

# | THE DanceComplex |

536 Massachusetts Ave. - Cambridge MA 02139 - [dancecomplex.org](http://dancecomplex.org)

## PRESS RELEASE FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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536 Massachusetts Ave. Cambridge, MA 02139 | [dancecomplex.org](http://dancecomplex.org)

## THE DANCE COMPLEX PRESENTS FESTIVAL OF US, YOU, WE, & THEM



Photo By Olivia Blaisdell/HalfAsianLens

The Dance Complex celebrates our diverse and eclectic Boston Dance Community with the eighth annual Festival of Us, You, We & Them; inviting the community at large to sample new movement styles, engage in conversation, and witness and interact with performances- each participant taking a deeper step into their journey as a moving body and into our community. (And we always find a way to offer the unconventional and stretch the definition of dance, so be on the lookout for multiple art mediums - music? - puppets? - devised theatre? - to bust a move!) Events throughout the weekend are offered free and at low costs both virtually, and in-person. The festival will span Starlight Square, University Park, and our 536 Massachusetts Ave. studios. The Festival of Us, You, We & Them Concert will be featured at Starlight Square on the evenings of July 24th at 7:30PM and 25th at 4:30PM celebrating artists from throughout our community.

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More Information on the Offerings:

## **Festival Kick-Off!**

Date/Time: Friday, July 23rd, 4:30pm - 5:00pm

Location: The Dance Complex Sidewalk

Description: Opening remarks by Peter DiMuro and Jean Appolon, with drumming from musicians of Jean Appolon Expressions.

## **Jessica Roseman**

Date/Time: Friday, July 23rd, 5:00pm - 5:30pm

Location: The Dance Complex Studio 1

Description: In NOURISH, local dance artist Jessica Roseman offers creative connections between dance, racial justice, and nourishing ourselves. She will teach short movement scores that combine sensory awareness, history, and dancing towards a gentle, good place. NOURISH is for all ages, no dance experience necessary.

## **Collaboration Project: Julian Loida, Ivana Jia, Kristin Cooper Wagner, Lysander Jaffe, Chavi Bansal, Lucy Little**

Date/Time: Friday, July 23rd, 5:30pm

Location: The Dance Complex Studio 1

Description: This performance will engage and inspire local audiences with live music and dance after a difficult year, bringing community members together safely outdoors. It will expose residents of Cambridge and surrounding towns to diverse modes of cultural expression from around the world, broadening their aesthetic horizons and fostering appreciation for cultural diversity in the local community. For this project performers are playing Balkan, Turkish and Iranian music live with Lucy Little on Violin, Lysander Jaffe on Viola and Julian Loida on Vibraphone the love music will be accompanied by a live dance performance with Dancers, Chavi Bansal, Ivana Jia and Kristin Wagner Cooper.

## **KAIROS Dance Theater**

Date/Time: Friday, July 23rd, 5:30pm

Location: The Dance Complex Studio 1

Description: Presenting: "husk/vessel", made in collaboration with choreographer Paula Josa-Jones, which explores costume as both covering and habitat. Dancers move within a unique garment-world of their own, exploring gradual and abrupt transformations and interactions, sharing common space as solos, duets, and as an ensemble. This dance asks how we shape images of self and others, and how our environment, including dress, affects our perception and movement, and the ways that we are perceived by others. What is performative and what is not; what are the boundaries and intersections between viewers and viewed?

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## **Natalie Johnson Dance**

Date/Time: Friday July 23rd, 5:30pm

Location: The Dance Complex Studio 1

Description: This is a new Modern dance trio that evolves into a duet, all set to the classical sounds of Vivaldi. An uplifting concerto is followed by reverential opera music, as the dancers flow through athletic and joyful movement into an intricate and quirky duo.

## **Lisa Simon**

Date/Time: Friday, July 23rd, 6:00pm - 6:30pm

Location: The Dance Complex Studio 1

Description: Mixed level Jazz class - any comfortable clothes, socks, jazz shoes/sneakers.

## **beheard.world**

Date/Time: Friday, July 23rd 6:30pm

Location: The Dance Complex Studio 1

Description: During the COVID-- 19 epidemic, beheard.world and its team of social justice artists (dancers, poets, choreographers and filmmakers) created "Together" -- 6 Feet Apart, a stimulating 23-minute film, made to bring understanding and healing to the deeper issues of racism.

