Under the Artistic Direction of Marc Brew

Radical Impact Tour

PRESS KIT
HISTORY

Founded in 1987, AXIS is the nation’s most acclaimed ensemble of disabled and non-disabled performers. Founding Artistic Director Thais Mazur had the creative vision to gather a group of dancers with and without physical disabilities to explore dance. What first started as a integrated group of dancers exploring and creating one performance piece, quickly led to numerous requests for performances and integrated dance classes.

In 2017, AXIS announced internationally renowned choreographer Marc Brew as it’s new Artistic Director. Under the Artistic Direction of Judith Smith from 1997-2016, AXIS’ list of collaborators includes Bill T. Jones, Stephen Petronio, Yvonne Rainer, Ann Carlson, David Dorfman, Meredith Monk, Joan Jeanrenaud and Fred Frith. AXIS has toured to over 100 cities in the USA, Europe and Russia. The Company has received seven Isadora Duncan Dance Awards and has appeared twice on FOX TV’s So You Think You Can Dance, exposing our genre of dance to millions. As a leader in physically integrated dance in the US, AXIS hosted the first ever National Convening on the Future of Physically Integrated Dance in 2016 followed by Regional Convenings in New England, the South, the Mid-Atlantic, the Midwest, the Western States, and the West Coast.

Alongside AXIS’ artistic performance program, the Company provides unparalleled integrated dance education and outreach programs. From recreational to professional training, AXIS builds access to dance education for people of all ages with and without disabilities.
MISSION

AXIS exists to change the face of dance & disability

We accomplish our mission through three pillars of activity:

Artistry
The heart of AXIS is the commissioning, creation, and performance of contemporary dance that is developed through the collaboration of dancers with and without physical disabilities. Our artistic vision to collaborate with high profile choreographers and cutting edge innovative dance makers of our time was an excellent strategy that has resulted in artistically stunning and significant dance works. More than any other company in the United States, AXIS has been at the forefront of the field, building a bridge between contemporary dance, integrated dance, and disability culture.

Engagement
AXIS’ outreach program began in 1989 in direct response to community demand by those who saw our performances and wanted to study this new form of dance. AXIS maintains a more extensive engagement program than any other integrated dance program in the United States or abroad. Our program offers opportunities and events for all ages and abilities and is the primary pre-professional training ground for aspiring dancers with disabilities.

Advocacy
As a pioneer of integrated dance, AXIS creates opportunities locally and abroad for people with disabilities to engage in dance by championing access, inclusion and equity for people with disabilities both in dance and in the wider community. AXIS is respected for its integrity on all levels of its artistic, engagement & advocacy programs. We have earned a place on the local, national and international dance stage as a respected contemporary dance company and we are securing our foundation to address the challenges and opportunities that role entails.
Marc Brew

Acclaimed International choreographer and AXIS Artistic Director Marc Brew trained as a professional dancer at the Victorian College of the Arts Secondary School and The Australian Ballet School. He has been working in the UK and internationally for the past 20 years as a director, choreographer, dancer, teacher and speaker; with the Australian Ballet Company, State Theatre Ballet Company of South Africa, Infinity Dance Theatre, CandoCo Dance Company and AXIS Dance Company. Marc was Associate Director with Scottish Dance Theatre, Associate Artistic Director with Ballet Cymru in Wales and was Associate Artist in 2015 at Tramway Theatre in Glasgow.

Since 2008 Marc has dedicated time to his own choreography with Marc Brew Company and his recent choreographic commissions include Scottish Ballet, Ballet Cymru, YDance, AXIS Dance Company (USA), Candoco Dance Company (UK), Touch Compass (NZ), Amy Seiwert’s Imagery (USA), GDance, Scottish Dance Theatre, Greewnwich & Docklands International Festival and City of London Festival (UK). Marc was featured by Time Out Magazine as the best of the new breed of London’s Rising Dance Talent and was presented with a Centenary Medal for Outstanding Contribution as a dancer and choreographer. His work Remember When was nominated for an Isadora Duncan Dance Award for Best Performance (individual) and his recent solo work For Now, I am… was listed in the Guardians Top 10 Dance Shows for 2016.

For more information visit: www.marcbrew.com

I seek to challenge and be challenged to push the boundaries of dance.
Robin Anderson

Robin’s career in dance-arts administration spans 19 years, 4 cities and 6 organizations, supporting genres ranging from African, to ballet, to contemporary. Robin is inspired to now be working with AXIS Dance Company and championing the field of integrated dance.

After nine years in Portland, Oregon where she began her career at Homowo African Arts & Cultures, Conduit and Oregon Ballet Theatre, Robin left to pursue her MFA in dance at the Ohio State University (2013-2016). While there, she produced a multi-media, site-based audience development series and worked for the Performing Arts Department of the Wexner Center.

