

NEWDANCES

THODOS DANCE CHICAGO - DANCEWORKS CHICAGO

N2024



New Dances 2024

The Ruth Page Center for the Arts

Thursday-Saturday, June 20-22 at 7pm





THODOS

DANCE CHICAGO

**Cheers to over
40 Years of
New Dances!**



Let's Toast The 2024 Artists!



Sophie Minouche
Allen



Mark
Gonzalez



Joey
Martinez



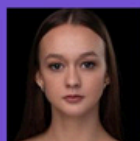
Alix
Schillaci



Jessi
Stegall



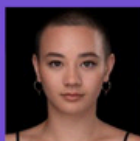
Sophia
Vangelatos



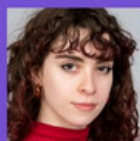
Samantha Leigh
Anderson



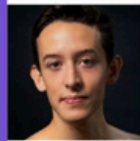
Amaya Arroyo



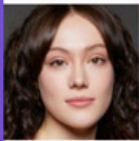
Claire Binguet



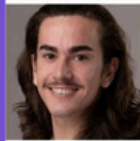
Blake Lynn
Campbell



Isaiah Cavallero



Caitlin Clark



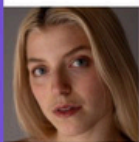
Kaelen Gouveia



Mary Kovalcheck



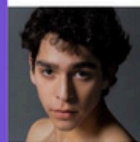
Hannah Mu



Anouk Otsea



Mia Philippon



David Anthony
Scheurman



Amelia Shultz



Ariana Sugay



Zipporah Wilson



Aleah Zucchi

The background of the poster is a photograph of a rooftop stage performance. In the center, a tall, grey stone monument with three white globe-like lamps at its base stands prominently. To the left, two young women in white short-sleeved shirts and black pants are dancing. To the right, two young men in white shirts with red neckties and black pants are dancing. The stage is set against a blue sky with light clouds. The DanceWorks Chicago logo is at the top, with 'DanceWorks' in white on a black background and 'CHICAGO' in white on a teal background.

DanceWorks
CHICAGO

#We Grown

SEASON 18

SEE AND BE SEEN

Open Company Audition

Sunday, July 28

10:30am-2pm

Ruth Page Center
Theater

FREE!

Open to dancers to
audition and a public
audience to observe.

JOIN US LIVE

Chicago L!ve

Saturday, September 21

2pm

Navy Pier

FREE!

✿ Celebrate our year of
adulting with us. Follow
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[DanceWorksChicago.org](#)

Pictured L-R: Hannah Mu, Mia Philippon, Isaiah Cavallero,
Angel Khaytayan, and David Anthony Scheuerman in Mutter Matters
by Charissa-Lee Barton. Photo by Vin

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About *New Dances*

Thodos Dance Chicago and **DanceWorks Chicago's** collaboration around ***New Dances 2024*** continues a shared tradition of developing choreographic talent and serving Chicago's dance community. Originating with The Chicago Repertory Dance Ensemble, ***New Dances*** has been part of Chicago's dance history for **over 40 years**, offering a platform for early career choreographers to create new work with artistic, logistic, and financial support.

Six Chicago-based dancemakers were selected through a competitive application process, which attracted a diverse pool of applicants. *New Dances 2024* choreographers Sophie Minouche Allen, Mark Gonzalez, Joey Martinez, Alix Schillaci, Jessi Stegall, and Sophia Vangelatos unveil their world premieres at the very theater where *New Dances* was first produced in 1983! Sixteen Chicago-based dancers comprise the *New Dances* Company, bringing their energy to the choreographers' visions, which are enhanced by Jacob Snodgrass' lighting.



This evening is the culmination of a fast-paced, three-week creative and production period, and we are so glad that you are here to share this intimate experience! Vin Reed and *NextGems* Intern Shelby Holloway have been working hard to illuminate artist stories along the way. Team *New Dances* Staff is inspired. More than a performance, *New Dances* is a journey. It's an experience made possible when people come together IRL. Artists. Audiences. Thank you for being part of the journey and for showing up for artists. We'd love to hear from you and encourage you to visit our Creation Station, courtesy of Vin Reed (a unicorn, if we've ever seen one!) to add your voice to the mosaic of impressions from our time together this evening.

