



Continuum

BRIDGING THE DISTANCE

JUNE NEWSLETTER 2020 | Vol. 1, No. 4

CREATIVITY PERSEVERES

After the forced cancellation of its second season of live performances, Seattle Dance Collective embarked on an imaginative streaming project, *Continuum: Bridging the Distance*. Each of the five newly commissioned works, filmed by Seattle-based filmmaker Henry Wurtz, will premiere on consecutive Thursdays at 6:00pm PDT from July 2-30, 2020. These films will be accompanied by curated behind-the-scenes footage, which will demonstrate how the dancers and choreographers have adapted to the new landscape while working within the precautions and constraints necessitated by Covid-19. The film offerings will be supplemented by Continuum Artist Workshops, which will include dance, fine art, and cooking classes led by SDC artists via Zoom video conferencing.

It is SDC's hope that these works offer shared artistic experiences for artists and audiences to connect with their emotions concerning the fragile state of our world by shedding light on social injustices, which have been emphasized by the pandemic, and lifting our spirits. Through art, we aim to foster a sense of unity around the situation in which we find ourselves, initiating a better understanding of one another and developing a collective sense of compassion.

CONTINUUM: BRIDGING THE DISTANCE IS PARTIALLY FUNDED BY SEATTLE OFFICE OF ARTS & CULTURE

Photo Credit: Noelani Pantastico & James Yoichi Moore © Lindsay Thomas

SCHEDULE AT A GLANCE

July 2-30, 2020: ONLINE

Home

Penny Saunders

July 2 | 6:00PM PDT

The Only Thing You See Now

SeaPertls

July 9 | 6:00PM PDT

A Headlamp or Two

Beth Terwilleger

July 16 | 6:00PM PDT

Musings

Amanda Morgan

July 23 | 6:00PM PDT

The Space Between Us

Bruno Roque

July 30 | 6:00PM PDT

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BRIDGING THE DISTANCE

July 2 - 30, 2020: ONLINE

Home | July 2 at 6:00 PM

by Penny Saunders, with Elle Macy & Dylan Wald
Music: Michael Wall

Drawing inspiration from audio recordings of the dancers, Elle Macy and Dylan Wald, this vignette celebrates the pure delight two individuals can find in the world when they view it through the lens of love.

The Only Thing You See Now | July 9 at 6:00PM

by SeaPertls, with Miles Pertl & Leah Terada
Music: Original composition by Jason Webley

A duet set against the backdrop of the Seattle waterfront. Staying afloat, making waves

A Headlamp or Two | July 16 at 6:00PM

by Beth Terwilleger, with Stephan Bourgond & Lucien Postlewaite
Music: Beethoven's *Moonlight Sonata*

Sometimes finding absurdity and humor while dealing with excruciating emotional pain is the only way to cope. Sometimes one needs to find laughter in order to be able to find a path to emotional healing. And sometimes a good headlamp is all one needs.

Musings | July 23 at 6:00 PM

by Amanda Morgan (in collaboration with Nia-Amina Minor), with Nia-Amina Minor & Amanda Morgan
Music: Hannah Mayree, plus outdoor sound recordings and interviews with multigenerational Black women

This piece speaks to the lack of spatial justice for Black and Brown individuals, especially during these times, and seeks to serve as an expression of hope that people will continue to think about their Black and Brown communities, and speak up for them looking ahead to the future.

The Space Between Us | July 30 at 6:00PM

by Bruno Roque, with Noelani Pantastico & James Yoichi Moore
Music: Alexander Hoepfner's *Pulsating* (alternative version)

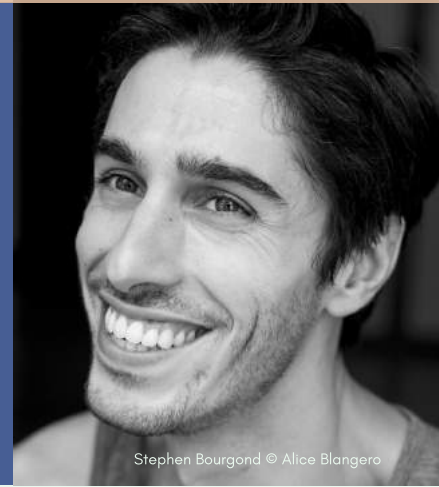
Whether six feet apart, or thousands of miles through a satellite and fiber optic entanglement, the current distance between us is taking its toll. Beyond the absence of touch, we also miss out on non-verbal cues - when someone's fidgety while talking, or inhaling quickly in preparation to interrupt. All that richness has been impaired. But hopefully soon, we will return to that bounty of social, physical interaction, and eliminate this space between us.

ANNOUNCING NEW ARTISTS

STEPHEN BOURGOND, Dancer

Born in Sault Ste Marie, Canada, Stephen's dancing can be described as soft, fragile, and visceral. He began his career with Hamburg Ballet under the direction of John Neumeier before joining Les Ballets de Monte Carlo, where he rose to the rank of Principal Dancer. For the past two years, he has been following his second passion in the culinary arts, working in Michelin starred restaurants in the south of France, as well as antiquing and treasure hunting at estate sales. Fortunately, the prospect of participating in SDC's Continuum: Bridging the Distance has lured him back to the world of dance!

"My body was always a challenge and I tried to make my weaknesses my greatest strengths. I loved seeing other (dancers) do that too."