Drawn to weaving arts organizations into the fabric of a city’s culture, community building is Robin’s passion. While serving as Director of the Alonzo King LINES Dance Center (2007-2014), she started their first outreach programs, including co-founding the 24 Days of Central Market Arts Festival and serving on the board of the Central Market Community Benefit District. In addition to managing their program of 80 weekly classes, she initiated new programming such as All Can Dance for Just $5 and their Absolute Beginning Workshops series to reach new clientele.

Robin joined AXIS in 2015, tasked with organizing their engagement programs. Her role quickly grew, and in the last two years Robin has managed all of the companies’ bookings and produced their recent Yerba Buena Gardens Festival Production with choreographer Stephan Koplowitz. This past spring, she completed the Oakland Chamber of Commerce’s Leadership Oakland Program. Robin is honored to step into the role of Executive Director of AXIS at this critical juncture, partnering with Artistic Director Marc Brew to define its path for the next 30 years of rule-breaking.
STAFF

Katherine Nauman, Rehearsal Director
Erika Evearitt, Development Manager
Danika Ingraham, Operations Manager
Hannah Rogge, Marketing Associate

Rachel Cohen, Artist Representative
Liam Passmore, Publicist

Photo: David DeSilva
COMPANY DANCERS

James Bowen was born and raised in Dallas, TX. A dancer from age 3, he began technical dance training as a freshman at Kansas State University where he studied under the renowned ballet teacher Joyce Yagerline, among others. James has performed with Dallas Black Dance Theatre, HappyNia Dance Theatre Productions, LA-based Inked, and on the online television series, Steady Mobbin.' James joined AXIS in 2016.

*I love sharing the stage with dancers that, despite having different physical abilities, share the same goal of showing how powerful dance can be.*

Lani Dickinson was born in and adopted from China. She began dancing at age eight in Towson, Maryland, later attending summers at the Boston Ballet School and two years at Idyllwild Arts Academy. She graduated summa cum laude from Alonzo King LINES Ballet BFA at Dominican University of CA and is a 2015 Princess Grace Award winner. She has performed in works by Christian Burns, Sidra Bell, Gregory Dawson, Maurya Kerr, Eric Beauchenesne, Stephanie Gilliland, Arturo Fernandez, Alonzo King, Yayoi Kambara and Robert Dekkers. Lani joined AXIS in 2016.

*AXIS has the ability to re-invigorate the conversation using dance as our common language. Staying true to the social model of disability, I hope to lessen the penumbra of spatial apprehension between disabled and non-disabled people. I think observing somebody engaged in the essence translates into something beautiful.*

Yuko Monden was born in Japan. She graduated from the Japan Women’s College of Physical Education in Tokyo. Yuko performs Yosakoi dance and has received many awards as a K-one Dream member, performed in the Japanese Summer Festival Song and Ohayo Nippon television shows, and choreographed the song F Marinos for over 500 performers, in the Yosakoi Festival at the NISSAN Stadium. In the US she has performed with: Nimbus Dance Works, LEVYdance, the Next Stage Project, the Anata Project, Copious Dance Theater, and CALI & CO dance. Yuko is a certified Simonson Method Teacher and has taught hip hop and contemporary at Dance Masters of California, Geary Dance Center, Mobu Dance Studio and Sonoma State University. Yuko joined AXIS in 2017.

*I love working with wonderful choreographers and dancers. I look forward to being challenged, learning, and exploring in my journey with AXIS!*
Edisnel Rodriguez was born in Santiago de Cuba, Cuba, began dancing at age twelve, and graduated from the Escuela Vocacional de Arte in 2008. He began his professional career with Danza del Caribe in Santiago, traveling to work with dancers from recognized companies such as National Dance Company of Jamaica (NDTC) and National Dance Company of Belize. In the U.S. he has performed with acclaimed companies and directors: Ramon Ramos Alayo; Krissy Keiffer; Gregory Dawson; Adrianna Thompson; Enrico Labayen; Dendro Montalvo; Tandy Beal; Petaluma Ballet School; and Yayoi Kambara. Edisnel joined AXIS in 2018.

*I am grateful for the opportunity with AXIS to give back to our local school communities by keeping dance alive in the academic curriculum.*

JanpiStar Rodriguez was born and raised in Puerto Rico. He started pursuing dance in January 2013 with Juan M Seller in School for the Performing Arts at Guaynabo Puerto Rico. He has taken workshops with the Ecuadorian group Malayerba. He has participated in workshops with Candoco Dance Company, and worked with Maritza Perez theater group “Jóvenes del 98” for two years while he trained in dance at The School for the Performing Arts with Waldo Gonzalez. He was also part of choreographer Petra Bravo’s “instalaciones Coreograficas, la casitas de Santurce in 2016.” He is inspired to keep developing himself in dance, teaching, theater, and performance. JanpiStar joined AXIS in 2018.

