

The Dance Complex's Annual Teaching Artists & Student Concert



Cambridge, MA- October 17th 2018: The Dance Complex presents its annual *Teaching Artists & Student Concert*, celebrating the vibrancy and variety of The Dance Complex community, December 1st at 8pm and 2nd at 7pm. This year's performance will feature both new and recent works by Johara Cusick, Yosi Karahashi, Flora Kim (with choreography by Hollis Bartlett & Nattie Trogdon), Sharon Montella, Anna Myer, Salsa y Control, SambaViva, Kirsta Sendziak / The School of Classical Ballet, Lisa Simon, and Pamela Worth.

With work performed by both professional dancers, and dedicated student dancers, the wide ranging work of this concert honors the spirit of The Dance Complex- bringing together the Boston Dance Community to support the study, development, and celebration of dance.

Tickets \$13-21 in advance. Tickets and more information available at dancecomplex.org.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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More About The Artists

Johara Cusick

Johara Cusick is a leading performer, instructor, choreographer, percussionist and the director of Snake Dance Theater Company in the Boston area.

She is rooted in traditional Middle Eastern dance (Egyptian/Turkish/Romani), but has studied many styles including tribal fusion. She was an American Cabaret dancer improvising to live music in nightclubs for 15 years. Beyond tradition, Johara is an innovator who has created her own style and teaching format from her extensive movement repertoire and study in theater.

Having produced over fifteen shows since 2001, Johara is a pioneer in theatrical belly dance.

As a soloist and member of MAVI (Turkish) dance company, she has performed in Turkey, Greece, Brazil, and across the United States. Some highlights include The Chicago Turkish Festival, the International Folk Festival Inegol Turkey, the Massachusetts Dance Festival, Jordan Hall and Institute of Contemporary Arts. She is known for her musicality, fiery drum solos, and sensual veil-work. Johara has been featured in many newspapers and television programs, and has graced the covers of the Brookline and Watertown Tabs. She holds a masters degree in ESL Teaching, a certification in yoga instruction, a degree in Jazz vocals, and training in world percussion. She has trained many dancers who have gone on to achieve professional careers including a member of Bellydance Superstars and Evolution. Johara welcomes all levels, bodies, ages, and genders.

Yosi Karahashi

Yosi left Japan to fulfill her dream of studying flamenco and ended up staying in Spain for 16 years, studying at the legendary flamenco school Amor de Dios in Madrid, with renowned artists like Merche Esmeralda, Manuel Reyes, Immaculada Ortega, Truco, Maria Juncal, Adrian Sanchez, la Lupi, Farruquito and Antonio Canales.

She started her professional career performing in many tablaos around Spain and other countries such as Japan, Morocco, Portugal, France, Cyprus and Canada.

Yosi moved to Boston in 2012, and since then has been a very active teacher and performer, collaborating with many participants of the Greater Boston dance scene, such as The Dance Complex, Green Street Studios, The Boston Foundation, The New England Conservatory, Deborah Mason School of Dance and Jose Mateo Dance Theatre.

As well as being trained in pure flamenco, Yosi has developed a very personal dance style around fusion of flamenco with other types of dance, including pop and Japanese traditional music, which was showcased when she was invited to perform as a Catalyst artist by the Dance Complex on the year of its 25th anniversary.

Yosi is founder of Flamenco Therapy, an organization dedicated to bringing flamenco to those who need it the most: the elderly, the sick, and children who cannot access music and dance themselves. Also brings flamenco to dancers over 65 or with limited mobility at the Age-friendly dance class with Kara Fili at the Dance Complex and Citywide Cambridge Senior Center.

Currently teaching regular classes: Intermediate-advanced on Mondays, Essential flamenco for beginners on Tuesdays and Youth Family flamenco on Fridays at the Dance Complex.

