



PRESS RELEASE

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THODOS DANCE CHICAGO AND DANCEWORKS CHICAGO ANNOUNCE CONTINUED PARTNERSHIP TO PRESENT *NEW DANCES 2019* AND CALL FOR DANCE ARTISTS

Following a successful premiere partnership in 2018, Thodos Dance Chicago and DanceWorks Chicago are excited to build on last season's pilot collaboration and continue a shared tradition of developing choreographic talent while serving and supporting Chicago's dance community by jointly presenting *NEW Dances 2019*. This year's venue partners include Athenaeum Theatre, Ballet Chicago, and Ruth Page Center for the Arts.



Melissa Thodos (TDC) and Julie Nakagawa (DWC)
reflecting on the success of *NEW Dances 2018*.

Melissa Thodos, Founder and Artistic Director of Thodos Dance Chicago shares, "We are so very excited to continue our partnership with DanceWorks Chicago this season. Julie Nakagawa and I share a true, deep passion for developing young artists, both as dancers and choreographers. DanceWorks has such an incredible record of developing early career artists to rise to the next level and is the perfect partner for this important artist and community building endeavor here in Chicago."

NEW Dances has been a Chicago tradition in the dance community for over 30 years as one of Chicago's first and most extensive in-house choreography incubation programs. Founded by The Chicago Repertory Dance Ensemble in the 1980s, *NEW Dances* found a home with Thodos Dance Chicago since 2000. In 2018, Thodos Dance Chicago welcomed DanceWorks Chicago as a co-producer, and we continue the partnership with enthusiasm and excitement into 2019.

"DanceWorks Chicago is thrilled to continue our partnership with Thodos Dance Chicago on *NEW Dances 2019*," says Julie Nakagawa, Co-Founder and Artistic Director of DanceWorks Chicago. "DWC values around



cultivating a diverse next generation of movers and makers, engaging in community collaboration, offering mentorship, and sharing performances which shine a light on dancers and dances makes *NEW Dances* a natural fit!," Nakagawa (DWC) continued.

A must-see Chicago summer event *NEW Dances 2019* will premiere new, fully-produced works featuring a diverse line-up of fresh, homegrown talent of choreographers and dancers. *NEW Dances 2019* will take place at the Athenaeum Theatre, Black Box Studio 2 with performances the week of June 17 (performance, ticket, and special event information to be released at a later date).

Melissa Thodos (TDC) and Julie Nakagawa (DWC) welcome Chicago's dance artists to be a part of *NEW Dances 2019*. *NEW Dances* offers opportunities for early-career choreographers to realize and share their creative vision with the community and to grow. It is a project that offers local choreographers the opportunity to craft new work for the stage with no expectation other than the investment in the journey. Choreographers are often challenged in finding support for developing new works.

NEW Dances 2019 is a supportive and immersive experience for the dance artist and provides robust artistic, financial, and production support to community choreographers to realize their creative vision. Each selected choreographer is supported by a creative residency including 25 hours of studio time plus time on stage to bring their choreographic vision to life with a Company of local, professional dancers selected through an audition for the project. In addition, Melissa Thodos (TDC) and Julie Nakagawa (DWC) along with a panel of leaders from the Chicago dance community provide mentorship for the artists during the process and post-production as well.



"Florida, man" choreographed by Anna K. Long premiered in *NEW Dances 2018*.
Photo credit: Ashley Rockwood

Choreographic alumni of *NEW Dances* have gone on to create works performed by Thodos Dance Chicago and DanceWorks Chicago, in addition to creating dances for many renowned companies locally and internationally, such as: American Ballet Theatre, Joffrey Ballet, Hubbard Street Dance Chicago, Gus Giordano Dance Chicago, Houston Met Dance, Milwaukee Ballet, Pittsburgh Ballet Theatre, Ballet British Columbia, Dutch National Ballet Project, and others.

CHOREOGRAPHERS: Chicago dancemakers will be selected by Artistic Directors Melissa Thodos (TDC) and Julie Nakagawa (DWC). Choreographers will be evaluated based on their submission materials of: a resume,



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references, work sample, and artistic statement (applicants must also meet residency requirement). Electronic submissions are due by **Wednesday, March 20th 12:00 p.m. Central time**. For more information about the application process and show commitments, please visit <https://thodosdancechicago.org> or <https://www.danceworkschicago.org>.

DANCERS: Technically-proficient and artistically-inclined Chicago dancers are invited to audition to be a part of the company for *NEW Dances 2019* (dancers must also meet residency requirement). Auditions will be held at Ruth Page Center for the Arts on Sunday, April 7 from 11am-3pm. Dancers must pre-register for the audition ahead of time, no exceptions. Electronic registration for the audition will end on **Friday, April 5th 12:00 p.m. Central time**. For more information pre-registration and show commitments, please visit <https://thodosdancechicago.org> or <https://www.danceworkschicago.org>.

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 27th year, Thodos Dance Chicago has evolved to undertake projects that provide the greatest impact in the Chicago community beyond as a project based dance organization. Our mission is to engage and enrich the community through dance creation, advocacy, education, and mentorship. 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. In addition, Thodos Dance Chicago continues to host seasonal workshops for the advanced, pre-professional and professional dance artist. 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 effort to nurture and convene the 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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