Let's create a work of art together!

And, hey, take a *New Dances* button, put it on your *New Dances* tote bag and keep the *New Dances* energy flowing during Chicago Dance Month and beyond!

#SupportLocal

Program

Con Ganas

Choreography: Mark Gonzalez

Music: "Gracias a la Vida" by Kacey Musgraves; "Haunt Me" by Sade; "The End of all Our Exploring" by Max Richter; "Como La Flor (live)" by Selena Quintanilla; and "J.A.M." by Opal Ocean

Sound Design: Phillip George and Mark Gonzalez

Dancers: Samantha Anderson, Amaya Arroyo, Isaiah Cavallero, Caitlin Clark, Hannah Mu, Mia Philippon

Note from the Choreographer: *Con Ganas* is a reflection and celebration of light and strength that has come before, is current, and will come after."

I'M POISED!!!

Choreography: Joey Martinez in collaboration with the dancers

Music: "IDEA 01" by IDLES; "Hello Stranger" by Barbara Lewis

Costumes: Joey Martinez and Kayla Bauer

Dancers: Blake Campbell, Kaelen Gouveia, Anouk Otsea, Amelia Shultz, Zipporah Wilson, Aleah Zucchi

Note from the Choreographer: A way to resist and become.

What goes up might come down

Choreography: Sophie Minouche Allen in collaboration with the dancers

Music: Soundscore by [Chien-An Yuan](#)

Dancers: Claire Binguet, Mary Kovalcheck, David Anthony Scheuerman, Ariana Sugay

10-Minute Intermission

Cannonball

Choreography: Alix Schillaci

Music: "Surfin U.S.A." by The Beach Boys; "AWS Main Title" by John Willaims; "Down Boy" by Yeah Yeah Yeahs; and "Bitter" by Chappell Roan

Costumes: Jeff Hannock and Alix Schillaci

Dancers: Samantha Leigh Anderson, Mary Kovalcheck, Hannah Mu, Anouk Otsea

Note from the Choreographer: Coming to a theater near you, *Cannonball* dives beneath the glittering surface of girlhood.

"Offstage"

Choreography: Sophia Vangelatos in collaboration with the dancers

Music: Original Music by Andrew J. Tarr

Dancers: Blake Lynn Campbell, Mia Philippon, Amelia Shultz, Zipporah Wilson, Aleah Zucchi

Death Be Not Proud

Choreography: Jessi Stegall

Music: "Elegy" by Arno Babajanyan; "Lacrimosa" from Requiem in D Minor, K. 626 by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart; and Sonata in D Major, K. 119 by Domenico Scarlatti

Dancers: Amaya Arroyo, Claire Binguet, Isaiah Cavallero, Caitlin Clark, Kaelen Gouveia, David Anthony Scheuerman, Ariana Sugay

Note from the Choreographer: *Death Be Not Proud* is an ode to three iconic paintings on the themes of loss, grief, and death.

**You are invited to stay for the post-show
Q & A with the choreographers**

Feeling Parched?

*Join us in the lobby
before the show and / or
at intermission to pop
some bubbly and cheers
to a night of dance!*



\$10 Per Glass Donation

New Dances 2024

Supporters

New Dances 2024 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 *New Dances'* legacy of support for Chicago artists, creating a more sustainable, empowering future for the dance commUNITY.

Support Thodos Dance Chicago

Support DanceWorks Chicago

Thank you to John and Jacolyn Bucksbaum and Barbara Stein for their extra special inspired co-sponsorship of the Post-Performance Celebration!

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Closing Night Toast

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Mentorship Panel

Pamela Crutchfield

E-Program

Christine Nappo

Photos and Videos

Jean and John Atchison

Weekly Athletico PT sessions

Heiji and Brian Black

Open Company Classes (free to the community)

Heiji and Brian Black

Frank Fishella

Laura Gates

Jimi Loc Nguyen and Bryan Morin

Shannon Raglin

Special Thanks

Katie Matteson Campana

Fabian Cisneros

Lisa Gonzales

Rick Johnston

Extra Special Thanks

Vin Reed

New Dances 2024

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Grateful to *New Dances* 2024

Host Committee members for their energy!

