



**JOE
MUSIEL**

NEW DANCES 2020

**PRESENTED BY:
THODOS DANCE CHICAGO
& DANCEWORKS CHICAGO**

EPISODE #5

FRIDAY, JUNE 26TH, 2020 5:00 PM

Finding Henry

Friday, June 26 at 5pm

New Dances 2020 is generously supported by

Lead Sponsor Compliance Program Management, LLC



Accounting, Taxation and Consulting Services

Perhaps the most important service our clients rely upon is capturing and summarizing reliable financial information, which helps guide them to effectively manage their practices. Information about collections and expenses, among other items, forms the basis for providing profitable practice management services.

Our professional services include:

- Accounting and Financial Statement Preparation
- Bookkeeping/Write-up
- Cash Flow Analysis
- Employee Benefits and Retirement Plan Administration
- Entity Selection and Restructuring
- Financial Projections and Forecasts
- IRS Audit or Review Representation
- Mergers and Acquisitions
- Payroll Services
- QuickBooks Accounting Assistance
- Taxation Services

Merus Management Group, Ltd. is built upon a tradition of service, technical expertise and innovative thinking to meet the needs of a rapidly changing world. The experience and academic credentials of our team provide our clients with the expertise of larger firms, while our commitment to superior customer service offers a personal, one-on-one approach.

Visit <https://www.merusgroup.com/> for more information.

Contact Us: Telephone: (630) 868-2200 Fax: (630) 868-2240 Email: merusgroup@merusgroup.com

Good luck to all those involved in the *New Dances 2020* project!

***NEW DANCES 2020* SUPPORTERS**

New Dances 2020 aspires to serve, celebrate, and lift up a vibrant and inclusive group of Chicago-based movers and makers. Thodos Dance Chicago and DanceWorks Chicago gratefully acknowledge the generous support of donors, who are part of NEW steps.

If you are moved by your experience, please consider a tax-deductible donation to continue the *New Dances* legacy of support for local artists and create a more sustainable and empowering future for dance and dancers in Chicago.

thodosdancechicago.org/support/ or danceworkschicago.org/support/

Wish List Angels

**Our lead sponsor Compliance Program Management, LLC,
David R. Hall & Michael C. Nugent**

Sponsorship of the creation of new work

Marta Babson
Parke and Lena Ballantine
Pam Crutchfield
Charles Gardner & Patti Eyler
Lauren Vitale
Ula Widawska

Sponsorship of *New Dances 2020* commemorative T-Shirts

Kimberly Miller

Sponsorship of the Mentorship Panel

Sharon and Bill Lear

Sponsorship of the eProgram

Diane H. and Paul C. Reilly

Sponsorship of the Open Company Classes (free to the community)

Wende Fox and Jim Lawson (*sponsorship of 2 classes*)
Gail and Robert Loveman (*sponsorship of 2 classes*)
Shannon Raglin (*sponsorship of 2 classes*)
Mary Rose Alexander and Tim Gilfoyle
Paula and Gregory Bork
Mark and Tom Ferguson Gomez
Marina Nastis

Sponsorship of Athletico Physical Therapy sessions

Cathy Peponis

Special Thanks

Vin Reed: Graphic Design
Lizzie Rolston, Athletico

NEW DANCES 2020 SUPPORTERS

Thank you to our Lead Sponsor **Compliance Program Management, LLC**
for donating \$2,500 to create our matching campaign.

\$500+ Donors

Ann Reinking
Kim Vatis
Lesli Babbs, in honor and memory of Marian Babbs

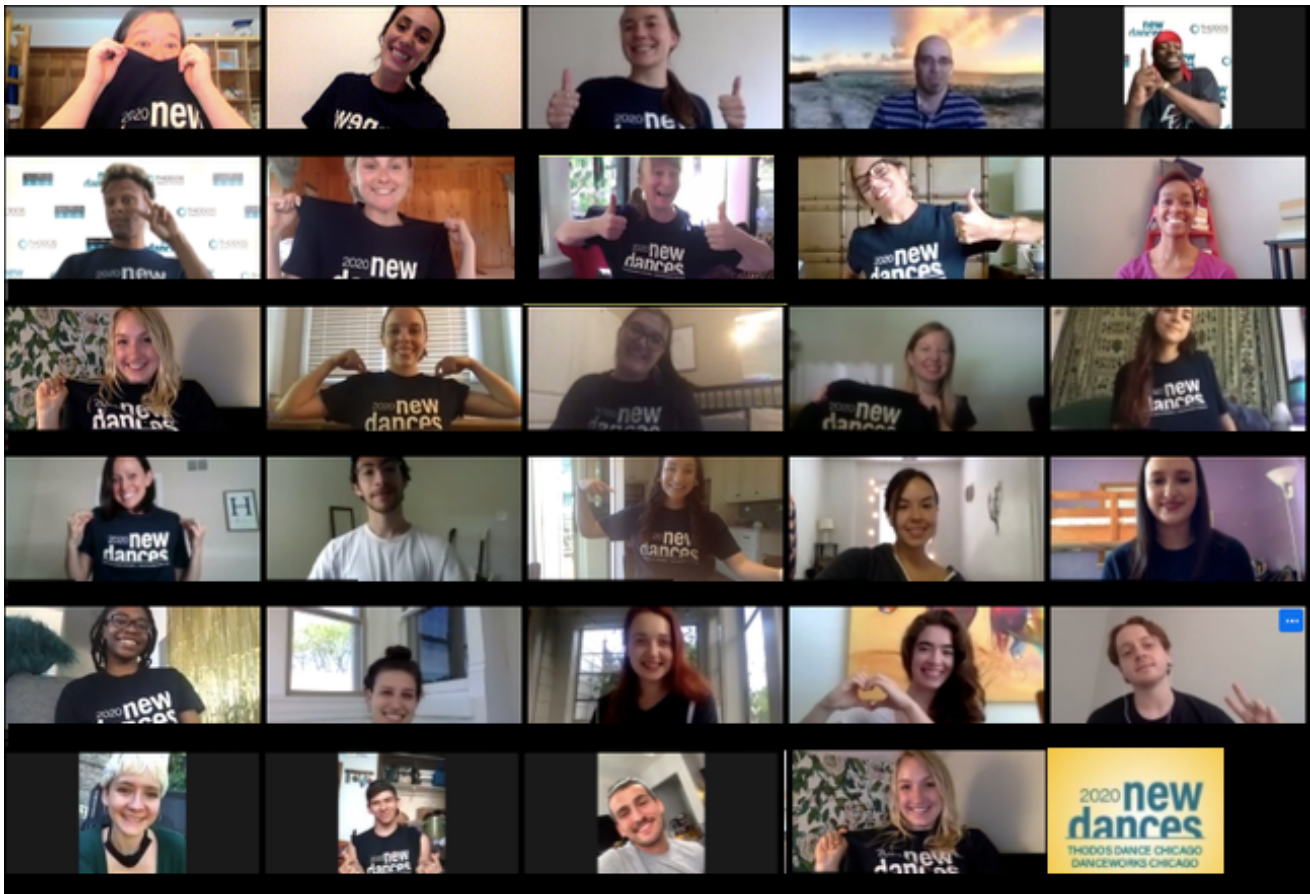
\$100-\$499 Donors

Lewis Lampiris, in honor and memory of Donald Hunter
Carole Berk
Mark and Tom Ferguson Gomez
Sandra McNaughton
Lena Thodos

up to \$100 Donors

Rick and Kathy Altosino
Cindy and Tim Webb
Lisa & Bill Paul
Lisa Myklestad
Matt Johnson
Stephanie Clemens
Gabby Salazar
John Tutaj
Michelle Kuranty
Corinne Jones
Donald Jones

Grateful to be supported and happy to support!



20% off
your next purchase in
store or online at
CounterCoffee.com

coupon code: DANCE20
limit one per person

counter coffee

7324 Madison St — Forest Park, IL 60130 — countercoffee.com

See
CHICAGO
DANCE

Providing vital
marketing and
advocacy services to
over 200 diverse
dance organizations!

To fearlessly
inspire an
ever-growing
inclusive
community
to share in
and spread
the **power**
of dance in
Chicago

The
hub
for
Chicago's
vibrant
dance
community!

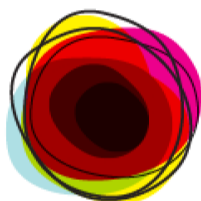
Get discounted tickets,
professional reviews, and
upcoming dance events
directly to your inbox!

