



THODOS

DANCE CHICAGO

TDC NEWSLETTER: *Performance. Creation. Education*

From Melissa | Ann Reinking Scholarship | Honoring Ann: White City |

Celebrating Dee Alaba | Meet Emma

From the Founder & Artistic Director, Melissa Thodos



“And so with the sunshine and the great bursts of leaves growing on the trees, just as things grow fast in movies, I had that familiar conviction that life was beginning over again with the summer”

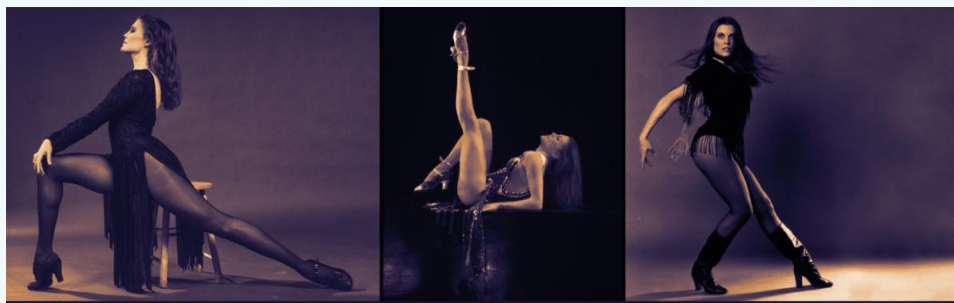
–F. Scott Fitzgerald, *The Great Gatsby*

With summer upon us, and with our community and world opening up at a fast and healthy pace, the days carry energized creative life and activity. Here at Thodos Dance Chicago we are truly invigorated by the addition of Emma Lambert as we welcome her to Thodos Dance Chicago as our General Manager. We first got to know Emma through her past work with New Dances, and are thrilled to have her as part of our

special Chicago community and family.

As we celebrate many new beginnings, we continue to nod to the past to honor valued history and creativity. In 2011, Ann Reinking returned to Thodos Dance Chicago and together we created a story ballet about Chicago’s World’s Fair, “The White City: Chicago’s Columbian Exposition of 1893”. Our storytelling sprung from the music of Bruce Wolsoff’s “Songs Without Words” written for and played exclusively by the Carpe Diem String Quartet. We wrote a script of thirteen scenes, each of us working on some separately and others together in collaboration. The talented camera work of Chris Olsen of Kai Harding captured pivotal moments of the piece both on and off the stage, and working closely with the dancers, Gary Chryst brought the characters in the story beautifully to life. It was a heartfelt honor to bring this piece of Chicago’s history to life alongside my very dear friend and co-creator Ann.

Melissa Thodos



ANN REINKING
SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM



ANN REINKING
SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM • ADVISORY BOARD

APPLICATIONS DUE JUNE 30th, 2021

Melissa Thodos is honored to be serving on the advisory board for the 2021 Ann Reinking scholarship program. The application process is now open and will close on **June 30th, 2021**. The \$5,000 scholarship will be awarded once-a-year to a young aspiring dancer. For more information you can visit <https://offthelane.org/ann-reinking-scholarship-program/>

The Ann Reinking Scholarship will be awarded on November 8th, 2021 at the Empower Artist Fundraiser to a young dancer moving to NYC. The goal of the scholarship is to help support the winner in their artistic endeavors. Our mission is to help set this young artist up for success by providing monetary support, mentorship, and a community and home base to help lay the foundation and framework for this budding artist's career.

CLICK HERE to read a recent article featuring Ann Reinking written by Broadway World



In 2011 Ann Reinking and Melissa Thodos embarked on a creative journey together that told a story of celebration and innovation alongside murder and mayhem. The story: Chicago's Columbian Exposition of 1893, the fair that changed the city forever. Through much reading, research, and interviews Ann and Melissa worked with and alongside many noted artists and organizations to create a one act story ballet of the fair that guided America toward the twentieth century through its emphasis on technology and electricity and where half of the country traveled to experience these wonders. Chicago was also home to America's first documented serial killer "Dr. H. H. Holmes" who lured fairgoers to his "murder" castle. The Chicago world's fair carried with it both the best and the worst. "The White City" was voted the best dance of 2011 in Chicago by The Chicago Sun-Times and in years following its premiere, reached many audiences and students alike both in Chicago and on tour.

[CLICK HERE](#) to view excerpts of the critically acclaimed "The White City: the Columbian Exposition of 1893" created by Ann Reinking and Melissa Thodos

[CLICK HERE](#) to hear and see a summary of the 1893 Chicago's Worlds Fair told by historian Christopher Multauf and created by Chris Olsen of Kai Harding, Ltd.

[CLICK HERE](#) to watch special rehearsal footage of White City featuring Ann Reinking

Vicki Crain sits down with Ann Reinking and Melissa Thodos to talk about their first collaboration. [CLICK HERE](#) to read the interview!

WORLD PREMIERE February 9, 2011

The White City: Chicago's Columbia Exposition of 1893

Choreography: Ann Reinking and Melissa Thodos

Rehearsal and Stage Direction: Gary Chryst

Music: "Songs Without Words" by Bruce Wolosoff

Musicians: Carpe Diem String Quartet

Charles Wetherbee and John Ewing (Violin), Korine Fujiwara (Viola) and Kristin Ostling (Cello)

Lighting Design: Nathan Tomlinson

Costumes: Nathan Rohrer

Film Design and Production: Chris Olsen- Kai Harding, Inc



Photo Credit: Cheryl Mann

Celebrating Pride Month and Shining a Light on Community Artist Dee Alaba



[CLICK HERE](#) to read about New Dances 2018 participant, Dee Alaba, who talks about celebrating her authentic self in this interview with [chicagoreader.com](#)

Meet our new General Manager, Emma!



We are thrilled to welcome Emma Lambert to the TDC family! Emma hails from Dearborn Heights, MI, and is a recent graduate of the Master of Management program from the University of Michigan's Ross School of Business. She also studied at the University of Michigan for her undergraduate degrees where she received a BS in Movement Science and a BFA in Dance. Emma grew up dancing and she has always wanted to work in the arts community. Emma was part of the New Dances 2020 planning team and she is excited to join Thodos Dance Chicago and to make Chicago her new home!

[DONATE NOW](#)

THODOS DANCE CHICAGO is proudly supported by



The Elizabeth F. Cheney Foundation



*The Sono
and Victor
Elmaleh
Foundation*



THE GARDEN OF THE PHOENIX

MacArthur
Foundation



JACKSON
WASHINGTON
MIDWAY
South Parks
Chicago, IL



Enriching Children's Lives Since 1946.

The Service Club
of Chicago



Follow Thodos Dance Chicago on Social Media