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Silvino da Silva



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 artists. TDC performed and taught for over one million dance students and fans in Chicago, across the country in 27 states, and around the world on 6 continents. In its 32nd year, TDC has evolved to undertake projects that provide the greatest impact in the Chicago community and beyond as a project-based dance organization. The Company continues to evolve, delving into new dimensions in the literary and film arenas in dance. TDC's mission is to engage and enrich the community through dance creation, advocacy, education, mentorship and production.

For more information, visit <https://thodosdancechicago.org/>
Facebook and Instagram: @ThodosDanceChicago

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About DanceWorks Chicago

Led by Co-founder and Artistic Director Julie Nakagawa, DanceWorks Chicago fills a niche in the dance ecosystem. A creative incubator, DWC fosters a diverse next generation of movers and makers, empowering young artists to cultivate their unique voices through skill acquisition and development, collaborations and relationship-building with a global perspective, intense and intentional mentorship, and performances. DanceWorks Chicago believes that the inclusion of different perspectives and ideas will unearth a standard of creativity and innovation that cannot be achieved by one. To inspire and empower artists, audiences, and good dance citizens is DanceWorks Chicago's way to impact the field. *Always moving.*

For more information, visit www.danceworkschicago.org

Facebook and Instagram: @danceworkschicago

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Meet the Team!

Choreographers



Sophie Minouche Allen is a dance artist who pushes playfulness, nuance and rigor to the forefront of her endeavors. She enjoys honing her sense of musicality and humor to connect with deeper subtexts... and she loves to make people smile. Sophie has performed works by Darling Shear, Ayako Kato, Katlin Michael Bourgeois and Rigo Saura among others. Her choreography has been presented by Midwest RAD Fest, COMMON conservatory, Detroit Dance Exchange and Going Dutch Festival. Sophie holds a BFA in Dance and BA in Philosophy, Politics and Economics from the University of Michigan and is a certified Countertechnique® Teacher.



Mark Gonzalez is a dance artist from Edinburg, Texas. He received a BFA in Dance with an emphasis in Performance and Choreography from Texas State University. After leaving Texas, Mark trained and performed with The Dayton Contemporary Dance Company 2 under the direction of Shonna Matlock. He was a scholarship recipient for Giordano Dance and Flockworks. Gonzalez finished his first season with Cerqua Rivera Dance Theatre, where he performed the works of Monique Haley and Katlin Michael Bourgeois. Mark is a freelance artist based in Chicago and is currently a Company Artist with Identity Performing Arts and Still Inspired.



Choreographer and dance educator, **Joey Martinez** began their choreographic journey at age 13. They aim to provide a space for artists to freely experience emotions without the weight of an authoritarian, capitalist society. They have danced for New Dances 2023, BoomCrack! Dance Company, and COMMON Conservatory. Joey earned their BFA in Dance at Columbia College Chicago, training with Carrie Hanson and Darrell Jones. They have created for The Dance Center at Columbia College Chicago: *why can't I see it anymore?* and *O Mother, I Can Feel!!!* Before Columbia, they received the Prodigy All Star award at Artistic Dance Exchange.



Alix Schillaci is choreographer, director, and producer loose in the city. Her recent work includes performances in Alex Grelle's *Lady Di* and *Twilight: After Dark*; plus production support for Erin Kilmurray's *Nightshade* and *The Function*. Schillaci is currently a performer, producer, and resident choreographer with LOUD BODIES, having previously performed with Project Bound Dance and for dancemakers Darling Shear, Erin Kilmurray, and Sarah Miller; and as an ensemble member for The Fly Honey Show. Her first evening length work *Sunset's That Way* premiered at Links Hall in 2022. Outside of dance, Schillaci does production design for theater, film, and commercials.



Jessi Stegall (she/her) is a dance-theatre artist based in Chicago, IL. She has been an artist-in-residence at Boston Center for the Arts, Harvard ArtLab, Rhode Island Women's Choreography Project, National Parks Service, and was recently featured as one of *Dance Magazine's* "25 to Watch" (2022). Her choreographic work has been featured at the Institute of Contemporary Art, Boston Center for the Arts, the Dance Complex Ballet Rhode Island, Motion State Dance Film Festival, and Tufts University. Since moving to Chicago in September 2023, she has created new work with Hot Crowd dance company and Little Fire Artist Collective.

