

The Dance Complex's Annual Teaching Artists & Student Concert Spring 2019



Cambridge, MA- March 31st 2019: The Dance Complex presents its annual *Teaching Artists & Student Concert*, celebrating the vibrancy and variety of The Dance Complex community, May 18th at 8pm and 19th at 7pm. Showcasing a wide range of movement styles, this performance celebrates the magic that occurs at The Dance Complex everyday: committed efforts to learn and grow through movement.

Experience both new and recent works by Teaching Artists, performed by both professional and dedicated student dancers in this eclectic program featuring Tap, Hooping, Flamenco, Hip Hop/Fusion, African, Banghra and more! This year's performances will feature work by Sela P. Bailey, Lolli Hoops, Yosi Karahashi, Sharon Montella & Chris Suharlim, SambaViva, Laura Sanchez, Papa Sy, & Pamela Worth.

The community is invited to join us for a BEE Dance pre-performance conversation with the artists on Sunday, May 19th at 6pm prior to the 7pm performance. A great opportunity to learn more about The Dance Complex's Teaching Artists, the conversation will explore each artist's unique process of developing work from the classroom to the stage. This talk is free and open to the public, with reservations recommended. All "BEE" attendees receive a complimentary refreshment with purchase of a ticket for that evening's performance. You do not need to see the show to come to the BEE, though we do hope you will!

More information and tickets are available at dancecomplex.org.

This performance will take place 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. Beer, wine, and beverages are available for purchase. For accessibility/ADA information, please visit our website. Tickets and more information available at dancecomplex.org.

Photograph by Scott Sutherland, Teaching Artists & Student Concert Fall 2018

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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More About The Artists:

Sela P. Bailey | Tap

Sela P Bailey has been a tap teacher since 2000, taking over Maureen Cosgrove's Boston Tap classes at the Dance Complex in 2014. While at Smith College she studied in the Five College Dance Department, performing with the Celebrations Dance Company and the UMass University Dancers. She was a founding member of the Terpsichore Ensemble in Amherst, MA and taught tap classes in Amherst and Northampton, MA before moving to Boston. Sela currently teaches beginner and intermediate tap classes at the Dance Complex, and made her Dance Complex choreographic debut at the 2018 Spring Teaching Artists and Student Concert.

Lolli Hoops | Hooping

Lolli Hoops has been on the fore front of the hooping scene in Boston since 2003! As a founding member of the Boston Hoop Troop she has helped build a community that embraces Hoop Dance. With fun, dynamic, and flirty performances Lolli Hoops has become a mainstay in the Boston vaudeville and cabaret scene. Lolli has taught hoop dance to hundreds of kids and adults throughout New England and beyond. Beyond teaching multiple Boston based classes weekly she has taught at regional festivals including: Hoop Convergence (NC) Hoop Fest NE (ME), Wildfire (CT), and Pittsfield City Hoopla (MA). Teacher, Performer, Movement Artist, Clothing Designer, Lolli Hoops has something in her bag of tricks that you want to experience!

Yosi Karahashi | Flamenco

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, Jose Mateo Dance Theatre, Celebrity Series of Boston with NYC resident dance company Dance Heginbotham and Peter DiMuro's company. Internationally she was called as a special guest artist at Orford Music Festival in Canada in summer 2018. She is also acting as an artistic adviser and choreographer for skaters on the Theater on Ice in Boston especially for an international contest in France 2019.

Besides her work as a solo artist, she is performing with Boston based flamenco companies such as Flamenco Boston and Flamenco Dance Project.

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 an invited artist to the CATALYSTS intensive eight-month residency program by the Dance Complex on the year of its 25th anniversary.

Yosi firmly believes that Flamenco is not just a dance, but a way of life, that there should be no limits for expression and it should be shared with everybody. With this in mind, she started to use sign language in her Flamenco performances. For Yosi the art of flamenco is a way to communicate.

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Yosi founded Flamenco Therapy, a non-profit 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 which provides "silver citizens" (as a person over the age of 65 with a wide range of emotional, physical and learning disabilities) a specialized, fun and engaging flamenco experience.

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

Sharon Montella & Chris Suharlim | Hip Hop & Sassy Hip Hop

Sharon Montella holds an MFA in Dance from The Boston Conservatory, black belt in Pai Lum kung fu, is a registered yoga instructor and is director of Dangerous Brood hip hop company which recently performed at WAXworks in New York. She has danced and choreographed in Boston, NY and across the US, including on members of the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater in an independent project entitled 'The Moses Project'. She serves on the dance faculties of UMass Boston and Pine Manor College, where she directs the Dance Ensemble. Sharon brings her choreographic talent, passion for hip hop and patient teaching to her classes to create a fun atmosphere and high energy routines. hiphopballerinasinger.com; Instagram: [hiphopballerinasinger](https://www.instagram.com/hiphopballerinasinger)

Chris Suharlim has been dancing since 2007 to upbeat pop and k-pop music from amazing artists such as Britney, Lady Gaga, 2ne1, or Girls Generation. He is a physician and public health practitioner who enjoys dancing to shake the stress away. "It's my way to stay sane!" said Chris. Since 2011, he has been teaching dance as a cardio class at multiple fitness centers in Indonesia. He is currently a researcher and course instructor at Harvard School of Public Health, and an avid Sassy Hip Hop dance instructor for HSPH Dance Club, Dance Complex, and private dance groups.

SambaViva

SambaViva is a Brazilian dance ensemble dedicated to authentically promoting Brazilian culture through dance and music. With our troupe of dynamic and polished dancers, SambaViva immerses you in the experience of Brazil, from Rio to Bahia and everything in between.

Laura Sanchez | Flamenco

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 continue her professional training with Isaac and Nino de Los Reyes. In 2014 she founded LS Flamenco, an organization which 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.

Papa Sy | African Dance

Papa Sy is a dancer, choreographer, and dance teacher from Senegal, and the principal member of 5 Dimension Company. After professional dance training in Senegal's National Dance Academy, Papa Sy joined Germain Acogny's Écoles des Sables and Jant-Bi dance company. Working there opened Papa Sy's artistic spirit, and he founded the Pasytef Ballet Theatre de Dalifort dance company in Dakar and the Pasy Dance School from a passion for sharing his knowledge with young dancers and contributing to their artistic education. He has created, produced, directed, and starred in over twenty shows.

Pamela Worth | Boston Bhangra

Pamela has been teaching Bhangra at the Dance Complex since 2017, and dancing with the Boston Bhangra performance team since 2015. She has performed for thousands of people, at City Hall Plaza for Indian Independence Day, the House of Blues, Somerville's Ignite festival, Dance Complex festivals, and at weddings, school performances, and Diwali and other celebrations. Pamela is always eager to learn more about South Asian dance and music, and she enjoys staying up-to-date with new Bhangra songs, singers, and dance steps. She welcomes all levels to her class and is excited to share her love of Bhangra with her fellow dancers.

Boston Bhangra is a non-profit organization dedicated to cultural understanding and mentorship for youths through a common thread: Bhangra. We want to bring a sense of belonging through the education of commonality and help individuals continue moving forward without losing ties to their pasts and their heritage. In short, Boston Bhangra wants to help preserve culture and, of course, bring Bhangra to Boston!