



push / **FOLD**

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR | SAMUEL HOBBS

WWW.PUSHFOLD.ORG

THE COMPANY



push/FOLD lives at the intersection of dance, sound, and design—fusing raw physicality with immersive, visceral storytelling, speaking across disciplines and communities. Touring nationally and internationally, push/FOLD delivers unforgettable performance and education experiences that ignite the senses and invite audiences into a world of power, beauty, and transformation. Fusing athletics (Track, Swimming, and Martial Arts), with Street, and Contemporary Dance, push/FOLD explores humanity, relationships, and the natural world.

Founded in 2016 by award-winning composer-choreographer and interdisciplinary artist Samuel Hobbs, push/FOLD's work draws inspiration from Dreamtime, channeled through the lens of Visceral Movement Theory™, our unique athletic style using visceral biomechanics to amplify human power in art, athletics, and performance.

Dedicated to merging high-caliber performance with a deep commitment to education and community empowerment, push/FOLD's offerings include masterclasses, workshops, residencies, touring youth-reach programs, artist talks and panel discussions, dance films, and evening-length productions. push/FOLD champions the arts in Portland, OR through our Union PDX festival platform, commissioning artists from around the world to teach and perform in Portland, Oregon, USA.

push/FOLD is a 501(c)(3) arts non-profit based in Portland, Oregon, USA.



THE COMPANY

SAMUEL HOBBS

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR, COMPOSER-CHOREOGRAPHER

Samuel Hobbs is a bi-racial Latine presenter, educator, and interdisciplinary artist (Dance, Art, Film, Photography, Music). Named an [Oregon Performing Arts Fellow](#) of 2023, Samuel's works have performed both internationally and nationally since 2014, while teaching contemporary movement and partnering since 2008.

As a choreographer, Samuel's artistic process draws from themes influenced from Dreamtime (meditation and unconscious dreams), and the fascination with athletic forms. Intermixing musical composition and movement due to the experience of synesthesia with sound and momentum (hearing movement and seeing sound), Samuel finds "a [sweet spot between the musical composition and the movement concepts](#)" (Oregon ArtsWatch). Notable commissions and projects include working with the Oregon Ballet Theatre and the Portland Symphonic Choir.

Samuel's movement practice incorporates their training in athletics and dance ([Track, Swimming, Martial Arts, and West African, Street, and Contemporary Dance](#)), and integrates their background in Osteopathy to create the somatic movement method called [Visceral Movement Theory™](#) (VMT). VMT is the backbone of push/FOLD's signature movement-partnering style, training, and education.

As an arts advocate, Samuel collaborates with various stakeholders in the arts to generate abundance-thinking that centers service and reframes leadership as a collective effort. In addition to their mentorship and equity work with organizations and developing artists, Samuel currently serves as an equity and service consultant for several arts organizations and foundations.



MISSION & VISION

OUR REACH!



All Ages | **Dance, Music, Athletics** | Artists, Students, Educators



Attracting Art Lovers **Globally** | Audiences of Dance, Music, Theatre



Over **49 countries** via our **virtual components**

VISCERAL MOVEMENT THEORY™ MASTERCLASS
UNIVERSITY OF OREGON

PHOTOGRAPHER: HOLLY SHAW

"... was simply poetic... the scenes looked like paintings."
~ Jamuna Chiarini (Oregon ArtsWatch)

"... mood like a modern-day Haydn."
~ Bob Hicks (Oregon ArtsWatch)

"... viscous, tenacious, and pulsing..."
~ Elizabeth Whelan (Oregon ArtsWatch)

PHOTOS & VIDEO



CLICK OR SCAN

PRESS DROPBOX



CLICK OR SCAN

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

PERFORMANCES & COLLABORATIONS

push/FOLD delivers a dynamic range of virtuosic dance productions, designed to be tour-ready, accessible, and impactful for any community. From full-length evening experiences to shorter, high-energy works perfect for shared performance events or split-bills, our productions captivate audiences of all ages. We also collaborate across disciplines with local artists, performers, and organizations to craft one-of-a-kind events and cross-pollinate music, theater, and dance audiences that leave a lasting impression.

VIRTUAL & LIVESTREAM ENGAGEMENT

Beyond the physical stage, push/FOLD's Livestream and Virtual engagement options reach global and local audiences alike. Our virtual components ensure that every aspect of our work—from full productions and classes to artist talks and panel discussions—can be experienced from anywhere. This approach expands accessibility and engagement, bringing push/FOLD's innovative artistry to a broader portion of your community.

TAILORED RESIDENCIES & CHOREOGRAPHY

Immerse your community in the creative world of push/FOLD with our tailored residencies. Spanning from 2 - 10 days (and more), each residency is a dynamic blend of masterclasses and workshops, lecture-demonstrations, performances, community discussions and artist-talks, all designed to leave a lasting impact to resonate with your unique vision. We also work with universities and local companies to create and set innovative new works.

