



August 2020

Press Release - For Immediate Release

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SpectorDance & New Dawn Studios present

The Virtual Choreographers Showcase 2020

Saturday, September 12 at 7:30 PM (PST)

Sunday, September 13 at 3 PM (PST)

SpectorDance is thrilled to present this outstanding roster of national choreographers.

Choreographers

Kyla Barkin & Aaron Selissen – New York City, NY

John Castagna – Los Angeles, CA

Winifred Haun – Oak Park, IL

Stephanie Martinez – Verb Ballets Cleveland, OH

Sandra Scheuber – Alameda, CA

Fran Spector Atkins – Monterey, CA

Margaret Wingrove – San Jose, CA

Verb Ballets Dancers – Cleveland, OH

Tina Zoccoli Mayers – Franklin Lakes, NJ

Suggested Donations For Tickets

Adult \$20

Senior/Child/Military/Student \$15

Pay what you can \$5 or \$10

Purchase a ticket & get a link to the performance.

For information about tickets, see www.spectordance.org/choreographers-showcase.html

Get Your Tickets Today!

Support SpectorDance's First Virtual Choreographers Showcase!

PLEASE JOIN US!

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About the Choreographers Showcase

Since 1997, SpectorDance has presented the Choreographers Showcase with the vision of nurturing creativity and fueling the creativity in dance arts. We have invited choreographers to submit applications through open calls. As of today, over 400 choreographers have presented their original, cutting-edge works in our state-of-the-art venue. We are proud to have provided opportunities for artists to perform, and to have given our local audiences an inside look at what inspired the choreographers. In this way, we have celebrated the diversity and vitality of dance as a contemporary art form.

Because of the Coronavirus, SpectorDance & New Dawn Studios are now producing the 2020 Choreographers Showcase as a virtual event for the first time. We have invited choreographers from all over the nation to submit applications of a current or past work. Nine works have been selected to be a part of SpectorDance's first Virtual Choreographers Showcase

Artist Biographies

Barkin/Selissen Project ("B/S P"), a New York City based contemporary dance company founded in 2009, presents the choreography of Artistic Directors Kyla Barkin and Aaron Selissen through live performance, film and workshops. The company strives to blur lines between the emotional and intellectual, dream worlds and waking states. With dramatic shifts from nuance to explosive athleticism, Artistic Directors Kyla Barkin and Aaron Selissen's choreography infuses fresh perspective on subjects ranging from the complexities of mathematics to the complexities of human nature. B/S P has been presented at venues across the U.S. and abroad, including Jacob's Pillow Inside/Out; SUNY Stony Brook's Staller Center; Jazz at Lincoln Center; West End Theater; 92Y; Bryant Park; Tempe, AZ, Center for the Arts; Boston's Dance Complex; Touhill Performing Arts Center, St. Louis; Yogykarta, Indonesia; Uferstudios, Berlin, Germany; and the Edinburgh International Conference Center in Scotland as part of Booking Dance and Fringe Festivals where B/S P received critical acclaim. Partnerships for workshops include Sally Taylor's ConSenses, Festival of the Moving Body, Communicating in Partnerships through Dance/Hartford Performs, Balance 1 Academy Berlin, Limón Professional Studies Program, and more.

John Castagna serves as Resident Choreographer for the Contemporary Ballet Collective/LA since 2001. Castagna won a Los Angeles area Emmy Award for a television special entitled *Peace by Piece*, a collaboration with choreographer Lori DuPeron and composer Mark Governor. *Dance Magazine* nominated his work *Joy* for Video of the Month and Castagna's *The Golden Slave* won *Pointe Magazine's* Video of the Month. Castagna directed and choreographed *Kimono* in 2017. This short dance film has screened in Warsaw, Rome, and Los Angeles. *Celebration Duet*, his latest short dance film, is presently being released. Mr. Castagna's oeuvre includes several works for Ballet Guatemala, Staten Island Ballet and Hamilton College. Castagna holds a Master's Degree in Choreography (M.A.) from the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) and a B.A. in Fine Arts. Maestro Stefan Wenta is Mr. Castagna's mentor.

