

NEW DANCES

THODOS DANCE CHICAGO - DANCEWORKS CHICAGO

NEW DANCES 2025



Hanna



Janiya



Kelsi



Maddy



Shota



Xenia

New Dances 2025

The Ruth Page Center for the Arts

Wednesday, June 18; Friday, June 20; Saturday, June 21

7pm

RP Ruth Page Center

JAMES MADISON UNIVERSITY®

DANCE

JAMES MADISON UNIVERSITY'S

NEWT
STEPS



SUMMER **DANCE** INTENSIVE

Learn more about JMU Dance:



the
ARTS
at JMU®

School of
Theatre
and Dance



*Grateful for 7 years of partnership
with DanceWorks Chicago*

*Tonight we make Chicago dance history with
the artists of New Dances 2025!*



Hanna



Janiya



Kelsi



Maddy



Shota



Xenia



Alexandria



Ariana



Caitlin



Claire



Ella



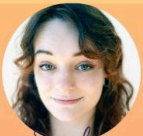
Faith



Hannah



Zaiyah



Josephine



Lauryn



Mia



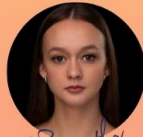
Mikee



Nia



Nick



Samantha



Trey

DanceWorks

CHICAGO



show up
for the

Glow
up

SEASON 18+

SEE AND BE SEEN

OPEN COMPANY AUDITION

Sunday, July 27

10:30am–2pm

Ruth Page Center

Theater

FREE!

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

JOIN US LIVE

CHICAGO LIVE

Sunday, September 21

4:30pm

Navy Pier East Stage

FREE!

Join our community. Follow
us @DanceWorksChicago
and DanceWorksChicago.org

Pictured L-R: Claire Binguit and Ella Kim
in *Soul Tide* Photo by Vin

Program

The In Between

Choreography: Kelsi Fears

Music: Original Composition by Iain Delavan

Dancers: Trey Alexander, Isaiah Cavallero, Mikee Ellis, Mia Philippon, Josephine Starr, Ariana Sugay

Note from the Choreographer: Fester. To become worse or more intense over time through indifference or neglect.

was, still is

Choreography: Xenia Mansour

Music: William Basinski, Dashua Rush, Vernon Spring; Mixed by Xenia Mansour & Tommy Bravos

Costumes: Trey Alexander & Xenia Mansour with guidance & consulting by Jeffrey Hancock

Dancers: Samantha Leigh Anderson, Nick Kearns, Nia Montgomery, Faith von Atzigen

Note from the Choreographer: What does it mean to be 'unfinished'? Is it infinite? Does it interrupt? Bleed through? What is not 'there' for us right now but should have been? And with that, what remains?

Uan 雨庵

Choreography: Shota Miyoshi

Music: Baccano - Prologue Cover (Piano Only) by Little Music Box, Champignons by Salut C'est Cool, Illumina by Call Super and Julia Holter

Dancers: Claire Binguit, Lauryn Crowell, Hannah Huang, Ella Kim, Alexandria Kinard, Caitlin Wonsowski

Note from the Choreographer: What's in your mind when you are in a small house under the weather of rain...

15-Minute Intermission

Shame & The Shamettes in: The Hatman Cometh

Choreography: Maddy McCarthy in collaboration with the dancers

Music: Royalty free sound effects, Enjoy the Silence by Depeche Mode, Goodbye Horses by Q Lazarus

Production: Spoken word written by Tommy Bien and performed by Ella & Lana Berry. Sound editing by Maddy McCarthy.

Costumes: Jeff Hancock

Dancers: Claire Binguit, Mikee Ellis, Hannah Huang, Nia Montgomery

Note from the Choreographer: Grin right through, and for this I explained hat: the things you don't want a curse to involve...what's it hinging on?

Behind Closed Doors

Choreography: Hanna DiLorenzo

Music: Sleep Deprivation 1 by The Black Dog, United in Grief (instrumental version) by Kendrick Lamar, Nocturne No. 19 in E Minor, Op. 72 No.1 by Arthur Rubinstein

Costumes: Jeff Hancock

Dancers: Isaiah Cavallero, Nick Kearns, Josephine Starr, Ariana Sugay, Caitlin Wonsowski

Note from the Choreographer: A visceral exploration of perception and memory, Behind Closed Doors unpacks how a shared family trauma fractures into conflicting truths—and ultimately seeks reconciliation through embodied empathy and collective understanding.