MASTERCLASSES & WORKSHOPS

Dive into push/FOLD's masterclasses and workshops for movement, film, sound for dance, and career development. Designed for everyone from high school students and elders to professionals in arts, athletics, and health fields, these sessions challenge, inspire, and embrace participants of all backgrounds and levels. Our [Visceral Movement Theory™](#) and professional development workshops also provide educators and arts leaders with innovative tools and fresh perspectives to invigorate their practice.

LECTURE-DEMONSTRATIONS

Step into the creative heartbeat with push/FOLD's lecture-demonstrations. Led by our Artistic Director and senior company members, these interactive sessions explore our choreographic process and [Visceral Movement Theory™](#). Gain hands-on insights into our innovative work in biomechanics and the techniques that define our distinctive style.

STUDENT ENGAGEMENT

push/FOLD's student engagement program enriches academic experiences by offering performances and demonstrations for students of all ages. Working with schools and studios, we blend excerpts from our repertoire with interactive movement exercises, highlighting the connections between art and science, fostering creativity and curiosity.

ARTIST TALKS & PANEL DISCUSSIONS

Enrich your experience with push/FOLD's artist talks and panel discussions. These open conversations bring together our artists and local voices, inviting audiences to dive deep into the work, explore themes within our repertoire or community-selected topics, and create meaningful dialogue and deeper understanding.



TOURING INFO & REPERTOIRE

Possible Venues

Proscenium Theatre, In-the-Round, Site-Specific, Black Box, Installation

Personnel

4 to 7 Dancers, 1 to 2 Artistic Personnel, 1 Technical Director

* *'Vespers'* also includes 3 Choral Soloists and 1 Choral Director *

Touring Productions

Early

Immersing the audience in a world both intense and tender, this raw and visceral production dances through intricate duets and solos as fragments of love, loss, and time.

Look & Feel:

Athletic, Powerful, Serious, Single Narrative Arc.

Length:

60-minutes without an intermission.

Vespers

A rich and evocative interdisciplinary and modern interpretation of Rachmaninoff's 'All-Night Vigil' performed by live choristers blended with the power of athletic contemporary movement and partnering.

Look & Feel:

Classical Choral and Athletic Contemporary, Non-Secular Reverent

Length:

60-minutes without an intermission.

Echoes & Light

This curated evening of works delivers the full spectrum of push/FOLD's creative and athletic breadth—from balletic and meditative duets and quirky vaudevillian quartets to powerful, pulsing pieces infused with theatrical themes and stunning visuals. This customizable program is a multidisciplinary journey for all audiences.

Length:

60 to 120-minutes with an intermission.

BODY OF WORK



CLICK OR SCAN

** Click on an image or URL to view full video recordings **

VESPERS



VESPERS (2024) | 65-Minutes

Choreographer: Samuel Hobbs | **Music:** Sergei Rachmaninoff

Vespers is a unique and historical collaborative work integrating contemporary dance with Sergei Rachmaninoff's 'All-Night Vigil'. Designed to tour and perform with local choral ensembles live, with singers and dancers sharing the stage as equal, interdependent forces moving on the stage, Vespers is a true interdisciplinary performance built for both choral and dance audiences.

** Note: Ready for site-specific, blackbox, and traditional theatrical settings. **

Look & Feel	5 Dancers & 70+ Choristers: Powerful, Athletic, Virtuoso
Movement Style	Post-Contemporary Movement & Partnering
Musical Style	A Capella, Slavonic, Kiev Chants
Costumes	Full-length Black Dresses

WWW.VIMEO.COM/PUSHFOLD/VESPERS

EARLY



EARLY (2018) | 60-Minutes

Composer-Choreographer: Samuel Hobbs

'Early' is an intimate, and unrelenting exploration of love, loss, and humanity, captured in fast-paced movement, tensile partnering, and a fluid soundscape. 'Early' bridges performer and viewer through intricate duets and solos—fragments of a personal story. Shaped by themes of power and identity, 'Early' is an immersive reflection—"its mood like a modern-dayHaydn" (Oregon ArtsWatch).

Look & Feel	4 Dancers: Athletic, Powerful, Meditative, Singular Story
Movement Style	Floorwork, Post-Contemporary Movement & Partnering
Musical Style	Synthetic & Stringed Instrumentals, Vocals, Piano
Costumes	Pedestrian Clothing & Nude Bodies

** Note: Fully Clothed Performances Available. **

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ILLUM



ILLUM (2023) | 46-Minutes

Composer-Choreographer: Samuel Hobbs

This visceral performance blends athletic choreography with vivid stage imagery, immersing audiences in a world of cyclical transformation, and otherworldly facets of the natural world. Inspired by mycelial networks, the light of the moon, and the textures of visual art and the relationship of humanity to the earth, 'Illum' is a mythical journey—a striking story through decomposition and renewal.

Look & Feel	5-7 Dancers: Grounded, Epic, Ethereal, Exciting, Stunning
Movement Style	Post-Contemporary Movement, Partnering, and Floorwork
Musical Style	Synthetic & Classical Instrumentals, Vocals, Percussion, Rain
Costumes	Knit Sweaters, Stylized Twill pants, and Textured Shirts

WWW.VIMEO.COM/PUSHFOLD/ILLUM

** Click on an image or URL to view full video recordings **

VESPERS EX



VESPERS EX (2024) | 18-Minutes

Choreographer: Samuel Hobbs | **Music:** Sergei Rachmaninoff

Through four dynamic movements from our acclaimed 'Vespers' production, set to Rachmaninoff's acclaimed 'All-Night Vigil', 'Vespers Ex' blends contemporary dance with choral soundscapes, reinterpreting the spiritual themes of the choral work, offering a contemporary reflection on devotion and transformation.

