



# THODOS

## DANCE CHICAGO

TDC NEWSLETTER: *Performance. Creation. Education*

From Melissa | CAUTION: Side Effects | CDHP | Rogue Ballerina Podcast

From the Founder & Artistic Director, Melissa Thodos



As we travel into so much new in the new year, we do so with hope, courage, and remembrance. 2020 was a year of much loss, and in that year we lost one of our very best and brightest with the passing of my dear friend and colleague Ann Reinking. Ann and I formed a special very friendship built on laughter, the love of family, and the magic of creativity and expression. We connected on so many levels, with parallels in parts of our lives and backgrounds and as daughters of large broods with parents that worked very hard to do right by their family. We shared a solid work ethic garnered in our early formative years that carried through to a cherished work relationship that spanned over a magical decade where much was created in and for our community. As we honor Ann's memory, we take a deep dive into our archives to celebrate with you the many projects that were created with and for Thodos Dance Chicago. Our first offering starts at the beginning, which is the first piece set on the Company in 2004, a collaboration between Ann Reinking and Debrah Mcwater. Enjoy the beginning of our very special walk down memory lane.

*Melissa Thodos*

CAUTION: Side Effects



[CLICK HERE](#) to see a short excerpt of **CAUTION: Side Effects** Choreographed by Ann Reinking and Debrah McWaters



[CLICK HERE](#) to hear Ann speak in a press junket about the work and its meaning.

***CAUTION: Side Effects*** was the first piece set on Melissa Thodos & Dancers (the name of the Company at the time). The work is a collaboration between Ann Reinking and Debrah McWaters and was workshopped at the Broadway Theater Project in Florida where Ann and Debrah were co-artistic directors and where many talented artists from all over the world study, teach, create, learn and grow. Melissa had the honor of serving on the faculty of the Broadway Theater Project for many years as a teacher and choreographer.

**CAUTION: Side Effects**  
*World Premiere in 2004*

Choreography: Ann Reinking and Debrah McWaters

Music: Thomas Newman

Lighting: Gregg R. Essex

Set: Jeremy Kay

Dancers: Tarah Brown, Paul Christiano, Crock Clawson, Laura Gates, Peter Gaona, Carlos Gonzalez, Jeanette Gordon, Jennifer Meek, Jessica Miller, Hiliary Murphy, Matthew Obregon-Cole, Nikki Pinchott, Jeannine Trinkka



Photo by Cheryl Mann

## Chicago Dance History Project Digital Interview Marathon



Chicago Dance History Project, an organization dedicated to investigating, documenting, and presenting the individual and institutional past of Chicago dance, presents **The Interview Marathon on Sunday, January 31**. Featuring a full day of interviews and panel discussions with local, national, and international dance luminaries, the program will be live-streamed; anyone making a contribution of \$20 or more gets all-day access. For more information, or to make a contribution, visit <https://www.chicagodancehistory.org/events>.

The seven-hour Interview Marathon represents decades of dance history personified

in more than 40 interview subjects: artistic directors, choreographers, performers, presenters, administrators, and others who have worked and/or continue to work in Chicago. The 15-minute segments feature one-on-one interviews as well as small-group conversations on a specific theme, including dance presenting, artistic director legacies, dance education on the South Side, and more.

**Melissa Thodos will be joining Sherry Zunker and Ron De Jesus for the discussion Remembering Ann Reinking. This discussion will be streamed live at 2:15pm on January 31.**

**CLICK HERE** to learn more about CDHP's Digital Interview Marathon.

Check out Chicago Dance History Project on Social Media:

**CDHP on Instagram**

**CDHP on Facebook**

**CDHP on Twitter**

## Podcast

Rogue Ballerina is hosting Melissa this February to reflect on the rich vibrant history of Thodos Dance Chicago and to honor Ann Reinking.

Stay tuned next month to listen at <https://rogueballerina.com/podcast/> or search for *Rogue Ballerina* on your favorite podcast streaming site such as Spotify, Apple podcasts, Google, Amazon, or iHeart Radio.



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