Winifred Haun is the founder, choreographer and artistic director of her own modern dance company, Winifred Haun & Dancers. Since the 1990's, Ms. Haun has created over 60 new dance works, including one full-length dance. She has received numerous awards and accolades for her choreography, including a 2016 MacArthur Foundation Award and a 2019 "Best in Class" Award from the Oak Park Area Arts Council. In 2014, she was selected by the Martha Graham Dance Company to participate in their Lamentation Variation project. Ms. Haun won three Ruth Page Award (Chicago Dance Award) nominations for Choreography and Performance, and in 2000, she won the Ruth Page Award for Outstanding Contribution to the Dance

Community. Ms. Haun's choreography has been commissioned by Chicago Ballet, Aerial Dance Chicago, Zephyr Dance, Lonny Joseph Gordon and many other Midwest and national groups. She has taught dance and dance composition at the Joffrey Ballet's Academy of Dance, Dance Center of Columbia College, Deeply Rooted Productions, Chicago Academy for the Arts, Beijing National Dance Academy and at numerous festivals and workshops worldwide. Currently, Ms. Haun teaches modern dance and ballet at Hubbard St. Dance Chicago, and Legere Dance Center in River Forest. Before forming her own group, Ms. Haun was a soloist with the critically acclaimed Joseph Holmes Chicago Dance Theatre, performing works by Joseph Holmes, Randy Duncan and other nationally recognized choreographers. Ms. Haun and her husband, theoretical physicist, Stephen Parke have three daughters.

Verb Ballets is one of Northeast Ohio's oldest and most respected dance companies. Verb Ballets has gained a reputation for artistic excellence and exemplary community engagement since its founding as The Cleveland Repertory Project in 1987. Verb Ballets' celebrated its 30th Anniversary Season in 2017. Under the long-standing leadership of Dr. Margaret Carlson, former principal dancer for Cleveland Ballet, and Richard Dickinson, MFA, former Ohio Ballet dancer, the company is committed to the creation and mounting of dance works of the highest caliber.

Stephanie Martinez is a Chicago-based choreographer and 3Arts Award winner. Stephanie Martinez creates environments which captivate, connect, and move her audiences along a journey guided by the kinetic momentum of her work. With original creations performed by ballet, and contemporary dance companies across the nation, her versatility expands the boundaries of contemporary ballet movement language. Stephanie's choreography has been featured in collegiate dance departments across the country, featuring Point Park University and Boston Conservatory. In 2010, she assisted Broadway legend Ann Reinking in setting the Fosse Trilogy, and in 2015 was awarded The Joffrey Ballet's "Winning Works: Choreographers of Color" commission.

Sandra Scheuber, a freelance choreographer, has created works for high school, college, and semi-professional dance companies. Sandra has studied and performed throughout California and beyond. Her work has been selected for sjDANCEco's ChoreoProject, DVDance Collective Artists, Mills College Alumni concert, and others. She was thrilled to perform the legendary Jose Limon's "The Winged" and "Missa Brevis" with sjDANCEco. She has performed with and choreographed for NewGround Theatre Dance Company, Off-Balance Dance Company, One Performing Arts, Central Coast Company Dance, Contemporary Dance Collective, and her own Leaps and Bounds Dance Ensemble. She has an MFA in Choreography from Mills College, taught high school dance, teaches at ACDA conferences, was Secretary and Membership Chair of the California Dance Education Association, and choreographic mentor for Dance Repertory Vision Series. She is passionate about dance and is an active patron in the bay area and beyond. She works full time as a business systems analyst at Kaiser Permanente.