Ephemeral Thoughts

Choreography: Janiya Pearson

Music: Wild is the Wind by Nina Simone, Richi Richi by Black Motion

Dancers: Trey Alexander, Samantha Leigh Anderson, Lauryn Crowell, Ella Kim, Alexandria Kinard, Mia Philippon, Faith von Atzigen

Note from the Choreographer: "There is nothing like a dream to create the future." Langston Hughes

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

Partners

ADALINA

*Private Events
& Catering*

912 N. State St, Chicago | AdalinaChicago.com



Email | Events@adalinachicago.com



Columbia

COLLEGE CHICAGO

Creative careers start here.

RP Ruth Page Center School of Dance

2025 SUMMER SESSION

JUNE 9 TO AUGUST 10

(BUILDING CLOSED: JUNE 19 AND JULY 4)



DANCE TODAY!

AFRO-CUBAN. BALLET. REMOVED®. HIP HOP. JAZZ.
MODERN. PILATES. POINTE. TAP.
MORE STYLES. MORE MOVEMENT. ALL FOR YOU!

ATHLETICO

PHYSICAL THERAPY

Turn Your Setbacks into Comebacks

Start with a Free Assessment*



Official Provider of
Physical Therapy



*Per federal guidelines, beneficiaries of plans such as Medicare, Medicaid, Tricare, VHA and other federally funded plans are not eligible for free assessments.

NEW DANCES

THODOS DANCE CHICAGO - DANCEWORKS CHICAGO

MMMN 2025



DanceWorks Chicago Internship support provided by the EXCEL Lab at University of Michigan's School of Music, Theatre & Dance.

📷 @smtdexcel

🌐 EXCEL Lab

📘 SMTD EXCEL

🌐 umexcelsmtd.com

Program

DanceWorks Chicago Interns (L to R): Emma Lambert (2020) Shelby Holloway (2024) & Megan Piagentini (2023)



SCHOOL OF MUSIC, THEATRE & DANCE
EXCEL LAB & CAREER CENTER
UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN



See Chicago Dance



2025 CHICAGO DANCE MONTH

A month-long celebration of Chicago Dance!

*Pop-up dance performances, classes, and
more during the month of June!*

**LEARN MORE AT
SEECHICAGODANCE.COM**



Underground Printing



**Custom Printed Apparel
& more...**

822 CLARK ST
EVANSTON, IL 60201
(224) 420-7942

www.undergroundshirts.com

Is your business looking to identify
more qualified prospects to talk with?

Scan below to find out how!



David R. Hall
Owner | Hall Business Services
Advocate for Solutions to Make Your Business Thrive



David.hall.hbs@outlook.com



312-848-0100



About *New Dances*

Thodos Dance Chicago and DanceWorks Chicago's collaboration around ***New Dances 2025*** 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 2025* choreographers Hanna DiLorenzo, Janiya Pearson, Kelsi Fears, Maddy McCarthy, Shota Miyoshi, and Xenia Mansour 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, DWC dancer Ella Kim, and *NextGems* Intern Abby Widlak 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



The 2025 edition of *New Dances* will be the final collaborative presentation between DanceWorks Chicago and Thodos Dance Chicago. Co-founder and Artistic Director Julie Nakagawa has decided to retire, and DanceWorks Chicago will sunset, as unanimously agreed with the board of directors.

Thank you for joining us for a performance of *New Dances 2025* to celebrate and be a part of Chicago dance history!

DanceWorks

CHICAGO



SEVEN
YEARS
TOGETHER

Thank You for sharing
the *New Dances* Legacy.

DanceWorks Chicago celebrates
the final year in collaboration with
Thodos Dance Chicago.

Thank you, Melissa Thodos!

#commUNITY

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 2025

Supporters

New Dances 2025 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.

Support Thodos Dance Chicago

Support DanceWorks Chicago

Thank you to John and Jacolyn Bucksbaum for their extra special inspired co-sponsorship of the Closing Night Celebration!