## **Flamenco for Life**

Date/Time: Friday, July 23rd 6:30pm

Location: The Dance Complex Studio 1

Description: We all had this challenging situation for more than one year, older adults have been taking flamenco classes working hard remotely and Flamenco for Life would like to share their performance video to celebrate the festival of us of the Dance Complex. This video includes a demonstration of class so that there is an opportunity to learn about flamenco remotely where you are and enjoy having a flamenco experience.

## **Laura Sanchez Flamenco Co.**

Date/Time: Friday, July 23rd, 6:30pm

Location: The Dance Complex Studio 1

Description: We have created a short video dance-documentary that will be premiered during the Festival of Us to present the stories behind our performers and what this first in-person experience meant to our community. This short documentary aims to bring awareness about the importance of the arts to overcome difficult times, such as Covid-19, and the necessity to bring communities back together to heal.

## **Nora Stephens / Derek Nieverglet**

Date/Time: Friday, July 23rd, 6:30pm

Location: The Dance Complex Studio 1

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Description: "pandemic motel" is a dance of embodied purging and attempt at healing. Stuck in quarantine while recovering from Covid-19, recorded is my reemergence from a forced reflection with a vulnerable body and a fluctuating sense of time. In confinement, my one room, one frame perspective yearns for and creates its own multiplicity. The body cuts and defines the frame and also re-frames, presents and re-presents.

## **Olivia Evans**

Date/Time: Friday, July 23rd, 6:30pm

Location: The Dance Complex Studio 1

Description: This work features 5 dancers performing original contemporary/ballet choreography. We filmed around Boston, and the final product has the intent of demonstrating that dance and art can be discovered, embraced, and enjoyed even in the ordinary public and amidst a pandemic.

## **Integrate Dance Art Movement Center**

Date/Time: Friday, July 23rd, 6:30pm

Location: The Dance Complex Studio 1

Description: This work is a presentation of classical repertoire that demonstrates a progression through a ballet barre and center. It features the 23 students who were a part of Integrate's Pre-Professional Training Program in the 2020-2021 year.

## **Annie Kloppenberg & Co.**

Date/Time: Friday, July 23rd, 6:30pm

Location: The Dance Complex Studio 1

Description: This is a short dance film featuring Todd Coulter and Kelly Bartnik.

## **Julianne Corey**

Date/Time: Saturday, July 24th, 10:00am - 11:00am

Location: University Park

Description: Nia is a sensory-based movement practice that draws from martial arts, dance arts and healing arts. It empowers people of all shapes and sizes by connecting the body, mind, emotions and spirit. Classes are taken barefoot to soul-stirring music in more than 45 countries. Training is designed for those seeking personal enrichment and professional development. Every experience can be adapted to individual needs and abilities.

## **Open Session with Carl Alleyne and Elmer Martinez**

Date/Time: Saturday, July 24th, 11:00am - 12:00pm

Location: The Dance Complex Studio 1

Description: This is an open community space (similar to an open gym) to celebrate together, train skills together and learn from each other in the context of Hip-Hop and Afro-Diasporic Arts (Dance). It is a space where anyone from first time guests to pioneers of Hip-Hop culture can sit together at the table

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and break bread- walk away feeling more enlightened about a different point of view. It's also a space where contemporaries from within the culture can inspire each other to grow stronger in their practice. In short it's a dance party/training space where we are presented with the opportunity to gain mindfulness in not only our technical training but our interpersonal and intimate relationships. There is no expectation of skill level or prior dance experience. Folks are invited to have fun and be prepared to sweat in a low pressure - high energy environment.

## **Open Forum: Teaching Hip Hop**

Date/Time: Saturday, July 24th, 12:00pm - 1:00pm

Location: The Dance Complex Studio 1

Description: Forums are a good opportunity to codify and set a standard of what hip-hop practitioners are teaching across our community. They serve as an introduction to the faces, voices and ideas of the community. We aim to hold to light ideas that can inspire and encourage positive-equitable, infrastructural change to the relationships between Hip-Hop artists and their local institutions. These conversations are relevant for anyone who wants to play a productive role in their own ethical development and practice of Hip-Hop arts. This is also an opportunity for people to present their points of views and devised practices in a constructive environment.