SIGN UP TODAY AT

SeeChicagoDance.com

Fighting for
resources
policies
and systems
that benefit us all.

Join us.



**ARTS
ALLIANCE
ILLINOIS**
GIVE VOICE TO A
CREATIVE STATE



The **Academy of Movement and Music** in
Oak Park offers young dancers an opportunity
to grow up studying ballet, jazz and modern,
and to dance historical and contemporary
works with MOMENTA, the resident dance
company of the Academy. From preschool
through pre-professional -

www.academyofmovementandmusic.com

NEW DANCES 2020

About Thodos Dance Chicago

Melissa Thodos, a choreographer, educator, and performer for over 30 years, founded Thodos Dance Chicago in 1992. For 25 years, the company offered dancers a place to perform, a place to create new work and a place to educate the next generation of dancers. Thodos Dance Chicago successfully performed and taught for over one million dance fans in Chicago, across the country in 27 states, and around the world on five continents.

In its 28th year, Thodos Dance Chicago has evolved to undertake projects that provide the greatest impact in the Chicago community and beyond as a project-based dance organization. Our mission is to engage and enrich the community through dance creation, advocacy, education, mentorship and production. TDC is also working with Emmy Award-winning filmmaker Chris Olsen on creating documentaries and film about the development of and the performance of some of the Company's high profile signature story ballets and dance theater works. For more information, visit <https://thodosdancechicago.org/>.

TDC BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Kim Vatis, President

Shannon Raglin, Vice President

Lesli Babbs, Secretary

Rick Johnston

Christine Nappo

Diane H. Reilly

About DanceWorks Chicago

Founded in May 2007, DanceWorks Chicago is committed to building a foundation for early career artists by providing a laboratory from which dancers and choreographers propel themselves and the art form to a new level of artistry through training, collaboration, mentorship, and performance. DWC's efforts to nurture and convene a diverse next generation of artists, audience, and dance citizens, inspires, empowers, and contributes to a sustainable future for dance.

For more information, visit <https://www.danceworkschicago.org/>.

DWC BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Leah Kaiser, President

Lauren Vitale, Treasurer

Jane Acker, Secretary

Lena Ballantine

Parke Ballantine

Kirstin L. Jones

Kimberly Miller

Ula Widawska

ABOUT NEW DANCES

For over 30 years, New Dances has fostered dance creation as one of Chicago's first and most extensive choreography incubation programs. Founded by The Chicago Repertory Dance Ensemble in the 1980's, continued since 2000 by Thodos Dance Chicago (TDC), and in partnership with DanceWorks Chicago (DWC) since 2018, *New Dances* offers opportunities for emerging choreographers to realize and share their creative vision with the community. Thank you for joining us to celebrate the 20th anniversary of New Dances under the TDC umbrella. Every year is a special year. This year has been a year of firsts. A record number of dancers from the Chicagoland area participated in the first-ever virtual audition. The six *New Dances* choreographers created a short audition prompt, and dancers recorded and uploaded their responses. Over seventy applications were received, and each choreographer reviewed the dancers' work in order to complete their casting wish list. Choreographer Joanna Meccia recalled, "Wow! What an incredibly moving/stirring 48 hours. There was something so inspiring about watching these audition videos, as the dancers were not only vulnerable in auditioning, but also in their willingness to open up their own spaces to record. You really get to see a piece of who they are." From dancer Ali Webb, "I am looking forward to pushing the bounds of our field through a virtual platform and creating something entirely new with everyone involved. What an exciting and innovative time!!!!"

Guided by the 3 R's of *New Dances* 2020, respectful, responsible, and resourceful, a collaborative decision to prioritize safety and proceed with virtual open company classes and rehearsals was made by the choreographers and artistic directors. Thanks to the generosity of a consortium of funders, open company classes were free and welcomed dancers from Chicago and beyond. Choreographers and dancers collaborated on virtual rehearsals, stretching their creative muscles to achieve shared artistic goals and being resourceful about using challenges as opportunities for exploration. A mid-point sharing with our Mentorship Panel provided valuable feedback from "outside eyes". Mentors will attend a performance and offer post-process thoughts to each of the choreographers.

This performance is a moment. A moment in the journey that has been *New Dances* 2020. A moment that is part of each individual artist journey. A moment that may fuel a broader journey, if we have the courage and stamina to act. Team *New Dances* is committed to supporting the Chicago community in the spirit of coming together around necessary change. A portion of revenues from ticket sales for each performance will be donated to Chicago-based beneficiaries selected by the artists of *New Dances* 2020. Joe's beneficiary is *Affinity Community Services*.

There has been a lot of NEW in *New Dances* this season, including work behind-the-scenes. Gratitude to administrative and production staff for bringing their openness and talents to the table. Grateful to you, our audience, for your support of the individual and collective journey.

Thank you for being part of history by attending a first-ever New Dances artist episode!

Let's continue the work to make history and combine moments into movements. In dance, transitions are unseen heroes. Tap into your inner hero/shero, and let's do the work. Together .

ABOUT THE DIRECTORS



Melissa Thodos, TDC Founder & Artistic Director

At the age of six, Melissa Thodos wanted to really MOVE....so she did, by training at the Evanston School of Ballet, choreographing in High School, and doing both at Skidmore College. Following academia, she became a featured performer educator and choreographer with The Chicago Repertory Dance Ensemble performing works by Paul Taylor, Lar Lubovitch and Ze'eva Cohen among others until founding Thodos Dance Chicago in 1992. Thodos Dance Chicago served as a platform for her own choreography and for other American choreographers from the national dance landscape. Melissa also collaborated with such noted artists as Ann Reinking, Yoko Ono, and architect Jeanne Gang to bring blended vision and voices to the stage. For a quarter of a century, the Company performed in over 25 states and 6 continents, and beyond the stage Melissa created a professional environment that not only trained dancers, but also nurtured them as choreographers, and activated them to grow as educators. *New Dances* was part of the Thodos Dance Chicago's fabric and structure since 2000 and it is thrilling that this special project continues today in collaboration with DanceWorks Chicago.



Julie Nakagawa, DWC Co-Founder & Artistic Director

From Evanston, IL, Julie was a featured dancer with Christopher D'Amboise's Off Center Ballet, Cleveland Ballet, and Twyla Tharp Dance. At the invitation of Lou Conte, Julie joined Lou Conte Dance Studio in January 1994 and rose to the position of Associate Director. In addition, she led Hubbard Street 2 from its inception in 1997 through February 2007, nurturing young dancers and establishing the National Choreographic Competition to provide opportunities for emerging dancemakers. Julie is a Co-founder and Artistic Director of DanceWorks Chicago, an artistic incubator focused on the holistic development of young creatives.



Always moving.

ARTIST FEATURE: JOE MUSIEL

Finding Henry

Choreography: Joe Musiel

Music: Nicholas Britell, Michael Charles Clark, Childish Gambino, Crystal Waters

Filming and editing: New Pixel Films

Dancers: Mariterese Altosino, Jacob Buerger, Andi Learman, Jacob Nahor, Imani Williams

Guest Artist: Sam Crouch

"You aren't one of those funny boys, are you?"

Joe would like his episode's ticket proceeds to be donated to Affinity Community Services.

Read more about Affinity Community Services at <https://www.affinity95.org/>



Joe Musiel (Chicago) After graduating from Indiana University in 2013, Joe joined Giordano Dance Chicago's second company, allowing him to learn from artists such as Brock Clawson and Autumn Eckman. He was a company member with Cerqua Rivera for two seasons and was a member of South Chicago Dance Theater. Performing credits also include West Side Story at the Paramount Theater and the Lyric Opera of Chicago. His work has been seen throughout the Chicago area at such events as Carnival: A Choreographers Ball, Inaside Dance, Noumenon Dance, College of DuPage Choreography Competition, Alluvion's Emergence, and Deeply Rooted Emerging Choreographer Showcase.

