What unprecedented times we live in, what an ever changing world of change. In our global shift of all areas of life, we are moving in fast tracked transition.

Every day facets of dance as we know them are a part of that change: live performances, rehearsals in person, physical studios and spaces, cannot be part of our active reality today.

Our shared change has led to some important contemplation “what is dance”? I view it as a spark, a force, a drive, that comes from within. It is creative thought and innovation, an invisible seed, that when fed and nurtured, grows within each dance mover and dancer maker, dance artist, and all those involved in, who experience, view, and in touch with the art form. This invisible spark moves past what we think and know, and thrives in the realm of infinite possibilities. This is a time to dream new dreams, create new pathways, pioneer with new inventive thought...and create a new and grounded place for dance.....it’s happening, a new platform is on its way!

New Dances 2020 is embracing innovation and change. In our 3rd year of partnership with DanceWorks Chicago and in the 20th anniversary of the project under the Thodos Dance Chicago umbrella, we together are putting the NEW in New Dances 2020, bringing dance to a whole new stage.

We look forward to our journey with you, as we move from transition, into the realm of transformation,

In gratitude,
With 37 years of New Dances being part of our Chicago dance landscape, there is always room for innovation. We are putting the NEW in New Dances 2020 by having conducted the project's first ever VIRTUAL audition!

In the midst of our unprecedented times, New Dances has not missed a beat as it continues to creatively evolve, striving to elevate dance in new and innovative ways. In its 3rd year in partnership with DanceWorks Chicago, and following the announcement of the project's first ever virtual audition in April, over 70 Chicagoland dancers submitted audition materials for a spot in the company. New Dances choreographer, Joanna Meccia, recalled "There was something so inspiring about watching these audition videos, as the dancers were not only vulnerable in auditioning, but also in their willingness to open up their own spaces to record." Stay tuned for an announcement of our New Dances 2020 company in the near future.

After a successful virtual audition, New Dances is bringing dance to a whole new stage as we move to the next phase of artistic planning and prepare for the first ever series of VIRTUAL rehearsals with the choreographers. We are thrilled to be offering virtual open company classes to the public, taught by this year's New Dances choreographers, as well as the Artistic Directors, Melissa Thodos (TDC) & Julie Nakagawa (DWC).

We are delighted to welcome our cohort of choreographers, Sydney Jones, Drew Lewis, Brian Martinez, Joanna Meccia, Joe Musiel, and Peyton Winker, as our selected dance makers for New Dances 2020, and thrilled to support their creative and pioneering voices in partnership with Dance Works Chicago. To hear more about why our selected choreographers chose New Dances, check out our Why New Dances? video!

Follow Thodos Dance Chicago and DanceWorks Chicago on Facebook & Instagram for future updates about open company class and performances!

Shout out to our Zoom choreographer and artistic team meeting, where each of the 2020 choreographers held up a sign describing how they feel about our rich and resourceful community of dancers!

A Special Message

Barbra Stein

TDC Recommends

Support Local!

The Gage Hospitality Group & Ballyhoo Hospitality Group

We'd like to give a shout out to our long time supporters, the Gage Hospitality Group (Acanto Restaurant & Wine Bar, Beacon Tavern, Coda Di Volpe, The Dawson, The Gage) and Ballyhoo Hospitality (Gemini, Coda Di Volpe, Old...
A special message below from New Dances co-founder Barbara Stein!

"Every year, since its inception in 1983, New Dances has been an adventure in creativity, risk, challenge and inspiration.

Having Melissa Thodos and Julie Nakagawa carry the torch for the New Dances program through their organizations is truly a gift to the Chicago dance community. Their tenacious dedication to the art form, and to both emerging and established artists, means that this city has a treasured forum for collaboration and innovation -- New Dances. I like to think of it as “dance without walls” because resources and artists are shared – dancers dance with artists they haven’t worked with before, embracing experimental and imaginative movement styles, working hard to express and interpret the intent of new choreographers who are taking this chance to explore their artistry, hopefully pushing boundaries so we can all, perhaps, see the world from a different perspective and through fresh pioneering eyes!

I am personally grateful that the spirit of New Dances has been sustained, growing and shifting with the changing times, continuing to offer opportunity and visibility for those talented individuals who are brave enough to share their vision and ideas.

Thank you Melissa and Julie!"

Pueblo Cantina, Sophia Steak – coming soon. Please consider ordering a delicious meal from one of their amazing restaurants or purchasing a gift card.

Restaurants from the Gage Hospitality Group are currently closed (excluding Coda Di Volpe). Gift cards and/or experiences from one of these wonderful restaurants are available for purchase. Please consider purchasing one to celebrate a night out in the future!

- Acanto Restaurant & Wine Bar
- Beacon Tavern
- Coda Di Volpe
- The Dawson
- The Gage

Restaurants from Ballyhoo Hospitality are currently offering delivery & curbside takeout. Treat yourself to a delicious meal at one of these incredible restaurants, or please consider purchasing a gift card to use at a later date! These restaurants include:

- Gemini
- Coda Di Volpe
- Old Pueblo Cantina
- Sophia Steak – coming soon
Support our Artists

Donate to our Matching Campaign! Every dollar up to $2500 counts twice thanks to a matching grant opportunity courtesy of Compliance Program Management, LLC!

Donations support fees for New Dances 2020 Chicago–proud artists: six choreographers and sixteen dancers. Checks may be made out to Thodos Dance Chicago and mailed to 860 W. Blackhawk Suite 305, Chicago, IL 60642. Electronic payment may be made via our DONATE PAGE. If you are donating electronically, be sure to fill out the “in support of” line at the bottom of the donation form so we know what you are graciously funding.

DONATE NOW