*AXIS has allowed me to follow my dream of making a world more accessible through the arts also with AXIS I can express myself, dance, move my beautiful and that make me feel free.*

Dwayne Scheuneman was born in Buffalo, NY. An accomplished wheelchair track and field athlete, he sought out dance as a means of cross training, taking class and performing with Asher Dance Eclectic in Tampa, Florida. He began taking workshops and attending dance festivals with internationally recognized dance companies such as AXIS Dance Company and CANDOCO. In 2005, Dwayne started REVolutions dance, a physically integrated company in Tampa. Since then, he has collaborated with choreographers and dancers to create and perform numerous pieces. He also established a weekly dance class for children with and without disabilities in Tampa, and extended this programming throughout the U.S. and abroad. He has had a close relationship with AXIS Dance for several years and is grateful for the opportunity to be a part of the AXIS family. Dwayne joined AXIS in 2014.

*What love about AXIS is being a part of an artistic family.*
Renowned international choreographer Marc Brew’s first work as AXIS’ Artistic Director, *Radical Impact* was created in collaboration with Composer JooWan Kim of the hip-hop orchestra Ensemble Mik Nawooj, exploring what it means to be human. *Radical Impact* is a coming together of powerfully vulnerable stories told through the exhilarating virtuosity of disabled and non-disabled artists moving as one. *Watch Trailer*

“Inclusive in terms of vocabulary, adapted and highlighted by individual artists, *Radical Impact* at times felt sculptural like worked stone and yet it also flowed like water.”

—Rita Felciano, *Dance View Times*

“The dancing wanted nothing in stamina or musicality. Brew knows exactly where to stop.”

—Allan Ulrich, *SF Chronicle*
Bay Area choreographer and newly appointed Artistic Director of Sacramento Ballet, Amy Seiwert pushes AXIS to a new level of rigor—beginning with a ballet foundation and transforming it with her unique quirkiness, kineticism and layered partnering.

The dancers slid in and out of partnerships and associations, slipping across each other’s skin as if on glass.” –Katie O’Connor, The Daily Californian

WATCH TRAILER
Award-winning dancer and choreographer Nadia Adame’s new work Historias Rotas (Broken Stories) is inspired by the experience of traveling through our lives collecting memories we create with the people we meet, and the places we visit; all of this forms our persona and what we carry in our own suitcase of life. With lighting designed by Walter Holden and music by Paul Shapera, Historias Rotas creates a world we can all relate to.

WATCH VIDEO
NEW WORKS FOR 2019

Flutter, Robert Dekkers
Quartet No. 1, Marc Brew, AXIS Artistic Director
Alice in Oakland, by Arthur Pita (UK) WATCH VIDEO

2018 PERFORMANCES

SEPTEMBER 14-15
Hillsborough Community College
Tampa, FL

SEPTEMBER 26-30
Forward Motion: Miami’s International Physically Integrated Dance Festival
Miami, FL

OCTOBER 26
In Motion: an intimate benefit celebrating AXIS
Berkeley, CA

OCTOBER 27
AXIS Family Matinee
Oakland, CA
OUTREACH

“AXIS’ message of power and inclusion touches students and adults deeply. We carry this message forward and it continues to unfold in our experience over time.”

– Jenn Rader, Director of James Morehouse Project at El Cerrito High

AXIS offers half and full week residency packages that teach dance and educate about collaboration and disability. Serving dancers of all ages and abilities in master classes, workshops, youth performances and seminars, AXIS’ programming provides the opportunity for presenters to connect with new populations in their communities. Examples of previous populations served include veterans, health care professionals, students from K-12 to university level as well as dance professionals and educators.

We look forward to discussing the work with you and how we could build a tour and wrap around education program to suit your presenting needs and population.

“This experience really opened me up to how important it is to create inclusive and accepting environments, not only for moral reasons but also because it allows unique and magical things to happen.”

– Student Participant, James Madison University
“There’s no more defiant a land that I can think of than AXIS. AXIS showed me what dance could be.”
–Bill T. Jones, Choreographer

“To see these performers in dances of gesture- is to realize the liberation that comes from the courageous exploration of human potential.”–Iris Fanger, The Boston Herald

“Fearless and contemporary, and inventive and reinvigorated. AXIS is still breaking artistic ground.”
–Claudia Bauer, San Francisco Chronicle

“In the past, physically integrated dance served as a community-building project, but it now presents the possibility of changing the very way we think about bodies.”
–Victoria Marks, Choreographer and UCLA professor

“Over the last two years in particular, AXIS has leapt forward into even more rigorous artistry, and into broader advocacy that makes inclusivity in dance more readily visible.”–Lea Marshall, The Atlantic

“Brew challenges expectations, assumptions and restrictions, upending them by placing artistic experiences outside an imposed box.”–Heather Desaulniers, Dance Tabs
“Collaborating with AXIS has truly galvanized Gibney’s ongoing commitment to disability, dance, and artistry. AXIS’ integrated approach to artistry and advocacy is extraordinary and marks them as leaders in the field and change makers to watch.”

– Kara Gilmour, Senior Director of Community Action, Training and Artist Services, Gibney

“There are many talented dance companies that create strong engagement activities along with their performances, but there are not many that can create the kind of inclusive, immersive experience that AXIS Dance Company creates.”

– Anthea Scouffas, Director of Engagement/Education, Leid Center
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