EPISODE SCHEDULE

Episode 1: Monday, June 22 at 6pm CST (Sydney Jones)

Sydney would like her ticket proceeds to be donated to towards Assata's Daughters

Episode 2: Tuesday, June 23 at 7pm CST (Drew Lewis)

Drew would like his ticket proceeds to be donated to towards Chicago West Community Music Center

Episode 3: Wednesday, June 24 at 1pm CST (Peyton Winker)

Peyton would like her ticket proceeds to be donated to My Block My Hood My City

Episode 4: Thursday, June 25 at 7pm CST (Joanna Meccia)

Joanna would like her ticket proceeds to be donated to Southsiders Organized for Unity & Liberation

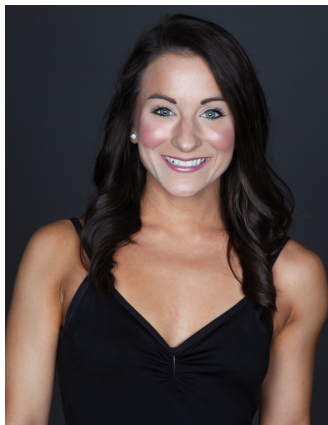
Episode 5: Friday, June 26 at 5pm CST (Joe Musiel)

Joe would like his ticket proceeds to be donated to Affinity Community Services

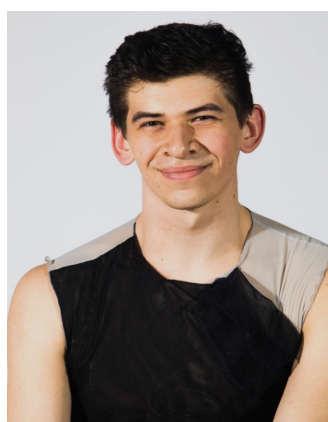
Episode 6: Saturday, June 27 at noon CST (Brian Martinez)

Brian would like his ticket proceeds to be donated to Brave Space Alliance

JOE'S DANCERS



Mariterese Altosino (Chicago) graduated from Columbia College Chicago with a dual Bachelor of Arts degree in Dance and Business Entrepreneurship. Post-graduation, Mariterese danced with Giordano Dance Chicago for four years, where she worked with world-renowned choreographers Ray Leeper, Peter Chu, and Marinda Davis and performed works by Ray Mercer, Christopher Huggins, Jon Lehrer, and Gus Giordano. Mariterese has danced professionally throughout Chicago and has made TV appearances on Windy City Live and ABC 7 News. Mariterese is continuing her performance career as a main company dancer with South Chicago Dance Theatre and Banks Performance Project.



Jacob Buerger (Chicago), originally from Bolingbrook, IL, is a Chicago-based performer and teacher. He earned his BFA in Dance from Columbia College Chicago and has performed works by Emma Draves, Carrie Hanson, Vershawn Sanders-Ward, and Thomas DeFranz. In addition, Jacob has performed with The Puzzle League, Same Planet Performance Project, and Fred Darsow Dance. He is working toward certification in Thai Body Work and exploring the world of photography. Jacob joined Hedwig Dances and Concert Dance Inc in Summer 2018.



Andi Learman (Chicago) is a graduate of Anderson University where she received a B.A. in Dance Business. Born and raised in Woodstock, Andi began dancing with Woodstock Ballet Studio. She has performed works by Earl Mosley, Eddy Ocampo and Gregory Hancock, among others. She has also been fortunate to train with Hubbard Street's Professional Program under the direction of Alexandra Wells. Andi is excited to continue growing and developing her art form.



Jacob Nahor (Chicago), a New York native, attended Walnut Hill School for the Arts and received the Honors in Dance award upon graduation. He continued his dance education at Alvin Ailey & Fordham University and London Contemporary Dance School. In his junior year, Jake joined Ballet Hispanico 2 and danced in their New York Season at The Apollo Theater. Jake participated in Springboard Danse Montréal and danced in Crystal Pite's Solo Echo, and the Contemporary Program at Jacob's Pillow. Prior to joining Hubbard Street Dance Chicago's Professional Program, Jake toured the US with the first national tour or Hofesh Shechter's Fiddler On The Roof.



Imani Williams (Chicago), from Atlanta, started dancing as a junior in high school. After graduation, Imani accepted a full scholarship at Joffrey Ballet School's (NYC) Jazz and Contemporary Program directed by Michael Blake, where he had the honor of dancing in works by former prima ballerina Margo Sappington, Tony Award-winner Chet Walker, and choreographer of *Rent* Marlies Yearby, and performing in pieces by Emily Bufferd, Lane Gifford, Tyler Gilstrap, and Sekou McMiller. Imani was featured in Joffrey Ballet School photos by Lois Greenfield. Imani has danced with Florida Dance Theater and Giordano II. Imani joined DanceWorks Chicago in September 2018.



Sam Crouch, Guest Artist, is a Michigan Native now residing in Chicago, Illinois. In 2016, he graduated with a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in Dance from Western Michigan University. Through WMU he had the opportunity to perform Ohad Naharin's *Excerpts from Minus 16*, Gerald Arpino's *Viva Vivaldi*, Antony Tudor's *Continuo*, and Lew Christensen's *Con Amore*. In Chicago, Sam was privileged to work with The Lyric Opera Of Chicago, The Lyric Opera of Kansas City, Quixotic Fusion, Aerial Dance Chicago, and Wellspring Cori Terry and Dancers. His current involvement in the dance community is a performing artist and choreographer with Hot Crowd.

MENTORSHIP PANEL



Jeff Hancock, MFA, performs, teaches, choreographs and designs movement and clothing that moves all over the place. Since 1990, dancing for River North, Hubbard Street, Same Planet and others, his dance and design life collided, supported and informed each other, and shaped his path as a teaching artist. Curiosity about movement and clothing and their mutual influence has fueled his long history of research and exploration. Recent performance: "EX/BODY", "Of Whales..." with Molly Shanahan/Mad Shak, "Volledig" with Rob Welcher. Recent choreography: "Sword-fighting and Other Things ..." with Rob Welcher, "Verge: the edge of chaos and becoming" Northwestern University.



Joshua Manculich – born in Windber, PA – is a recipient of a 2015 Princess Grace Choreography Fellowship. His choreographic adventures include: Ballet Austin II, Collage Dance Collective, DanceWorks Chicago, Dancing in the Parks, Dayton Contemporary Dance Company II, Eisenhower Dance Detroit, Grand Valley State University, Houston Contemporary Dance Company, Interlochen, Metdance, Piel Morena Contemporary Dance, Point Park University, Santa Barbara Dance Theater, The Big Muddy Dance Company, Western Michigan University, Visceral Dance Chicago, and Whim W'Him. Josh is a proud alumnus of Thodos Dance Chicago where he danced five seasons and performed works by an eclectic range of dancemakers.



Amy Wilkinson is the Executive Director of the IN/Motion Dance Film Festival. She has performed extensively as a dance artist with numerous companies including Luna Negra Dance Theatre, Same Planet Different World, CDI/Concert Dance Inc., and Thodos Dance Chicago and has presented choreography at national and international venues. Recent projects include collaborations with Mandala Dance Company in Rome, Italy and the International Choir & Orchestra of Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam. Ms. Wilkinson is on faculty at Loyola University Chicago where she makes dance films and is pursuing a PhD in High

STAFF



Ginger Jensen, DWC Operations Manager Ginger brings a lifelong commitment to dance and a passion for developing sustainable arts organizations. Originally from Nebraska, Ginger followed her ambition to Chicago to pursue the more abundant opportunities in dance. She was the founding artistic and executive director of Renegade Dance Architects (of Chicago), where she cultivated donor relationships, tripled audience capacity in one season and created a dynamic social media presence. After completing her Master's of Science in Nonprofit Management with honors from Spertus Institute in Chicago she interned at the Adler Planetarium in individual and major giving and worked as development manager for Lucky Plush Productions.



Jacob Snodgrass, Production Manager, has been designing lights and working within the performing arts community since 2000. His works have been seen with Giordano Dance Chicago, Aerial Dance Chicago, Chicago Human Rhythm Project, BONEdanse, The Dance COLEctive, Khecari Dance Theater, Breakbone Dance Company, Peter Carpenter Performance Project, Same Planet Different World, instruments of movement, Chamber Opera Chicago, Cuba's Escuela Nacional de Ballet, REIDance, Havana Cuba's DanzAbierta, Soham Dance, Concert Dance Inc. (China 2009), Joel Hall Dancers, Hedwig Dances, the Other Dance Festival, the Ruth Page Foundation, the Space Movement Project, Canada's lbs/sq", NEIU Repertory Dance, and *New Dances*. Jacob is the Lighting Director at the Dance Center of Columbia College and has been technical director at the Ruth Page Theater, Links Hall, and Hamlin Park Dance Theater.