Sponsorship of the creation of new work

Lawrence A. Krantz and Lesli L. Babbs
Pamela Crutchfield
Marsha Dowd
Patti Eylar and Charles Gardner
Leah Kaiser
Kim Vatis

***New Dances 2025* Commemorative T-Shirts**

Anna Ratas

Lighting Elements

MariAnn and Thomas Leibrandt

Mentorship Panel

Mary Rose Alexander and Timothy J. Gilfoyle

Closing Night Toast

Henry H. and Kimberley M. Wilson

New Dances 2025

Supporters

E-Program

Christine Nappo

Photos and Videos

Shannon Raglin

Weekly Athletico PT sessions

Tom Ferguson Gomez

Guest Bartender

Jean Atchison

Diane and Paul C. Reilly

Open Company Classes (free to the community)

Jean Atchison

Brock Clawson

Mary Rose Alexander and Timothy J. Gilfoyle

Joshua Manculich

Mōnō

Bryan Morin

Jimi Loc Nguyen

Rebecca and Peter Woan

Special Thanks

Katie Matteson Campana

Dan DiLuciano

Adeline Else

Rick Johnston

Angel Khaytyan

Caroline Meis

Hannah Mu

David Anthony Scheuerman

Extra Special Thanks

Vin Reed

New Dances 2025

Matching Gift Campaign

Thank you to Compliance Program Management LLC, David R. Hall and Michael C. Nugent plus a cohort of passionate and generous (and anonymous) donors for creating the *New Dances 2025* matching campaign.

Nancy Ackerman

Liz and Bill Adams

Carole Berk

Heiji and Brian Black

Pamela Crutchfield

Laura Fly Bellows

Laura Gates

Mark Gomez

Patricia H. Heestand

Catherine Jagasia

Olivia Johnston

Nana Krah

Sharon Lear

MariAnn and Thomas Leibrandt

Gail and Bob Loveman

Jean Maurice

Heather McWilliams

Maureen Mudron

Marina Natsis

Nancy and Tom Patterson

Barbara Potter

Frank Schell

Mary Jo Shuler

Ameila Shultz

Silvino da Silva

Peter Talbert

Lena Thodos

Kristen Vasilakos

Support Thodos Dance Chicago

Support DanceWorks Chicago

New Dances 2025

Supporters

Pay-It- Forward Ticket Patrons Thank you for supporting our CommUNITY Call Board!

Nancy Ackerman
Jonathan Alsberry
Joanne Barrett
Sara Bibik
Vicki Crain
Pamela Crutchfield
Meredith Dincolo
Kimberly Dulac
Jennifer Edgcomb
Jane Heron
Dina Mansour
Jeanne Martineau
Julia Mayer
Michael McDiarmid
Michael McStraw
Kimberly Miller
Joseph O'Neil
Kelly Wren Rapp

Grateful to *New Dances* 2025 Host Committee members for their energy!

Co-Chairs

Lesli L. Babbs

Katlin Michael Bourgeois

Host Committee Members

Nancy Ackerman

Jonathan E. Alsberry

Joanne Barrett

Kimberly Dulac

Brian Hare

Kirstin L. Jones

Melinda Kramer

Michael McStraw

Christine Nappo

Silvino da Silva

Jacqueline Stewart

Kristen Vasilakos



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 5 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 grow, 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.

www.thodosdancechicago.org

Facebook and Instagram: @ThodosDanceChicago

TDC BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Kim Vatis, President

Shannon Raglin, Vice President

Christine Nappo, Secretary

Lesli Babbs

Rick Johnston

Diane H. Reilly

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.*

www.danceworkschicago.org

Facebook and Instagram: @danceworkschicago

DWC BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Kimberly Miller, President

Lauren Vitale, Treasurer

Kirstin L. Jones

Julie Nakagawa

Jimi Loc Nguyen

Michael Richter



Meet the Team!

Choreographers



Hanna DiLorenzo is a freelance dance artist based in Chicago. Driven by a desire to challenge convention, she crafts work that guides the eye from a cinematic perspective while utilizing space and lighting as key elements. Hanna received the Hubbard Street Professional Program's Emerging Choreographer Award and later became a founding member of Little Fire Artist Collective. Hanna is a dancer, choreographer, and rehearsal director for Niko8 and serves as Assistant Artistic Director and choreographer at Highland Park High School. Passionate about community and collaboration, Hanna continues to expand her choreographic voice through performance, education, and artistic leadership.



