



**UNIONPDX**  
FESTIVAL OF CONTEMPORARY DANCE

PUSH/FOLD PRESENTS  
UNION PDX - FESTIVAL:21

NOVEMBER 4-7

[WWW.UNIONPDX.ORG](http://WWW.UNIONPDX.ORG)

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## FROM SAMUEL HOBBS

Welcome to the 3rd annual Union PDX - Festival of Contemporary Dance, **Festival:21!**

Waiting in the wings since we received our first set of applications from artists worldwide in Spring of 2020, this weekend is a dream come to fruition — to bring international and national dance artists into Portland to perform and teach alongside Portland artists. It is a gift to share the stage and classroom with these incredible people and choose a "new normal" that celebrates the deep roots of contemporary dance.

As many of us know, Art is more important now than ever. Art moves economies, revitalizes communities, teaches our children compassion, teamwork, and problem-solving. Art is responsible for technical and scientific advancements in robotics, mathematics, and medicine. It is responsible for transmuting violence into compassion and healing, and for creating new avenues of understanding. Art waters hope, builds resilience, and saves lives. Art is responsible for making the last 22 months bearable.

We have seen the last 22 months decimate the performing arts here in Portland. Moving forward, we must ensure that Art spearheads the cultural landscape of our city as we rebuild. The act of you sitting with us today is an act for our future together. Thank you so much for being so supportive over the last year and a half, and thank you for being here today. For the **push/FOLD** family and several other companies and artists, this weekend truly marks the return of live dance performance within Portland, and we are thrilled to return *with you*.

Enjoy the weekend of **Union PDX - Festival:21.**

-Samuel Hobbs-

## ABOUT UNION PDX

Established in 2019, the **Union PDX - Festival of Contemporary Dance** is a multi-faceted program to present artists making contemporary work from any dance genre and tradition, diversify the influences on our city, and provide training opportunities and tangible resources to dance professionals.

Featuring masterclasses, artist-talks, and student and public performances, the **Union PDX** festival is a means to share our resources in an accessible festival format within Portland. By elevating artistic voices in prominent Portland venues and providing training, resources, and opportunities to dance professionals, we help strengthen and expand Portland's dance ecosystem. We address the barriers to access and visibility many professional dance artists experience and address the stratification within Portland, which is grown around lines of privilege, education, and proximity to opportunity. We are absolutely thrilled to include two new professional development workshops for artists this year for **Festival:21**—grant writing and budgeting and project and leadership development.

Built to attract outside interest and resources necessary for a healthy local arts community, the **Union PDX** festival curates artists through a worldwide open application process through a panel of local dance professionals. In its second year (2020), we received applications from artists across the globe, representing various Street, African, Indian, Ballet, Butoh, and Contemporary movement. The reception demonstrated that artists are hungry for opportunities to perform in Portland.

The **Union PDX** festival aims to connect artists, audiences, presenters, administrators, and educators and grow our presentation, performances, and class offerings to strengthen Portland as a national hub in this union of dance.

## ABOUT PUSH/FOLD

push/FOLD is the vision of Artistic Director Samuel Hobbs, founded in 2016 as a performance-focused arts organization. Performing regionally and internationally through festivals and self-produced events, push/FOLD's body of work features original sound, set, and lighting design of Samuel's own. Samuel's unique movement vocabulary—Visceral Movement Theory™ (VMT)—provides the backbone of push/FOLD's tensile movement and partnering and athletic dance performance.

With the vision of developing community power through arts education, support, and advocacy, push/FOLD's programming includes masterclasses, workshops, presentations, student programming, evening-length dance productions, artist-talks, and the **Union PDX - Festival of Contemporary Dance**. As an arts advocate, push/FOLD works with local and regional companies, artists, administrators, and the City of Portland to identify and address the needs of our communities; and continues to steward emerging choreographers and young artists.

push/FOLD is a 501c3 tax-exempt non-profit arts organization based in Portland, Oregon.

## 1. Impossible to Explain

In the midst of my tranquility, I enter into a space of peace that generates in me a perfect universe in which I want to be. From there I relate. I enter to understand myself, I come out to understand you and for you to understand me, questions appear—should I mutate, live, interweave to understand, to search, to fill, to find? Will I let myself be involved? Do you understand me? Am I clear?

