

CDF Staff

Stage Manager: Megan L. Gargano

Assistant Stage Manager: Elyse Morckel

Production Staff: TMP Company Members

Lighting: Vincent Lighting

Lighting Designer: Lauren Jordan

Sound Operator: Ben Hochster

Front of House: Elyza Morckel, Jordan Jackson

Videographer + Photographer: Black Valve

Usher: Rachael Palermo, Rebecca Leuszler

The Movement Project

Megan L. Gargano, Co-Artistic Director

Rebecca J. Leuszler, Co-Artistic Director

Elyse Morckel, Associate Director

Liz Conway, Company Member

Cristina LaRocca, Company Member

Samara Steele, Seasonal Company Member

Lex Cuevas, Seasonal Company Member

Jordan Jackson, CDF Intern

Special thanks to the Ariel LaSalle Theater for hosting
Cleveland Dance Fest 2023!



Page 20- back cover



page 1 - front cover

Welcome!

On behalf of The Movement Project, I would like to welcome you to our 8th annual Cleveland Dance Fest 2023 at the historic Ariel LaSalle Theater! The 3-day festival will feature new works by local, national and international artists in two evening length concerts, an emerging works concert showcasing “works in progress”, a youth showcase for pre-professional artists and a virtual dance film gallery.

Cleveland Dance Fest prioritizes the mission of The Movement Project in making dance not only accessible to the public, but also providing artists with the opportunity to present and develop their work here within our community. This year’s festival will feature pieces spanning the full breath of genres and styles of dance including Afro-Caribbean, Ballet Folklorico, Ballet, Contemporary, House Dancing, Improvisational Practices, Jazz, Modern, Street Dance, Classical Indian Dance and more.

Over the past 7 seasons, Cleveland Dance Fest has grown into a sustainable ecosystem embraced by artists from across Ohio, the regional Midwest, and beyond. Through the years, CDF funding partners have fueled our ability to maximize artist support, allowing us to pay over \$43,500 towards artists since CDF’s inaugural year. Experiencing live art is essential to growing a more healthy, vibrant and creative community. We hope for CDF to be a place for conversation and diversity in thought and action. Dance is an art form that can be enjoyed by all generations and we look forward to providing a space for people to come together and experience live dance performances.

Lastly, The Movement Project would like to thank our staff for their dedication in providing the highest quality of support to our CDF artists, the Ariel LaSalle Theater for providing a beautiful space to connect with our community, to our generous funders and sponsors for their significant contributions in making CDF possible, to our incredible CDF artists in creating transformative work that matters in our world and to our audience, for your continued support and belief in not only The Movement Project, but the 100+ artists who share their work with you each year. THANK YOU!

Our deepest gratitude,

Megan L. Gargano
Co-Artistic Director & Founder
The Movement Project

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT OF CLEVELAND DANCE FEST!

With your support, The Movement Project is able to provide affordable and accessible dance performances, programming, and education to Northeast Ohio's youth, families, and dance community. Help make a difference today.

Make a one time donation or a monthly recurring donation as a TMP sustainer by scanning the code below to visit our donation page.





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Thank you to our CDF 2023 Funders & Sponsors! CDF would not be possible without the generous support of our community sponsors, partners and foundation support. We can't thank you enough!



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The MOVEMENT
Project



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The Movement Project

Tonality

Choreography: Megan L. Gargano, in collaboration with Elyse Morchel, Liz Conway & Grace Auble

Dancers: Cristina LaRocca, Samara Steele, Lex Cuevas

Sound: Appalachian Grove I, A Folk Study & Clockworks by Laurie Spiegel

About the work: *Tonality* explores the rhythmic complexities, intricate sounds, and dynamic tones of electronic composer Laurie Spiegel. Gargano, in tandem with the dancers, created a piece rooted in rhythmic articulation, spacial patterning and the process of editing. The final product brings both the vibrant tones and the magnetic movement to a place of playful concurrence.

Note: Premiered in 2021 in TMP's "patchworks [voices amplified]" at The Pivot Center, Cleveland Ohio.

Mordine Legacy Project

To: and From:

Choreography: Danielle Gilmore, Melissa Pillarella with Shirely Mordine

Dancers: Danielle Gilmore and Melissa Pillarella

Sound: "Sea Image" The Chieftains

About the work: "To: and From:" is a duet created by using the original source material of Shirley Mordine's solo, "Letters to my Son", 1979. Shirley created this solo as a movement letter of her family's lineage. Gilmore and Pillarella used this material, creating a story of their own lineage, time and history spent working and dancing with Shirley. This duet explores the original material adapted into a duet as the dancers journey through what they have taken with them and will leave behind.

Note: "To: and From:" was created as part of the mentorship program through Mordine and Company Dance Theater.

