

Spector Dance

DANCE THAT MAKES A DIFFERENCE

**CHOREOGRAPHERS'
SHOWCASE**

Friday October 6, 2023

10:30-11:30am

Free Program for Schools and Youth

Sponsored by the Arts Council for Monterey County

Outdoor Forest Theater

Carmel-by-the Sea, California



Introduction

Welcome to the Choreographers' Showcase.

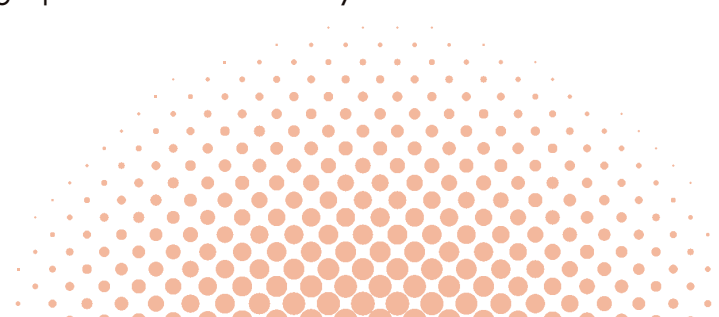
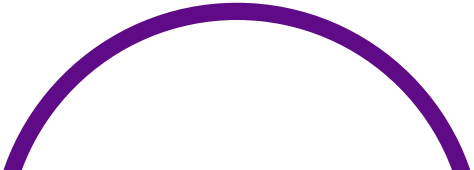
SpectorDance established the Choreographers Showcase in 1997 to offer all audiences a chance to see a wide variety of dance works that celebrate the diversity, creativity and vitality of dance happening right now! To date, we have proudly presented over 500 dancemakers, both live and virtually, from around the state, nation, and globe.

Today you will see five different pieces by five different choreographers from the east and west coasts. The theme of this showcase is "Dance That Makes A Difference." Each choreographer is exploring relevant social issues. We believe that dance and all the arts have the power to inform, promote dialogue, and be a galvanizing vehicle for positive change.

Although SpectorDance has presented the Choreographers' Showcase for over a quarter century, this is our first show at the historic and inspiring Outdoor Forest Theater in Carmel-by-the-sea. SpectorDance hopes to continue to build this new partnership with the Outdoor Forest Theater to create an annual festival of new dance.

This is also our first time presenting the Free Show for Schools and Youth. Thank you for being our first audience! We look forward to your feedback. Please fill out a survey, answer a few questions, and let us know your reactions to this performance.

We are thrilled to present the Choreographers' Showcase for you.
Enjoy the show!



Program

FORWARD, Always

Choreography by Tsiambwom M. Akuchu

Music: "Sinnerman" by Nina Simone

Costume by Tsiambwom Akuchu

Performed by Tsiambwom Akuchu

'FORWARD, Always' thinks about the spirit of persistence. I invite the audience to think about history and progress, labor and effort; the pace of radical change; and whose bodies are on the line when it comes to achieving a progressive future. 'FORWARD, Always' is about culture and American history; past, present, its developing future, and our place and responsibility on that timeline.

VÖR

Choreography by Charlotte Katherine Smith

Music:

Section 1: Celestial Silence, Composed by Sam Katz and Zac Greenberg

Section 2: Les Petits Plaisirs de la Vieai, Composed by Benjamin Marx

Music edit: Zac Greenberg

Performed by Leslie Duner Alvarez, Elsie Neilson, and Charlotte Katherine

Vör explores the power of the feminine both in strength and softness. This work reminds us to carry gratitude in our femininity and community, and to embrace the capacity of our power, softness, and support as we realize our potential as individuals and as a collective.

"...and still, we must..."

Choreography by danah bella

Music by Salvador Barajas

Performed by Rebecca Lee

Acknowledgement and understanding of colonization, including the erasure and suppression of national history and cultural identity, can heal and reclaim that which is lost. "...and still, we must..." is a creative exploration that reflects upon and expresses the effects of this loss of identity and the subsequent search for roots and belonging.

This didn't happen overnight

Choreography by Ryan Ruiz

Music: "Tinikling" by Bayanihan Philippine Dance Company,

"Boku no Tomodachi" by MMM with Emerson Kitamura, "

Ganz" by Alex Vezo, "Carnival of the Animals, XIII.

Le Cygne (the Swan)" by Clara Rockmore

Performed by Colleen Hendricks and Ryan Ruiz

A duet that uses stereotypical ideas/philosophies from various Asian cultures. These oversimplified images/ideas of a whole race come from traditions and possibly traumatic historical events developed over time, not in an instant.

Duplicity

Choreography by Allen Chunhui Xing

Music by Svyatoslav Melik

Performed by Alison Bartels, Allen Chunhui Xing, Carolyn Tai,

Facundo Eduardo Idio, Jovannie Aranzamendi Nieves

Duplicity tells the story of the conflict between one's outward persona and internal voices. Dance, for many, is an opportunity to embrace a voice through movement and share this with others - as a dancer or a member of the audience. The more we can find commonality, the more we can talk, and the greater the chance that the external persona and internal voice can become one and the same.

