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Press contacts:

Melissa Thodos, Thodos Dance Chicago
melissa.thodos@thodosdancechicago.org

Julie Nakagawa, DanceWorks Chicago
jnakagawa@danceworkschicago.org

THODOS DANCE CHICAGO AND DANCEWORKS CHICAGO ANNOUNCE PARTNERSHIP TO PRESENT NEW DANCES 2018

CHICAGO— For over 30 years, *New Dances* has fostered new dance creation as one of Chicago's first and most extensive in-house choreography incubation programs. Founded by The Chicago Repertory Dance Ensemble in the 1980's and continued since 2000 by Thodos Dance Chicago, *New Dances* offers opportunities for emerging choreographers to realize and share their creative vision with the community.

Today, Thodos Dance Chicago (TDC) and DanceWorks Chicago (DWC) announce a unique partnership to present *New Dances 2018*, continuing the annual tradition of developing choreographic talent and bringing *New Dances* home to its birthplace in the newly-renovated Ruth Page Center for the Arts.

Melissa Thodos, Founder and Artistic Director of Thodos Dance Chicago shares, "We are so excited to be partnering with DanceWorks this season. Julie Nakagawa (Co-founder and Artistic Director of DanceWorks) and I share such a deep passion for developing young artists, both as dancers and choreographers. DanceWorks has such an incredible record of developing early career artists to rise to the next level. They are a perfect partner for this endeavor, and I believe *New Dances* will offer a level of quality and innovation never seen before."

"DanceWorks Chicago is thrilled to partner with Thodos Dance Chicago on *New Dances 2018*," says Julie Nakagawa. "DWC values around cultivating a diverse next generation of movers and makers, engaging in community collaboration, offering mentorship, and sharing performances which shine a light on dancers and dances which makes *New Dances* a natural fit. We're proud to continue to support local artists!"

New Dances is always the must-see of Chicago's summer dance season, serving up a diverse line-up of fresh, homegrown, fully-produced new works. *New Dances 2018* will take place Friday, June 29 at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday, July 1 at 5 p.m. at the Ruth Page Center Theater, 1016 N. Dearborn Pkwy, Chicago. Ticket and special event information to be released at a later date.

CHOREOGRAPHERS: Application requirements include a resume, references, work sample, and artistic statement. Dancemakers should be residents of the Chicago area and be available for the dancer audition on May 6 as well as for the creative, production, and performance period from June 11 – July 1. Choreographers will be selected by Artistic Directors Melissa Thodos (TDC) and Julie Nakagawa (DWC). Electronic submissions are due by Monday, April 2 at 5:00 p.m. For more information, please visit: <https://thodosdancechicago.org/>

Thodos Dance Chicago and DanceWorks Chicago announce New Dances 2018 –page 2 of 2

DANCERS: Dancers should be residents of the Chicago area. Selected artists from the community will be invited to join members of DWC to comprise a *New Dances* Company. Auditions will be held at the Ruth Page Center at 3:30p.m. on Sunday, May 6. Technically-proficient and artistically-inclined dancers should bring a resume and headshot and be available for the creative, production, and performance period June 11 - July 1. Audition information forthcoming.

Leaders from the Chicago dance community will comprise a panel to mentor *New Dances* choreographers during the creative process as well as provide feedback on the premieres. This panel is an important aspect of *New Dances* and a key contributor to the quality of the pieces created.

Very few opportunities exist in the United States for young choreographers to receive artistic and financial support to work with professional dancers to craft new work for the stage with no expectation other than the investment in the journey. Each choreographer will be supported by a creative residency including 25 hours of studio time plus time on stage to bring their choreographic vision to life with a cast of local professionals.

In addition to numerous works performed for Thodos Dance Chicago and DanceWorks Chicago, choreographers from previous *New Dances* have gone on to set works on American Ballet Theatre, Joffrey Ballet, Hubbard Street Dance Chicago, Gus Giordano Dance Chicago, Houston Met Dance, Milwaukee Ballet, Pittsburgh Ballet Theatre, Ballet British Columbia, Dutch National Ballet Project, and others.

About Thodos Dance Chicago

In 1992, Thodos Dance Chicago Founder and Artistic Director Melissa Thodos formed a company that offered dancers a place to perform, a place to create new work and a place to educate a next generation of dancers. For the next 25 years, she and her company Thodos Dance Chicago successfully performed for over one million dance fans, created and taught dance in Chicago, across the country in 27 states, and around the world on five continents.

At this time Thodos Dance Chicago undertakes projects that provide the greatest impact in the Chicago community. In addition to co-presenting *New Dances 2018*, the company is setting some of its featured works on the talented dancers of the Chicago High School for the Arts (ChiArts), as well as Whitney M. Young Magnet High School. TDC is also working with Emmy Award-winning filmmaker Chris Olsen on creating documentaries and film surrounding the development and performance of some of the company's signature story ballets.

Thodos Dance Chicago is supported by The Sono and Victor Elmaleh Foundation, The Garden of the Phoenix Foundation, the Illinois Arts Council—a state agency, The Gaylord and Dorothy Donnelley Foundation, the MacArthur Fund for Arts & Culture at the Richard H. Driehaus Foundation, The Elizabeth F. Cheney Foundation, Service Club of Chicago, Project 120, the City of Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs & Special Events and many individual and corporate sponsors. For more information, visit thodosdancechicago.org.

About DanceWorks Chicago

Founded in May 2007, **DanceWorks Chicago** is committed to building a foundation for early career artists by providing a laboratory from which dancers and choreographers propel themselves and the art form to a new level of artistry through training, collaboration, mentorship, and performance. DWC's efforts to nurture and convene the next generation of artists, audience, and dance citizens, inspires, empowers, and contributes to a sustainable future for dance. For more information, visit danceworkschicago.org