

The Dance Complex Announces its 2019 Winter into Spring Performance and Event Series



Cambridge, MA- December 15, 2018- With its 2019 Winter into Spring Performance and Event Series, The Dance Complex is tearing down barriers to dance as it celebrates the wealth of the region's dance artists, and those visiting from afar. The series kicks off with *CATALYSTS* in January, 2019, with performances by artists in residence, and will continue through to June's *Month of Us*.

The Series is curated with The Dance Complex's perspective of *All In Movement*. Utilized for performances, classes and workshops, this approach prioritizes the removal of barriers to dance. It is reflected in the utilization of our fully accessible Studio 7, removing barriers to physical access; in creating economic access through discounted prices to valuable dance; and in the ability and freedom to see one's self or a people's culture mirrored on our stage, as happens regularly through our *Festival of Us, You, We & Them*, the *Dancing Queerly* festival, and through the unique voices that shine through the dance companies presented at The dance Complex.

An emphasis was placed this season on celebrating the diversity of our Boston Dance Community. Many of the companies and artists featured this season are local to Boston and New England.

Throughout the season, more than 150 dancers and choreographers are projected to hold space on our stages, each bringing with them unique talents, experiences, and understandings of the world we share. We anticipate welcoming more than 2,000 audience members into our space for performances this season, and we hope you will be one of them.

Performances take place in either our vibrant street level Studio 7, with an intimate cabaret-like setting, or in the loft-style Julie Ince Thompson Theatre where thousands of companies and dancers of international acclaim have explored, created, and shared work for over 30 years.

The Dance Complex is an integral element in the history of Boston & Central Square's dance scene. We continue as a force, forging a future for dance, dance-makers, and dance audience.

Unless otherwise noted, Friday and Saturday evening performances begin at 8pm, Sundays at 7pm. Beer, wine, and beverages are available for purchase. For accessibility/ADA information, please visit our website. Tickets and more information available at dancecomplex.org.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Colleen Walsh Cecchi, Communications Manager

colleen@dancecomplex.org

536 Massachusetts Ave., Cambridge, MA

617-547-9363

dancecomplex.org

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The Dance Complex's 2019 Winter into Spring Performance and Event Series

CATALYSTS | Dance Complex CATALYSTS Artists

January 12 & 13, 18-20, 25 & 56

CATALYSTS is a rigorous 8-month residency program at The Dance Complex providing artists-in-residence hundreds of hours of studio space, mentor and peer feedback opportunities, and additional choreographic skill and arts administration development to assist the creation and producing of their work. This year's CATALYSTS are diverse in style, expansive in their impact through their arts practice, and are dedicated to the continued growth and development of their craft. Collectively, their work addresses history and home, the search for a sense of belonging, and the fragility of mortality - individually reflective of their unique experiences. CATALYSTS artists-in-residence for the 2018-2019 season are: modern dancer and educator, Ali Kenner Brodsky; professor emerita in the Studio for Interrelated Media at Massachusetts College of Art and Design, video artist, and founder of Dance Collective, Dawn Kramer; traditional Irish dance performer, choreographer, and educator, Rebecca McGowan; youth advocate Hip Hop dancer, choreographer, and instructor, Aysha Upchurch.

NACHMO! Boston | Over 25 Local Artists

February 8 & 9

Announcing the seventh annual National Choreography Month (NACHMO) Boston performance series! On February 8th at 8pm and February 9th at 8pm, local choreographers will present new dance work created during the month of January, dubbed National Choreography Month. Each evening will feature a unique roster of new work in various styles of dance. Works will range from solos and duets to group pieces. NACHMO performances celebrate the vibrant creativity of the Boston dance scene and aim to forge new artistic connections to strengthen the community.

Even A Guy With Two Left Feet: A Birthday Benefit Cabaret Celebrating Peter DiMuro | Brian Patton, Peter DiMuro/Public Displays of Motion, and Surprise Guests

March 15 at 7:30pm

The Dance Complex Board of Directors presents a special evening honoring a special birthday of Executive Artistic Director Peter DiMuro, and his 40th anniversary in a life in dance. Divas from Boston's cabaret scene, lead by Music Director Brian Patton, join Peter DiMuro/Public Displays of Motion and surprise guests for live music and dancing, light fare, and refreshments. Proceeds from the evening will benefit The Dance Complex Annual Fund and Peter DiMuro/Public Displays of Motion.