Janiya Pearson, from Queens, NY, began dancing at The Devore Dance Center. She attended The Ailey School and trained with Ballet Hispanico as well as Restoration Arts, Director Ronald K. Brown. Janiya was a YoungArts Honorable Mention winner. Janiya received her BFA in Dance from University of the Arts, Director Donna Faye Burchfield. She danced with JustSole Street Dance Theatre, Directors Kyle and Dinita Clark, and is now a member of Red Clay Dance Company, Director Vershawn Sanders-Ward. Janiya's research is rooted in the fusion of African and Contemporary dance forms, lifting up African Dance in a variety of spaces.



Kelsi Fears is a native of Atlanta, Georgia, and a graduate of the Point Park University Conservatory of the Performing Arts with a BFA in Dance. Kelsi was a 2023 participant in the Camille A. Brown Mentorship Program and a 2023 Tomayko Foundation Award recipient for Excellence in Choreography. Additional training includes the ChuThis Movement Intensive, Deeply Rooted Dance Theater, Gibney Summer Study Program, and the Sidra Bell Summer Module. Kelsi joined South Chicago Dance Theatre, directed by Kia S. Smith, as an Emerging Artist in 2024.



Maddy McCarthy (she/they) is a Chicago-based producer, choreographer, and dancer with a BFA in contemporary dance from Indiana University. She's worked with Twyla Tharp and Bill T. Jones as well as local Chicago companies/artists including Kaleigh Dent, LOUDBODIES Dance, Peckish Rhodes Performing Arts Society, and Alix Schillaci. Current projects include producing / choreographing / dancing in the hit burlesque parody Twilight: After Dark, serving on the board of LOUDBODIES Dance, and dancing for showgirl group The Hail Marys. When not dancing, Maddy can be found bingeing spooky tv shows, watching silly comedy movies, styling thrifted outfits, and reading vampire books.



Shota Miyoshi (he/him) from Kanagawa, Japan, trained in jazz, ballet, tap, and hip-hop from a young age. Shota moved to the U.S to attend SUNY Purchase College, graduating with a BFA in Dance (2022). Joining Hubbard Street Dance Chicago upon graduation, he has performed works by Aszure Barton, Rena Butler, FLOCK (Alice Klock and Florian Lochner), and James Gregg, among others. Shota was a choreographer for The Joffrey Ballet's 2025 Winning Works program, creating *Jive Five* for dancers from the Grainger Academy of The Joffrey Ballet, Conservatory Program. He has created work for HSDC's *Inside/Out* performances.



Xenia Mansour is a Chicago-based movement artist, performer, director, and coach. She holds a BFA in Dance from NYU Tisch and has performed with NYC-based choreographers and collectives, including HIVEWILD, BodyStories, HOLDTIGHT Company, and Rashaun Mitchell + Silas Riener. Recently, she performed in Brendan Fernandes' *In Two* at the Pulitzer Arts Museum and choreographed/performed in *Welcome Home* at Steppenwolf Theatre with Grammy-nominated musician Nico Segal. Her work has also been commissioned by Grammy-winner Kalia Vandever and MOMENTA Dance Company. Mansour facilitates a weekly class at Chicago Movement Collective called *Contemporary Play*, which prioritizes curiosity, dialogue, and intentionality in the studio.

Dancers



Alexandria "Alex" Kinard (she/her) is a dancer, choreographer, and teacher from Louisville, KY. She holds a BFA in Dance from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Professionally, Alex has apprenticed with Parsons Dance Company, danced with Dayton Contemporary Dance Company 2, shadowed the Mark Morris Dance Company, and participated in the Camille A. Brown Mentorship program. She has worked with renowned choreographers Donald Byrd, Michelle Gibson, Bebe Miller, and Kemal Nance. Alex is in her second season with Red Clay Dance Company as a touring member.



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 in 2022. During this time, she worked with a variety of choreographers including Katlin Michael Bourgeois, Randy Duncan, Wayne McGregor, and Nick Pupillo. Within the past year, Ariana has had the privilege of performing in *New Dances 2024* (creations by Sophie Minouche Allen and Jessi Stegall), the *Dance for Life* finale (choreography by Jonathan Alsberry), and *Still Inspired Artist Festival* (choreography by Kelsi Fears).