Choreographer, Dancer:  
Evelyn Tejada

Music:

'Phases' — Howling

'Headphonics' — Ryoji Ikeda

'Poder Del Perro' — Robot Koch

'Don't Break My Love' — Nicolas Jaar

## 2. A Fantasy of Going Home

'A Fantasy of Going Home' is a contemporary dance solo that is continuously evolving and reacting to the shifting present-day politics of Taiwan's place in the world. The piece draws directly from choreographer/performer Tom Tsai's upbringing as an advocate for Taiwan's Independence. The choreography sources from Breakin' aesthetics and Hip Hop battle mentality, and evokes the resilience and endurance necessary when faced with imminent defeat.

Choreographer, Dancer:  
Tom Tsai

Sound Design:  
Tom Tsai

## 3. Ghost Pipe

Monotropa uniflora (aka 'Ghost Pipe'), considered a sacred plant associated with the spiritual process of death and rebirth, is a species of flora that lacks the necessary chlorophyll to produce energy from sunlight. Deriving its energy from decaying matter, the Ghost Pipe spends most of its time underground. It only emerges to bloom on a waxy delicate pale flesh, easily bruised when touched. Containing several medicinal properties, the Ghost Pipe is antinociceptive—reducing sensitivity to painful stimuli—allowing the patient to sit with the experience with a lesser degree of intensity.

This premiere work is both medicinal and spiritual.

Composer-Choreographer:  
Samuel Hobbs

Dancer:  
Holly Shaw

#### 4. Bunker

'Bunker' is about how memory is experienced through the body and generations.

This solo was influenced by archival research I did on the women who resided at the 92nd Y Residence and The Clara de Hirsch home for Working Girls from 1899-1950. My practice grew from this research, embodying and visualizing memories of these women, as well as my own, approaching time in a non-linear fashion, reflecting the parallels, struggles and shared history through generations.

This relentless solo plays with rigor and rhythm as a grounding force in a chaotic mind.

Choreographer, Dancer:  
Rebecca Margolick

Music:  
"All Melody" — Nils Frahm

#### 5. Who We Carry

'Who We Carry' is a three part journey of ancestral roots in the Ring Shout traditions of the Gullah Geechee, Yoruba Orishas in the African Diaspora, and lands in the Pacific Northwest. Who We Carry transforms grief and loss during the COVID pandemic into an opportunity to reclaim our power. With labor, gratitude, love and power we become our intimate visions for the future.

Choreographer:  
Oluyinka Akinjiola - in collaboration with the dancers -

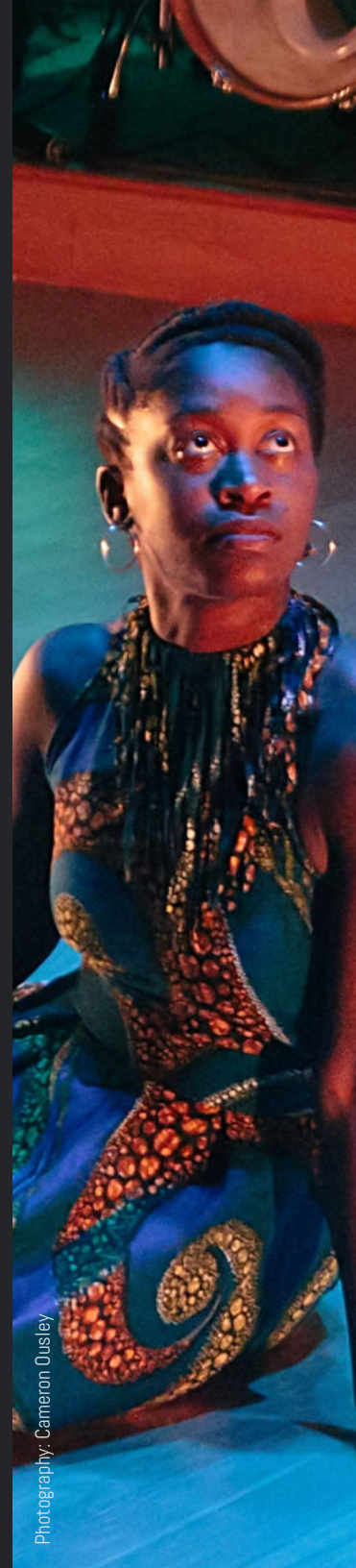
Composer:  
Michael Galen

Performers:  
Oluyinka Akinjiola, Malike Delgado, Ogo Ezendokwere, Michael Galen, Donna Oefinger, Decimus Yarbrough

