

The Dance Complex's Annual Winter Wonder Dance Festival



Cambridge, MA- December 5th 2018: The Dance Complex's annual Winter Wonder Dance Festival features classes, repertory, and performance opportunities with internationally renowned Teaching Artists, both Boston-based and from around the world. Held every December, this festival is an opportunity to kick off the New Year with time dedicated to taking your next deep step in dance and movement.

This year's festival will be held December 27th-31st, with opportunities for dancers of all levels to get into the studio with The BANG Group, Chavi Bansal, Christal Brown, Peter DiMuro/Public Displays of Motion, Derick Grant, Eliza Mallouk, Donna Mejia, Pam Pietro, Viktor Plotnikov, Sylver Rochelin, Laura Sanchez, and Aaron Tolson!

An evening of performances featuring our celebrated guests, the *Winter Wonder Dance Festival Guest Artist Performance* will be held on December 29th at 8PM. Peter DiMuro will perform excerpts of *Light Reading*, a series of solos using the texts of letters from his father, mother and sister. Created over a span of ten years, the cornerstone work, *Dad's Letter*, written by Peter's father Ben in 1983 when the elder DiMuro was in his late 50's, will be performed. Donna Mejia performs transnational fusion dance- a mashup of North African, Arabian and American Dances. She will present two works during this show: *We Are Thirsty* and *The Inner/The Outer*. The Bang Group's David Parker and Jeffrey Kazin will present a new tap dance duet that translates Steve Reich's *Clapping Music* into a percussive dance. Christal Brown will perform *At This Point*, the conclusion of a series of solo's called The Life Cycle Series. The series chronicles the hills and valleys encapsulated by 15 years of growth and change. Pam Pietro will perform *All The Things I Thought I Knew But...*, a reflection of her personal #MeToo experience.

A reception will take place on December 30th at 5:30PM featuring pop up performances by the Festival's repertory classes, led by Peter DiMuro and Christal Brown. Light refreshments will be available.

The last day of the Festival, New Year's Eve Day, will feature a special opportunity for the community at large to realign, reflect, and dream for the upcoming year at a 'pay what you can' rate.

Festival events range in price. Performance tickets, class registration, and full festival schedule are available at dancecomplex.org. *The Dance Complex's Winter Wonder Dance Festival is made possible through support from The Massachusetts Cultural Council*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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More About The Artists

The BANG Group

THE BANG GROUP is a rhythm-driven, New York-based dance company which spans contemporary and percussive forms. The company, founded and directed by Jeffrey Kazin and David Parker celebrates its 24th anniversary this season. TBG has toured and performed widely throughout North America and Europe appearing at The Holland Dance Festival, Konfrontace in Prague, Tanzsprache in Vienna, Dance Week in Zagreb, Monte Carlo Dance Festival, Edinburgh Fringe Festival (2006, 2009 and 2014,) Biennale Charleroi in Belgium, Tanzmesse in Essen, Germany (2000 and 2016,) Fondation Cartier in Paris, OT 301 in Amsterdam, Divadelna Nitra in Slovakia, Belluard Bollwerk in Switzerland and numerous cities in Italy. The company has been generously supported by The Jerome Robbins Foundation, New York City Department of Cultural Affairs, Doris Duke Foundation, New York Foundation for the Arts, Harkness Foundation, Tiger Baron Foundation, Mid Atlantic Arts Fund, Greenwall Foundation, Arts International, Fund for Mutual Understanding, Netherland- America Foundation, Pentacle's ARC Fund, Frederick Loewe Foundation and several private donors. It is presented regularly in New York City by New York Live Arts and its predecessor Dance Theater Workshop, Danspace Project, Dance Now NYC, Symphony Space, The Harkness Dance Festival and the 92nd Street Y, among many others. The Bang Group has made its second home in Boston through sustained partnerships with Summer Stages Dance (13 seasons), The ICA, and The Dance Complex. The company is also in residence annually at The Yard on Martha's Vineyard and at The West End Theater on Manhattan's upper west side and has recently become an Anchor Partner at the new Flea Theater in Manhattan. It supports and presents the work of a wide range of artists through its thrice-yearly series called Soaking WET at the West End Theater and its Dance Now Boston initiative which commissions new work created for cabaret spaces and enters its fifth annual season in June 2018. Next month, TBG will reprise its much-praised program of dances by Parker, James Waring and Aileen Passloff reflecting on Parker's artistic forebears at the 92nd Street Y, and is creating a new music/dance work composed by Pauline Kim Harris to premiere at The Stone in NYC in July.