## **Seyyide Sultan**

Date/Time: Saturday, July 24th, 2:00pm - 3:00pm

Location: University Park

Description: An introduction to raks sharqi (oriental dance) by Seyyide. In this class, Seyyide will introduce the 3 basic families of movements characteristic of "belly dance," compare and contrast the posture and mechanics of these movements with the mechanics and posture of most Western dances, as well as get everyone to perform a short combination using the movements introduced before. Appropriate for anybody, no previous dance experience required. Wear dance shoes or barefoot if indoors, and comfortable clothes as you would wear for yoga or any other dance class. If possible, bring a scarf that you can tie around your hips -- not required.

## **Shake n' Bake Dancers**

Date/Time: Saturday, July 24th, 2:30pm

Location: Starlight Square

Description: "Neck" is a suite of three dances, for two dancers, Jim Banta and Paul Kafka-Gibbons. This work was developed at the Dance Complex over the last few months, and premiered at the Thang festival at the Armory in Somerville last week. The first piece is a Bach harpsichord piece, and one dancer is the ballet dancer, the other an abstract bird. The second piece is a rock love ballad called Up To My Neck in You with a modern dance duet. The third piece is a modified ballroom, modified primarily because the two dancers are joined by a strip of velcro across their torsos. The fourth piece is the Bach again (who says you can't go bach again?) but with the roles reversed: bird becomes ballet dancer, ballet dancer bird.

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## **Emily Bloomenthal**

Date/Time: Saturday, July 24th, 2:30

Location: Starlight Square

Description: A solo dance to the David Brubeck Quartet's song "Take Five."

## **Sofia Engelman & Em Papineau**

Date/Time: Saturday, July 24th, 3:00pm

Location: The Dance Complex Studio 2

Description: A Postmodern/Contemporary Dance Performance.

## **Liz Roncka and Matthew Azevedo**

Date/Time: Saturday, July 24th, 3:00pm

Location: The Dance Complex Studio 2

Description: The piece will be an improvised duet between movement improviser, Liz Roncka, and sound artist, Matthew Azevedo. Genre of music: electronic spectral minimalism.

## **Stephanie Lamprea, Soprano**

Date/Time: Saturday, July 24th, 3:00pm

Location: University Park

Description: A music performance setting poetry and sounds of the natural world to unaccompanied soprano voice, as well as voice plus electronics, with words written by female poets from the 19th through 21st centuries. The style of music ranges from classical to avant garde and electronic mediums. From wordless soundscapes of interpretations of trees to musical settings of nature poetry by Hilda Doolittle, Edith Wharton, Dona Masini and Lucy Corin, the audience is met with vibrant and vulnerable interpretations of text, soaring vocalises, and mercurial acrobatics abound.

## **Seyyide Sultan & Sarab-Mirage**

Date/Time: Saturday, July 24th, 3:00pm

Location: University Park

Description: Egyptian Raks Sharki (oriental dance, aka "belly dance") and Egyptian baladi/folklore. Sarab-Mirage is a dance company founded by Seyyide Sultan, to bring the beautiful art of Oriental Dance to the stage. Presenting some pieces choreographed by Seyyide, plus a touch of solo improvisation.

## **Ian Spencer Bell**

Date/Time: Saturday, July 24th, 4:00pm

Location: University Park

Description: A performance of the trio "Banderole," an outdoor contemporary dance work originally created for the gardens of Edith Wharton's Berkshire estate. The work is danced in sneakers on lawns

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and flat gravel areas and uses silence and recorded music from Max Richter's "Sleep." The tone is meditative.

## **Yuling Spanish Dance**

Date/Time: Saturday, July 24th, 3:00pm - 4:00pm

Location: Starlight Square

Description: This class will guide participants to experience the empowerment of Flamenco movement. Participants are welcome to bring a pair of shoes (Flamenco shoes, character shoes, Jazz shoes or Gym shoes are all welcome). By the end of the class, dancers from Yuling Spanish Dance will present choreography to help the participants visualize the Flamenco art.

## **Embodied Connection: A Community Conversation**

Date/Time: Saturday, July 24th, 4:00pm - 5:15pm

Location: Starlight Square

Description: The intention of this session is to hold a community conversation on how we move through the pandemic, individually and collectively. We will share insight and considerations around coming back into physical space, moving together in close proximity, embodied responses to safety and collective trauma, and even how we may envision continuing to craft embodied online and/or hybrid movement and somatic community.

## **In Divine Company**

Date/Time: Saturday, July 24th 7:30pm

Sunday July 25th 4:30pm

Location: Starlight Square

Description: A brief contemporary natok scene - musical dance bit.