Kristen Vasilakos, TDC General Manager A Minnesota native Kristen attended the University of Iowa where she received a B.F.A. in Dance and a B.A. in Health and Human Physiology. After graduation, Kristen joined Thodos Dance Chicago as an Intern/Trainee for the 25th Season. As an Intern/Trainee at TDC, she gained valuable skills on the administrative side of running a dance company and became the Artistic Associate for TDC in March 2018. Kristen is honored to continue with Thodos Dance Chicago as General Manager and thrilled about the continued partnership with DanceWorks Chicago in producing a third season of *New Dances*!



Emma Lambert, DWC Intern, from Dearborn Heights, MI, is recently graduated from the University of Michigan. She completed a dual degree, receiving a BS in Movement Science and a BFA in Dance. Next year Emma will be attending the Master of Management program at the Ross School of Business. She would like to work in the arts administration field post-graduation and is particularly eager to do arts management work in the dance field. Emma is very excited to work with DanceWorks Chicago this summer and to work with the *New Dances* choreographers this year!



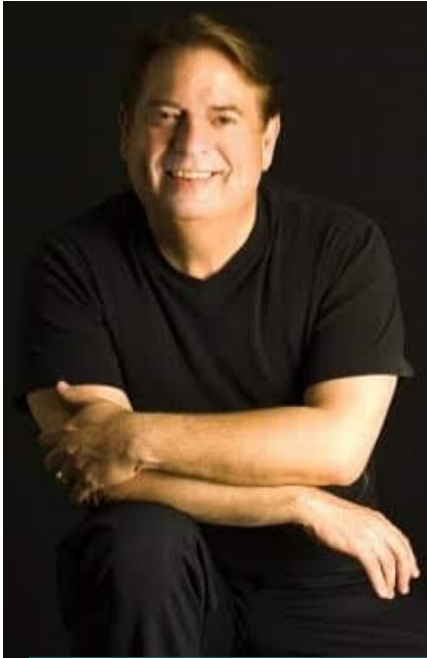
Elijah Richardson, DWC dancer (San Jose, CA) trained in figure skating, musical theatre, and classical choir from age five. Finding dance at age 12, his drive for excellence led to a BFA in Dance Performance and a minor in History from Chapman University (2018). Elijah spent summers training at Hubbard Street Dance Chicago and San Francisco Conservatory of Dance. A member of DanceWorks Chicago since September 2018, he has toured nationally and throughout Germany and worked with choreographers Shannon Alvis, Charissa-Lee Barton, Hanna Britson, and Joshua Manculich, among others. Elijah has performed with The Cambrians, Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago, and New Dances 2019. Choreography and dance films have been showcased at DanceChance, Trifecta Dance Festival, and Mobile Dance Film Festival. Elijah is grateful to exercise his skills as an adjudicator, community builder, content creator, and teacher. IG: @elijahrisharson

Organizations to Explore

*Affinity Community Services	Colorlines
*Assata's Daughters	The Conscious Kid
Antiracism Center	Crossroads Fund
Audre Lorde Project	Equal Justice Initiative (EJI)
Black Chicago Eats	George Floyd Memorial GoFundMe
Black Lives Matter	GoodKids MadCity
*Black Lives Matter Chicago	The Leadership Conference on Civil & Human Rights
The Black Star Project	Minnesota Freedom Fund
Black Visions Collective	MPowerChange
Black Women's Blueprint	*My Block, My Hood, My City
*Brave Space Alliance	NAACP
*Chicago Community Bond Fund	RAICES
Chicago Food Policy Action Council	Seasoned and Blessed
Chicago Freedom School	Showing Up for Racial Justice (SURJ)
Chicago Scholars	*Southsiders Organized for Unity and Liberation
*Chicago West Community Music Center	
Color of Change	

**Beneficiaries selected by the New Dances 2020 Company to receive proceeds from ticket sales.*

TRIBUTES



New Dances 2020 honors the memory of dear friend and lover of dance and the arts, Donald Hunter. We are grateful for your time with us as our managing director, with much love, your Thodos Dance Chicago Family

Sydney, the past few months showed us what arts, culture and dance provide in our lives and the void they leave when they are gone. I am inspired by you constantly, awed at your creativity and determination. Thank you for finding a way to do the impossible. Proud of everything you are doing!

Katie and Nick

Joanna Meccia, we are so proud of you and so excited to see what you're going to create!! Your hard work, talent, creativity, and beautiful heart have taken you so far, and the fact that you are where you are today is evidence! May God bless the work of your hands, and the meditations of your heart, and use them to touch the lives of others always. You are our precious girl.

We love you so much!!!

Lisa & Bill Paul



Sydney, I am so proud of what you have accomplished and truly admire your imagination. You fearlessly turn ideas and concepts into the beauty called dance; extracting raw emotions from the audience.

Love you, Dad!

"To Dance is to hear your Heart Speak". Thank you to Sydney Jones and the choreographers and cast of New Dances 2020 for sharing your heart with us!

In love and gratitude, Corinne Jones

**Sydney Jones, Dancing is dreaming with your feet. Keep dreaming and exploring outside the box. The entire world is opening up for you- this is only the beginning. We couldn't be prouder. I can't wait to see your vision come to life!
I Love You, Mom**



**Meredith,
We need the arts,
and we need
artists like
Meredith! Keep
exploring, keep
expressing --
Shine on, Love!**

**Congratulations
Alexandra Webb and all
the artists of 2020 New
Dances! Your Tulsa,
Oklahoma and Little
Rock, Arkansas fans**



**You're my Hero
Halina! I love you!**



**Brian,
From high school to college to our
first year post grad—I am amazed
(but not surprised) at everything
you have accomplished. Can't wait
to witness your amazing work!
Love,
Gabby**



**Crush It Halina!
You Are Dog-
Gone Good!**

Ingrid – it was a joy to watch you grow up at the Academy of Movement and Music, and a thrill now to see you take the stage with Thodos' New Dances!!

Drew - your passion has driven you to dance and create! You have come a long way from ballet at the Academy of Movement and Music!



Cornito and I Think You're Amazing Hali! We Love You!



We Are Proud of You Halina!



Mere, your grace and beauty always leave us speechless and in awe! We are so proud of you and love you so much! Love Mom & Erik

Sydney and the New Dances 2020 team,

Without a song or a dance..what are we?