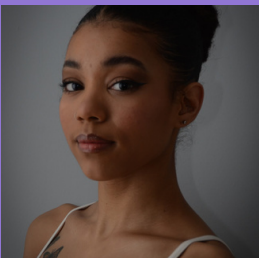


Sophia Vangelatos graduated from the University of California, Irvine in 2021 with a BFA in Dance Performance, a BFA in Dance Choreography and a BA in Business Economics. At University, Sophia had the privilege of training with and performing works by artists such as Lar Lubovitch, Kate Skarpetowska, Loretta Livingston, Tong Wang, Lisa Naugle and Charlotte Griffin. She has also premiered her own choreographic works in various shows and festivals in California and Italy. Since moving to Chicago in 2022, Sophia has had the honor of being a main company member for Hedwig Dances and South Chicago Dance Theatre.

Dancers



Samantha Leigh Anderson began formal dance training at Central Texas Ballet Conservatory under the direction of Caitlin Kelly. Samantha graduated from The University of Texas at Austin, Theater and Dance Department where she earned her B.F.A. in Dance. Upon graduating in December 2022, Samantha was invited to dance as a trainee with Visceral Dance Chicago. Samantha has attended Summer Intensives and Collegiate Intensives with American Ballet Theatre, Hubbard Street Dance Chicago, Gibney Winter Intensive, Gaga Lab and Flockworks. Samantha has performed works by Charles Anderson, Dorothy O'Shea Overbey, Joel Valentin-Martinez, Kevin A. Ormsby, Nick Pupillo and Braeden Barnes.



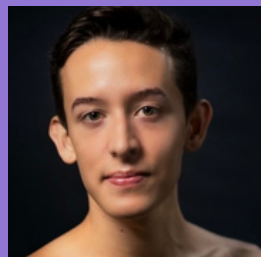
Amaya Arroyo was born in Columbus, Ohio, and began her dance training at the age of 13 years old. Amaya was a founding member of Dance ELITE Performance Academy, where she trained under the direction of Samara Tillman in modern, ballet, contemporary, jazz, and hip-hop techniques. Amaya has worked with artists such as Ron De Jesus, Crystal Michelle Perkins, Wade Schaaf, and many more. Amaya is a recent graduate from Columbia College Chicago earning her BA in Dance. Amaya has performed as an Emerging Artist at the South Chicago Dance Theatre under the executive artistic direction of Kia S. Smith.



Claire Binguít graduated from Western Michigan University with a BA in dance with a focus in jazz and modern. During their time in college, she performed works by Penny Saunders, Seyong Kim, and Kelsey Paschich. Claire was also a member of the school's student company, Western Dance Project. She was a member of a local company in southwest Michigan, performing in many shows and dance films. Claire moved to Chicago in 2023 and furthered their training at Visceral Dance Chicago as a trainee, performing works by Nick Pupillo, Braedon Barnes, Tina Diaz, and Mónica Cervantes, under the direction of Cait Cucchiara.



Blake Campbell was born in Elkhart Indiana. She graduated from high school at the age of 16 and moved to Chicago to pursue contemporary dance training at COMMON Conservatory, under the direction of Terence Marling. Prior to joining COMMON, Blake attended summer intensives with Complexions Contemporary Ballet, Dance Theatre of Harlem, and Ballet Chicago. In her spare time, Blake enjoys writing poetry and has won a few poetry competitions.



Isaiah Cavallero, from San Antonio, TX, began his training at a young age and developed a passion for dancing. He attended the Alabama School of Fine Arts, directed by Wes Chapman, Martha Faesi, and Teri Weksler. A graduate of George Mason University with a BFA in Dance, Isaiah performed works by Nacho Duato, Andonis Foniadakis, Larry Keigwin, and other artists. He has attended summer intensives at DanceWorks Chicago (*ChoreoLab*), BodyTraffic, Nashville Ballet, and The Washington Ballet. Isaiah joined DanceWorks Chicago in September 2023 and is thrilled to be in his first season with his new family.