## **Krithika Rajkumar**

Date/Time: Saturday, July 24th 7:30pm

Location: Starlight Square

Description: A Bharatanatyam (South Indian Classical) dance piece intended for anyone who wishes to gain some knowledge and exposure to the art form. This solo will be a Thillana, typically a finale number in Bharatanatyam performance, and it is a representation of pure dance or Nritta.

## **Marcus Santos' Grooversity**

Date/Time: Saturday, July 24th, 7:30pm

Location: Starlight Square

Description: Afro Brazilian Drum and Dance Show Drumming and dance show meant to have people dancing and jumping. It's a high energy show highlighting the music and dance of the African heritage capital of Brazil and Marcus' hometown; Salvador city in Bahia.



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## **Linda Marie Possa**

Date/Time: Saturday July 24th, 7:30pm

Sunday, July 25th, 4:30pm

Location: Starlight Square

Description: Linda Marie Possa is a local drag queen in Boston. The performance will be a depiction of the Latinx experience in Boston. Specifically, brown Latinx excellence. It is a performance that celebrates Latinx people in the Cambridge area, and gives a message of inclusion and visibility. It invites my audience to party and dance to the tune of classic and modern Latinx music, with live vocals and classic, upbeat drag queen lip syncs of big hits.

## **Jackie O'Riley & Rebecca McGowan**

Date/Time: Saturday, July 24th, 7:30pm

Sunday, July 25th, 4:30pm

Location: Starlight Square

Description: A performance of traditional, old-style Irish dance and music, featuring original and traditional work. Close unison dance duet and live music.

## **Sole Rhythmics**

Date/Time: Saturday, July 24th, 7:30pm

Sunday, July 25th, 4:30pm

Location: Starlight Square

Description: Freestyle house dance

## **Laura Sanchez Flamenco Co.**

Date/Time: Sunday, July 25th, 10:00am - 10:45am

Location: The Dance Complex Studio 7

Description: Join us for an In person Outdoor flamenco class with Laura Sanchez and enjoy a flamenco demonstration from her students from The Dance Complex! Have an introduction to this art form, reconnect with the art of Flamenco in person after a Covid19 year or come and celebrate life dancing flamenco with our supportive community! No experience required, kids and adults are welcome.

## **Ken Pierce Baroque Dance Company**

Date/Time: Sunday, July 25th, 11:00am - 12:00pm

Location: The Dance Complex Studio 7

Description: A brief introduction to Baroque dance: commonly used steps and some of their variants, and the relationship between dance and music in different rhythms and meters. A movement class suitable for those with little or no Baroque dance experience. Wear soft-soled shoes (for example, jazz shoes, dance sneakers, or t-strap teaching sandals) and comfortable dance clothing.



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## **Janelle Gilchrist Dance Troupe**

Date/Time: Sunday, July 25th, 12:00pm

Location: The Dance Complex Studio 7

Description: The piece was inspired by the pandemic. Specifically, masks vs. No masks and the struggles that go with that dynamic. The audience would be for dance enthusiasts, people who appreciate dance, and people who appreciate live performance.

## **teXtmoVes**

Date/Time: Sunday, July 25th, 12:00pm

Location: The Dance Complex Studio 7

Description: A performance of the collaboration of Judson Evans, poet, and dancers Audrey Albert King, Katrina Obarski, Teresa Fardella presenting The Way Things Go. The intended audience is teenage to elderly, poets, dancers themselves or those who enjoy watching innovative combinations of poems and dances.

## **Moveable Art Group**

Date/Time: Sunday, July 25th, 12:00pm

Location: The Dance Complex Studio 7

Description: "Companions Required" is a collaboration between composer, Liza Kitchell, and dancer, Paul Kafka-Gibbons. It explores through spoken word, narrative, dance and music the importance of friendship in creativity. It is a staged monologue, by the composer, about the challenges she faced as a young woman and then as a mother in finding her voice as a composer. The piece contains live piano/vocals performed on a moveable keyboard. "Companions Required" culminates with a dance choreographed to the composer's setting of poetry by G. P. Skratz, a Bay Area poet who is a dear friend of the composer's.

## **Ken Pierce**

Date/Time: Sunday, July 25th, 12:30pm

Location: Starlight Square

Description: An informal presentation of Baroque dance solo and duo material by Ken Pierce and Camilla Finlay, with commentary about "what makes a Baroque dance".

## **Jennifer Lin**

Date/Time: Sunday, July 25th, 1:00pm - 2:00pm

Location: Starlight Square

Description: An open rehearsal of traditional Korean drum dance where visitors can join in and learn and practice drumming as four dancers: IJ Chan, Flora Kim, Lynn Frederiksen, and Jennifer Lin review and practice.