**We are very grateful to the
Arts Council for Monterey County
for sponsoring this event!**

Choreographers' Biographies

Tsiambwom M. Akuchu is a street dance and theatre artist whose work has been presented on stages like the Kennedy Center and Joe's Pub at The Public. He often creates work for concert dance that stages hip-hop and street dance fused with physical theater to create a unique performance experience. He has been working for the past several years as a solo artist creating new work, performing his repertoire, and in stage plays for festivals and shows like the Arts On Site NYC, DANCE NOW New York Festival, TEDxProvidence, Big Sky Summer Theatre Festival, and the Atlanta Spring for Spring Festival. Tsiambwom received his BA in Theatre from Georgia Southern University and his MFA in Theatre from the University of Montana. He taught at Colby College and is currently an Assistant Professor of Dance at CSULB.

Danah Bella is an acclaimed choreographer who has performed, presented work, and been an artist in residence at festivals and universities throughout the United States and abroad. She is the artistic director of d a n a h b e l l a DanceWorks, a modern dance company focused on reclaiming evocative movement as social practice, and a founding member of Colectivo Caliban, an artist collective that transgresses disciplinary borders through sound and movement. Danah is currently the Founding Chair of the BFA Dance program at the Peabody Institute of the Johns Hopkins University and the Artistic Director of the award-winning Peabody Dance Ensemble. She received the Maryland Dance Education Association's 2021 Dance Educator of the Year Award for Higher Education; she was named one of Baltimore Sun's 25 Women to Watch in 2018; and most recently, was conferred one of Musical America's Top 30 Professionals of the Year for 2022.

Ryan Ruiz is a dancer, choreographer, and teacher from Sacramento, CA. He received his BFA in Dance Theatre at The American Musical and Dramatic Academy. Ryan is a company member of Diavolo: Architecture in Motion. He has worked within the commercial industry dancing/choreographing for artists such as Diplomacy, Jeff Waters, and Loud Forest as well as competing as a choreographer on Choreo Cage Fight hosted by Tinashe. He has also had the honor to perform works nationally and internationally for many Directors/Choreographers/Companies such as L.A. Contemporary Dance Company, Daniel Ezralow, French choreographer Radhouane El Meddeb, Micaela Taylor, Gregory Dolbashian, Whyteberg, Genevieve Carson, and Acts of Matter. He has his own throw pillow business called Tapered Nomad. Ryan is also a certified indoor cycling instructor and personal trainer.

Charlotte Katherine Smith is a LA and NYC-based choreographer, dance artist, award-winning filmmaker, and arts educator. She is the Artistic Director of Charlotte Katherine & Co. Her work addresses human physical and emotional experiences through multidisciplinary collaborations - her live theatrical and digital creations have been presented nationally and internationally, most notably at the Seoul International Dance Festival in TANK, Korea, the Ford Amphitheater (Los Angeles), and Los Angeles Dance Festival. Her accomplishments include commissions, international collaborations, and awards, including Luckman Director's Pick of the Festival at LA Dance Festival 2020. She attended the SUNY Purchase Conservatory of Dance and graduated Cum Laude from Cornish College of the Arts with a BFA in dance.

Allen Chunhui Xing is a dancer and choreographer based in Baltimore. He holds a BFA in Dance from the Shanxi Academy of Arts, an M.Ed. from Salisbury University, and an MFA in Dance from the University of Maryland. He currently is the Artistic Director of Xing Dance Theater and City Dance Festival. He is a former member of the Huajin Dance Drama Ensemble (China) and performed in the production *Forbidden Fruit Under the Great Wall* which toured internationally from 2007-2011. His work has been invited and selected to perform nationally and internationally including at the Dance Gallery Festival NYC, Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival, Beijing Dance Festival, and many more! Xing is both the 2020 Baltimore and Maryland State Independent Artist Award awardee, 2021 Baker Artist Award recipient, and 2021 Russian Season School Government Choreography Grant recipient.

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Online Auction in Support of the Choreographers' Showcase

**Gift Certificates, Personal Care Services,
Tickets, Memberships & More!**

<https://givebutter.com/c/dancenow/auction>

All items are donated, so EVERY auction dollar contributes directly to support our upcoming showcase.

**Our auction is LIVE online from NOW until October 11, 2023.
Please bid today before your favorite item is gone!**

Your support will make our Choreographers' Showcase the best possible experience for our local community and the visiting artists. Check out our auction offerings and snag one of our amazing items. Find a great gift for a special someone for the holidays, or treat yourself and support the Choreographers' Showcase at the same time!

Credits

Artistic Director and Founder Fran Spector Atkins

Assistants to the Artistic Director Amy Byington, Charlotte Katherine Smith

Administrators Paige Amicon, Amy Byington, Charlotte Katherine Smith

Marketing and Communication Paige Amicon, Amy Byington, Charlotte Katherine Smith

Sound David Herring

Video William Roden/New Dawn Studios

Hosts Kathleen Baer, Sheri Benham, Jonathan Lipow, Roger and Linda Thompson

Thank you to the Choreographers' Showcase Steering Committee and the SpectorDance Board of Directors! Amy Byington, Lucia Coppola, Shany Dagan, Connie Dennault, Tracy Kofford, Jonathan Lipow, Charlotte Katherine Smith, Roger Stewart, Allen Xing

Thank you to the Outdoor Forest Theater for all their support and to all the choreographers and dancers for sharing their beautiful work with all of us!

Thank You to our Major Sponsors!

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SpectorDance is honored to be part of Monterey County Gives, the end-of-year fundraising campaign that supports our local non-profit sector. From November 9 to December 31, 2023. A percentage of every donation will be matched. So, please consider supporting SpectorDance and the Choreographers' Showcase with donation, large or small. This is the time to maximize your gift.

