

Thursday, February 5, 2026

## MDD Opens 16th Annual Virtual Salon Performance Series for Social Change on February 5, 2026

Company: Mark DeGarmo Dance  
Venue: Zoom Broadcast  
Location: New York, NY

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### Virtual Salon Performance Series for Social Change 2026

Theme: Dance and Social Change



Andrea Agostini  
Miami, FL



Barbara Mahler  
Queens, NY



Carolyn Pampalone  
Rabbers  
Stevensville, MI



Tanu Sharma  
Cary, NC

Thursday, February 5th, 2026 7PM EST on Zoom

Tickets on Eventbrite: <https://bit.ly/4iDBt09>



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Mark DeGarmo Dance

Mark DeGarmo Dance (MDD) broadcasts the first salon of its 16th annual Virtual Salon Performance Series for Social Change (VSPS) 2026, exploring the theme Dance & Social Change, on Thursday, February 5, 2026 at 7 PM ET via a Live Online Interactive Zoom Broadcast.\*

MDD's Thursday, February 5 salon is a unique evening of original movement and dance performance works-in-process with facilitated audience reflection. Curator and facilitator Mark DeGarmo shares: "VSPS is an opportunity to view and contribute to works-in-process of under-recognized dance and movement artists that break, cross, or don't recognize boundaries; stir up the mix; and face global issues across cultures, countries, and continents." The February 5 salon features Andrea Agostini (FL), Barbara Mahler (NYC), Carolyn Pampalone Rabbers (MI), and Tanu Sharma (NC). The artists will present a range of works-in-process exploring the VSPS 2026 theme dance and social change. Andrea Agostini focuses on immigrant resilience and the right to rest and joy. Barbara Mahler explores women's bodily autonomy and resistance to current political restrictions. Carolyn Pampalone Rabbers investigates the fight for clean, safe water. Tanu Sharma's work will expand upon on women's selflessness and the sacrifices expected of them under societal norms.

#### About MDD's February VSPS Artists

Andrea Agostini is a Venezuelan-American performer and choreographer based in Miami, FL. She was selected as a Young Voice in Dance choreographer for the Battery Dance Festival/NYC 2024 and has presented work at the National Dance Institute (NYC), Chi Movement Arts Center (Philadelphia), and Philly PACK. Her work explores the Venezuelan diaspora, symbiosis, serious play, and voice.

Barbara Mahler (Queens, NY) is a movement-based artist involved in performance, choreography, education, and bodywork. Her teaching practice is grounded in Klein Technique, in both its pure and dance-related forms, and her hands-on work focuses on Zero Balancing. Based in New York, she has traveled extensively to Europe, Scandinavia, Asia (primarily Taiwan), and Canada, working in all of her professional capacities. Primarily a solo artist, Barbara creates textured, non-linear "stories" and has been noted for her clarity, boldness, and expressiveness as a mover.

Carolyn Pampalone Rabbers (Stevensville, MI) is the Executive Artistic Director and founder of CPR Dance: Inhale Movement. She received her MFA at the University of the Arts and graduated as the Presidential Scholar with a BFA from Western Michigan University. Carolyn is an Instructional Assistant Professor at Texas A&M University, on faculty at Blue Lake Fine Arts Camp, and has taught at Grand Valley State University and Western Michigan University.

Tanu Sharma is a dance artist and a choreographer based in Cary, North Carolina. She received her MA in Kathak dance from BVDU, India, and her Master's in Computer Science from NCSU, USA. She has taught, choreographed, and performed at various national and international events. Tanu has participated in cultural outreach programs, fundraising events, lecture demonstrations, and judged several competitions.

Tickets on Eventbrite: By donation. If it is impossible for your economic situation, contact us at least 24 hours in advance: [info@markdegarmodance.org](mailto:info@markdegarmodance.org) with the reason for your request so you can join us.

Suggested donations: Salsa -- \$10; Step -- \$15; Break -- \$20; Improv -- \$50; Aerial -- \$100

Eventbrite: <https://www.eventbrite.com/cc/virtual-salon-performance-series-2026-4784553>

\*Zoom Link will be sent to attendees by 5:00 PM ET the day of the performance from [info@markdegarmodance.org](mailto:info@markdegarmodance.org). If a donation for tickets is made after that time, the MDD staff will send the link via email as soon as possible. Contact [info@markdegarmodance.org](mailto:info@markdegarmodance.org) to communicate regarding ticket status.

#### About the VSPS 2026 Artists & Works-in-Process

The 2026 artists will present a range of dance works-in-progress exploring the VSPS 2026 theme dance and social change. The 2026 series' works represent a range of artist and movement approaches locally, nationally and internationally. Featured on March 5 is a work blending Colombian folkloric dance with queer and experimental movement to explore identity, resilience, and collective transformation (Alexis

Restrepo; Medellín, Colombia; Otredanza compañía artística LGBTI de Medellín). On April 2, two of the 4 works include a performance exploring the struggles of India's LGBTQ community and family abandonment (Sudeshna Dey; West Bengal, India) and a duet examining the challenges of communication and connection in modern life (Yan Longdan; Chongqing, China).

#### About MDD's Virtual Salon Performance Series for Social Change

Founded in 2010, MDD's Virtual Salon Performance Series for Social Change is a conversation facilitated by curator, choreographer, and scholar Dr. Mark DeGarmo with audiences and diverse global dance makers presenting works-in-process. It is a unique opportunity to demystify the creation of choreography and to enjoy a wide range of performance approaches, genres, and styles. VSPS presents under-represented and under-recognized dance makers across New York City and State, the USA, and internationally. Since February 2019, MDD has presented in 42 salons, including 2 Virtual International Arts Festivals, featuring 566 total artists from 23 states and 31 countries. Past audiences and dance makers have remarked:

"The salon was a warm, welcoming, positive environment!"

"I loved the convenience of watching the performance on Zoom!"

#### About Mark DeGarmo Dance

Mark DeGarmo Dance began operations in 1982, incorporated in 1987, and celebrates its 39th anniversary in 2026 as a leading New York City nonprofit dance organization located in Manhattan's Lower East Side and is a nonprofit anchor tenant at the Clemente Soto Velez Center. President Barack Obama commended DeGarmo and MDD for your service to your community and the nation. The National Endowment for the Arts deemed MDD's NYC dance education program for under-resourced public elementary students living under the federal poverty rate "a national model." National Dance Education Organization research shows that a mere 1-7% of USA elementary schools have such a dance education program as our Partnerships in Literacy through Dance & Creativity.

<https://markdegarmodance.org>

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Schedule  
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