DANCE/NYC SYMPOSIUM

Overview   Agenda   Speakers   Venue   Sponsors   JEI Partners   Volunteer   Past Symposia

Search Agenda:  Google Search

When:
Friday, March 20, 2020, 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.
Saturday, March 21, 2020, 10:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Where:
Hunter College, 695 Park Ave, New York, NY 10065
Find directions and accessibility features here.

Registration is closed. For more information, contact Brinda Guha at symencoordinator@dance.nyc.

Schedule

FRIDAY, MARCH 20, 2020

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<td>6:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Registration</td>
<td>The Kaye Playhouse Lobby</td>
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<td>7:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Opening Keynote: Moving from Surviving To Thriving</td>
<td>The Kaye Playhouse</td>
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SATURDAY, MARCH 21, 2020

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<td>Morning Keynote: Solidarity, Power and Resonance: Indigenous led measures of culture shift in performance and potentiality</td>
<td>The Kaye Playhouse Lobby</td>
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<td>11:30 a.m.</td>
<td>Networking Lunch &amp; Service Fair</td>
<td>The Glass Cafe + West Corridor</td>
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<td>Breakout Sessions</td>
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<td>Legal Clinic &amp; SmART Bar Consultations</td>
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<td>Closing Keynote: A Reckoning of Power, Accountability and Gender Equity</td>
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Keynotes
Opening Keynote
Friday, March 20, 2020
7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m., The Kaye Playhouse

Welcoming Remarks: Jody Arnhold, Jennifer Raab, Alejandra Duque Cifuentes, Ali Rosa-Salas, Emily Johnson

Conversation on “Moving from Surviving to Thriving: The Dance Field in Transformation”

Featured Speakers:
- Professor Brenda Dixon Gottschild, Professor Emerita of Temple University (moderator)
- Paloma McGregor, Director and Founder of Angela’s Pulse
- Reggie “Roc” Gray, Founder of The Dream Ring Experience and Artistic Director of FlexNYC
- Muriel Miguel, Founding Member and Artistic Director of the Spiderwoman Theater
- Katy Pyle, Artistic Director of Ballez
- Laurel Lawson, Performer of Kinetic Light

Featuring performances by Hunter College students:
In Articulation Work 1, choreographed by M.A. student Boram Yi, every movement is started by every single note and ended by every single note. By the use of rhythms and the melodies of the music, Yi connects the various textures of the music to the movement.
- Music by O’Stravaganza, Vivaldi in Ireland by Hughes de Courson
- Performers by Grace Deane & Boram Yi
- Lighting Design by Burke Brown

In We the People, choreographed by MFA Degree Program student Karisma Jay, Jay will question what separates and unifies us as people. Five diverse women struggle with the pressures and values of being different all while trying to maintain societal “Sameness”.
- Music by Michael Abels
- Performed by Anakeiry Cruz, Mariah Maisonet, Arianna Noble, Camille Torres, and Boram Yi
- Lighting by Burke Brown
- Costume Design by Karisma Jay

Morning Keynote
Saturday, March 21, 2020
10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m., The Kaye Playhouse

Conversation on Solidarity, Power, and Resonance:
Indigenous-led measures of culture shift in performance and potentiality.
When we center Indigenous stories, artists, and knowledge, we confront the belly of the colonial beast. By being who we are in the work we make and how we make it, we generate healing and equity for everyone - in a myriad of kinstillatory and expansive ways. These artists discuss the concentration of their work and by doing so engage in Indigenous futurity, rights, and responsibility. We will pay particular attention to the politics and differences of working on our homelands or on Indigenous lands where we are guests.

Featured Speakers:
- Emily Johnson, First Nations Dialogues (moderator)

Closing Keynote
Saturday, March 21, 2020
6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m., Thomas Hunter Hall, Room 601 “The Peggy”

A Reckoning of Power, Accountability and Gender Equity

The dance world has undergone a major reckoning, revealing how rampant abuses of power, sexual misconduct and gender stereotyping have continued to undermine artists’ workplaces and their sense of safety and belonging. This panel will address current events in New York City dance, pointing to underlying oppressive systems and the ways artists are advocating for justice.