Her Sylvan Ascent | Weber Dance

March 22 & 23

Her Sylvan Ascent is an evening-length piece by Choreographer Jody Weber that challenges us to look deeply at the imbalances within ourselves, and our world, that are manifesting in our climate crisis. The work draws on imagery from the Women's March and deep feminine archetypes that challenge us to re-imagine our power beyond our current materialistic state and look inward. The work was also inspired by the phenomenal book, *The Hidden Life of Trees*, to consider the way communities might create power and longevity through a deeply connected web of support and mutual care and commitment.

As the piece developed, our world traveled deeper into crisis with the election of leadership that denies climate science and emboldens corporate behaviors that energize a deadly trajectory for humanity. But hope remains in the rise of women and the reclaiming of our power. Hope in the voices of the young who are taking a stand against violence.

Performances by Whitney Cover, Lizbie Harbison, Shannon Humphreys, Caitlin Klinger, Kristy Kuhn, and Jennifer Roberts.

Benita Bike's DanceArt

March 30 & 31

Benita Bike's DanceArt returns to its roots with this Boston area performance [March 30, 8pm & March 31, 7pm] at The Dance Complex. The Company was founded in Boston in 1980, and relocated to Los Angeles in 1990. Founder Benita was Chair of the Boston Dance Alliance and taught for many years at her own studio downtown Boston and at Boston Center for Adult Education. Benita Bike's DanceArt is known for its musicality, elegance, and expressivity. Employing expressive gesture, evocative contemporary movement, and an architectural use of space, Benita Bike makes sensitive observations on life. For 38 years this company has performed near and far – from the California coast to New England and abroad – bringing both concert dance and unique interactive outreach performances to audiences large and small.

"If Georgia O'Keeffe's pastel landscapes were dances, they'd be the plains elegies of ...choreographer Benita Bike and her company, DanceArt. Sweeping and full of muscular femininity, her works take charge of the space and evoke the metaphysical power of ritual..." – Los Angeles Times

This program will premiere *Plugged*, which explores our relationships to the machines occupying our world and how these machines affect our sensitivity to nature, quiet, and the earth. Other dances on the program are:
Old Postcards from Europe - a quartet taking its inspiration from three late 19th & early 20th century postcards found in Munich, Vienna, and Budapest. "The tense undercurrent of *Old Postcards from Europe* was what gave this work its strength. The relationships between Bike's characters, the forces from inside and outside their lives, coupled with the music and costumes, all crystalized into a united statement." – LA Dance Chronicle
Schoenfeld Dances - featuring a rag, fughetta, shuffle, and boogie, melds early 20th century popular dance with a classical movement sensibility.
For Rose – "In a passionate piece *For Rose*, dancers Rachele Donofrio and Liza Barskaya portray the complicated Mother-Daughter relationship." – Malibu Times
On Beat 3 – Short and snappy, *On Beat 3* uses driving percussive rhythms and colorful off-balance movements to explore a world of ordered chaos.

I-ARE | Karen Krolak and DeAnna Pellecchia

April 12 & 13

April 12

MINISTRY of DeAnna Pellecchia

'Who I am is for me to define, no one else.' We all experience stereotypes. Each and every one of us is in conflict with a story that has been told for and about us. How do we defy those stories? Is there any part of those stories we might come to love? How do we find the courage to be authentically ourselves? And how do we fully support others in doing the same?

When we are denied the opportunity to define our stories, to define our perspectives, that denial comes to define us. When we own our story, we have the power to create our very own brave ending.

MINISTRY of, an evening-length dance theater performance, explores vignettes of the feminine experience in today's world. These stories, passed down to us in lore and song, plastered on billboards and in magazines, consumed in movies and television, bind femininity to specific roles. They describe exactly how to look and how to act. They prescribe, how to exist in our own bodies and minds.

