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THODOS DANCE CHICAGO AND DANCEWORKS CHICAGO ANNOUNCE MENTORS, PERFORMANCES, and COMMUNITY SUPPORT

CHICAGO—After 30+ years in the Chicago Dance Community, twenty of those years under Thodos Dance Chicago’s umbrella, New Dances continues its choreography incubation program—virtually!

Partners Thodos Dance Chicago (TDC) and DanceWorks Chicago (DWC) announce the New Dances 2020 Mentorship Panel: Returning New Dances panelist Jeff Hancock, New Dances & Thodos Dance Chicago alumni Joshua Manculich, and first-time panelist Amy Wilkinson.

In support of the creative processes of choreographers Sydney Jones, Drew Lewis, Joanna Meccia, Joe Musiel, Brian Martinez, and Peyton Winker, the mentorship panel provides mid-point and post-performance feedback and reflection for each choreographer creating an original work premiering in the virtual New Dances performance series.

Team New Dances is committed to supporting the Chicago community in other ways. A portion of revenues from ticket sales will be donated to Chicago-based beneficiaries selected by the artists of New Dances 2020.

Opening Night, Saturday, June 20 at 7:30pm, featuring all six choreographers:

- Follow this link to purchase tickets to Opening Night
- TDC & DWC will donate $5 of the $30 ticket price to Black Lives Matter Chicago.

For each individual choreographer Episode, a mini-event to present and discuss work in more detail, ticket price $10, TDC and DWC will donate ticket proceeds to the following Chicago-based organizations:

- Episode #1: Monday, June 22 at 6pm, Choreographer Sydney Jones, beneficiary Assata’s Daughters https://www.eventbrite.com/e/109150576312
- Episode #2: Tuesday, June 23 at 7pm, Choreographer Drew Lewis, beneficiary Chicago West Community Music Center
Encore Performance, Sunday, June 28 at 5pm, featuring all six choreographers:

- **Follow this link** to purchase tickets to the Encore Performance
- TDC & DWC will donate $5 of the $30 ticket price to Community Bond Fund.

*New Dances* continues its over 30-year tradition of providing an extensive in-house choreography incubation program for Chicago’s dance community with Melissa Thodos, Founder and Artistic Director of Thodos Dance Chicago, and Julie Nakagawa, Co-Founder and Artistic Director of DanceWorks Chicago at the helm. *New Dances* was founded by the Chicago Repertory Dance Ensemble in the 1980s, in 2000 it found a new home with Thodos Dance Chicago. This year marks the 20th anniversary of *New Dances* being under the Thodos Dance Chicago umbrella, as well as the third year of *New Dances* being co-produced by TDC and DanceWorks Chicago.

**New Dances 2020 Panelist Bios**

**Jeff Hancock,** MFA, performs, teaches, choreographs and designs movement and clothing that moves all over the place. Since 1990, dancing for River North, Hubbard Street, Same Planet and others, his dance and design life collided, supported and informed each other, and shaped his path as a teaching artist. Curiosity about movement and clothing and their mutual influence has fueled his long history of research and exploration. Recent performance: “EX/BODY”, “Of Whales...” with Molly Shanahan/Mad Shak, “Volledig” with Rob Welcher. Recent choreography: "Sword-fighting and Other Things ..." with Rob Welcher, “Verge: the edge of chaos and becoming” Northwestern University.

**Joshua Manculich,** born in Windber, PA, is a recipient of a 2015 Princess Grace Choreography Fellowship. His choreographic adventures include: Ballet Austin II, Collage Dance Collective, DanceWorks Chicago, Dancing in the Parks, Dayton Contemporary Dance Company II, Eisenhower Dance Detroit, Grand Valley State University, Houston Contemporary Dance
Company, Interlochen, Metdance, Piel Morena Contemporary Dance, Point Park University, Santa Barbara Dance Theater, The Big Muddy Dance Company, Western Michigan University, Visceral Dance Chicago, and Whim W'Him. Josh is a proud alumnus of Thodos Dance Chicago where he danced five seasons and performed works by an eclectic range of dancemakers.

Amy Wilkinson is the Executive Director of the IN/Motion Dance Film Festival. She has performed extensively as a dance artist with numerous companies including Luna Negra Dance Theatre, Same Planet Different World, CDI/Concert Dance Inc., and Thodos Dance Chicago and has presented choreography at national and international venues. Recent projects include collaborations with Mandala Dance Company in Rome, Italy and the International Choir & Orchestra of Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam. Ms. Wilkinson is on faculty at Loyola University Chicago where she makes dance films and is pursuing a PhD in Higher Education.

About Thodos Dance Chicago:

Melissa Thodos, a choreographer, educator, and performer for over 30 years, founded Thodos Dance Chicago in 1992. For 25 years, the company offered dancers a place to perform, a place to create new work and a place to educate the next generation of dancers. Thodos Dance Chicago successfully performed and taught for over one million dance fans in Chicago, across the country in 27 states, and around the world on five continents.

In its 28th year, Thodos Dance Chicago has evolved to undertake projects that provide the greatest impact in the Chicago community and beyond as a project-based dance organization. Our mission is to engage and enrich the community through dance creation, advocacy, education, mentorship and production. TDC is also working with Emmy Award-winning filmmaker Chris Olsen on creating documentaries and film about the development of and the performance of some of the Company’s high-profile signature story ballets and dance theater works. For more information, visit https://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 a diverse next generation of artists, audience, and dance citizens, inspires, empowers, and contributes to a sustainable future for dance. For more information, visit https://www.danceworkschicago.org/.

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