So I say thank you for the music, for giving it to me

-ABBA

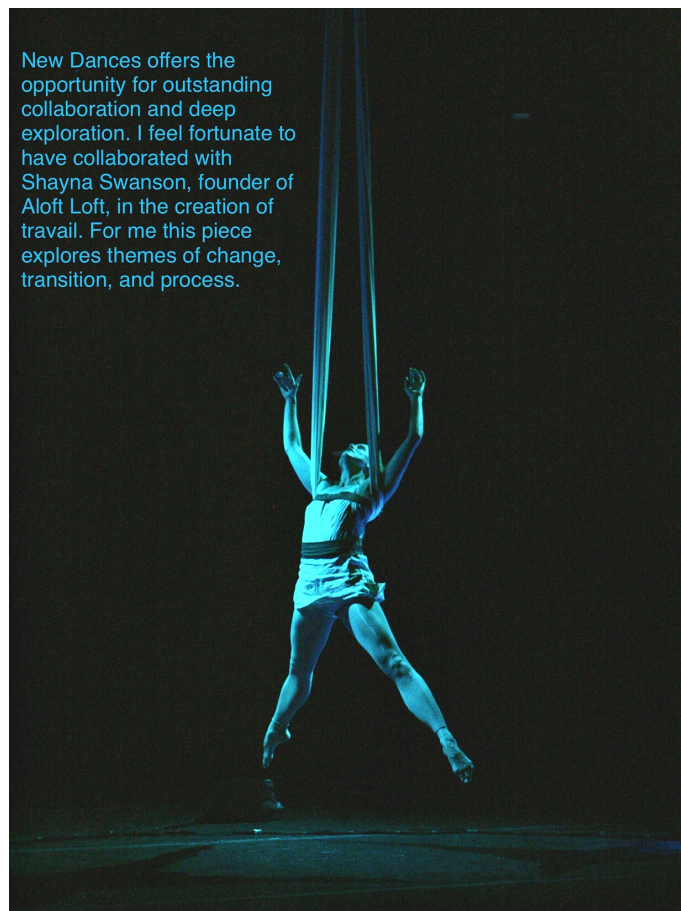
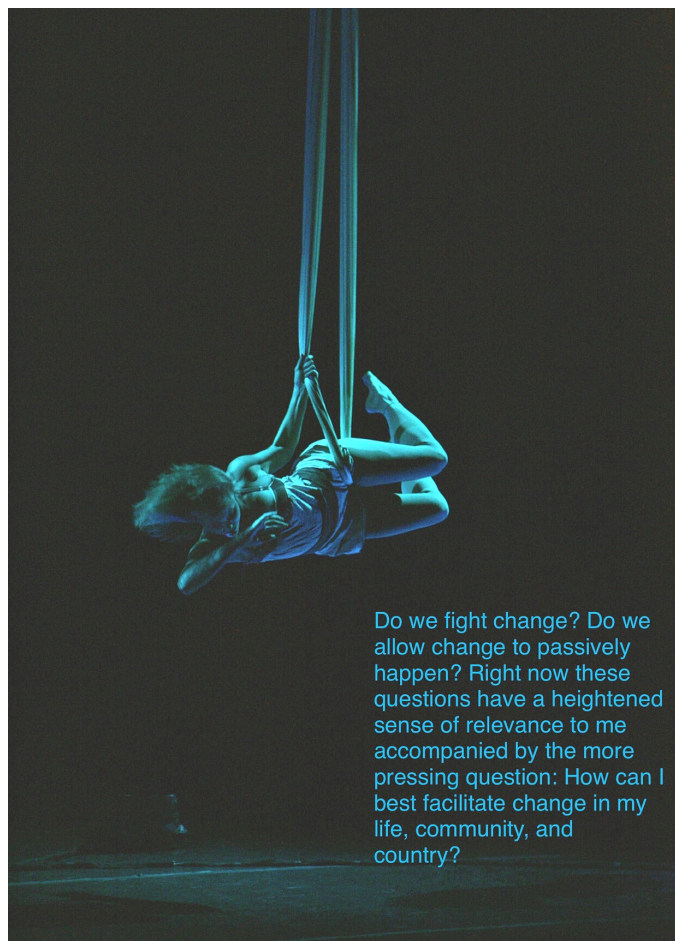
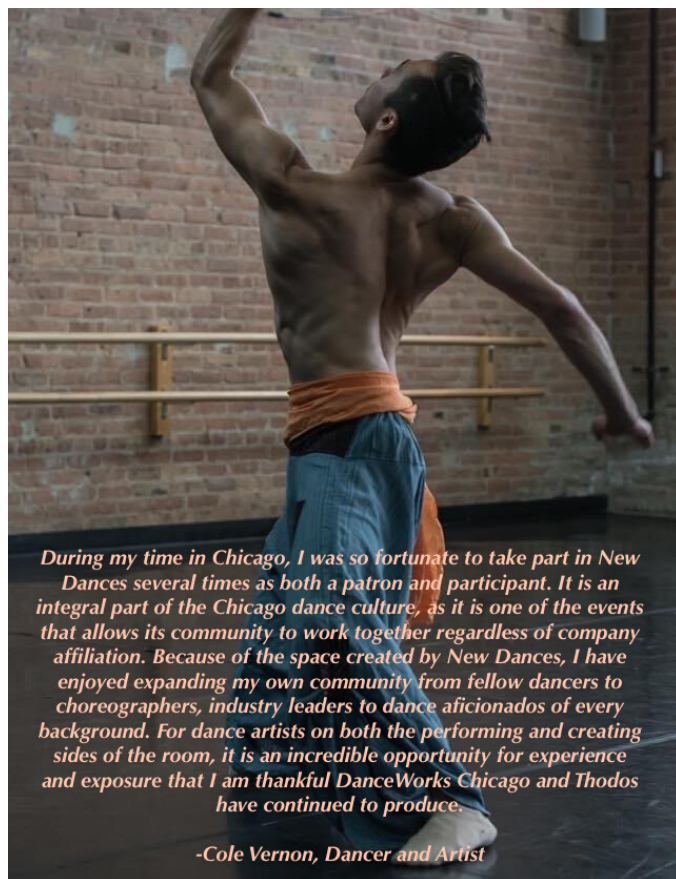
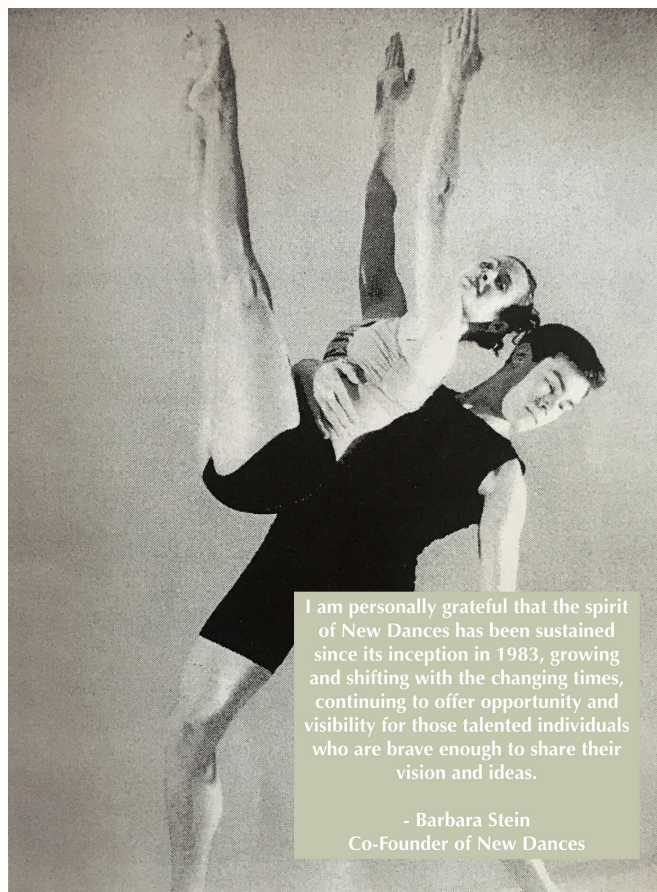
**Love,
The Kuranty's**

All the best to the performers of New Dances 2020!

Can't wait to see the talent displayed on Saturday!

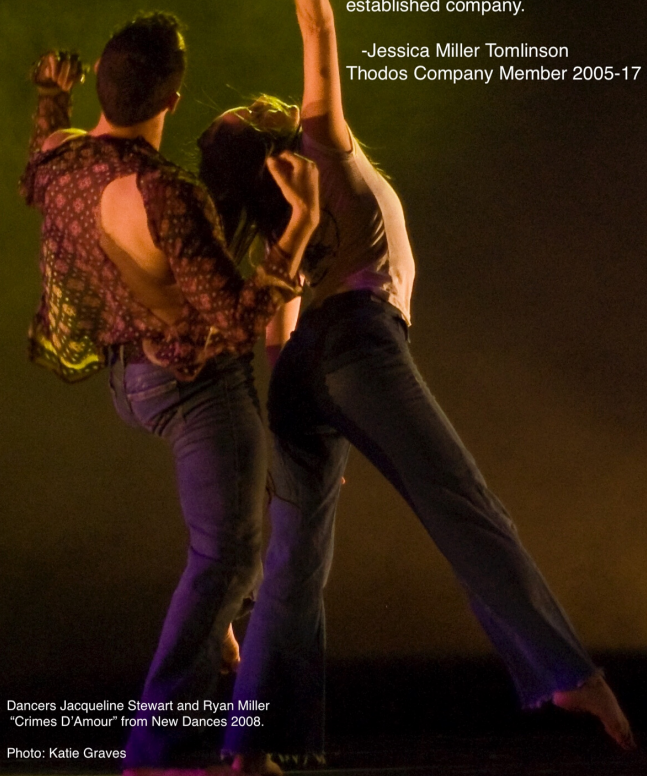
So proud of you, Mariterese! Always love watching you perform! Love, Mom and Dad

THANK YOU, MELISSA, for carrying this project under TDC for 20 years!



New Dances has been an integral part of my development as a professional choreographer. Over the past 20 years Melissa Thodos and Thodos Dance Chicago has offered a platform to countless artists to create and have their work produced through an established company.

-Jessica Miller Tomlinson
Thodos Company Member 2005-17



Dancers Jacqueline Stewart and Ryan Miller
"Crimes D'Amour" from New Dances 2008.