Caitlin Wonsowski is a Chicago-based emerging choreographer and performer. While pursuing her Bachelor of Arts in Dance from Columbia College Chicago, she worked with choreographers Michelle Gibson and Darrell Jones and choreographed original works including “Upraise of Uncertainty” and “Echoes of Conditioning”. Since graduating in 2024, Caitlin has been working as a freelance artist, collaborating with artists Chih-Jou Cheng, Phree, and kt williams, while continuing to explore the intersection of movement and psychology in choreography such as “Sixty-Five 14” in partnership with Najah Iman, which has been featured at several Midwest dance festivals.



Claire Binguitt, from Canton, MI, holds a BA in Dance with a focus in Jazz and Modern from Western Michigan University. Claire danced for FunGirl Dance Co before moving to Chicago in 2023, dancing at Visceral DanceChicago as a trainee under the direction of Cait Cucchiara, performing works by Braeden Barnes, Mónica Cervantes, Tina Díaz, and Nick Pupillo. Claire dances with Symbiosis Arts under the direction of Braeden Barnes and is also in their first season with DanceWorks Chicago, performing works by Rubén Graciani, Joshua Manculich, Jessi Stegall under the guidance of Julie Nakagawa.



Ella Kim dances with DanceWorks Chicago, performing works by Rubén Graciani, Joshua Manculich, and Jessi Stegall. From Seattle, WA, she began classical ballet training at a young age. Ella graduated summa cum laude with a BFA in Dance from George Mason University, where she danced pieces by Rafael Bonachela, Shaun D’Arcy, Karen Reedy, Christina Robson, Susan Shields, and Doug Varone. In addition to attending intensives with Alonzo King LINES Ballet, B12, DanceWorks Chicago, Doug Varone and Dancers, and Whim W’Him, Ella has collaborated with choreographers Robert Priore and Ethan Pak Rome. She is inspired by the communicative power of dance.



Faith von Atzigen is a Chicago-based artist originally from Southern California. She graduated from Oral Roberts University in 2020 with a B.A. in Dance Performance. Faith is in her third season with South Chicago Dance Theatre, where she has worked with Donald Byrd, Joshua Blake Carter, Frank Chavez, Monique Haley, Tsai Hsi Hung, Terrence Marling, and Kate Weare. As a freelance choreographer, she received a 2023 Chicago DCASE Individual Artist Grant to produce an evening-length work entitled “HER” and was selected to perform an excerpt of the work at the 2024 Harvest Contemporary Dance Festival.



Hannah Huang (they/she) is a freelance dance artist based in Chicago. Born and raised in Northern California, this performer danced their way to Salt Lake City, UT, to pursue a BFA in Ballet with a minor in Modern at the University of Utah before moving to Chicago. She brings a wide array of movement experience to the stage, having explored and trained in concert dance forms such as ballet and modern dance as well as less conventional movement forms like heels, partner acrobatics, and various aerial arts.



Isaiah Cavallero, from San Antonio, TX, began his training at a young age and discovered a passion for dancing. He attended the Alabama School of Fine Arts, under 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 intensives at American Ballet Theatre, Ballet X (Winter), DanceWorks Chicago (ChoreoLab), BodyTraffic, Nashville Ballet, and The Washington Ballet. Isaiah joined DanceWorks Chicago in September 2023.



Josephine (Josie) Starr, born and raised in Marshall, Missouri, began her training as a competition dancer. She graduated, earning a B.F.A. in Dance with departmental honors, from Webster University. Josie has had the privilege of training with companies across the United States, including Alonzo King LINES Ballet, Complexions Contemporary Ballet, Inaside Dance Chicago, and Visceral Dance Chicago. She continues her dance practice post college, performing professionally with Hot Crowd dance company.



Lauryn Crowell, from Birmingham, Alabama, is an explorative-driven artist. She started at Robinson's School of Dance, whilst exploring visual and performing arts at Dunbar Magnet School of The Creative and Performing Arts. In high school, she furthered her dance training at Alabama School of Fine Arts. Lauryn graduated from George Mason University receiving a BFA in Dance and an Excellence in Choreography Academic Award. She has performed works by Jennifer Archibald, Robert Battle, Rafael Bonachela, Shaun Boyle-Darcy, Mark Morris, and Doug Varone, and assisted Susan Shields. In Chicago, she has danced with Alluvion Dance Chicago and South Chicago Dance Theatre.