Stephen Bourgond © Alice Blangero

NIA-AMINA MINOR, Dancer

From Los Angeles, Nia-Amina, who received a BA from Stanford University and an MFA in Dance from UC Irvine, is currently in her fourth season with Spectrum Dance Theater. When not in the studio or onstage, she loves to explore film, books, music and the natural world, which enhance her sense of well-being by engaging in the present and providing a "change of consciousness."

"...I often begin a process or practice by investigating movement, memory, and rhythm within the body. When it comes to locating specific or general sources of inspiration, I'm not sure exactly where inspiration might come from or what form it might take. I don't have a hold on the "why" or the patterns behind the work I create quite yet. I do know that I am responsive to the personal and political. By that I mean my personal and political history as a Black Femme in this world."



Nia-Amina Minor © Nate Watters

AMANDA MORGAN, Choreographer/Dancer

From Tacoma, WA, Amanda has performed professionally with Dresden Semperoper Ballett and Pacific Northwest Ballet, where she has been a company dancer since 2016. As a choreographer, she has created works for PNB's Next Step Program, the Seattle International Dance Festival, the Northwest Film Forum, and Velocity Dance Center, in addition to her own collaborative venture, The Seattle Project. In addition to dancing, Amanda is very interested in writing and poetry, as well as activism as it pertains to politics and law, which inspire and inform her choreographic process.

"Much of my inspiration comes from the stories I've always wanted to tell or the things I've always wanted to say but have never gotten the opportunity to display them. This includes being a Black woman, and how I've come to adapt my life in this world."



Amanda Morgan © Lindsay Thomas

LUCIEN POSTLEWAITE, Dancer

Hailing from Santa Cruz, CA, Lucien is a Principal Dancer with Pacific Northwest Ballet and performed throughout the world with Ballets de Monte Carlo from 2012-2017. His artistry can be described as thoughtful, invested, and charismatic. In addition to working with SDC during the pandemic, Lucien has channeled his creative energy into building "the BATCH," a craft Kombucha business and advocating for Dancers Responding to AIDS and Broadway Cares/Equity Fights AIDS, who have partnered with the Actors Fund to provide grants to artists who have been financially impacted by Covid-19.

"I love listening, learning something new. Listening to what other people are passionate about fuels me in my own passions."



Lucien Postlewaite © Alice Blangero

LEAH TERADA, Dancer

A company dancer at Pacific Northwest Ballet since 2015, Leah grew up in Dallas, TX, where she split her extracurricular focus between intense ballet training and competitive springboard diving. Not one to sit around ever since rehabbing a broken foot, Leah most values the time when she's on the move: walking, running, biking, swimming, and dancing.

"I never seem to find inspiration when I'm looking for it... it's something that happens when I connect a new idea with an old idea, which can happen at any given moment (this is why I always have a notebook and pen in my purse). It's a connection between a feeling, person, place, animal or object and a past experience that sparks inspiration."



Leah Terada © Lindsay Thomas



BETH TERWILLEGER, Choreographer

Hailing from Santa Cruz, CA, Beth danced professionally with Ballet Austin and as a freelance artist. Since finding her roots in Seattle, her choreography has been featured at Velocity Dance Center, On the Boards, Converge Dance Festival, and Seattle International Dance Festival. When not engrossed in her work, Beth has found enjoyment in raising her chickens and engaging in carpentry work, which has led to renovating her basement and building fences.

"My process begins within my imagination... (my choreography) starts as a world in my mind that evolves and grows as the work on the piece progresses. The music, dancers, and movement all become a part of that world, and I learn a lot about where that world in my mind is coming from—its roots."

HENRY WURTZ, Filmmaker

Henry is a Seattle-based photographer and filmmaker specializing in product, lifestyle, automotive, and fine art productions. He became a photographer in the 9th grade after discovering a love for cars. During his youth, Henry also spent many hours practicing eurhythmy, harmonious movement akin to dancing, which he says informs his camera work. Additionally, he developed a passion for music in playing the bass, which he still plays to help him relax. This experience with movement and music make Henry particularly adept as a dance filmmaker.

While Henry finds inspiration in watching & analyzing films and referencing his journal of technical ideas & lens tests, he says, *"I've found the best way to get inspired is to go out and film."*



Henry Wurtz © Banji Ojewole

RETURNING ARTISTS INCLUDE:

Elle Macy



Miles Pertl/
SeaPerts

Bruno Roque



Penny
Saunders

Dylan Wald



CONTINUUM ARTIST WORKSHOPS | July 2-30, 2020

Livestream classes in dance, fine art & cooking

July 2 | 10am-12pm

Luigi Jazz Stretch Class, followed by
Int/Adv Ballet Class

with Elle Macy & Dylan Wald

July 9 | 10am-1:30pm

Ballet Barre Technique (All Levels)

with Miles Pertl

Beginning Movement Exploration

with Leah Terada

Ballet Figure Drawing

with Sydney Pertl

July 16 | 10-11am

Int/Adv Contemporary

with special guests Alice Klock &
Florian Lochner of FLOCK

July 16 (cont.) | 11:30am-12:30pm

**Post-Workout Cooking &
Kombucha Basics**

with Lucien Postlewaite

July 23 | 10-11am

Int/Adv Improvisation Study

with Amanda Morgan

July 30 | 10-11:30am

Int/Adv Ballet Class, followed by
Q & A Discussion

with Noelani Pantastico &
James Yoichi Moore

[CLICK FOR ADDITIONAL INFO](#)



Elle Macy & Dylan Wald in rehearsal for *Home* by Penny Saunders; film still from video by Henry Wurtz

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James Yoichi Moore © Lindsay Thomas