Chavi Bansal

From India, Chavi Bansal's early dance training was in Bharatnatyam, Bollywood, Martial Arts, and Indian Contemporary dance. Craving a broader dance vocabulary, Chavi moved to the Netherlands, where she earned her B.A. in Dance with a specialization in Choreography. In 2010, Chavi founded her company, Vimoksha, or "Liberation" in Sanskrit. Using a base of Indian classical movement and western modern technique, Chavi's work is developed largely through improvisation. Since moving to Boston in 2014, Vimoksha has found a company of Boston-based dancers. Chavi's work is supported by the Lab grant (Boston Foundation), New England Dance Fund (NEFA), and by the Cambridge Arts Council and Somerville Arts Council grants (Massachusetts Cultural Council) and Creative City grant by New England foundation for the Arts.

Christal Brown

PENDING

Peter DiMuro/Public Displays of Motion

Peter DiMuro has woven a career as a performer, choreographer, director, teacher, facilitator and arts engager, touring and teaching internationally.

His current creative umbrella is Peter DiMuro/Public Displays of Motion, a company that develops and performs artistic works and cultivates dance/arts literacy, advocacy and engagement. The company was recently awarded a Boston Center for the Arts residency, as well as the Boston Dance Alliance's 2014/15 Rehearsal and Retreat Fellowship. Peter was a Boston Mayor's Office Artist in Residence inaugural cohort participant, a recipient of a 2017 Creative City grant from New England Foundation for the Arts; and received a lifetime achievement award from Salem State University in 2017. Peter was named by the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum its inaugural Choreographer in Residence for 2018. Peter also serves as a consultant in arts and corporate settings, most recently with Whole Foods and with the all-male drag ballet company, Le Ballet Trockadero de Monte Carlo.

In his earlier Boston years, he created work with his own Peter DiMuro Performance Associates and danced with Gerri Houlihan, Ruth Birnberg, Susan Rose and in the eclectic repertory (Bebe Miller, Lucinda Childs, Charles Moulton, Wendy Perron) of Concert Dance Company. He made his professional debut at what is now The Dance Complex's Julie Ince Thompson Theatre.

Peter was Artistic Director of Liz Lerman Dance Exchange 2003-2008, capping a 15-year relationship as performer, lead-artist/director and collaborator with the inter/national touring company founded by MacArthur "Genius" Lerman.

Peter was named a White House Millennial Artist in 2000, a 1995 Mayor of Boston/ProArts Award recipient, and his work has received grants/support from the National Performance Network, the Mass Artists' Foundation, Mass Cultural Council, MetLife Foundation and the

National Endowment for the Arts. In 2010, he represented the US as an emissary for the Department of State in Madrid, teaching and adjudicating an international competition for emerging artists.

Peter has taught for Cornerstone Theatre Institute/LA, American Dance Festival and Bates Dance Festival and adjudicated American College Dance Festival Association regional conferences. He has been affiliated with Tufts University (artist in residence), Drexel University (associate professor), Michigan State University (guest artist/commissionee), American University, Emerson College, Boston University, The Boston Conservatory, and several college programs throughout his career.

Peter's work has appeared on tour and been commissioned by leading presenters, including The Kennedy Center/DC, Clarice Smith Performing Arts Center/MD, Tampa Bay Performing Arts Center, Dance Place/DC, DanceNOW at Joe's Public Theatre/NY, Dance Umbrella, the Emerson Majestic, Bates Dance Festival, American Dance Festival, AURAS Dance/Lithuania, as well as on a nationally aired television commercial for the National Institute on Aging. He directed seminal projects for Dance Exchange, including "The Portsmouth Naval Shipyard Project" and the 17-city tour of "Hallelujah Project", both engaging communities in dialogue and action to make dance/theatre. His "Gumdrops and the Funny Uncle" looks at multiple definitions of what makes a family, in a work set at the winter holidays. He has served on the boards of the Dance Umbrella/Boston, National Performance Network, Dance/USA, Capitol Region Educators in Dance Organization, and as a mentor and panelist for New England Foundation for the Arts, Maryland State Arts Council, DC Commission for the Arts.