Vocalists:  
Habiba Addo, Shalanda Sims

Costume Designer:  
Jamie Minkus

Prop Design:  
Bethany Harvey



Photography: Cameron Ousley

#### OLUYINKA AKINJIOLA

Rejoice! Diaspora Dance Theater | Portland, OR

Choreographer, Dancer

Rejoice! is a Portland-based contemporary dance ensemble led by the bold vision and artistic direction of Oluyinka Akinjiola. Inspired by the folklore of the great African diaspora, Rejoice's performance repertoire boldly weaves stories of adversity and hope, captivating audiences with their outspoken calls for social change.

Oluyinka Akinjiola received a MFA in Dance Choreography and Performance, and was Visiting Assistant Professor of Dance at Reed College and SUNY The College at Brockport. She creates a unique blend between dances of Africa, the African Diaspora, Modern dance and social justice issues. She was a three year guest artist for the Sankofa African Drum & Dance Ensemble; her work was featured in the International Association of Blacks in Dance conference (Washington D.C. and Los Angeles), Carnival 2014 (Salvador, BA, Brazil), TEDxMtHood, and Newmark Theater among others.

Rejoice! Diaspora Dance Theatre is a 501c3 tax-exempt non-profit arts organization based in Portland, Oregon.

[www.rejoicediasporadance.com](http://www.rejoicediasporadance.com)

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## SAMUEL HOBBS

push/FOLD

Artistic Director, Composer-Choreographer

Samuel Hobbs is a multi-disciplinary artist in Dance, Art, and Music known for their unique athletic movement, abstract storytelling, and evocative soundscapes, making their international choreographic debut this year in both Canada and Mexico.

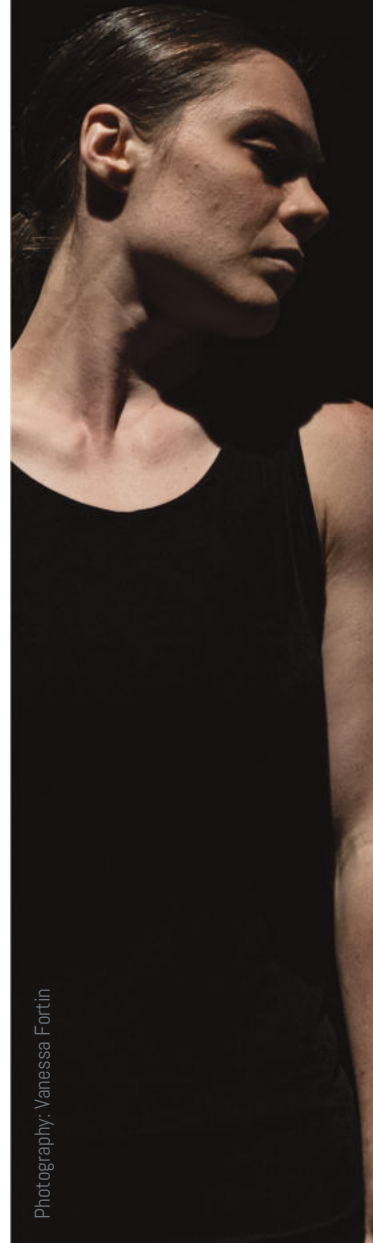
Samuel has performed nationally and internationally Contemporary, Ballet, Street, and West African dance since 2005, teaching nationally and internationally dance and partnering since 2008. Samuel's work centers themes of power and identity, utilizing their momentum-based dance technique Visceral Movement Theory™—a fusion of Samuel's athletics and dance training with their education in Osteopathic manual therapy, rooted in the biomechanics of our organs.

Before dance, Samuel was a university track athlete studying Math and Computer Science at the University of Oregon and then Western Oregon University; graduating in 2007 with a Bachelors in Science in The Arts, studying Music, Illustration, Sculpture, Dance, and Computer Programming. Samuel's performance career includes performances at two World Expositions, leading roles in Classical Ballet productions in Oregon, Washington, and Utah, and performances with Lauren Edson, Éowyn Barrett, Rainbow Dance Theatre, Minh Tran & Co., and BodyVox.