Mia Veronique Philippon (Vail, CO), began dance training at Vail Valley Academy of Dance. Studies continued at Southland Ballet Academy, directors Salwa Rizkalla and mentor Christina Lyon, and later at Walnut Hill School for the Arts, directors Michael Owen and Denise Lewis. Mia 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. Summer studies included DanceWorks Chicago's Dance360 programming. Mia joined DanceWorks Chicago in September 2023.



Mikee Ellis began their dance training at Sharon Miller's Academy for the Performing Arts in Montclair, New Jersey. They were accepted into New York University's Tisch School of the Arts with a full Tisch Scholarship, earning a BFA in Dance. During their time at NYU, they had the opportunity to perform in José Limón's "Missa Brevis" and in work by Laja Field, alongside choreographing a number of their own pieces. Mikee is a dancer with Cerqua Rivera Dance Theatre II, where they have had the privilege of performing in works by Shannon Alvis, Monique Haley, Noelle Kayser, and Wilfredo Rivera.



In 2013, **Nia Montgomery** started her dance training in her hometown of St. Louis, Missouri. In 2022, she graduated from Loyola University of Chicago with a dual degree in Advertising/PR and Dance. At Loyola, she worked with choreographers and educators such as Rena Butler and Blakeley White-McGuire. Today, she is a dance educator, teaching multiple styles to children and adults. Over the past year, she has studied commercial dance styles, such as hip-hop and heels, and is excited to continue exploring as she dives into choreography, performance, and educating the next generation.



Nick Kearns, from Williamsburg, VA, began dancing at age 15 under the direction of Shelly Isler at SI Dance. A graduate of James Madison University, Nick performed with the Virginia Repertory Dance Company, a select ensemble that provided him the opportunity to collaborate with renowned companies such as Ballet Hispánico, DanceWorks Chicago, and Eisenhower Dance Detroit. He had the privilege of working with acclaimed choreographers Lucinda Childs, Norbert De La Cruz III, Rubén Graciani, Monique Haley, and Jessica Hendricks while at JMU. Summer studies included DanceForce, part of DWC's Dance360 offerings. Nick joined DanceWorks Chicago in September 2024.



Samantha Leigh Anderson began formal dance training at Central Texas Ballet Conservatory, directed by Caitlin Kelly. Upon graduating from The University of Texas at Austin, with a B.F.A. in Dance, Samantha joined the trainee program at Visceral Dance Chicago. Most recently Samantha was honored as a Claire Bataille Legacy Scholarship recipient with Chicago Movement Collective and participated in *New Dances* 2024. Samantha has attended summer intensives and collegiate intensives with American Ballet Theatre, Flockworks, Gaga Lab, Gibney, and Hubbard Street Dance Chicago. Samantha has performed works by Charles Anderson, Braeden Barnes, Kevin Ormsby, Nick Pupillo, and Joel Valentin-Martinez.



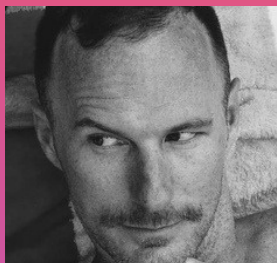
TREY ALEXANDER (they/them), from Washington, MO, began training at COCA in Saint Louis. Trey received a BFA in Performance and Choreography from the UMKC Conservatory of Dance in 2019, mentored by Deeanna Hiatt and Gary Abbott. They have performed works by choreographers George Balanchine, Frank Chavez, Gregory Dawson, Kevin Iega Jeff, Christopher Wheeldon, and more. Trey has danced professionally with Wyllyams-Henry Contemporary Dance Company, Deeply Rooted Dance Theater, and DanceWorks Chicago. Trey dances with South Chicago Dance Theatre under the direction of Kia S. Smith, where they also serve as resident costume designer and wardrobe manager.



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. Most recently, 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 Koresh, 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.



Abby Widlak is thrilled to join DanceWorks Chicago and Team New Dances as a summer intern! Abby recently graduated from the University of Michigan with a BFA in Dance. Originally from Grand Rapids, MI, Abby is a dancer, performer, choreographer, and lighting designer. She trained at Rhythm Dance Center before expanding her practice with companies such as Marcat Dance in Seville, Spain, and Hubbard Street Dance Chicago. She also performed in Oklahomal! at the Encore Musical Theatre Company, and her work was recently showcased at the East Central Conference of American College Dance Association.