He received an MFA in Dance from Connecticut College under Martha Myers; a BFA in Theatre from Drake University, with early study with Sally Garfield, and continued study in New York, Boston and at the American Dance Festival. Originally from Round Lake, IL (population, circa 1970: 250), he is the youngest of three children, the son of the Chief of Police (Dad) and a machinist /gal Friday (Mom). He has a niece named for the Crayola crayon, Sienna.

Derick Grant

PENDING

Eliza Mallouk

Eliza Mallouk has been a massage therapist and movement educator for over 35 years. She is also a founding member of Cambridge Health Associates (1988), an holistic health center where she continues to have her private practice. www.cambridgehealthassociates.com

Originally a ceramic artist, Eliza's first job after college was the "Pain Clinic" at Massachusetts Rehabilitation Hospital teaching art to people suffering from chronic back pain. This experience inspired her to become a massage therapist. She graduated from the Muscular Therapy Institute in 1978 and taught on its faculty from 1979-1999. Eliza was on the faculty of The American Dance Festival (1979-1981) where she taught massage therapy and the Alexander Technique to dancers. She is a certified teacher of the Alexander Technique since 1981 and a certified Zero Balancer since 2001. Over the years, she has expanded her knowledge of healing by studying many different modalities including: Craniosacral Therapy, Reiki, Self-Regulation Therapy, the Stough Method of Breathing Coordination, Activated Isolated Stretching and "The Actor's Secret."

Eliza discovered her passion for dance in 2005 and trains regularly in modern, ballet, hip hop and improvisational movement. She is a member of the local modern dance company "The Elders Ensemble of Prometheus Dance," and co-founder in 2010 and producer of "Across the Ages Dance Project", which hosts a yearly show featuring an intergenerational ensemble of dancers. www.acrosstheagesdanceproject.com Eliza is an instructor in the Alexander Technique Teacher Training program at Boston Conservatory/Berklee since 2016.

Donna Mejia

Donna Mejia performs *transnational fusion dance*: a mashup of North African, Arabian and American Dances. Her international career exploded in 2006 when her performances were bootlegged to Youtube.com. Her eclectic movement background and mixed heritage inspired her to play unapologetically with the common denominators of multiple cultural traditions while in dialog with the critical theories of cultural appropriation. Her fascination points in movement include microarticulation of the body (virtuosity in subtle and small movements), deep base tones and the most crunchy, complex beats found in the universe! Her writings about fusion would win her the 2011 Fulbright Selma Jean Cohen Award for International Dance Scholarship. Donna now splits her time between solo global touring engagements, and her post as a member of the CU Boulder dance faculty. She serves CU Boulder as the Director of Graduate Studies in Dance, and teaches a combination of courses in dance anthropology, pedagogy, ethics/equity, and technique. For more info, writings and videos please visit: <https://donnainthedance.com/>

Pam Pietro

Pamela Pietro has successfully funneled her considerable creative energies into both the academic side of dance and into her own performing and choreographic work.

Pamela received a BFA/Dance from Florida State University and her MFA/Dance with a minor in BioMedical Ethics from University of Washington. She currently teaches as an Associate Arts Professor at New York University Tisch School for the Arts, Department of Dance, and she has been on the faculty at the American Dance Festival from 1997-present.

Pamela received the prestigious David Payne-Carter Award for Teaching Excellence from the New York University Tisch School of the Arts 2012/2013. She earned the first-place award for academics and performance from the National Society of Arts and Letters, was a gold medal winner at the Asiagraph Video/Choreography competition in Shanghai, China. She has presented original research at the Hawaiian Arts and Humanities Conference in Waikiki and at an ACM Multimedia Conference in Santa Barbara. She recently presented a paper entitled, "The Collaboration of a Somatic Practice and Contemporary Technique Class" in conjunction with a two-day workshop at Emory University in Atlanta, GA.