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## **Open Session with Carl Alleyne and Elmer Martinez**

Date/Time: Sunday, July 25th, 1:30pm - 2:30pm

Location: The Dance Complex Studio 7

Description: This is an open community space (similar to an open gym) to celebrate together, train skills together and learn from each other in the context of Hip-Hop and Afro-Diasporic Arts (Dance). It is a space where anyone from first time guests to pioneers of Hip-Hop culture can sit together at the table and break bread- walk away feeling more enlightened about a different point of view. It's also a space where contemporaries from within the culture can inspire each other to grow stronger in their practice. In short it's a dance party/training space where we are presented with the opportunity to gain mindfulness in not only our technical training but our interpersonal and intimate relationships. There is no expectation of skill level or prior dance experience. Folks are invited to have fun and be prepared to sweat in a low pressure - high energy environment.

## **Jenny Herzog**

Date/Time: Sunday, July 25th 2:00pm

Location: Starlight Square

Description: This work lies at the intersection of jazz and tap dance. It is a trio featuring Jenny Herzog (voice/tap), Jacob Hiser (piano), and James Dale (bass). The genre is primarily jazz, also incorporating some opera and original compositions. Tap dance's history is intertwined with jazz as a musical genre.

## **Last Movement Crew**

Date/Time: Sunday, July 25th 2:00pm

Location: Starlight Square

Description: Dance performance with hip hop, breakdancing, r&b, mix of genres, mixed music and live performance.

## **Open Forum: What's next in Street Dance?**

Date/Time: Sunday, July 25th, 2:30pm - 3:30pm

Location: The Dance Complex Studio 7

Description: Forums are a good opportunity to codify and set a standard of what hip-hop practitioners are teaching across our community. They serve as an introduction to the faces, voices and ideas of the community. We aim to hold to light ideas that can inspire and encourage positive-equitable, infrastructural change to the relationships between Hip-Hop artists and their local institutions. These conversations are relevant for anyone who wants to play a productive role in their own ethical development and practice of Hip-Hop arts. This is also an opportunity for people to present their points of views and devised practices in a constructive environment.

## **Johara & Snake Dance Theater**

Date/Time: Sunday, July 25th, 3:00pm - 3:30pm

Location: University Park

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Description: Discover the beautiful movements of Middle Eastern belly dance, also known as raqs sharqi, and learn a fun combination. All bodies are welcome.

## **Johara & Snake Dance Theater**

Date/Time: Sunday, July 25th, 3:30pm

Location: University Park

Description: The dance form known by many Americans as "Bellydance," coined by the French at the Turn of the Century— is made up of diverse dancers and sub-genres (Egyptian, Turkish, American Cabaret, Tribal, and various fusion styles). In this performance, Johara Boston and members of Snake Dance Theater Company -Gina & Michelle- will present a different style of Bellydance: Egyptian Oriental, said cane dance, American Cabaret, and Tribal Fusion sword dance.

## **Etnia Fusion & Friends**

Date/Time: Sunday, July 25th, 3:30pm - 4:00pm

Location: The Dance Complex Studio 7

Description: An eclectic fusion of Japanese performing arts, encompassing Odori (folk) and Butoh dance, theatrical masks and martial arts.

All levels are welcome. No prior experience required. Loose and comfortable clothing is preferred.

## **janoah...anygoodjokes?**

Date/Time: Sunday, July 25th, 4:30pm

Location: Starlight Square

Description: "chalked up," featuring solo performer Janoah Bailin, is an interactive juggling, unicycle, dance piece in which the dropping of juggling props designates and guides movements. This work is intended for family audiences, i.e. a mix of young and adult. Tone is lighthearted and funny, with moments of intensity and focus.

## **Monkeyhouse**

Date/Time: TBD

Location: TBD

Description: Moving [Movies] Truck will show a series of short dance films on a loop so audiences can come and go as they move through the area and the rest of the festival. Proposed artists include: Angelina Benitez, Alive Dance Collective, Rachel Roccoberton, Evolve Dynamicz, Cassandre Charles, Ang Cole, Zara Williams-Nicholas & Meena Chen, Ellen Oliver, and Karen Krolak & Nicole Harris. Pieces range from modern to Hip-Hop and from large groups to solos. Choreographers are from a range of ages, backgrounds, and races.

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