Photo: Katie Graves

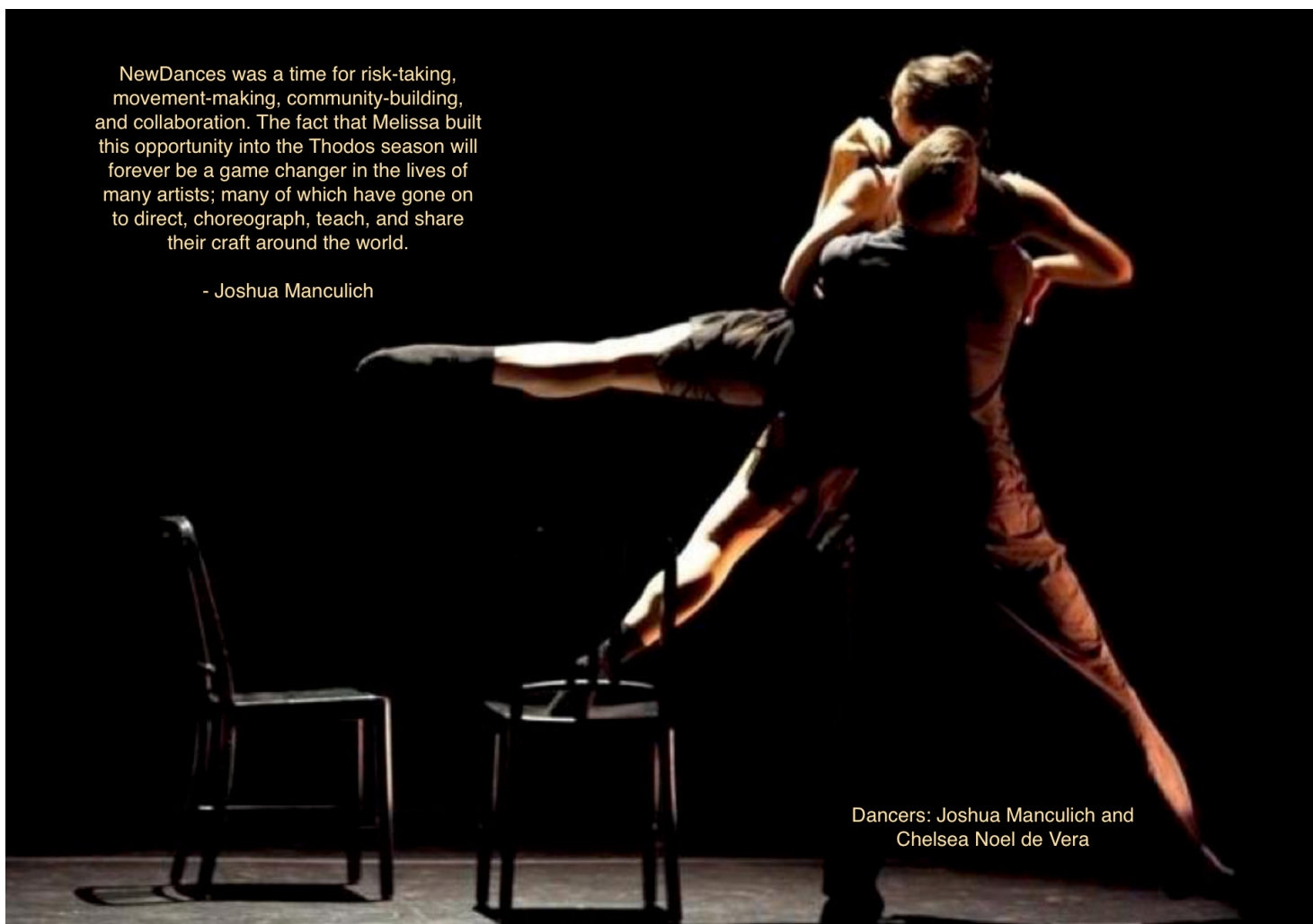


"My most memorable New Dances was New Dances 2016. New Dances 2016 was one of the most challenging, yet fulfilling experiences in my life. Not only as a performer, but as a choreographer as well. That year I performed "Sunrise," by Shannon Alvis and "Everywhere but Here," by Abby Hare. Both of those pieces are very dear to my heart, because they challenged me to grow in different ways, and allowed me to reveal a new found maturity in my artistry. I also choreographed "Uncovering," that year and that creative process served as a way for me to express and process the many life changes I was experiencing. Shortly before New Dances rehearsals began, I found out I was expecting, and I will always be grateful for the never ending support I received from Melissa Thodos and Laura Gates. Their encouragement was exactly what I needed during that time, and that's what New Dances is all about. Providing a safe space to create, heal and explore. I feel very proud and thankful to have been a part of such an important resource to the Chicago dance community. I say to all of the dancers and creators who have participated over the past 20 years, "Congratulations and keep on dancing!"

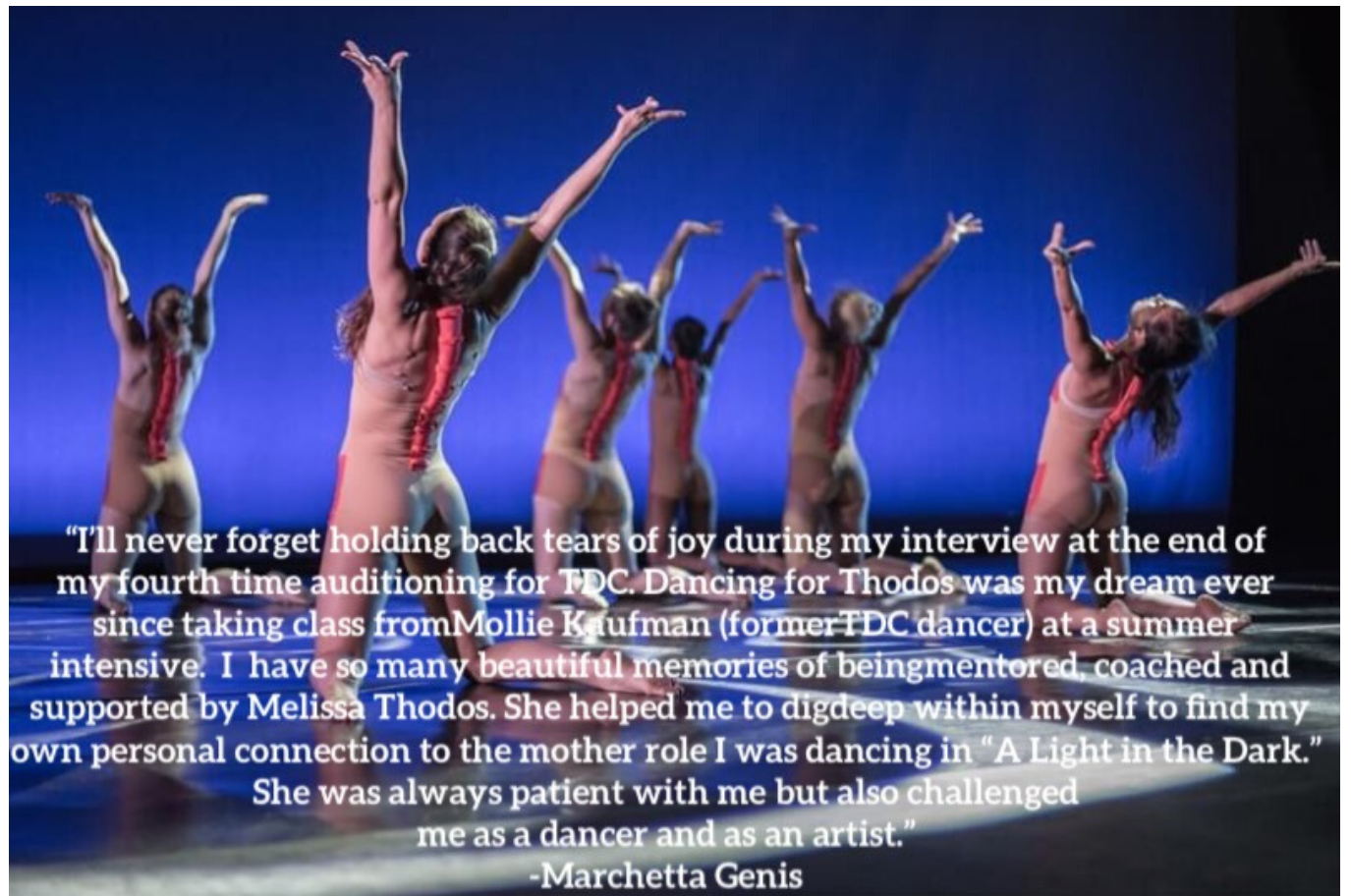
-Briana Arthur

NewDances was a time for risk-taking, movement-making, community-building, and collaboration. The fact that Melissa built this opportunity into the Thodos season will forever be a game changer in the lives of many artists; many of which have gone on to direct, choreograph, teach, and share their craft around the world.