Flora Kim

Flora Hyoin Kim is a performer, dance educator and choreographer who earned her B.F.A. in Dance from the University of Wisconsin-Madison in 2014. Flora has performed and presented works by choreographers and companies in Boston including Prometheus Dance, Hollis Bartlett and Nattie Trogdon, Korhan Basaran, Riley Watts, Lorraine Chapman, and Urbanity Dance. Flora is currently a company member at the Prometheus Dance and will be performing at The Actors Fund Arts Center in NYC and the Institute of Contemporary Art in January 2019. As a dance educator, Flora has taught various age groups at Boston Ballet School, Endicott College, Urbanity Dance, LINX Dance, public schools and dance studios in greater Boston area. As a choreographer, Flora's most recent work, Home, sweet home, has been presented at the Harvard Kennedy School, MIT and Korean Church of Boston. Home, sweet home was selected by the South Korean Ministry of National Defense to be presented in Seoul, South Korea at the World Soldiers & Youth Unification

Security Vision Presentation Contest in the summer of 2016. Flora is currently creating a dance work to find her identity as a Korean-American, which will be presented at the First Church in Cambridge in January 2019.

Salsa y Control

"Salsa y Control" originated in 1999 with Johnny and Andres, two brothers who perform amazing duets with unique, intricate salsa footwork combinations. Salsa y Control later expanded to include partner dance performances with Johnny & Felicita. In 2003, the three established what we know today as "Salsa y Control Dance Company." Their drive came from the desire to inspire others to express inner emotion through the art of dance. Our mission is to share the passion and love for Latin culture, music, dance and art and to provide a fun and friendly environment where dancers are inspired to gain confidence and reach their fullest potential. Today, SyC has grown to be one of the biggest dance companies in Boston with over 60 performing members for multiple dance teams.

The School of Classical Ballet

The School of Classical Ballet was founded in 1985 by Anna Myer and Patricia Adelman. For 30 years the school has provided students with classical ballet training and helped to develop student appreciation for dance as an art form. In 2009, under the direction of Ariella Amshalem and Kirsta Sendziak additional dance forms were incorporated into The School of Classical Ballet curricula. Kirsta Sendziak continues to provide students the quality of instruction upon which the school was founded. The School of Classical Ballet is a technique-based school. Performances are all-inclusive opportunities for students to showcase their technique and gain experience performing for an audience.

Sharon Montella

Dangerous Brood was formed in 2016 from select group of Sharon's strongest hip-hop students at Dance Complex. The group's mission is to foster a supportive environment in rehearsals and a high energy, positive vibe onstage while testing the limits and depths of creativity in hip hop choreography.

Ms. Montella holds an M.F.A. in Dance and Choreography from The Boston Conservatory and a 6th Degree Black Belt in White Dragon Fist Pai Lum Kung Fu. She has danced for numerous companies in Boston and New York and toured the U.S., including City Center in New York. Her many choreographic works have been seen nationally and internationally, including for a Justin Timberlake promotional at Macy's and the hip-hop/jazz section of The Moses Project for members of the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater. She currently serves on the dance faculties of UMass Boston and Pine Manor College, where she directs the Dance Ensemble.

SambaViva

SambaViva's mission is to be a vibrant presence in New England by delivering a wide range of Brazilian arts related services designed to entertain and educate.

Lisa Simon

Lisa Simon is still enjoying her over 40 year dance career as a performer, choreographer, and mostly, as a teacher. She has performed with many local companies, spent many years performing and teaching in Italy, France, and Germany, as well as at Harvard University, Wellesley College, and Boston University. Besides Jazz and Ballet, she also loves Argentine Tango. Find Lisa on FB at Lisa Simon Dance, or on the Dance Complex website.

Pamela Worth

A longtime dancer, Pamela (Bhangra) fell in love with Bhangra in 2009 when she joined MIT Summer Bhangra and performed at the Hatchshell for Indian Independence Day. She took a dance hiatus to earn her masters and taught several sections of English literature at UMass Boston while also tutoring fellow graduate students. After graduation, she rekindled that love in 2015, taking weekly classes at the Dance Complex and joining Boston Bhangra that year. Since then, she's performed for hundreds of people at the House of Blues, Somerville's Ignite festival, Dance Complex festivals and even on YouTube with Boston Bhangra and Taylor Maurand's Dil Punjabi. She's assisted Boston Bhangra with choreography, helped lead classes, and continues to learn more about South Asian music and dance. Pamela has additional experience with West African dance, tap, and jazz. A regularly practicing yogi for more than ten years, she's also been a substitute yoga instructor and occasional aerobic dancer. She loves teaching and Bhangra and is excited to combine them both at the Dance Complex!