Through the examination of media driven archetypes and clichés, **MINISTRY of** dives into the world of unattainable standards created by gender stereotypes. The choreography, composed in collaboration with the dancers, fashion designer Carlos Villamil, and visual artist Corrine Chase, draws inspiration from iconic images generated by Hollywood and the fashion industry; poetry by Eve Ensler, Rupi Kaur and Nayyirah Waheed; text by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie, and personal stories from female-identifying community members. The dancers, costumed in vintage 'undergarments,' perform in and out of 7-inch platform stilettos and smile-masks vacillating, sometimes violently, between myth and truth.

MINISTRY of aims to shine a light on the damaging effects of stereotypes and feminine objectification, and offer a fuller understanding of the complexities of the feminine identity. It also strives to provide a platform for a further conversation about the stereotypes we all experience.

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April 13

An Animated Edition of the Dictionary of Negative Space | Karen Krolak

During her I-ARE residency at the Dance Complex, Karen Krolak (Artistic Director & co-founder of Monkeyhouse) delves into the daunting terrain of illustrating entries in her Dictionary of Negative Space (www.dictionaryofnegativespace.com). Inspired by the car accident that killed her mother, father, and older brother in 2012, the Dictionary of Negative Space examines the lacy spaces within the English language, the vast chasms of unnamed ideas related to mourning, trauma, and repair. Krolak will curate an interdisciplinary concert of discussing, digressing, and dancing about loss by collaborating with choreographers, poets, storytellers, and visual artists. Other iterations of the Dictionary of Negative Space have been presented at Onstage Dance, Malden, MA; Sierra Nevada College, Incline Village, NV; Kelwood Contemporary Art, Baton Rouge, LA; Boston University Center for the Humanities, Boston, MA; and the CICA Museum, Gimpo, Korea. Do not despair. This is not the dusty dictionary of your youth. Ordinary people just like you have raved: "I love the format of the dictionary. I love that it is so inclusive of the experiences of so many people. I love that it is an evolving work, covering so much more than words. It is a heroic undertaking." - Joan "Generous and familiar and devastating and seemingly finite but actually a web of never ending connections and circles (like grief itself)." – Jean Ann

Elevate: A Triple Bill of Female Choreographers | Heather Bryce, Erin Carlisle Norton, and Shana Simmons Dance

April 19 & 20

In *Elevate: A Triple Bill of Female Choreographers*, three seasoned choreographers come together to explore female empowerment in a compelling evening-length triple bill performance.

Elevating each other as well as women's voices in the national arena, these three powerhouse women Heather Bryce (Bryce Dance Company, NYC), Erin Carlisle Norton (The Moving Architects, NJ/NYC), and Shana Simmons Dance (Shana Simmons Dance, PA) were initially drawn together by their interest in creating multi-layered and multi-sensorial dance works. Through conversation and discussion, the trio realized that this partnership gives voice to dance as a tool for empowerment with the ability to connect with new communities and inspire social change through dance. In the first half of the production, each choreographer presents a work or excerpt from their existing repertory.

The second half of the concert draws from each choreographer's life and relates to our current national dialogue; the works explore the boundaries and walls felt as female artists and in society at large, as well as personal self-imposed or actual boundaries experienced in the artist's lives. The choreographers weave together these three individual dance works into a cohesive whole.

Elevate is touring to Boston, NYC, and Pittsburgh in Spring 2019.

You Can Dance If You Want To | Palaver Strings and Vimoksha

April 28

Palaver Strings, a string ensemble and nonprofit, will present *You Can Dance If You Want To*, a collaborative performance celebrating the relationship between live music and dance. The program will include a set of traditional dance tunes from Hungary and Romania and Enescu's String Octet with original choreography by Cambridge-based dancer Chavi Bansal and members of her company, Vimoksha. Following intermission, the audience will be invited to participate in a New England contra dance, guided by a dance caller with live music from Palaver Strings.

"As classical musicians, we encounter dance forms every day. We rarely stop to think about these gavottes and allemandes as more than markings on the page, but they are important links to a time when dance and music were equal partners."