Caitlin Clark (she/her) is a dancer, choreographer, and dance educator based in Chicago. Caitlin graduated with a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Dance from Western Michigan University. She has had the pleasure of working with Shannon Alvis, Kia Smith, Tsai Hsi Hung, Kiki Lucas, Whitney Moncrief, Carolyn Pavlik, Monique Haley, Kelsey Paschich, and Jeremy Blair. In Chicago, she has worked with Katlin Bourgeois during DanceWorks Chicago's *ChoreoLab* (2021), was a guest artist in South Chicago Dance Theatre's *Memoirs of Jazz in the Alley* (2023), and now dances with Cerqua Rivera Dance Theatre in the main company.



Kaelen Gouveia is a Hawaii-born artist with a BFA from Towson University, who moved to Chicago in August of 2022 to pursue a career in dance. Upon his arrival to Chicago, they joined the Ruth Page Professional Dance Training Program (formerly the Ruth Page Civic Ballet Training Program). In 2023, he became a Claire Bataille Legacy Program Scholarship recipient. Currently, they are a company member with Hedwig Dances, where he works with his colleagues to bring to life amazing works of art through interdisciplinary methods. He is currently looking forward to further exploring all that Chicago has to offer.



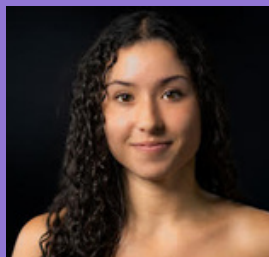
Mary Kovalcheck grew up in Grayslake, IL, and started training at Dance Connection along with the Lou Conte Dance Studio. She recently graduated from Grand Valley State University, where she received her Bachelor of Arts degree in Dance and a Business minor. She worked with artists Queala Clancy, Yoshito Sakuraba, Wallie Wolfgruber, Deborah Lohse, and Renaldo Maurice. During her final year, Mary's solo "Forward" was selected to be in the Spring Dance Concert. She received a scholarship to attend the American Dance Festival in 2023, where she worked with Brian Brooks before joining South Chicago Dance Theatre.



Hannah Mu, from Nashville, TN, began her dance training at the age of 3 studying numerous styles of dance, acrobatics, and tumbling. She graduated *cum laude* with her BFA in Dance from The Ohio State University. While at Ohio State, she collaborated with artists from Dayton Contemporary Dance Company. After graduating in May 2022, Hannah relocated to Denver, CO, to join Cleo Parker Robinson Dance as a Cleo II. During her time there, she had the opportunity to perform notable works choreographed by Millicent Johnnie, Donald McKayle, and Cleo Parker Robinson. Hannah joined DanceWorks Chicago in September 2023.



Anouk Otsea is a multidisciplinary movement artist from Juneau, Alaska, Lingít Aaní, home of the A'akw Kwáan and T'aku Kwáan peoples. Anouk received her BFA from the LINES Ballet Program, where she performed works by Alice Klock, Robert Moses, Christian Burns, Gregory Dawson, and others. Professionally, Anouk has worked with choreographers Genevieve Carson, Katlin Michael Bourgeois, Noelle Kayser, Monique Haley, Megan Rhodes, and Jackie Nowiki. A former company member of Cerqua Rivera Dance Theatre and Dance in the Parks, Anouk is currently a dancer with Peckish Rhodes Performing Arts Society, Niko8 Dance, Little Fire Artist Collective, and Boykin Dance Project.



Mia Philippon, from Vail, CO, began dance training at Vail Valley Academy of Dance. She studied at Southland Ballet Academy, with Salwa Rizkalla and mentor Christina Lyon. Mia continued studies at Walnut Hill School for the Arts, under the direction of Michael Owen and Denise Lewis. She holds a BFA in Dance Performance from Meadows School for the Arts and a BBA in Business from Cox School of Business at Southern Methodist University. At SMU she performed works by Carter Alexander, Joy Bolinger, Silas Farley, Matthew Neenan, and Pascal Rioult. Mia is a member of DanceWorks Chicago.