** Note: 'Vespers Ex' is a selection of excerpts from our full work 'Vespers' **

Look & Feel	4 Dancers: Powerful, Athletic, Virtuoso
Movement Style	Post-Contemporary Movement & Partnering
Musical Style	A Capella, Slavonic, Kiev Chants
Costumes	Full-length Black Dresses

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MOON



MOON (2022) | 16-Minutes

Composer-Choreographer: Samuel Hobbs

Inspired by the halo of light from a full moon reflecting in the lenses of our eyes, 'Moon' is gentle and physical quintet, interweaving elements of breakdance and floorwork with entwined partnering and contemporary movement. It is a reflective look at the symbolism of nature, cycle, and emergence.

** Note: 'Moon' is an opening excerpt from our full work 'Illum' **

Look & Feel	4-5 Dancers: Grounded, Ethereal, Physical
Movement Style	Contemporary Floorwork & Fluidic Partnering
Musical Style	Synthetic & Classical Instruments
Costumes	Knit sweaters and pedestrian clothing

WWW.VIMEO.COM/PUSHFOLD/MOON

ASH



ASH (2019) | 36-Minutes

Composer-Choreographer: Samuel Hobbs

Through dynamic duets, raw athletic ensemble movement, and sylphic solos, 'Ash' embodies push/FOLD's post-classical technique, capturing "a haunting slowness to an agile athleticism [overtaking] the space with tenacity" (Oregon ArtsWatch).

Inspired by a poem of a woman who leapt into the sea and dissolved into seafoam, 'Ash' floats in a deeply moving meditation on resilience, emerging from profound solitude and grief.

Look & Feel	4 Dancers: Contemplative, Immersive, Tranquil
Movement Style	Floorwork, Post-Contemporary Ballet & Partnering
Musical Style	Synthetic Instrumentals, Vocals, Percussion
Costumes	Open-backed Dark Blue Leotards

WWW.VIMEO.COM/PUSHFOLD/ASH

** Click on an image or URL to view full video recordings **

DARK WINGS



DARK WINGS (2020) | 22-Minutes

Composer-Choreographer: Samuel Hobbs

'Dark Wings' is a comedic-noir work reflecting the absurdity of life. Featuring 70's chic aesthetics, and an oversized magnetic heart prop, 'Dark Wings' plays out through jazzy movements and a tranquil lullaby of tensile partnering. Its score, effortlessly combines shuffle beats, orchestral horns, flute, harp, electric motors, maniacal laughing, and a secret monologue of love and acceptance in a fabricated language.

Look & Feel	4 Dancers: Family Friendly, Comedic-Noir, Solos & Ensemble
Movement Style	Upbeat Jazz, Contemporary Movement & Partnering
Musical Style	Orchestral, Percussion, Electronica, Fabricated Language
Costumes	Seventies-era chic

WWW.VIMEO.COM/PUSHFOLD/DARK-WINGS

OZYMANDIAS



OZYMANDIAS (2023) | 13-Minutes

Choreographer: Samuel Hobbs | Music: Varied

Opening with a powerful, earthy, and heartfelt solo and a haunting opening visage, and ending with athletic and exultant ensemble movement, 'Ozymandias' grapples with the self, heritage, and community.

** Note: May be Set on Student Performers for Residencies **

Look & Feel	5 Dancers: Solemn, Quirky, Upbeat, Pensive
Movement Style	Post-Contemporary Movement
Musical Style	Latiné vocals, upbeat Cumbia style, Kaua'i 'o'o Birdsong
Costumes	Long flowing dresses and working-class pedestrian clothing

WWW.VIMEO.COM/PUSHFOLD/OZYMANDIAS

GHOST PIPE



GHOST PIPE (2021) | 15-Minutes

Composer-Choreographer: Samuel Hobbs

Ghost Pipe is a serene solo work inspired by the sacred plant Monotropa Uniflora, symbolizing death and rebirth. Featuring sweeping movements, rhythmic floorwork, and precise articulations, the dancer transforms amidst a ceremoniously placed white petals and a soundscape of layered voices, trumpet, and piano. A meditation on power and flow, Ghost Pipe evokes fleeting moments of spiritual clarity, fading to black like the bloom of its namesake.

Look & Feel	Somber, Physical, Solo (2 Performers)
Movement Style	Fluid Post-Contemporary Movement & Floorwork
Musical Style	Choral, Trumpet, Piano
Costumes	Pedestrian clothing of linen and jeans, and mid-length dress

WWW.VIMEO.COM/PUSHFOLD/GHOST-PIPE



Photography: Ophélie Martin-Weber | Dancers: Briley Jozwiak, Molly Rea

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Fund of Oregon Community Foundation

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