Featured Speakers:
- Lauren Wingenroth, Writer, Dance Magazine (moderator)
- Germaul Barnes, Choreographer, Director of Viewsic Dance, Curator of Contemporary Improvisation for Black Men
- Alexandra Waterbury, Dancer
- Ni’Ja Whitson, Interdisciplinary Artist

This track will focus on a larger series of discussions centered around technology, tools, and practices useful for modern-day dance-making, archiving, and legacy-building.

21st Century Approaches to Infrastructure for Dance Making

As the socio-economic, political and technological ground under us shifts, dance makers and service organizations are adapting their structures and offerings to ensure that the legacy of artistic production remains possible in culturally dense centers like New York City. In this panel discussion, we highlight the challenges of today's artists and the organizational structures that will support their dance making practices for the future.

Featured Speakers:
- Clarissa Soto Josephs, Associate Director, Pentacle
- Claire Buffie, Director of Creative Operations, Dance Lab NY
- Sarah Maxfield, Operations Lead, Artspool
- Nigel Campbell, Company Director, Gibney Dance
- Courtney Harge, Associate Director, Inbound Marketing, Fractured Atlas

Labor Organizing for Dance Workers

As conversations around freelance workers’ rights have garnered increased visibility, so has workaround unionization efforts for dancers. This panel will outline the politics around unionized labor for dancers and recent efforts by local organizations and collectives to take action.

Featured Speakers:
- Amy Smith, Dance and Theater Artist, Educator, and Facilitator
- Griff Braun, Director of Organizing & Outreach, American Guild of Musical Artists (AGMA)
- Alex Rodabaugh, Co-Founder, Dance Artists’ National Collective (DANC)
- Evvie Allison, Co-Founder, Dance Artists’ National Collective (DANC)
- David Gonser, Co-Founder, Dance Artists’ National Collective (DANC)

Strategies in Curating and Presenting

This panel brings together performance curators to discuss how they have shaped practices for building programming across their careers and at their current institutions. The panelists will address how cultural equity, aesthetics perspectives, and questions of representation inform their work and how they contribute to workplace opportunities that allow artists and their craft to thrive.

Featured Speakers:
- Danni Gee, Dance Curator & Music Programming Associate, City Parks Foundation/ SummerStage
- Lumi Tan, Curator, The Kitchen
- Jenny Schlenzka, Executive Artistic Director, Performance Space NY
- Aaron Mattocks, Director of Programming, Joyce Theatre Foundation
- Manelys Burgos Melendez, Movement Artist & Interdisciplinary Researcher

Redefining “Small-Budget” Dance Makers: Research + Practice

How would you define “small-budget” dance makers and why? What are the challenges and questions that are specific to this group? What is their role in redefining and achieving success in a changing cultural landscape, and in contributing to visions for a healthy dance ecology?

This session will consist of a research presentation from Dance/NYC’s research team on “Defining “Small-Budget” Dance Makers in a Changing Dance Ecology, and a panel discussion led by self-identified “small-budget” dance makers who will respond to the ideas presented through their lived experiences in the field.

*Dance/NYC’s current research initiative that aims to foster public awareness and generate recommendations on recent findings of the inequitable distribution of resources of dance makers with budgets between $25,000 and $1 million.