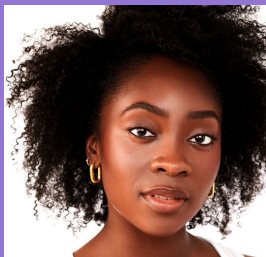
David Anthony Scheuerman Saucedo began training at Midwest Regional Ballet and spent summers dancing with Tulsa Ballet, Texas Ballet, and Hubbard Street, before joining Hubbard Street's Professional Program. Dancing in HSPRO, David worked with Jonathan Alsberry, Rena Butler, and Robin Mineko Williams. He has performed with Cerqua Rivera Dance Theatre, Artistic Director Wilfredo Rivera, in works by Shannon Alvis, Katlin Michael Bourgeois, Monique Haley, and Stephanie Martinez. In his third season with DanceWorks Chicago, Artistic Director Julie Nakagawa, he has had the privilege of performing works from Robert Battle, Greg Blackmon, and Demis Volpi while touring both nationally and internationally.



Amelia Shultz, from Chicago, IL, began dancing at various studios in the city, and spent her high school years training at Extensions Dance Company with Lizzie Mackenzie. Amelia is a graduate of the Arts Umbrella Post-Graduate Program, where she had the opportunity to perform works by Sidi Larbi Cherkaoui, Crystal Pite, Medhi Walerski, and others, as well as to participate in the Ballet BC / Arts Umbrella "Pilot Project" directed by Medhi Walerski. Amelia danced with SFDanceworks, where she performed works by Edward Clug, Yin Yue, and Laura O'Malley. Following her return to Chicago, Amelia joined DanceWorks Chicago in August 2022.



Ariana Sugay trained at The Chicago Academy for the Arts and later graduated from Trinity Laban Conservatoire of Music and Dance in London with a BA in contemporary dance. She has worked with a variety of choreographers including Wayne McGregor, Randy Duncan, Jonathan Alsberry, Katlin Michael Bourgeois, Stephanie Martinez, and Nick Pupillo. She is passionate about dance as an interdisciplinary art form and a somatic practice.



Zipporah Wilson, originally from Chicago, Illinois, trained with Homer Hans Bryant of Chicago Multi-Cultural Dance Center in conjunction with Chicago High School for the Arts under the direction of Sarah Ford Thompson. There, she was given the opportunity to work with Thodos Dance Chicago and Deeply Rooted Dance Theater. Graduating from New York University in 2022, receiving her BFA in Dance, she worked with choreographers such as David Dorfman, Shamel Pitts, Pamela Pietro, and Chuck Wilt. Upon studying abroad in Florence, Italy, she's had the pleasure of working with choreographers, Roy Assaf, Sade Alleyne, Vangelina Theater, and Ananya Dance Theater.



Aleah Zucchi (She/Her) is a dedicated, passionate dance artist. Her drive and love of various movements expands into her choreographic works. At Ballet Chicago, she trained under the direction of Daniel Duell and Patricia Blair. During her four years of dancing in Ballet Chicago's Studio Company, she learned and performed various Balanchine repertoire. In 2021, Aleah was selected to be a Trainee with Visceral Dance Chicago as a founding member of Visceral's Traineeship. Aleah is currently dancing with Symbiosis Arts under the direction of Braeden Barnes. Additionally, she is a choreographer, presenting and performing her own works for Chicago dance festivals.



Mentorship Panel



Imani English (Madison, WI) dedicates her early training to Karen Smith-English and the Madison Professional Dance Center. A Valedictorian of the Chicago High School for the Arts, her professional performing credits include DanceWorks Chicago, Dallas Black Dance Theater, and The Dallas Theater Center. Imani is on faculty at The Chicago High School for the Arts, Chicago Movement Collective, and other local studios. She was a 2023 *New Dances* choreographer and has created works for some of Chicago's leading dance companies including Visceral Dance Chicago. Her work, "Healing The Healers", was presented at the Black Choreographer's Showcase in Baltimore, MD.



Jeff Hancock is an Associate Professor of Instruction in Northwestern University's Dance Program, a member of Molly Shanahan/Mad Shak ensemble, and the founder of *-ish design*. He explores the performance and semiotics of both movement and what we wear at the intersection of function and expression. His personal, creative, and professional performance practices include fundamental patterning, improvisation, and somatic investigation of how emergent values are idiosyncratically expressed; how we perform ourselves. His work designing and co-constructing performance, education, movement, meaning, and clothing to move in as a teaching artist is fueled by humans, time, space, materials, joyful curiosity, a queer lens, anxiety, and his cats.