Nationally, she has been on faculty at Florida International University; New World School of the Arts; Hollins University ADF/MFA Program (10 years); New York University Tisch School for the Arts; American Dance Festival (17 years); Dance New Amsterdam; and Dancewave Center.

Pamela has been an assistant to the pioneering Neuroanatomist Educator Irene Dowd since 2004, in teaching Anatomy and Movement Workshops. I have continued Irene's work, along with my own somatic research, in teaching workshops locally and internationally; Slippery Rock University in Pittsburgh, PA 2012, Ekoda University in Tokyo, Japan 2010, Xinxiang, China 2011 and 2012, and Malaysia at Aswara Dance Company 2015, as described below. She also has a small Pilates/rehabilitative practice using her expansive knowledge of anatomy and neuromuscular patterning.

On the international scene, Pamela has taught for American Dance Festival's linkage programs at the Guangdong Dance Company in Guangzhou, China, Dance Library Summer Conference in Tel Aviv, Israel, and Henan University in Henan, China (2 years).

Working independently at Newtown High School for the Performing Arts in Sydney, Australia; Momentum Danza in Panama; LaSalle College of the Arts in Singapore; Tsekh Festival in Moscow, Russia; Ekoda de Dance at Nippon University in Tokyo, Japan, ASWARA, National Academy of Arts Culture and Heritage in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, touring through to local companies and certificate programs in Mumbai, India; Minzu University, Beijing Normal University and National Academy of Dance and Drama.

Most recently Pamela is the Associate Director of the Translucent Borders Project with her colleague, Professor Dr. Andy Teirstein in *Translucent Borders*, a Working Group of the Global Institute for Advanced Study. The project assembles scholars and artists from the NYU community and other institutions to look at the role of dance and music at borders of cultural difference across the world, with focus on NYU global sites. I act as an advisor to the project and, in my role of Associate Director, help to lead projects such as Tradition/Innovation in Israel and the Palestinian Territories. *Translucent Borders* is funded by the Provost office at \$350,000 over three years. It will result in a festival across the university in 2018, in addition to a website and a documentary film.

Pamela has recently launched a study abroad program through NYU Tisch Department of Dance in Berlin where she and guest faculty including: Judith Sanchez Ruiz, Dominique Duszynski, Meg Stuart, Ayman Harper, Eleanor Bauer and Johannes Wieland worked intensely with 16 students from the dance department.

As a dancer, Pamela has performed professionally with Gerri Houlihan and Dancers; Anthony Morgan Dance Company; Michael Foley Dance; RaceDance; bopi's black sheep/dances; and Jennifer Nugent. Pamela served as rehearsal director for both Houlihan and Dancers and the New World Dance Ensemble. She collaborated with choreographer Mark Haim on several projects at The Wooden Floor, in Santa Ana, California.

Her choreography has been presented both nationally and internationally - in New York by Dancespace Draftworks, Dance New Amsterdam, and Brooklyn Arts Exchange; Dancespace in Miami, Florida; Booker School for the Arts in Sarasota, Florida; Fuzion Dance Artists in Sarasota, Florida; Momentum Danza Company/Panama, Meredith College/Raleigh, North Carolina; dulcedanceco, Phoenix AZ, James Madison University; La Salle Academy/Singapore, and ASWARA Dance in Malaysia. As of current she is performing her solo work with the group of women choreographers on tour called SOLAS to Sweden, Tampa, Sarasota, Texas, Michigan, New York City and Boston. Most recently she reset her solo "all the things I thought I knew but..." On Carly Conder an Faculty Instructor in the Dance Department at Arizona State University.