Featured Speakers:
- Ebony Noelle Golden, CEO of Betty’s Daughter Arts Collaborative
- Ephrat Asherie, Ephrat Asherie Dance
- Melissa van Wijk, Founder & Director, Born Dancing
- Ariel Quiñones, Development Consultant, Diversity in Arts and Nations for Cultural Education
- Michael Manswell, Artistic Director, Teaching Artist & Choreographer, Something Positive Inc.
- Carrie Blake, Senior Consultant & Research Director, Webb Management Services
- Nelie Jacques, Project Manager, Webb Management Services
Nonprofit Culture in the Dance Field: Examining the Systems We Work In

In this symposium session, the Dance/NYC Junior Committee (JComm) will investigate the ways in which our community operates within a nonprofit structure that can be limiting and work against our impact as a field. By speaking with both dance artists and administrators, JComm will unearth the ways in which we are entangled within the Non-Profit Industrial Complex, and hear from community members about ways they are operating within its constraints, and are actively working to detach from this seemingly intractable system.

Featured Speakers:
- Samantha Spies, Movement Artist, Artistic Director of Urban Bush Women
- Michele Baer, Dancer, Philanthropy Project Director, Race Forward
- Chelsea Goding, Arts Administrator
- Loren Sass, Junior Committee Dance/NYC, Senior Manager of Institutional Giving, Gibney
- Debbie Mausner, Junior Committee Dance/NYC
- Joy Douglas, Junior Committee Dance/NYC

Accompliceship And Convergence Through Expanded Forms of Critical Dialogue, Writing on Dance And Performance

Dance and performance writers engaging with, alongside and through artistic works, respond to chosen texts by their peers, modeling alternative perspectives to cultural review and criticism.

Featured Speakers:
- Katherine Brewer Ball, Writer and Assistant Professor of Performance Studies at Wesleyan University
- Norma Porter, Dancer, Founding Publisher and Editor of Black Dance Magazine

Fundraising and Resource-Building for Dance Artists

Fundraising for individual artists remains one of the most challenging factors for sustainability in the dance field. This mini-workshop series features experts who utilize a range of fundraising strategies, from co-operative funding to individual donor cultivation.

Featured Speakers:
- Jessica Massart, Performance Lead, Kickstarter
- Lauren Sloan, Director of Grants & Research, MAP
- Ashley Denae Hannah, Financial Literacy Educator & Advocate, Dance Artist
- Marya Warshaw, Founding Executive & Artistic Director, BAX

Transformative Justice and Healing through the Body: Self and Community and World

Through the artistry of Brown and Norman, we consider performance, physical practice and the body as sites for exposing the trauma of inequitable systems while flipping the script on the power relations between ability/disability, performance/lived experience, survival/pleasure.

Featured Speakers:
- Joseph Pierce, Associate Professor in the Department of Hispanic Languages and Literature at Stony Brook University
- S.J. Norman, Artist
- Pelenakeke Brown, Artist

The Funder’s Perspective

Join our panelists for a discussion on funding dance in NYC and the arts philanthropy landscape. The panel will also examine ways to initiate relationships with grantmakers and determine your fit for funding opportunities.

Featured speakers:
- Conrhonda Baker, Grants & Program Associate, Howard Gilman Foundation
- Salem Tsegaye, Program Officer, Arts, Culture, and Historic Preservation, The New York Community Trust
- Michelle Baer, Program Officer, Laurie M. Tisch Illumination Fund
- Kim Savarino, Artist, Development Associate, MAP Fund
- Ashley Firestone, Program Officer from the NYC Dept of Cultural Affairs
Voices on Race and Dance

This track will consist of discussions, panels, and workshops that bring together leading local and national voices in order to explore and foster solutions that address racial inequity and advance an equitable dance ecology.

Building a Disability Politic to Dismantle Racism

We will work to illuminate the deep connections that exist between ableism and racism by examining the capitalist, anti-black, colonial, and eugenic roots of ableism. We will examine the socio-political context that situates disabled people at the center of our struggles for justice. Participants will have an opportunity to identify the ways in which ableism impacts them and/or their work, then begin to develop disability politic that will inform strategy and practice.

Featured Speaker:
- Dustin Gibson, Co-Founder, Disability Advocates for Rights and Transition, Founding Member, Harriet Tubman Collective

Reconsidering the "Vernacular"

The category of "vernacular" dance is used to define dance forms that distinguish styles that require formal training from ones that are supposedly "learned naturally". In this long table, dance artists take a critical look at the binary between "classical" and "vernacular" and address how the use of these terms has impacted their personal and professional trajectories.