Melissa Thodos See below for photo and bio.

Directors



Melissa Thodos began her training at the Evanston School of Ballet, choreographing and dancing in High School, and at Skidmore College. In 1985 she became a featured performer educator and choreographer with The Chicago Repertory Dance Ensemble, and founded Thodos Dance Chicago (TDC) in 1992. TDC served as a platform for her choreography and for other American choreographers. For 25 years the Company performed in over 25 states and 6 continents. At TDC Melissa fostered an environment that trained dancers, nurtured them as choreographers, and mentored them as educators. *New Dances* has been part of Thodos Dance Chicago's structure since 2000 and continues in collaboration with DanceWorks Chicago.



Julie Nakagawa (Evanston, IL) was a featured dancer with Christopher D'Amboise's Off Center Ballet, Cleveland Ballet, and Twyla Tharp Dance. In 1994, invited by Lou Conte, Julie joined Lou Conte Dance Studio and rose to the position of Associate Director. She led Hubbard Street 2 from its inception in 1997 through February 2007 as the Founding Artistic Director, nurturing young dancers and establishing the National Choreographic Competition. Her dance citizenship includes service as a board member, consultant, mentor, peer review panelist, and teacher. Julie is grateful to lead DanceWorks Chicago, a creative incubator fostering unique, next gen movers and makers.

Staff



Emma Lambert (Thodos Dance Chicago General Manager and DanceWorks Chicago Operations Manager), from Dearborn Heights, MI, is a graduate of the Master of Management program from the University of Michigan's Ross School of Business. She studied at the University of Michigan for her undergraduate degrees, where she received a BS in Movement Science and a BFA in Dance. Emma grew up studying many styles of dance and knew she always wanted to stay involved in the arts community. She was first introduced to the *New Dances* project in 2020 as an intern, and she is grateful to continue to work on *New Dances* 2024.



Jacob Snodgrass (Production Manager and Lighting Designer) has been designing lights and working in the performing arts community since 2000 and has been involved in *New Dances* for over a decade. Jacob has created with Aerial Dance Chicago, BONEdanse/Breakbone Dance Company, Ray Leeper, Jumaane Taylor, Joshua Blake Carter, Khecari Dance Theater, Peter Chu, Giordano Dance Chicago, Ray Mercer, Hubbard Street Dance Chicago, Peter Carpenter Performance Project, Red Clay Dance Company, NeJla Yarkin, Same Planet Performance Project, James Morrow/the movement, Roni Kesh, J'Sun Howard, REIDance, Soham Dance, Joel Hall Dancers, Hedwig Dances, Ruth Page Foundation, Space Movement Project, Canada's lbs/sq", and Free Street Theater. Jacob is resident lighting designer with Aerial Dance Chicago as well as production manager and resident lighting designer with Red Clay Dance Company.



Robyn Wilson is a multidisciplinary artist, who received their BFA from Columbia College Chicago in 2020. They have performed works by T. Ayo Alston, Amy Caldwell, and J'Sun Howard and traveled to Le Centre De Nationale De Danse in Paris as a selected artist, where they trained with François Chaignaud and Bryan Campbell. Robyn is also currently the artistic director of Cloudmoon Dance in Detroit, MI. Robyn was a lighting design artist for Links Lab 2021, designed lighting for Ruth Page Center's 50th Anniversary *Expanding Universe*, and found their passion for stage management and lighting design training under Jacob Snodgrass.



Shelby Holloway is a sophomore at the University of Michigan majoring in Theatre Design and Production with a minor in Performing Arts Management and Entrepreneurship. Shelby is involved in student theatre with organizations such as Basement Arts and even working as the lighting designer for the Department of Musical Theatre's *Color Cabaret*. A Chicago native, Shelby grew up dancing at the Chicago Multi-Cultural Dance Center. Although she is no longer dancing, she joins the *New Dances* team as an intern. Shelby is excited to be part of *New Dances* and bring her two passions of dance and arts administration together.



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