Outside of dance, Samuel works with the public as a Manual Therapist in their private practice in Portland, OR; and is the artistic director of push/FOLD and the Union PDX - Festival of Contemporary Dance.

[www.pushfold.org](http://www.pushfold.org)

 [PUSH.FOLD](https://www.instagram.com/pushfold)



## REBECCA MARGOLICK

Brooklyn, NY

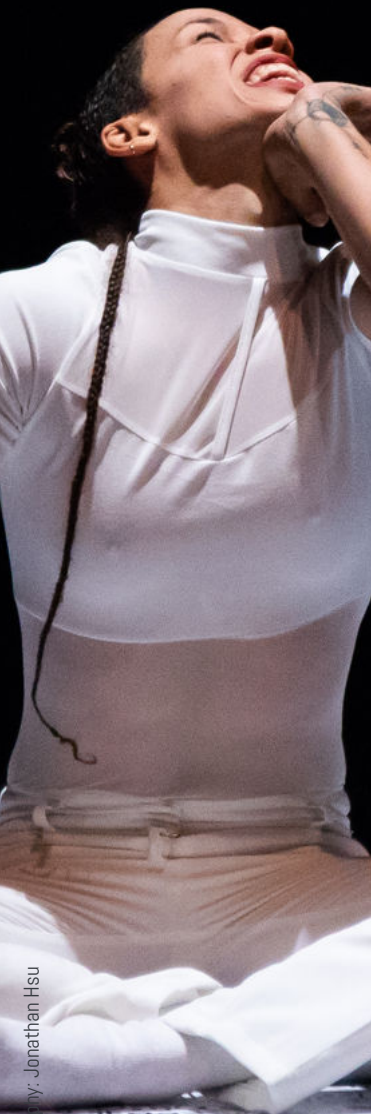
Choreographer, Dancer

Rebecca Margolick is a dancer and choreographer based in Brooklyn, NY and raised in Vancouver, Canada. Her multi-disciplinary works have performed in Poland, Bulgaria, Israel, Germany, Singapore, Seattle, San Diego, Montreal, Vancouver, Wells B.C, Mexico City and NYC. Her solo Bunker + Vault won the Jury Prize for "best indoor choreographic work" at the 2019 Festival Quartiers Danse in Montreal. She was selected as a Dance Artist in Residence at The Banff Centre for the Arts in December 2019. In January 2020, she began the New Directions Choreography Lab Fellowship at the Ailey School.

Rebecca was a 2015 LABA Fellow at the 14th St Y in NYC, and 2017 GPS Fund Movement Research Artist in Residence at Derida Dance Center in Sofia, Bulgaria. She is currently a member of Chuck Wilt's UNA Productions, and was a member of Sidra Bell Dance New York from 2012-2016. Freelancing, Rebecca has worked with numerous artists including Allen Kaeja, Kayla Farrish, Patricia Norowol, Jerome Bel, Derrick Belcham, Emily Terndrup, Maya Orchin, Shay Kuebler, and Barak Marshall. Rebecca received recognition on Dance Magazine's "25 to Watch" list in 2020, a significant professional recognition.

[www.rebeccamargolick.com](http://www.rebeccamargolick.com)

 [MARGOLICK](https://www.instagram.com/rebeccamargolick)



## EVELYN TEJEDA

Dominican Republic, Peterson, NJ

Choreographer, Dancer

Evelyn Tejeda is an essential professional urban, contemporary, and experimental dancer, instructor, and choreographer in the Dominican Republic, recently living in the USA. She holds a Master of Performing Arts from the Rey Juan Carlos University of Madrid, Spain. Her professional career boasts performances and teaching invitations across North and South America and Europe. She recently received an invitation to participate in the choreographic process by the Cooperative Maura Morales in Dusseldorf, Germany, for being the winner of the Quisqueya Dance Grand Prize with her choreography "Imposible Explicar." She also participated in the Bates Dance Festival in the United States in 2018, XVII Encuentro de Danza in 2019 in Guayaquil, Ecuador and the International Festival of Contemporary Dance EDANCO in the Dominican Republic. Evelyn has also worked with the French choreographer David Milome as an interpreter in the piece "Abstraction," which premiered in Martinique in 2015, and was an artist-in-residence as a Hip-Hop teacher at Western Michigan University in 2016.

Evelyn's choreography combines her movement investigation of floorwork, and various street and urban dance styles from the Dominican Republic. She was a Semi-Finalist at Dominicanas Got Talent in 2019, and is a founding member of the Contemporary Dance National Company of the Dominican Republic.