Featured Speakers:
- Melanie George, Educator, Choreographer, Dramaturg, Scholar
- Xanix Barrera, Flamenco Artist
- Archie Burnett, Co-Founder, House of Ninja
- Chrybaby Cozie, Litefeet Founder

Communities in Motion: Folklore + Tradition

Folk and traditional dance practitioners and producers offer insights on the strength of their traditions for posterity and speak to the ways they participate in the wider dance field. How are these artists perceived, supported and included, and on what terms?

Featured Speakers:
- Claudia Norman, Producer, Celebrate Mexico Now Festival & Director Of Claudia Norman Management
- Victor Sirelson, Artistic Director, Dancing Crane Company Georgian Dance Ensemble
- Reverend Nafissa Shariff, Master Teacher of Traditional West African folklore
- Nicole Macotsis, Dancer, Public Folklorist and Founder of Traditions in Motion
- Parul Shah, Artistic Director, Parul Shah Dance Company

Future Moves Through US and We Resist Uncomplex Notions of our Knowledge as We Dance from Ground to Sky in a Network of Relationships from Time Immortal that For Some Reason are Still Not Considered on the Same Plane as Other Performances Even Though All Dance Comes from Us And We Fight Appropriation and Invisibility as We Make and Make in and Through an Astounding History of Trauma and Ongoing Violence - Works of Love and Power that can Transmute and Heal and Sometimes also Be As Abstract As We Want Them To Be / someday Indigenous dance and performance will not be a separate category and we will not need to direct our panels toward cultural competency, we will be known and respected and forgotten for our brilliance just as much as any artist.

Featured Speakers:
- Cristina Verán, international Indigenous Peoples issues specialist consultant, researcher, strategist, educator
- Cynthia Panagua, Dancer, Choreographer, and Educator
- lakowishe’ne’ (Melissa) Oakes, Artist, Executive Director of the American Indian Community House
- Jackson Polys, Multi-disciplinary Artist

Transformative Justice

These discussions will grapple with some of the intersections of dance and transformative justice. Expanding conversations around some of the practices, strategies, and challenges present when dance tackles our systems of criminal justice, spaces of healing, mental health, and survival.
Immigrant Artists Creating New Models

In response to the needs of immigrant artists from Dance/NYC’s research report, Advancing Immigrants. Dance. Arts., this panel discussion will feature artists/producers who are investigating new strategies to cultivate and serve immigrant communities, change skewed narratives and, support and mentor artists.

Featured Speakers:
- Parijat Desai, Director & Choreographer, Parijat Desai Dance Company
- Kevin McEwen, Artistic Director, Kofago Dance Company
- Nasrene Haj, Co-Director & Co-Founder, THE CREATORS COLLECTIVE
- Luis Salgado, CEO & Artistic Director, Salgado Productions

Transition, Translation, Transaction.

This conversation will engage trans and gender-nonconforming artists in a generative conversation about the realities of their lived experiences in the dance field toward creating stronger networks, tracing lineages and sharing resources.

Featured Speakers:
- Ashley Yergens, Independent Artist
- NIC Kay, Interdisciplinary Artist
- Ube Halaya, Hybrid Drag-Performer-Artist
- Deja Smith, Makeup Artist and Dancer

Sanctuary Space Workshop

Join Art Space Sanctuary and Make the Road to learn how we can help provide sanctuary and support to immigrant and refugee artists and colleagues. This one-hour workshop will provide background on immigration policies and practices, legal framework and strategies on knowing your rights and security protocols, and approaches beyond legal rights to form community and build solidarity.

Featured Speakers:
- Abou Farman, Assistant Professor, New School; New Sanctuary Movement, Artspace Sanctuary
- Sophia Garcia, Art Space Sanctuary and Sin Fronteras

Dance Education

This series of sessions bring together leading national and local voices to explore and foster the role of dance education in creating an equitable dance ecology.