- Joshua Manculich



Dancers: Joshua Manculich and
Chelsea Noel de Vera



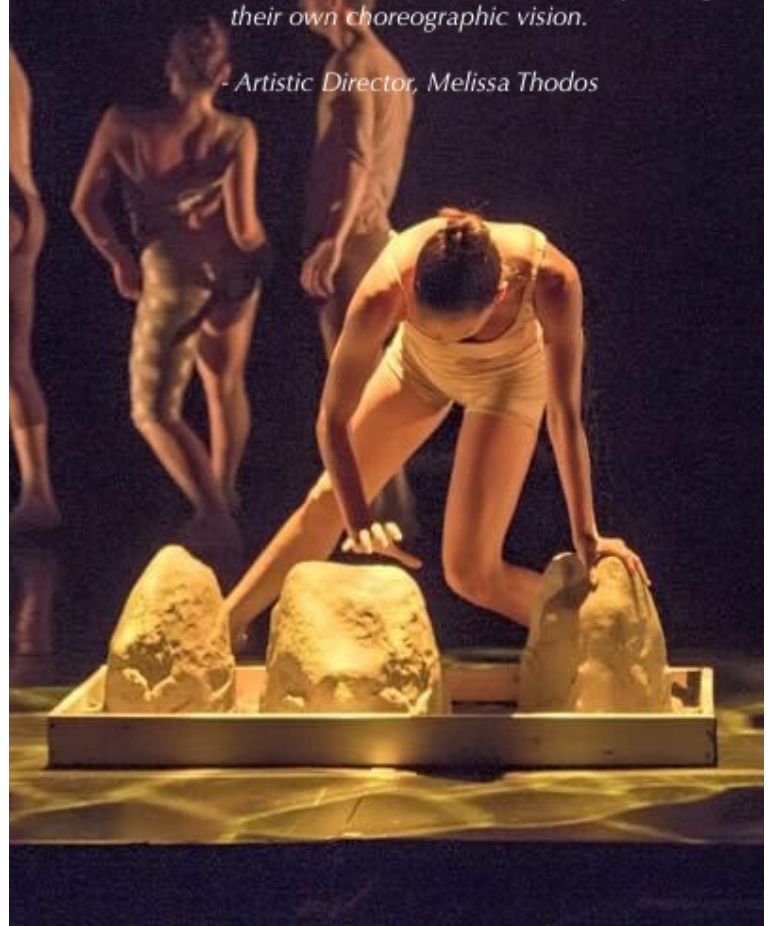
"I couldn't be more thankful to have been a part of New Dances as a choreographer and as a dancer over the years. The sense of community built within this initiative is unparalleled. My growth as an artist would not have been the same without it. I'm truly grateful for New Dances to continue to grow and evolve and I'm fortunate enough to be a part of it."

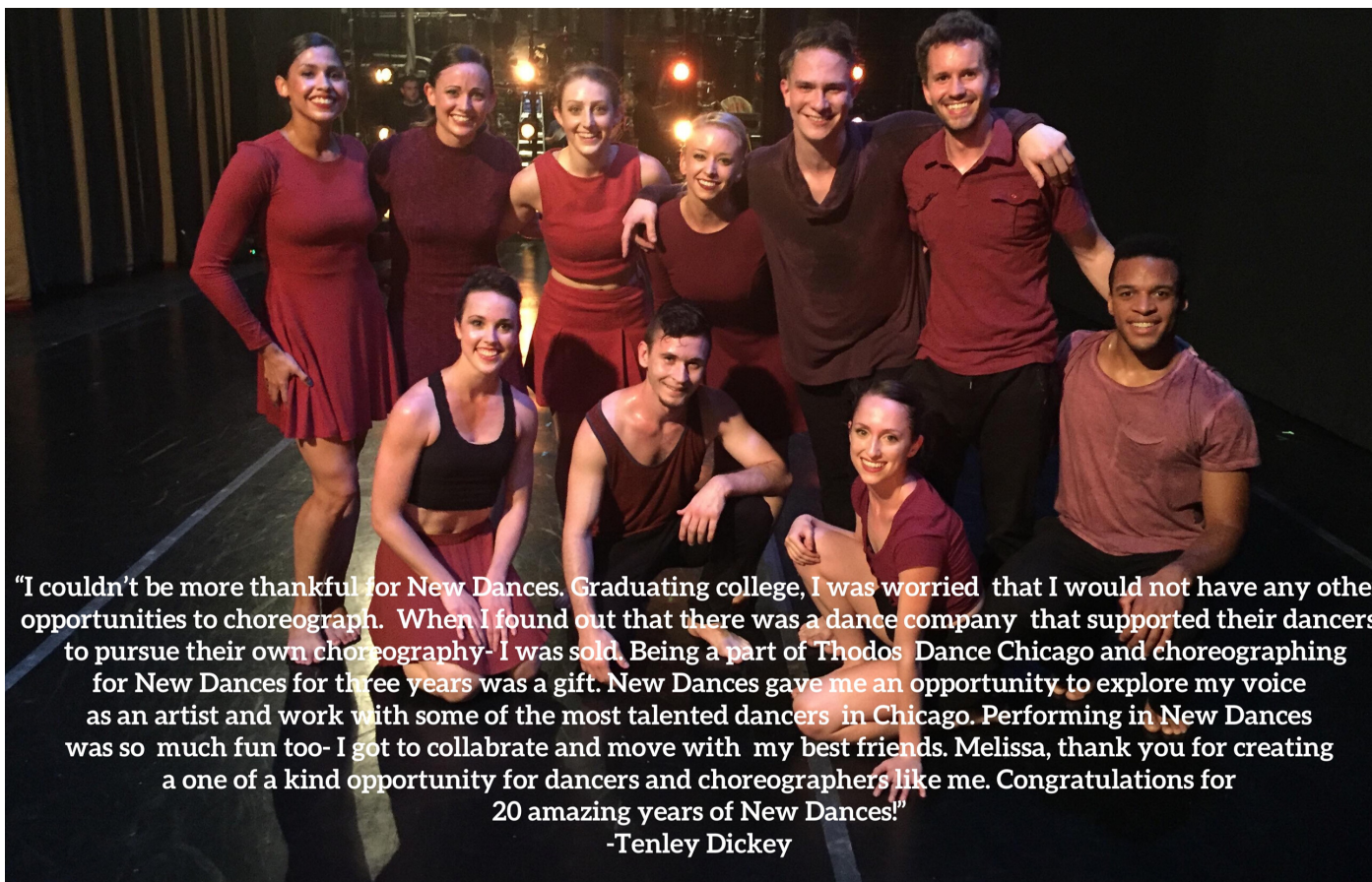
-Abby Hare



New Dances embodies one of the many things we value at Thodos Dance Chicago - dance creation. It is a critical component of our mission and we are an organization committed to nurturing and supporting talented dance artists who are interested in expressing their own choreographic vision.