Program:

ENESCU Octet for Strings in C major, Op. 7

TRADITIONAL Transylvanian dance set

TRADITIONAL New England contra tunes

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DANCE NOW Boston | Danielle Davidson, Orlando Hernandez, Ian Berg/Subject:Matter, Joy Davis, David Parker and The Bang Group
May 3-5

DANCE NOW Boston, in its seventh season, is a collaboration between choreographer David Parker and DANCE NOW to establish a creative bridge between New York and Boston by commissioning Boston choreographers to create work for cabaret spaces as DANCE NOW NYC does for New Yorkers. This season Parker has invited artists Danielle Davidson with Orlando Hernandez, Ian Berg/ Subject:Matter, Joy Davis, to perform alongside a new performance by David Parker for his Bang Group. The evening will be hosted by Michael Figueroa.

Days Gone By | Sasso & Company
May 10 & 11

Days Gone By is based on the Buddhist belief in dukkha; one of the Four Noble Truths. Roughly defined, dukkha is the pain and suffering of daily life; the desire for more; the exhaustion of monotony. Inspired by conversations with peers, clients, and strangers; Sasso & Company explores the idea of dukkha and other aspects of the human condition and how they relate to our individual journeys through life.

Teaching Artists & Student Concert | Dance Complex Teaching Artists
May 18 & 19

Showcasing a wide range of movement styles, this performance celebrates the vibrancy of the variety that occurs at The Dance Complex every day. Experience both new and recent works by Teaching Artists, performed by both professional and dedicated student dancers in this eclectic program.

Samsara: Dancing the Everyday | NATyA Collective
May 31 & June 1

More information coming soon.

Month of Us
June 2019

Throughout the month of June, performances, workshops, classes, and festivals will celebrate the richness and depth of The Dance Complex community at large. During this month of programming, The Dance Complex looks to open its doors widely and welcome into our community all who wish to benefit from and contribute to the joy our building contains year-round.

Duncan Dance Recital
June 2 at 2pm

The Art & Technique of Isadora Duncan Student Recital: The choreographic etudes of Isadora Duncan explore, through the action/rest continuum, the dynamic relationship between affiliation and solitude. Celebrating Nature's unity and rhythm, these dances, remembering ancient rituals and archetypes, are simultaneously trival and divine. The indomitable human spirit, ever hopeful, is present in this choreography and in all true healing. Isadora Duncan's goal for the "highest intelligence in the freest body" - that every living child might have available to them the birthright of beauty, strength and freedom. The "Art & Technique of Isadora Duncan" program offers to participating children celebratory explorations of relationship: to classical music; to peers; to the ancestral community; and to the natural world.

The Festival of Us, You, We, & Them
June 21-23

Each year, The Dance Complex throws open the doors of its historic building, located in the heart of Central Square's Cultural District, inviting artists of all kinds to join together in a celebration of dance, movement, and all arts during the Festival of Us, You, We & Them. More information about the Festival's schedule and involved artists will be available in the coming months!

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aMaSSiT | Featuring Local Artists

June 22 & 23

We live in a world of ever changing social ideology and mindfulness. Artists become unofficial historians of thought and change by creating works that reflect the questions and challenges of the time. The 2019 season of aMaSSiT embraces artists with a specific interest in creating thoughtful and prismatic work exploring current trends and topics within popular culture.

***Dancing Queerly* | Artists to be announced**

June 28 & 29

Dancing Queerly is an annual dance festival, featuring workshops, mixers, panel discussions, and performances by and for the LGBTQIA+ community, its friends and allies. Recognizing that the queer community is largely underserved in the dance world, Dancing Queerly aims to provide queer-centric dance opportunities for students and professionals, audience members and enthusiasts. Workshops are offered in a variety of dance styles, and for a range of experience levels. A culminating performance features local and out-of-town choreographers creating original dance performance from a queer perspective; a free panel discussion invites audience members to hear from the artists first-hand. Mixers and social gatherings give participants the chance to connect in a positive, welcoming environment.

***Studio 7 Pop-Up Series* | Artists to be announced**

Dates To be announced

The Studio 7 Pop-Up Series will feature performances by Dance Complex affiliated artists and companies who are deeply committed to exposing the process of work development with the community at large. These performances will be held in The Dance Complex ground-level, accessible, and intimate Studio 7, removing the barrier of a formal stage and thus offering a unique opportunity for audiences to become up close and personal with the performance. More information coming soon!