Moving from Assimilation to Self-Empowerment in Pre-K-12 Dance Education

This panel examines how meeting the challenges of everyday life and developing as citizens of a democracy, are skills that are generated in dance classrooms by employing psychosocial abilities for adaptive and positive behavior. Panelists will discuss strategies for creating classroom environments that increase analytical ability, personal agency, and interpersonal skills for interacting effectively with others while ensuring the thriving of student dancers.

Featured Speakers:
- Kathleen Isaac, Director, Hunter College Arnhold Graduate Dance Education Program
- Susan Gaddy Pope, HS Teacher in NJ & TC Doctoral Student
- Pascal Rekoert, HS Dance Educator, LaGuardia HS & College Associate Professor, Central State, Connecticut State University
- Priscilla Velazquez, NYCDOE Middle School Teacher, Hunter Alumna

Dance in Higher Education

Dancers are resilient – amazingly so – but are our Higher Education curricula resilient enough to meet the current and future responses to our diverse and ever-changing community? Are we preparing our students in Higher Education to take their place, as creative professionals in the future? In this panel discussion dance faculty from several institutions discuss these challenges, indicating towards practices and policies for 2020 and beyond.

Featured Speakers:
- Carol Walker, Chair, Department of Dance, Hunter College CUNY
- Melanie Person, Co-Director, The Ailey School
Yin Mei Critchell, Director of the Dance Program, Queen’s College CUNY
Quilan Arnold, Professional Dancer, Choreographer and Adjunct Faculty at Hunter College
Nelly van Bommel, Professor of Dance & Director, Conservatory of Dance at Purchase College SUNY

Changing the DNA of the settler-colonial state:
Decolonizing syllabi, archives, canon, and the guards of intellectual property

This session through a working group format aims to exchange and coordinate strategies from five practitioners in the fields of dance education and knowledge production. They will work towards the decolonizing of institutions, point to the ways archives can be indigenized to reframe the stories about what is dance, where it comes from, and what canon is/can be, and reveal how intellectual property law exists inequitably in relationship to knowledge, property, and power.

Featured Speakers:
Nicole Wallace, Poet and Managing Director of The Poetry Project
Colette Denali Montoya-Sloan, Librarian, Guttman Community College, CUNY
Jane Anderson, Associate Professor of Anthropology and Museum Studies at New York University

Business of Dance

This series of workshops and resources features key strategies for the development and sustainability of dance practice for individual artists, companies, and organizations. Sessions will discuss tools for increasing inclusion and advocacy within organizations, resources for artists, fundraising, and more.

Social Media for the Misinformation Age

How, in this cluttered and confusing political climate, can we successfully write marketing copy for our work? How can we wield that writing via social advertising to authentically build varied but relevant communities around advocacy and art-making? In this action-oriented lab, we’ll playfully peel back dense layers of human psychology and data-driven social media advertising to reveal humans that can be empowered or manipulated. Together, we’ll innovate new systems for creative audience engagement that resist misinformation and establish meaningful relationships with fans and collaborators. The workshop will include quick-and-dirty tutorials, brainstorming exercises, and on-the-spot community building. Expect to walk away with a flood of new ideas, a small army of allies, and take-home tactics to activate your audience. Please note space is limited, this session typically fills up fast.

Featured Facilitator:
Jamie Benson, Digital Marketing Consultant/Public Speaker

Strategic Thinking: A Theory of Change Anyone Can Use

Planning can often be intimidating: how do you know what is the right decision to make? The Theory of Change model provides a framework to both make and assess choices, big and small, that impact your career as a dance professional. You’ll be able to workshop the model in a group and support developing your own.

