It was an honor to be invited by Professor Lin Batsheva Kahn at DePaul University to speak with a special group of students as part of a course titled “Explore Chicago.” In preparation for my visit students watched my 2011 collaboration with Ann Reinking, “The White City: The Columbian Exposition of 1893,” which captures the incredible story of Chicago’s World’s Fair. The students also watched the Emmy nominated film “Beneath The White City Lights” by Chris Olsen of Kai Harding that takes the audience inside the making of this historic ballet.

Following the viewings I led an in depth discussion sharing special facets of the work’s development: research prior to the creative process, casting, music choices, time-frame from idea to stage, the structure of collaboration among many other historic and creative elements. It is so very meaningful to bring our history to light through the medium of dance and film.
Thank you DePaul students and Dr. Kahn!

Celebrate TDC’s New Beginnings with a Gift

#GivingTuesday | Join Thodos Dance Chicago in a global day of giving!

Online Donations

#GivingTuesday started with a simple idea of honoring the beginning of the holiday season with charitable acts. Millions of people around the world have joined this social media movement with acts of generosity. Every donation counts towards this movement that has raised over $300 million to a broad range of organizations.

For Thodos Dance Chicago a #GivingTuesday donation means you are committed to supporting our special new beginnings! The holidays are such an important time for reflection and resolution. We ask that you reflect upon Thodos Dance Chicago’s successful first 25 years, and make a resolution to support us in the next 25! Your support will help us continue to promote dance as a most valued cultural experience for students and audiences alike!

Make your donation today! Afterwards, help us promote #GivingTuesday on Social Media by sharing your story of why you have chosen to donate to TDC. Share your #UNselfie photo-story with a post that tags both #GivingTuesday and #ThodosDanceChicago!
"My time with TDC was a game changer. Melissa exposed me to great teachers, colleagues, choreographers, and gave me the opportunity to perform, tour, teach, and choreograph! I will always cherish my TDC memories."

-Joshua Manculich

After five seasons with Thodos Dance Chicago, Joshua has continued to thrive in the dance world. After his recent premiere of a piece with METDance in Houston, we asked him what else he is currently up to in the dance world.

Josh is working as an Assistant Professor of Dance at Sam Houston State University. He has continued to work with a variety of acclaimed dance companies, universities, and with students of all ages. This year he will be working with Whim W’Him, Ballet Austin II, and Chicago’s own DanceWorks Chicago. Joshua told us that being able to perform, create, and teach simultaneously with TDC was the foundation for him and beginning his career. “I progressed so quickly in being able to see movement, design, and creativity in novel ways. Melissa had it right.”

TDC Recommends

The Nutcracker

Journey inside Chicago’s 1893 World’s Fair with Wheeldon’s critically acclaimed holiday masterpiece! When young Marie and her mother, a sculptress who is creating the fair’s iconic Statue of the Republic, host a holiday party, a surprise visit from the charming Great Impresario sets off a Christmas Eve dream of whirlwind romance and adventure. A must-see tradition boldly re-imagined for a new generation.

PURCHASE TICKETS HERE!

“Joffrey’s Chicago-set ‘Nutcracker’ has become truly alive” — Chicago Tribune

Performances: December 1-30, 2018
Choreographer: © Christopher Wheeldon
Music: Peter Ilyich Tchaikovsky

TDC Connection: Chicago’s 1893 World’s Fair is also the setting of Ann Reinking and Melissa Thodos’s The White City. This epic story ballet was premiered by Thodos Dance Chicago at the North Shore Center for the Performing Arts, performed at The Auditorium Theater in Chicago, and then toured the country for years to share this epic story of Chicago’s past.
Dancers at TDC's Winter Weekend Intensive 2017 were taught the opening scene from “Sono's Journey” by Melissa Thodos and TDC Alumni Luis Vasquez which gave them a special, first-hand experience of Sono's amazing story.

Watch their experience in this special workshop video.

TDC's Weekend Winter Workshop is a perfect way for dance artists to stay in shape over the holiday weekend!

Train with Founder and Artistic Director, Melissa Thodos, and TDC Alumni as part of our Weekend Winter Workshop 2018. Spanning two full days, advanced, pre-professional, and professional dancers will grow in a challenging and encouraging environment. Dance artists attend daily technique classes, develop skills in composition and improvisation, and learn TDC repertory.

The workshop is open to dancers ages 16 and older. No audition required. One or two day options are available. READ MORE