

The Dance Complex's 2019 aMaSSiT Choreography Lab Informal Showings



Cambridge, MA- March 31st 2019: The Dance Complex announces its 2019 *aMaSSiT Artists Informal Showings*, to be held June 22 & 23 during The Dance Complex's *Festival of Us, You, We, & Them*. aMaSSiT, a professional development program offering opportunities for both choreographic and business skills development, features artists selected for their dedication to choreographic development. This year's aMaSSiT artists are exploring storytelling, folkloric and traditional dance forms and stories, and expression of personal narratives and social issues through movement.

Through engagement in the program's open showings, movement workshops, and business skill labs, aMaSSiT artists Anjali Nath, Jake Crawford, Jessica Roseman, La'Toya Princess Jackson, Pampi, and Rochelle Zordich have continued to develop their distinct and individual voices. Though representative of a spectrum of viewpoints and unique journeys, the artists are bound together through their commitment to the hallmark of The Dance Complex's philosophy of *next deep step*- continued dedication to personal and artistic growth.

The Dance Complex's aMaSSiT choreography lab is open to choreographers of all dance genres and forms, and is structured both to foster those early in their choreographic ventures and to challenge artists with more extensive experience. By welcoming both new and established choreographers, the aMaSSiT program becomes the grounds for evolution, a true living lab for choreography to develop and transform. Annually, applications for aMaSSiT are available mid-fall for creative engagement January- June.

At 6:00pm preceding the Sunday evening *aMaSSiT Choreography Lab Informal Showing*, join us for a conversation with the artists! The Dance Complex's June programming, the Month of Us, supports the mission that we work towards throughout the year- providing opportunities for everyone to have movement in their lives. Join our aMaSSiT Artists, and artists from various artistic practices participating in this year's *Festival of Us, You, We, & Them*, for a conversation about nurturing creativity within and across disciplines, and how we can foster the magic that occurs when art and artists labeled as 'outside the norm' are supported. 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.

More information about the aMaSSiT program, this year's artists, reservations for the *BEE* pre-show conversation, and tickets for the informal showings are available at dancecomplex.org.

This performance will take place in our vibrant street level Studio 7, with an intimate cabaret-like setting. 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 Sandy Aldieri, Perceptions Photography, courtesy of aMaSSiT artist Jessica Roseman

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The Dance Complex's Annual Teaching Artists & Student Concert

More About The Artists:

Anjali Nath

Anjali Nath has emerged as a powerful voice in the field of kathak dance. Known for her swift chakkars (spins), crisp footwork and delicate abhinaya, Anjali's solo performances are rooted deeply in the kathak tradition, dazzling to watch, and deeply moving. A disciple of kathak maestro, Pandit Chitresh Das and his senior disciple, Gretchen Hayden, she has trained extensively in the pure tradition of the art from Boston to CA. Anjali performed and toured extensively as a member of the Chitresh Das Dance Company (CDDC) in the US and India at prestigious venues and cities such as the Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, Roy and Edna Disney Cal/Arts Theater, Kohler Arts Center, and National Centre for Performing Arts in Mumbai. She has performed in the critically acclaimed performances including Shiva, Shabd, and Sita Haran, where she played the lead as Sita.

Anjali is currently developing a new solo repertoire, choreography and works for the Chhandika Youth Ensemble and Chhandika Dance Ensemble, promoting her duet collaboration based on the kathak solo tradition in Voice of Kathak, developing her new kathak-tap collaboration called Synced., and more to be revealed at a later date.

Anjali is dedicated to promoting and elevating the art of kathak with integrity through her performance and creative endeavors and as a senior artist and instructor of the Chhandika Institute of Kathak Dance in the Greater Boston area, training children through adults and opening up professional avenues for the next generations of artists. As passed on by Pandit Das, Anjali wholeheartedly believes that kathak is a vehicle to self-realization and service to society and Anjali is dedicated to lifelong learning and exploration, engaging broad audiences and participants in the dynamic art of kathak through her solo and collaborative performances, outreach performances and workshops, including through Young Audience of Massachusetts.

Anjali holds a B.A. in Psychology from Tufts University and a Masters in Public Health from Boston University. She has passionately pursued her career in Kathak and public health simultaneously for over 20 years working with communities and engaging youth in leadership and activities to improve self-esteem and overall health and well-being.