Featured Facilitator:
Courtney Harge, Associate Director, Inbound Marketing, Fractured Atlas

Independent Producing: Benefits and Challenges

Independent Producers are a vital component to the performance field yet their work is often under-supported. In this panel, independent producers discuss their approach to project management, share best practices, and propose models for professional sustainability.

Featured Speakers:
Katy Dammers, Artistic Producer at FringeArts + General Manager for Rashaun Mitchell + Silas Riener
Michele Byrd-McPhee, Executive Director & Founder, Ladies of Hip-Hop Festival
Viviana Bentez, Independent Producer & Associate Producer, Lincoln Center
Meredith Lee Boggia, Founding Director & Creative Producer, Meredith Boggia Productions LLC

Building A Tech Rider

A successful show always begins with the development of a clear technical rider. In this workshop, attendees will learn basic technical
vocabulary, formatting of riders, legal considerations, and accessibility requirements in order to directly understand and communicate the production needs of their work.

Featured facilitators:

- Madeline Best, Director of Production, Chocolate Factory
- Romola Lucas, Entertainment + Production Counsel, Law Office of Romola Lucas
- Candace Feldman, Managing Director, Disability Dance Works

**SmART Bar Consultations**

SmART bars are individual strategic consultations that follow the National Performing Arts Convention model. Drawn from the Arts and Cultural Consultants Network (ACCN), Nonprofit Finance Fund’s Advisory Services, and other partners, SmART bar tenders will respond to any range of questions—from board and fundraising issues to fresh business and marketing ideas—providing tailored recommendations and direction to further resources. Financial topics covered include better budgeting techniques, crafting your financial story, communicating with and through financial reports, balancing money with a mission, effective capitalization, investment strategy, and more. Sign up available at the event.

Featured Consultants include:

- Alex Goleman, Director of Fiscal Services, Pentacle
- Amy Jacobus, Founder, Strategist, Educator, Amy Jacobus Marketing
- Christa Bianchi, Co-Founder, C&C Branding
- Emaleena Pedigo, Artist Development Coach, The Show Goes On Productions
- Fernando Maneca, Communications Director, Curator, and Mentor
- Imogen Pickles, Assistant Manager of Dance Programs, NYC City Center
- Jenny Thompson, Senior Director of Development & Revenue Strategies, Gibney
- Julian Schubach, Partner, ODI Financial
- Nathalie Matychak, Booking Associate, Pentacle
- Sandy Garcia, Director of Booking, Pentacle
- Sarah Benvenuti, Benvenuti Arts
- Susan Latham, Board Member, Pentacle

**Legal Clinic**

The Legal Clinic, organized by Dance/NYC Board Chair Elissa D. Hecker offers 30-minute individual consultations with arts and entertainment attorneys who are volunteering through the Entertainment, Arts and Sports Law and Intellectual Property Sections of the New York State Bar Association. Attorneys are prepared to discuss legal issues concerning entertainment, intellectual property (i.e. copyright and trademarks), licensing, corporation/incorporation, and collaboration agreements, sexual harassment policies and investigations, among other issues.

Featured Attorneys include:

- Ariana Sarfaraz, Cowan, Liebowitz & Latman
- Camille Turner, Haug Partners
- Cheryl L. Davis, General Counsel, The Authors Guild
- Christina Dellaporte, Lazare Potter Giacovas & Moyle
- Christine-Marie Lauture, Cowan, DeBaets, Abrahams & Sheppard LLP
- Diane Krausz, Esquire, Law Offices of Diane Krausz
- Elissa D. Hecker, Law Office of Elissa D. Hecker
- George T. Gilbert, Attorney At Law
- Jill Pilgrim, Esq. Pilgrim & Associates, Law Offices
- Matthias Brown
- Sophia Sofferman, Fasulo Braverman & Di Maggio LLP
- Tin Fu (Tiffany) Tsai, Deputy General Counsel, Amis Properties Group
- William López Ruiz, Lopez-Ruíz Law Group PLLC
- Zohar Shlush-Reyna, Manager, Legal & Business Affairs, Interactive One, LLC