-17

Repertory | August 14-16

Drika Overton, a tap and percussive dance artist for nearly 40 years, has been a leader in the resurgence of the vital American art of tap dance. Her original choreography and rhythmic compositions embody influences as diverse as early jazz vernacular movement and traditional jazz tap, West African and Afro-Cuban dance and drum, Celtic dance and music, and Japanese taiko and body percussion. The outcome is innovative and captivating, full of visual and rhythmic inventiveness.

Drika has shared the stage with many legendary artists including Savion Glover, Jimmy Slyde, Buster Brown, Brenda Bufalino, Fayard Nicholas, and Bill Irwin and has worked with many internationally recognized musicians. She has been the creative force in the formation of several innovative ensembles, from 'Take Five', a five-woman rhythm dance group in San Francisco,

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to 'StopTime', a premier jazz tap ensemble in New England in the late 1980's. In the 1990's she cofounded the trio 'Suite:Feet' with musicians Kevin Farley and Steven Bracciotti, and in 2003 partnered with legendary Maine luthier and ukulele player, Joel Eckhaus to create the vaudeville duo 'Ham & Legs.' Drika has also been a featured soloist at the Duke Theater in New York as part of the New York City Tap Festival; the Southeastern TapExplosion in Atlanta; RhythmExplosion, Bozeman, Mont.; the Bates Dance Festival; the New England Artist's Congress; The Liz Lerman Dance Exchange Shipyard Project; on Public Television; and at numerous jazz clubs, concerts, and festivals.

In 2007 Drika was selected to participate in the first New England Dance Lab, a Regional Dance Development Initiative of the National Dance Project. Also in 2007 New England Presenters commissioned her and composer Paul Arslanian, with support from the New England Foundation for the Arts, to create a touring project, 'Off the Beaten Path: A Jazz & Tap Odyssey,' which toured New England in 2008-2009.

In 1995 Drika created the Portsmouth Percussive Dance Festival, an internationally recognized week long summer festival of music, dance and song. From the creative energy of the festival over its many years Drika created MaD Theatricals, a unique collaboration of nationally and internationally celebrated jazz and tap artists including Brenda Bufalino, Josh Hilberman, Dean Diggins and Paul Arslanian, that produced the critically acclaimed 'Clara's Dream A Jazz Nutcracker (2000),' and 'Music Hall Follies: A Vaudeville in 9 Acts' (2003), with special guest artists Bill Irwin and Fayard Nicholas. The Follies was an integral part of Drika's large scale 'Portsmouth Vaudeville Project' (1999-2003) that included the video documentary '4 Theatres: Remembering Portsmouth in the Age of Vaudeville' which aired on NH Public Television and at film festivals around the country. Drika is currently the founder and executive director of The Dance Hall in Kittery, Maine.

MADEO/Stephen Ursprung

Dance 2050: What is the future of Dance in High Education | August 14

Stephen Ursprung is an Assistant Professor of Dance Studies in Franklin, MA and serves as the Operations and Director at the American Dance Legacy Initiative (ADLI). He holds an MFA in dance from Smith College and a BA in economics and Italian studies from Brown University. Locally, his choreographic work has been presented at the Dance Complex, the Somerville Arts Council, and the Boston Center for the Arts. Outside of his teaching responsibilities at Dean, he has also been a guest dance artist at Brown University and within the theater program at Boston University. He has performed work by Paul Taylor, Pilobolus, Monica Bill Barnes, Robert Battle, Danny Buraczeski, David Parsons, Ruth Andrien, and Danny Grossman. He has choreographed for Columbia Records, performed in Cape Town, South Africa, and choreographed for the Provincetown Tennessee Williams Theater Festival. A proud member of Actors' Equity Association, Stephen was most recently seen in *OKLAHOMA!* at Trinity Repertory Theatre in Providence, RI in 2016. Stephen currently creates work with Nilsprung Dance Project and Reject Dance Theatre and works as a freelance choreographer and educator throughout New York and New England.

Donna Dragon

Empowering Dancers: Problem Solving Approaches to Teaching | August 15

Dr. Donna A. Dragon is a master teacher. She is Associate Professor, Dance Education Specialist, and the Coordinator for Part-time Faculty Development at Bridgewater State University where she prepares dance majors for K-12 teacher licensure and studio entrepreneurship and a Certified Laban Movement Analyst (CMA) and Somatic Movement Therapist (SMT). Dr. Dragon is a researcher, curriculum consultant, and a pedagogic innovator and educator in somatic and embodied education and in transformative teaching and learning. She has developed somatics and Laban-based curriculum for private studios and programs in the private sector and owned and directed 3 schools in the private sector. Dr. Dragon has mentored teaching artists, private sector teachers, and undergraduate, graduate and university dance educators to envision and implement dance and somatic classes and programs in the public and private sectors. She was granted the Outstanding Dance Educator of the Year Award (post secondary) by NDEO in 2014 and the Bridgewater State University Presidential Award for Distinguished Teaching in May 2018. She was also given the Distinguished Arts Educator Advocate Award by the Massachusetts Arts/Learning alliance for arts education in May 2017. Dr. Dragon believes that actively engaging in discovery through movement and dance is essential to processes of creating, understanding, and expressing meaning and knowledge through the body, mind (intellect), spirit (intuitive consciousness) and emotions.

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