Hixon Dance

False Prophets (excerpt)

Choreography: Sarah Hixon

Dancers: Eleanor Bearss, Alicia Hann, Sarah Price, Anne Raspe, (Sarah Vah, alternate)

Sound: String Quartet No. 8, Mov 3 - Dmitri Shostakovich

About the work: This quartet is excerpted from an evening-length work entitled "False Prophets." This section depicts a sort of cat and mouse game in which two dancers have control over the two who struggle against the coercion. The entire work explores the idea of combatting exploitation forced on people by systems, institutions, or ideologies.



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SHOW 1

Friday, November 3rd, 7:30PM

Anna Peretz Rogovoy

In The Weeds

Choreography: Anna Peretz Rogovoy

Dancers: Noa Greenfeld, Natalie Kunsemiller, Avi Pellegrinetti, Claire Rineberg, Isabella Saldaña, Sofia Saldaña, Sarah Vickerman, Damiyah Williams

Sound: Original score by John Toenjes

Premiere Date: March 30, 2023

About the work: "In The Weeds" is a ranging stroll through the midwestern prairie. The dancers navigate teasingly specific choreography inspired by native plants such as the blue funnel lily and purple poppy mallow. Rogovoy's underlying curiosity regarding the future of movement vocabularies such as ballet and Merce Cunningham technique works its way into the dance's root system, providing structure and language.

10 minute Intermission

Alfonso Cervera + Elliot Reza Emadian

acreage

Choreographers + Dancers: Alfonso Cervera + Elliot Reza Emadian

Sound: Elliot Reza Emadian

Projections: Alfonso Cervera

About the work: "acreage - a broad expanse of fertile land
Planted in the fields of Illinois, we meet by chance.

What resonates in the rhythms of our four feet?

What do we build that withstands physical distance?

What queer future can we become?

Here in Ohio, we continue to wonder."

Note: Thank you to our Dance at Illinois forever family and j e l l o dances (Chicago, IL) for supporting the creation of this work.



The Northern Ohio Youth Orchestra provides exceptional musical education through a variety of performance opportunities for young musicians of all backgrounds in an inclusive community of learning and growth.

Based in Oberlin, NOYO offers five large ensembles (Amati Strings, Philharmonia Orchestra, Sinfonietta Strings, Symphonic Band, and Wind Symphony) plus a jazz combo to accommodate musicians of all experience levels in grades 5 through 12. We allocate financial aid to make sure that cost is not a barrier to participation.

Visit www.noyo.org for more information!

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Dominic Moore-Dunson

In His Eyes

Choreography: Dominic Moore-Dunson

Dancer: Dominic Moore-Dunson

Sound: Mercy (Live); Max Richter

About the work: In His Eyes is a short movement story about a man exploring vulnerability and see himself fully for the first time. This work was created during my time as an associate artist with Doug Varone at Atlantic Center for the Arts.

Note: Dominic was named Dance Magazine's 2023 "25 to Watch". You can find him at www.dommooredun.com

Caribe Conexion | CDF Commissioned Artist

Why can't I?

Choreography: Dr. Munirah Bomani

Assistant Choreographer: Inali Pichardo

Dancers: Dr. Munirah Bomani, Inali Pichardo, Lilliana Rivera, Alexis Cuevas, Marisa Nieves, Julie Ramirez

Sound: FACESOUL : Medicine, Love, Empowerment

About the work: We are often our own barriers to happiness and self-actualization due to accepting imaginary societal rules about what we "can and cannot do". What would happen if we were to prioritize our own well-being and pursuing the things that genuinely bring joy? Ask yourself this, "If happy little bluebirds fly beyond the rainbow Why, oh why can't I?"

PLEASE JOIN US IN THE LOBBY FOR A POST-SHOW RECEPTION

cdf
cleveland dance fest

**FESTIVAL
SCHEDULE**

VIRTUAL DANCE FILM GALLERY

Goes live November 1st (3-month access!)

FRIDAY NOVEMBER 3RD

7:30 PM - SHOW 1

SATURDAY NOVEMBER 4TH

9:00 AM - 1:30 PM - PRO MASTER CLASSES

5:00 PM - EMERGING WORKS CONCERT

7:30 PM - SHOW 2

SUNDAY NOVEMBER 5TH

9:00 AM - 12:00 PM - YOUTH MASTER CLASSES

5:00 PM - YOUTH SHOWCASE

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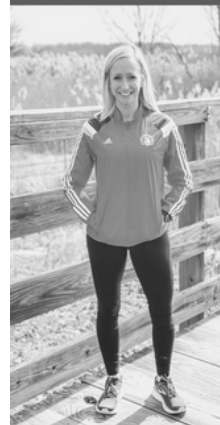
   

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PLEASE JOIN US IN THE LOBBY FOR A POST-SHOW RECEPTION

SUGAR BROOK NATURAL PET



www.sugarbrooknaturalpet.com

Dominic Moore-Dunson

In His Eyes

Choreography: Dominic Moore-Dunson

Dancer: Dominic Moore-Dunson

Sound: Mercy (Live); Max Richter

About the Work: In His Eyes is a short movement story about a man exploring vulnerability and see himself fully for the first time. This work was created during my time as an associate artist with Doug Varone at Atlantic Center for the Arts.