Jake Crawford

Jake is a dancer, choreographer, and visual artist in the Boston area. He is a recent graduate of Salem State University, where he achieved his BA in Contemporary/Modern Dance and 3-Dimensional Studio Art and Design. He choreographed for SSU's Repertory Dance Theatre and Salem Dance Ensemble for five years, which led him to present his work at the American College Dance Association Conferences at Rhode Island College and Springfield College. His work has recently been showcased at Endicott College, The Pingree School, and the Salem Arts Festival. Jake has recently joined the Boston Burlesque community, and performs with the Betsi Feathers throughout the North Shore area.

His eclectic style combines contemporary/modern movement with elements of jazz and hip hop to confront themes surrounding gender and sexual identity. He merges his practice in visual arts and movement to create sculptural movement, which is juxtaposed with highly athletic and pedestrian movement. Jake uses his work as a bridge for audiences and queer theory and the queer community.

Jessica Roseman

Jessica Roseman incorporates healing arts philosophies into her improvisational choreography. Sensing and expressing the right action for the moment guides her work. She studied Dance and African American Studies with Honors at

Wesleyan University. Jessica's solo choreography has been presented by the Miami Light Project, Wesleyan University, The Dance Complex, and The Field. Jessica recently was honored with an Associate Artist residency at the Atlantic Center for the Arts to work intensively with Deborah Hay. She danced professionally in New York where she was a founding member of Prowess, a downtown dance collective for women of color. In Miami, she managed and toured internationally with improvisational company Mary Street Dance Theatre. She has performed with Bebe Miller, Clarinda Mac Low, and Headlong Dance Theater, among others. She lives with her 8 year old twin son and daughter in Lexington, where she privately practices therapeutic massage and the Feldenkrais Method.

La'Toya Princess Jackson

ElectrKPrincess is a songwriter-recording artist, dancer-performing artist out of Atlanta, Georgia. As a dancer her movement style is lyrical. Infusing classical ballet influences as a dancer with her eclectic 80s influence as a performing artist, ElectrKPrincess creates a visual experience encompassing music, dance and performance.

ElectrKPrincess launched her career as a songwriter writing hooks for rap artists such as Killer Mike and other independent pop artists with the help of her mentors NO.I.D. & LROC. Striking out on her own as an Electro-pop artist, ElectrKPrincess has created her own lane as a recording artist and dance performance artist.

As a classically trained dancer, ElectrKPrincess takes an innovative approach of combining classical ballet and other dance styles like jazz & modern choreography to her live performances, videos and concerts. Blending the different elements of dance with her retro/ electro-pop sound creates a stunning visual for dance music lovers and for those who admire the poise, elegance & gracefulness of dance.

Pampi

A 20+-year newcomer-settler-resident of Massachuset and Wompanoag land, Pampi is a darker-skinned nonbinary second-genx casteD-Bengali culture worker who flourishes the intersection of healing and education and develops community-centered art that releases creative potential and drives collective change-making.

Only recently it dawned on them that they have been developing a contemporary version of the natak - a musical dance theater form indigenous to S. Asia - one rooted in its complex histories and one seeded in them since childhood. Each time they perform Pampi hopes to acknowledge the complex history of colonialism (both European and Hindu) in forms we know as temple dance and kathak that ultimately was born as repressive economic sanction on womxn (compelled to live as courtesan/ sex workers) who were and remain of communities treated as low or out of caste (Dalit); they acknowledge the more recent (continued and violent) history that allowed temple dance to be acceptable for upper-caste people (like themself) to perform.

Rochelle Zordich

As a member of the Minneapolis youth dance company Young Dance for 11 years, Rochelle had the unparalleled opportunity to create and perform her work in front of an audience, starting at the age of 7; not only creating solo work but also large group pieces. This started a lifelong love of creating and sharing dance. She also attended an arts high school, where she expanded her skills and choreographic voice.

While she did continue her dance education and creation part time through college and beyond, she took a bit of a right turn from the dance path to explore materials engineering, in which she got her degree. She continues to make dance at home in the living room, while taking what dance classes she finds where ever she is at the time (she's moved a fair amount in the past 5 years). She has been on a bit of a hiatus from dance this year due to moving 3 times within 9 months and starting a new position here in MA. Now she is ready to jump back in to choreography and dance and cannot wait to see where it will take her.