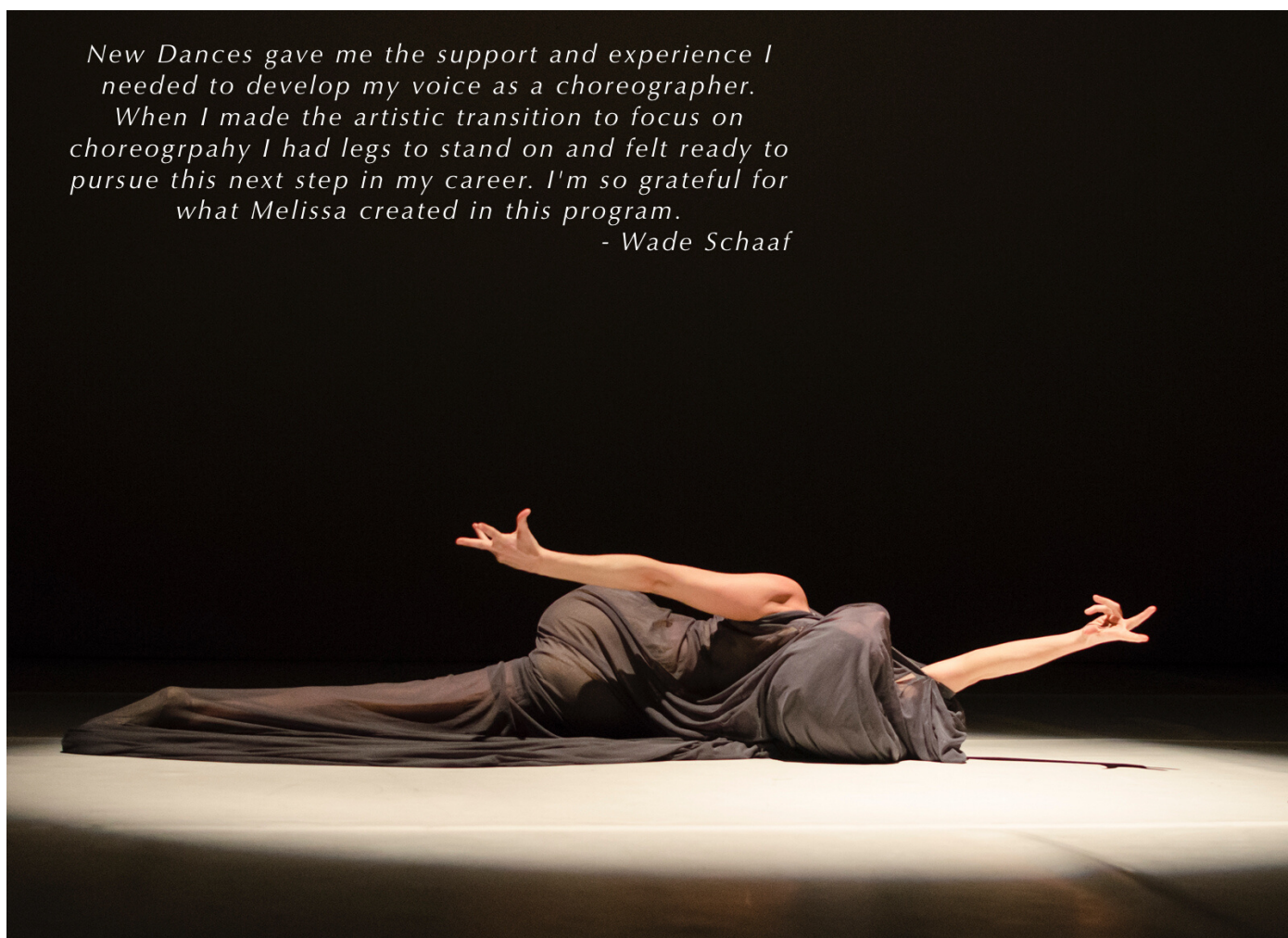
- Artistic Director, Melissa Thodos





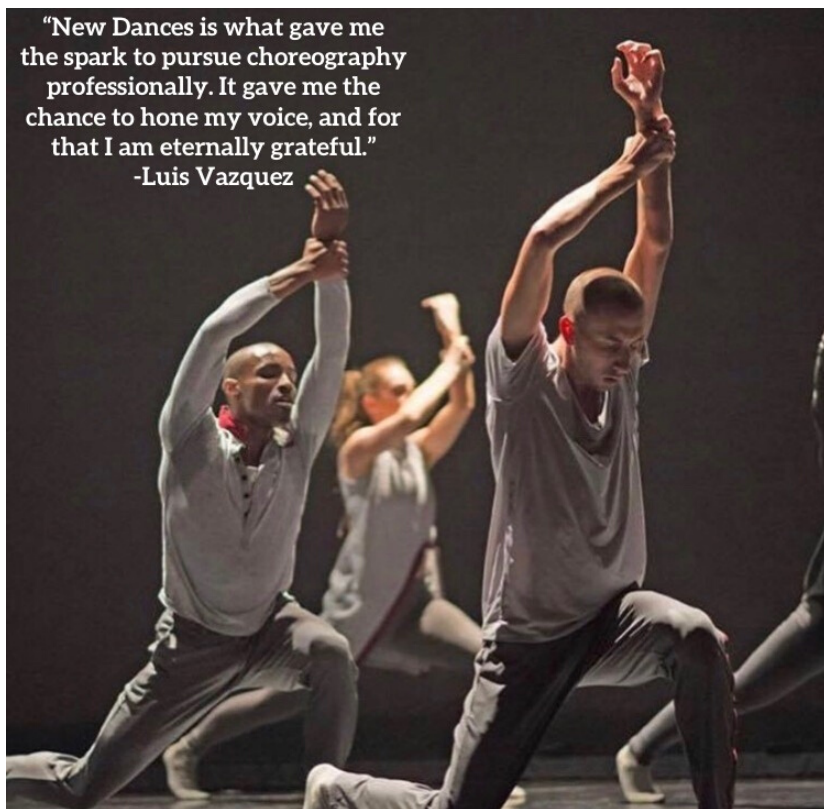
"I couldn't be more thankful for New Dances. Graduating college, I was worried that I would not have any other opportunities to choreograph. When I found out that there was a dance company that supported their dancers to pursue their own choreography- I was sold. Being a part of Thodos Dance Chicago and choreographing for New Dances for three years was a gift. New Dances gave me an opportunity to explore my voice as an artist and work with some of the most talented dancers in Chicago. Performing in New Dances was so much fun too- I got to collaborate and move with my best friends. Melissa, thank you for creating a one of a kind opportunity for dancers and choreographers like me. Congratulations for 20 amazing years of New Dances!"
-Tenley Dickey

New Dances gave me the support and experience I needed to develop my voice as a choreographer. When I made the artistic transition to focus on choreography I had legs to stand on and felt ready to pursue this next step in my career. I'm so grateful for what Melissa created in this program.
- Wade Schaaf

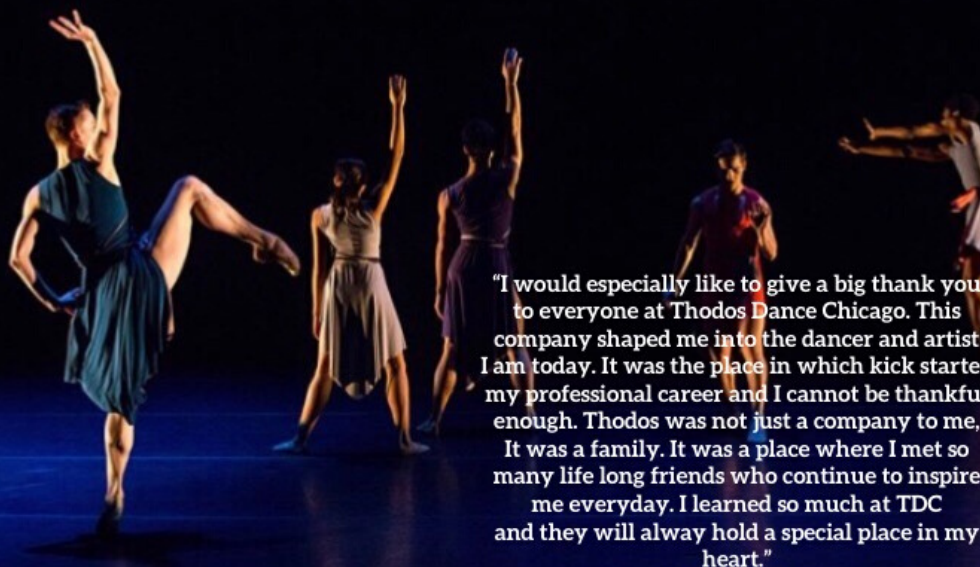


***Special thank you to
Joshua Manculich,
Jessica Miller
Tomlinson, Abby Hare,
and TDC Alumni for
reflecting on 20 years
of New Dances under
Thodos Dance
Chicago's umbrella.***

**"New Dances is what gave me
the spark to pursue choreography
professionally. It gave me the
chance to hone my voice, and for
that I am eternally grateful."
-Luis Vazquez**



**"For me, New Dances was such an inspiring
and memorable experience! It is a place
where dancers of the community can come
together and share their art with one another.
It creates such a positive and creative atmosphere
where artistic expression is freely encouraged.
This platform enriches the dance
community in so many ways and I will forever
be grateful I got to be a part of it."**



**"I would especially like to give a big thank you
to everyone at Thodos Dance Chicago. This
company shaped me into the dancer and artist
I am today. It was the place in which kick started
my professional career and I cannot be thankful
enough. Thodos was not just a company to me,
It was a family. It was a place where I met so
many life long friends who continue to inspire
me everyday. I learned so much at TDC
and they will always hold a special place in my
heart."**

-Melissa Panetta

***Shout out to
photographers
Ben Licera,
Cheryl Mann,
Johnny Nevin,
& Michelle Reid
for their
beautiful
images!***