

Meet a #ThodosAlumni

Name: Kelsey Yates Paschich

Current city: Albuquerque, New Mexico

When did you dance for TDC?
 2006 - 2008

What are three words that describe your experience with TDC?
 Inspiring, Challenging, and Fun!

What is your favorite TDC memory?
 My favorite TDC memory was meeting with Melissa initially when she offered me the job. It was such an incredible step in my career, and I am forever grateful she took a chance on me by offering me a contract.

Describe how your time at TDC made a difference in your career/life.

TDC was the beginning of many new things for me. I had so many wonderful performing opportunities that developed and pushed me as a dancer. Choreographing for *New Dances* was one of the most important steps in my career. The opportunity to work with professional dancers in Chicago and create in an environment at TDC that fostered emerging artists was the initial reason I went on to pursue/receive my MFA in Dance and was the beginning of my love for choreography. I am forever grateful for my experience with Thodos Dance Chicago. I know I have a dance family for life. With the experience and confidence that TDC gave to me, I am now back in Albuquerque continuing to perform, choreograph, and teach. I am currently a Co-Director of SHIFT | DANCE (a platform for contemporary dance in Albuquerque) and we are hard at work putting together our first Contemporary Dance Festival. I have the pleasure of collaborating with and presenting the work of another Thodos Alumni Jacqueline Stewart. Below are some details about our work:

As SHIFT | DANCE continues to drive the exploration and presentation of current contemporary dance in Albuquerque, our inaugural festival will feature two national artists, Allie Hankins (PDX) and Jacqueline Stewart (CHI/NYC) as well as a newly commissioned work by local artist, Donna Jewell, performed by SHIFT co-directors Jacqueline M. García, Lisa Nevada, and Kelsey Paschich. To round out the festival, SHIFT co-directors will premiere three new works on opening night of the festival.

The inaugural SHIFT DANCE | FESTIVAL 2016 is the next step in SHIFT's evolution as budding dance presenters and producers. After one year of existence and strong support from the local dance community, SHIFT has taken the bold leap to create a 3-day contemporary dance festival. Each night will feature a by one of our guest artists.

SHIFT DANCE | FESTIVAL 2016 culminates a year of incredible activity for SHIFT, which has become a choreographic incubator for the resident choreographers and invited guests of the company to experiment and foster risk-taking in exploratory performance research. Our invited guests each present a unique choreographic voice, point of view, and movement style to share with our local audiences.