[www.evelyntejeda.com](http://www.evelyntejeda.com)

📍 EVELYNTEJEDA\_



## TOM TSAI

Los Angeles, CA

Choreographer, Dancer

Tom Tsai is a dancer/choreographer based out of Los Angeles, creating work that stems from his Taiwanese and Hip Hop identities. Positioned between the distinct histories of Taiwan, American minorities, Hip Hop, and Western Concert Dance, Tom draws upon Breakin' (breakdancing) and Lewitzky Modern dance techniques, Postmodern sensibilities, and his writing to represent his lineage and hone his innovative voice.

Tom performs nationally and internationally, and is a chief collaborator with Dancing Through Prison Walls, a project giving visibility to those impacted by the carceral system. Tom's professional career boasts performances at the iconic venues of Judson Church, Sadler's Wells, Theater Rotterdam Schouwburg, and Esplanade Theatres on the Bay; choreography for stage plays at MainStreet Theatre Company and Sierra Madre Playhouse; performances with choreographers Suchi Branfman, Laurie Cameron, Victoria Marks, and John Pennington; and video collaborations with Diavolo | Architecture in Motion, Danza Floricanto, ARC Pasadena, Pennington Dance Group, and J Chen Project.

Tom is part of Section 7, a collective of multi-disciplined B-boy artists originating from Taipei, Taiwan. He has taught at Pomona College, Cal State Long Beach, Cal State Fullerton, and high schools across Southeast Asia.

[www.tomtsai.com](http://www.tomtsai.com)

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ARTIST PANEL DISCUSSION | UNION PDX - FESTIVAL:20  
POLARIS DANCE CENTER

ARTISTS (LEFT TO RIGHT):  
SWETA RAVISANKAR, CONRAD "ICON SLEEPY TUT" KACZOR  
MR. BOBBY FOUTHER, SAMUEL HOBBS, BARBARA LIMA  
OLUYINKA AKINJIOLA, ANDREA PARSON

VIDEO: BRIAN MCDONNELL | PHOTOGRAPHY: JINGZI ZHAO

PERFORMANCES

Nov 4 @ 8:00pm  
"Student Preview"

Nov 5 & 6 @ 7:30pm  
Nov 7 @ 4:00pm

MASTERCLASSES

Sweep Techniques | Nov 5 @ 12:00pm

Tom Tsai  
(Breakdance)

Urban Contemporary | Nov 5 @ 02:00pm

Evelyn Tejeda  
(Urban Floorwork)

Kinetic Listening | Nov 6 @ 10:00am

Rebecca Margolick  
(Contemporary Improv)

Flow & Power | Nov 6 @ 12:00pm

Samuel Hobbs  
(Movement & Partnering)

Entering the Cosmogram | Nov 6 @ 02:00pm

Oluyinka Akinjiola (Afro-Contemporary)

WORKSHOPS

Deciphering Grant Writing | Nov 7 @ 10:00am

Ahsante Sankofa Foree & Samuel Hobbs

Cultivating Leadership | Nov 7 @ 12:30pm

Hailey Bill & Emily Rizzo, PHR

UNION PDX - FESTIVAL:21

Sponsored by Bill & Wendy Whitsell

SPECIAL THANK YOU

Holly Shaw • Jingzi Zhao • Briley Jozwiak • Ashley Morton • Heather Hines  
Jordan Kriston • Columbia Dance Center • Becky Moore • Hannah Pass  
Jim Dunn • Hailey Bill • George Thorn • Bill & Wendy Whitsell • David Feinstein  
Christina Grooms • Mary & Don Blair • Justin & Dena Alvernaz  
Carolyn Hope & Steve Lyford • Carol Ehlen • Jessica Boldt • Dessa Bingley  
Ahsante Sankofa Foree • Emily Rizzo • Conrad "Icon Sleepy Tut" Kaczor  
Molly Gardner • Erin O'Shaughnessy • Avery Lemons • Portland Opera  
Kathryn Harden • Steps PDX • OpenSpace • Cedar House Media • David Herrera  
Alan Jones • Graham Cole • Paul King & Walter Jaffe • Tim & Corrie Cowart  
Alice McCartor • Robert Guitron • Zach Johnson • Toots (aka. My Captain)





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