Viktor Plotnikov

Born in Ukraine, Plotnikov received his training at the Kiev's National Ballet Academy, the Vaganova Ballet Academy in St. Petersburg, Russia and private teaching from Theodor Popescu and Svetlana Kolyvanova. From 1987 to 1990, he was a soloist with Donetsk Ballet Company in the Ukraine. Plotnikov held Guest artist positions at Ballet Mississippi and Tulsa Ballet Theatre between 1990 and 1993, before joining Boston Ballet as a principal dancer in 1993, where he performed until 2006. He has danced major roles in extensive classical and contemporary ballets by many of the major choreographers, and has toured extensively in Russia and the US.

In 1998 Plotnikov's extensive performance career led to choreographic inspiration. He has since created original, commissioned works for companies including Boston Ballet, Cincinnati Ballet, Pittsburgh Ballet Theatre, Richmond Ballet, New Jersey Ballet, First State Ballet Theatre, Festival Ballet Providence, Atlanta Ballet, Kansas City Ballet.

From 2002 to 2005, he received rave reviews for his choreography and as co-director and co-producer of the choreographer's showcase *Raw Dance* in collaboration with Boston Ballet and Boston Center for the Arts.

Plotnikov has created a myriad of original works for numerous organizations and individuals, often to great acclaim. These include solos and duets performed at International Gala Performances and as part of international ballet competitions, with musical taste ranging from Brahms to Pink Floyd.

Awards include "Best Choreography" at Helsinki International Ballet Competition, World Ballet Competition, Orlando; Outstanding Choreography at Youth American Grand Prix; Beijing International Ballet Competition; Perm International Ballet Competition, Russia.

Sylver Rochelin

Sylver Rochelin Randrianantenaina is a professional dancer from Madagascar, who made his home in Cambridge three years ago. In Madagascar, Sylver danced with and choreographed for some of Madagascar's biggest pop stars, incorporating traditional Malagasy ("from Madagascar") steps with pan-African movements and rhythms. Sylver also danced with a number of contemporary groups in Madagascar, bringing a contemporary African-centered expression to both local and global issues. He was trained in classical dance for two years in Jerusalem at the Jerusalem Academy of Music and Dance. While this was a meaningful opportunity to expand his experience as a dancer, Sylver's current work centers around African and African diaspora expression - and everyone is invited to join!

Laura Sánchez

Born in Spain, Laura Sánchez is a flamenco dancer and educator based in Cambridge since 2014. She started her Flamenco and Spanish Dance training as a child and completed her professional dance studies in Madrid, joining the Dance Conservatory in 2008. Currently based in Boston where she has continued her training with Isaac and Nino de los Reyes. Laura is the founder of LS Flamenco, an organization whose mission is to bring joy into people's lives through flamenco dance. Over these past few years, Laura has brought flamenco dance to hundreds of people and collaborated with organizations such as Boston Ballet, Jose Mateo Ballet Theater, Ramón de los Reyes Spanish Dance Theater, The Dance Complex, Flamenco Dance Project, Green Street Studios, Boston College of Fine Arts, Santander Bank, Cambridge Center for Adults Education, National Ballet of Spain, Spanish Embassy or Cervantes Institute, among others. Laura teaches flamenco at Boston Ballet ECI and also at Flamenco Vivo Carlota Santana in NYC and has been offering regular flamenco classes for adults and children at The Dance Complex since 2014. Her classes are focused on helping individuals build confidence and self-esteem while finding a unique way to express themselves through flamenco dance.

Aaron Tolson

Aaron started dancing at the age of ten. At 14, he performed in the *Great Tap Reunion* at the Apollo Theatre and at 18 he moved to NYC on a full track scholarship to St. John's University. Soon after graduation, Aaron toured internationally with *Riverdance*. He was a featured soloist and captain for six years as he performed on Broadway, at Radio City Music Hall. In 2006 Aaron began working on *Imagine Tap!*, a show whose formation would become the subject of a feature-length documentary, titled *Tap or Die*. Aaron recently taught at Broadway Dance Center and Steps on Broadway in New York City and now teaches at Berklee College. He is also the director of The Intensive, the national spokesperson for SoDanca, and the Director of Speaking In Taps, a pre-professional dance company. Public speaking is Aaron's latest project, and one that allows him to share his love of tap and how he has overcome many obstacles to be successful.