Congratulations

to *New Dances* choreographer and
Hubbard Street Dancer **SHOTA MIYOSHI**
on his World Premiere this evening!



**HUBBARD
STREET
DANCE
CHICAGO**

SEASON
2025 / 26 **48**

RENEWALS AVAILABLE NOW
New Subscriptions on sale July 25

FALL SERIES, NOV. 14-23, 2025
Tickets on sale September 9

Photo: Hubbard Street Dancer Shota Miyoshi. Photo by Michelle Reid. Designs by NICZKA. Styling by Tania Mackey.



CHICAGO
DANCE
HISTORY
PROJECT

HISTORY

YOU MAKE IT. WE RECORD IT.

***CDHP Salutes New Dances for 40 years
of innovation and opportunity.***

For more information regarding Chicago Dance History Project's
free programs and services, visit

www.chicagodancehistory.org

**Congratulations
to our Company
Members!**



Janiya Pearson

Alex Kinard

SEASON 17

Paint The Town

Red

September 19, 2025

Fall Concert Series

September 20-21,
2025

La Femme Dance

Festival

March 27-28, 2026



**Learn more at
redclaydance.com**

the CAPULETS

the CAPULETS



CHICAGO REPERTORY BALLET PRESENTS
THE CAPULETS NOVEMBER 7 - 16

WWW.CHICAGOREPERTORYBALLET.COM

STORY JAM

STORYTELLING TRAINING

LEARN TO TELL
GREAT STORIES



StoryJamStudio.com



Check us out!
dance.gmu.edu



B U C K T O W N

C H I R O P R A C T I C

H E A L T H C E N T E R



: SIMPLICITY +

We are proud to support
DanceWorks Chicago



SALESFORCE MADE SIMPLE
simplicity-plus.com



New Dances 2025 **Tote Bags For Sale!**

Only \$10!

The perfect accessory
to accompany your
New Dances button!



You support women. Your bank account should too.

At First Women's Bank, a savings account is more than a place to put your money to save for education, a future purchase or a rainy day. It's an opportunity to put your money on a mission to achieve your goals, while supporting the women's economy.

**OPEN AN
ACCOUNT
TODAY**

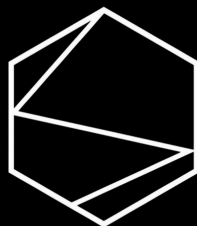


www.FirstWomens.Bank



SANCTA 2025

Live Concert



July 11 & 18 | 7pm

Color Cub
symbiosisarts.org



SHANNON RAGLIN

YOUR "TOWN TO COUNTRY" REAL ESTATE EXPERT



SHANNON@SHANNONRAGLIN.COM

(312) 505-9515

SHANNONRAGLIN.COM

LINCOLN PARK OFFICE

1910 N. CLYBOURN

CHICAGO, IL 60614

Shannon specializes in serving both the city and northern suburbs as a local expert, thanks to her deep understanding of the neighborhoods and markets of each. Whether you hope to make a transition between Chicago and the North Shore, or share your residency in both, she is your "Town to Country" expert.

A passionate supporter of Chicago's cultural institutions and the arts — dance, theatre, music and opera — Shannon actually choreographed and performed in *New Dances* in the early 90's and danced with *The Chicago Repertory Dance Ensemble*, *Jan Erkert Dancers Chicago*, and *Jan Bartoszek of Hedwig Dances*, and is a committed board member of **Thodos Dance Chicago**.



COLDWELL BANKER | REALTY

Affiliated real estate agents are independent contractor sales associates, not employees. ©2023 Coldwell Banker. All Rights Reserved. Coldwell Banker and the Coldwell Banker logos are trademarks of Coldwell Banker Real Estate LLC. The Coldwell Banker® System is comprised of company owned offices which are owned by a subsidiary of Anywhere Advisors LLC and franchised offices which are independently owned and operated. The Coldwell Banker System fully supports the principles of the Fair Housing Act and the Equal Opportunity Act. 🏡



NALLY



NALLY JEWELS

580 Fifth Avenue, Suite 2100 New York, New York 10036

In Chicago

Adelina, Email: adelina@nallyjewels.com 312 342-1532

Website: nallyjewels.com





We would love to hear
about your *New Dances*
experience.

[Click here to](#)
[share your voice!](#)

Support Thodos Dance Chicago

Support DanceWorks Chicago