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THODOS DANCE CHICAGO AND DANCEWORKS CHICAGO ANNOUNCE ROSTER OF CHOREOGRAPHERS FOR NEW DANCES 2018



Shannon Alvis



Braeden Barnes



Katlin Michael Bourgeois



J'Sun Howard



Chris Johnson



Anna Long

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.

Thodos Dance Chicago (TDC) and DanceWorks Chicago (DWC) are embarking on 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.

Applications from choreographers based in the Chicago area were invited, and out of almost 40 candidates, Melissa Thodos, Founder and Artistic Director (TDC) and Julie Nakagawa, Co-founder and Artistic Director (DWC), selected the following six dancemakers for *NEW Dances* 2018:

- Shannon Alvis, independent choreographer
- Braeden Barnes, dancer with Visceral Dance Chicago
- Katlin Michael Bourgeois, dancer with DanceWorks Chicago
- J'Sun Howard, dancemaker and poet
- Chris Johnson, artistic director of Chris Johnson Dance
- Anna Long, performer, choreographer, and certified Gaga teacher

"With *New Dances* having enriched our community of artists and audiences alike for over three decades, Julie Nakagawa and I are thrilled to welcome this roster of talented and inspiring dance artists from Chicago and the greater Chicago community that comprise the team of creators of *New Dances* 2018!"

Melissa Thodos

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.

Selected Chicago area-based dancers 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, stylistically-diverse, 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 and pre-registration is available at www.thodosdancechicago.org

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.

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 effort 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

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