Fran Spector Atkins is the artistic director and founder of SpectorDance and its School, Company, Community Outreach, Creative Projects, Choreographers Showcase, the Sadie Rose Residency Program, and the *Monterey Ocean Arts Festival*. She has directed studios in NYC, Cleveland, and Monterey and has choreographed throughout the United States and abroad. Some of her outstanding experiences include being a guest artist at Oberlin College, Brown University, Stanford University and in Denmark, Egypt, England, Israel, Italy, Guam and Taiwan. Fran's creative works are inspired by her vision to create socially relevant art that merges factual and aesthetic elements. Collaboration with outstanding non-arts organizations is key to every project. Examples include *Common Ground*, a collaboration with the United Farm Workers, about California agriculture; *East West*, a collaboration with Rancho Cielo about gang violence; *Ocean*, our first collaboration with Monterey Bay Aquarium Research Institute (MBARI) about the state of the world ocean, based on filmed interviews with renowned ocean scientists; *Ocean Trilogy*, a continued dance-science partnership between SpectorDance and MBARI, highlighting hopeful possibilities for ocean health from cutting-edge ocean science research and *When You Were Gone*, a collaboration with the Porter Youth Center

for military families about deployment from the perspective of youth. Fran Spector Atkins was recently honored to receive The Florence Haspel Zeve Award from Monterey County Gives for Women, Families and the Arts for *When You Were Gone*.

Margaret Wingrove is the founder and artistic director of Margaret Wingrove Dance Company (MWDC) as well as being a guest choreographer for other dance companies such as Palo Alto Ballet and San Jose Dance Theatre. She has choreographed commissioned works for Berkeley Ballet, sjDANCEco, San Jose Taiko, Opera San Jose, and San Jose Symphony [now Symphony Silicon Valley]. She holds a Bachelor's in Dance from San José State University and a Master's from University of San Francisco, trained at San Francisco Ballet and with Richard Gibson and has performed and studied extensively on both the East and West Coasts with modern dancers Paul Sanasardo, Norman Walker and Lucas Hoving. Her original work, "Shatterings", created in tribute to her son John, who died of AIDS, appeared at the Timpany Center's A Celebration of Courage at the Flint Center and the Names Project at the Santa Clara Convention Center. Her works have also been selected to be presented at Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival in Massachusetts, David Howard Showcase in NYC, San Francisco Dance Festival at Herbst Theatre, and seven of her original works have been performed across England. She was also selected as a finalist for the San Francisco Isadora Duncan Award for Choreography. In 1993, Wingrove received the Women of Achievement Award for the Arts and in 1998 was honored by SJSU's School of Music and Dance for her contributions to the field of dance. She was honored as the recipient of Silicon Valley Creates (formally Arts Council of Silicon Valley) 2009 Fellowship Award for Choreography. In 2016, Wingrove celebrated 35 years as Artistic Director of MWDC and, to date, has created 130 original works for her company.

Tina Zoccoli Mayers studied classical dance as a child and adolescent before performing with the Washington Ballet Studio Company in 2004-2005. Later as an undergraduate at Stanford University '10, they began transitioning into modern dance through release-technique with Hope Mohr, and then performed intergenerational, environmental site-specific scores with Anna Halprin. Though sidelined from dance by mental illness and addictions relapses, s/he graduated studying Modern Thought and Literature and wrote their honors thesis on Postcolonial Marxist theory, French existentialism and West African Sufist literature. They later certified as a Vinyasa instructor through Yoga to the People in San Francisco/Berkeley in 2012. Since returning to live with their family in NJ, Tina has been blessed to find renewed health and recovery through therapeutic communities, and s/he loves exploring postmodern, Afro-Caribbean, and environmental dancing. Tina is also deeply grateful to study Japanese Butoh theater with Vangelina nearby in NYC, who they first encountered in a San Francisco workshop the year they left the Bay Area. Tina currently teaches yoga in local recovery communities, hospitals and rehabs and studies modern dance with Lynn Needle and other local dance makers.



Barkin/Selissen Project
Photo by Hannah Jan Photography



John Castagna Choreography
Photo by Victor Vu



Winifred Haun & Dancers
Photo by Matthew Gregory Hollis



Verb Ballets
Photo by Kolman Rosenberg



Sandra Scheuber, NewGround Dance Theatre
Photo by Richard Rossi



Margaret Wingrove Dance Company
Photo by Dave Lepori



Tina Zoccoli Mayers
Photo by Eric Bandiero



SpectorDance (Cindy Chen & Natalie Gibbs)
Photo by William Roden (New Dawn Studios)