Note: Dominic was named Dance Magazine's 2023 "25 to Watch". You can find him at

www.dommooredun.com

Reflections Dance Theater | Samara Steele

Where Are My Wings?

Choreographer: Samara Steele

Dancers: Lafonshey Jones, Cayla Napoleon, Christian Sims, Nehemiah Spencer

Sound: Where Are My Wings? Loading by James Blake

About the work: This piece is an exploration of the depths of the human mind. It takes a look at the many versions of ourselves that exist between the conscious and subconscious mind.

Lucy Dillon

No Where

Choreographer + Dancer: Lucy Dillon

Original Sound: Lucy Dillon

Sound: "Tuimelval 2" by Rutger Zuydervelt

About the work: "No Where" investigates the utility of movement to transform the relationship to the self for bodies impacted by gender-based violence. Through physical problem-solving, a practice of subverting a knot over and over again as a declaration of unapologetic agency, the work seeks to enliven visceral understanding with imagery, an activation of the collective body, and a high-level of physicality.

Kent State University
School of Theatre and Dance



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The Movement Project

Tonality

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Dancers: Cristina LaRocca, Samara Steele, Lex Cuevas

Sound: Appalachian Grove I, A Folk Study & Clockworks by Laurie Spiegel

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Note: Premiered in 2021 in TMP's "patchworks [voices amplified]" at The Pivot Center, Cleveland Ohio.

Alfonso Cervera and Paige Cunningham-Caldarella

Ponzy Scheme

Choreography + Dancers: Alfonso Cervera and Paige Cunningham-Caldarella

Sound: Cody Jensen

About the work: "Ponzy Scheme," a collaboration between Cervera and Cunningham, is an experimental dance that utilizes each movers' specialties of contemporary dance (Ballet Folklorico, Release, Cunningham, and ballet) to build phrase work that allows separate histories and identities to co-exist.

Melissa Hinchman

you were never mine to hold

Choreography + Dancer: Melissa Hinchman

Sound: you were never mine to hold by Hayden Hinchman

Text: Melissa Hinchman

About the work: In 2022, our family experienced two miscarriages. The process of creating this work allowed us to navigate and embrace our grief. It is our hope that this work helps to normalize the conversation around pregnancy loss and that it brings comfort to those going through similar experiences knowing that they are not alone.

RE|dance group

On the Edge of the Fault Line

Choreography: Michael Estanich

Dancers: Cheryl Cornacchione, Stacy DeMorrow, Michael Estanich, Erika Farkvam, Corinne Imberski, Melanie Neumeier, Lucy Vurusic Riner

RE | dance group cont.

Sound: Going Through the Veil-Becoming a Swan by Joanna Brouk, Chaconne in G by Moondog, One Fine Morning by Bill Callahan

About the work: On The Edge Of The Fault Line examines the precarious connection between past and future, memory and imagination, and reality and possibility. This work furthers Michael Estanich's fascination with place, how we construct a sense of home, and metaphysical possibilities of relying on, defining, and choosing our present. This excerpt reflects the energetic relationship between possibility, reality and memory.

Jennifer Meckley

A Long Way Away

Choreography: Jennifer Meckley

Dancers: Katie Cole, Lisa Meissner, Kiana Piercy, Sakii Sanderlin, Caelan Smith, Keith Smith, Lani Spratt, Juliana Stanger, Lauren Taylor, Caroline Wilson, Ashlyn Works

Sound: "Long Way Away (intro)", "The Breach", "All Black" by clipping.

About the work: "A Long Way Away" leans on the narrative of electronic hip-hop duo clipping.'s concept album, Splendor & Misery. Through a fusion of hip-hop, street, and contemporary modern dance movement, a group of people overcome internal and external obstacles. Embracing the struggle and learning to rely on each other, this community fights through and comes out on the other side, preparing for what is yet to come.

10-minute Intermission

Mayhugh Fox

Unspoken Unity

Choreography: Mayhugh Fox

Dancers: Lalah Brown, Camryn Kwiatkowski, Abby Orcutt, Kaitlin Thomas, Kylie Karam, Mia Savelli

Sound: Zurich by Johann Johannsson, Plan and Elevation: V. The Beech Tree by Caroline Shaw, H in New England by Max Richter, Woman by Rhye

About the work: In the patriarchal society we live in, women are constantly critiqued, compared, unsafe, and it sometimes can feel like a constant uphill battle for equity. The strength and resilience forced onto women is unfair but it is the one thing the unifies us all as women. The only way we can evoke change is to support and protect one another, so we can create a world where everyone is equal.