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THODOS DANCE CHICAGO AND DANCEWORKS CHICAGO ANNOUNCE NEW DANCES 2020, CALL FOR ARTISTS, and DEBUT AT THEATER WIT

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CHICAGO— Building on four sold-out performances of *New Dances* 2019, Thodos Dance Chicago (TDC) and DanceWorks Chicago (DWC) announce their continued collaboration in support of Chicago-based creatives through *New Dances* 2020. For over 30 years, *New Dances* has fostered dance creation as one of Chicago's first and most extensive choreography incubation programs. Founded by The Chicago Repertory Dance Ensemble in the 1980's, continued since 2000 by TDC, and in partnership with DWC since 2018, *New Dances* offers opportunities for emerging choreographers to realize and share their creative vision with the community.

"Thodos Dance Chicago is very excited to continue its partnership with DanceWorks Chicago as *New Dances* 2020 celebrates its 20th anniversary under the Thodos Dance Chicago umbrella", says Melissa Thodos, Founder and Artistic Director of TDC. "Julie Nakagawa, Co-founder and Artistic Director of DanceWorks Chicago, and I share a deep passion for developing young artists as dancers and choreographers. *New Dances* is a project on the move, and this year the performances will take place at Theater Wit. We are excited to bring dance to this new community and celebrate this landmark 20th anniversary year of *New Dances*!"

New Dances is a community event with venue partners across the city: Ballet Chicago, Ruth Page Center for the Arts, and, for the first time, Theater Wit. "We're excited to add *New Dances* to our summer programming. Dance is an essential piece of Chicago's artistic landscape, and Theater Wit is proud to bring this longstanding project to our stage and community for the first time." *New Dances* will hit the stage of Theater Wit, 1229 West Belmont (Chicago), serving up a diverse lineup of fresh, homegrown, fully-produced new works, Wednesday, June 17 – Saturday, June 20, 2020. Ticket and special event information to be released at a later date.

CHOREOGRAPHERS: Application requirements include a resumé, references, work sample, and artistic statement. Dancemakers should be current residents of the Chicago area and be available for the dancer audition on April 5 as well as for the creative, production, and performance period from June 1 - 20. Choreographers will be selected by Artistic Directors Melissa Thodos (TDC) and Julie Nakagawa (DWC). Electronic submissions are due by Sunday, March 1 at noon. For more information, please visit:

<https://thodosdancechicago.org/> or <https://www.danceworkschicago.org/>.

DANCERS: Dancers should be current residents of the Chicago area. Selected artists from the community will be invited to join members of DWC to comprise the *New Dances* 2020 Company. Auditions will be held at the Ruth Page Center at 11am on Sunday, April 5. Technically-proficient, artistically-inclined, and community-minded dancers should be available for the entire creative, production, and performance period June 1 - 20. Audition pre-registration is required and available: <https://thodosdancechicago.org/> or <https://www.danceworkschicago.org/>.



2020 new dances

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Leaders from the Chicago dance community will comprise a panel to mentor New Dances choreographers during the creative process as well as provide feedback on the premieres. This panel is an important aspect of *New Dances* and a key contributor to the quality of the pieces created.

Few opportunities exist in the United States for young choreographers to receive artistic and financial support to work with professional dancers to craft new work for the stage with no expectation other than the investment in the journey. Each choreographer will be supported by a creative residency including 25 hours of studio time plus time on stage to bring their choreographic vision to life with a cast of local professionals.

In addition to works performed for Thodos Dance Chicago and DanceWorks Chicago, choreographers from previous *New Dances* have gone on to set works on American Ballet Theatre, Joffrey Ballet, Hubbard Street Dance Chicago, Gus Giordano Dance Chicago, The Big Muddy Dance Company, Milwaukee Ballet, Pittsburgh Ballet Theatre, Ballet British Columbia, Dutch National Ballet Project, and others.

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 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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