

UNIONPDX

FESTIVAL OF CONTEMPORARY DANCE

PUSH/FOLD PRESENTS
UNION PDX - FESTIVAL:22

NOVEMBER 17-20

HAMPTON OPERA CENTER

22



FROM SAMUEL HOBBS

Welcome to the 4th annual Union PDX - Festival of Contemporary Dance, **Festival:22!**

We are thrilled to be here today with you all and to share in this experience of art and community with these incredible artists from the United States, across the sea, and right here in our city. Art is an essential and necessary part of society; we would not be here today without it. Art waters hope, builds resilience, and saves lives. Art truly nourishes the life and breath of who we are as individuals and as a community.

For the **push/FOLD** family, 2022 has been a remarkable year full of residencies, workshops, masterclasses, performances, new relationships, creating dance for films, and much more. This weekend, the Union PDX festival, is the culmination of a year's worth of work and many hours from passionate individuals. Built with our community for our community, it is one of push/FOLD's most comprehensive programs constructed via panels, forums, discussions, and partnerships. Community is necessary for the creation of Art.

Thank you to our volunteers, donors, board, and staff—we are grateful for your time, support, and expertise. Thank you to the community and our colleagues—Union PDX would not exist without you. We are in this together to share, to collaborate, and to support each other.

Thank you for being with us. We are thrilled that the **Union PDX - Festival:22** weekend has finally come!

-Samuel Hobbs-

ABOUT UNION PDX

Established in 2019, the **Union PDX - Festival of Contemporary Dance** is a platform for supportive cross-pollination and a means to share resources in an accessible festival format. The festival seeks to challenge artists and strengthen Portland as a national hub for dance. The festival's goals: to elevate artists creating contemporary work in any dance genre or tradition; expand the influences on our city necessary for creative growth; provide training opportunities and tangible resources to dance professionals; and create a one-stop shop for presenters, donors, and collaborators, bringing often inaccessible circles to creators.

Through a worldwide open application process, the **Union PDX** festival presents artists curated by a panel of our peers to mitigate the systems which reduce access for artists (proximity to opportunity, networking, and gatekeeping). Familiarizing audiences with the ins and outs of working as a professional dance artist today, **Union PDX** is a weekend of performances, dance masterclasses taught by festival artists, professional development workshops, and artist-audience discussions.

Since our inaugural program, the **Union PDX** festival has seen an incredible reception from the broader dance community. Artists from over 30 countries representing over 28 unique movement genres have sent in applications and reached out, wanting to share their work in our city. We are humbled and grateful to stand with artists across the world.

ABOUT PUSH/FOLD

push/FOLD is the vision of the multidisciplinary artist and composer-choreographer Samuel Hobbs, founded as a performance-focused arts organization. Immersive moodscapes, abstract storytelling, and athletic dance performance set to original sound, set, and lighting design are the hallmarks of push/FOLD's body of work. The backbone of push/FOLD's athletic style is the Visceral Movement Theory™ (VMT) technique. VMT reframes the expression of power and efficiency in movement for athletes and dancers, fusing athletics and dance training with visceral biomechanics based on current research.

As a community-centered organization, push/FOLD packages education with high-caliber professional dance performance to develop community power through arts and movement. push/FOLD's programs include masterclasses, professional development workshops, student outreach, films, evening-length productions, artist talks, and the annual **Union PDX - Festival of Contemporary Dance**. Performing through regional festivals and self-produced events, push/FOLD works with professional artists and companies, and provides residencies and workshops to athletes, training programs, corporations, dance schools, and universities throughout the region and internationally. In 2021, push/FOLD made their international debut at the renowned Dancing on the Edge Festival in Vancouver, BC, and at the FIDCDMX festival in Mexico City, Mexico.

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

PART I | PROGRAM

What do You See

'What do You See' explores empathy within the human perspective.

Choreographer:
Makino Hayashi

Dancers:
Hannah Davis, Makino Hayashi, Michael Linsmeier

Music:
André Allen Anjos

5 Basic Movements (Vagus Excerpts)

Inspired by lectures and interviews of Jungian Psychoanalyst and dream-tender Marion Woodman, '5 basic movements (vagus excerpt)' is a poetic, non-linear, and symbolic dance work imagining feminine consciousness and matriarchal logic.

Choreographer, Dancer:
Stephanie Zaletel

Music, Performer:
Cory Feder

Chakras - The Wheel of Energy

When the seven chakras in our body align, Prana (or energy) flows freely within the body along the spine—the harmony of the body, mind, and spirit. 'Chakras', emphasizes the location and purpose of this wheel of energy, using geometry, colors, elements of nature, and the ascending and descending nature of the Chakras.

Choreographer:
Sweta Ravisankar

Dancers:
Prajyula Pemmaraju, Sweta Ravisankar

Vocal Recitation, Nattuvanagam (Cymbals), Percussion Arrangement:
Sweta Ravisankar

Mémoires Perdues

'Mémoires Perdues' questions the notions of collective memory and progress, asking, "do we learn the lessons of the past?" It is a cry for the urgency of memory for our future inspired by a central African proverb: "When you want to weave a mat, lay the old one on the ground, so you will know where to put the new strand."

Choreographer, Dancer:
Julienne Doko

Spoken word:
Hannah Kvam

Music:
'Algir - Tognatale' — Wardruna
Gert Østergaard Pedersen

Moon

Inspired by the halo of light from a full moon reflecting differently in each eye, 'Moon' is a reflective look at ourselves as seen in others and acknowledges the symbolism of nature and cycle.

Composer-Choreographer:
Samuel Hobbs

Dancers:
Samuel Hobbs, Bryaunna Kostelnik, Ashley Morton, Molly Rea

doings

'doings' reflects the emotional journey within a creative process. Inspired by the pressures of the current cultural climate to constantly produce to be seen and the search for honest motivations in a space of overstimulation and excess, the work seeks to present the inner dialogue of a mind in process as it reacts and responds to the world around it.

Choreographer, Dancer:
Megan Doheny (in collaboration with Ilya Nikurov)

Music:
Paul de Jong & Dylan Tedaldi



Photography: Seng Haak Ok

MEGAN DOHENY

Israel & California

Choreographer, Dancer

Born in the United States, Megan Doheny is a movement artist and choreographer currently based in Tel Aviv, Israel, and California. She studied towards a BFA in dance at the Alvin Ailey School & Fordham University, and Chapman University. In 2015, Megan joined the Kibbutz Contemporary Dance Company (KCDC) in Israel as a dancer for a total of 7 seasons, involving multiple creations and numerous performances of artistic director Rami Be'er's works, including international tours to more than 20 countries. In 2021, she received the Yair Shapira Prize for her contribution to contemporary dance in Israel.

As a choreographer, Megan has collaborated with her partner, Ilya Nikurov, since 2015. From 2016-2020, they worked as choreographers for the International Dance Journey Program, creating works for KCDC's main company as a part of the Alternative Stage Platform in Israel. In 2021, they established their dance project and creative outlet, "Outrun The Bear," performing and screening their works in festivals and choreography competitions throughout Europe, the United States, Israel, and South Korea.

Megan and Ilya's works investigate the fantasies derived from the present moment's complex/beautiful/difficult realities. To warp the familiar and embody the imagined, Outrun the Bear hopes to create experiences for the viewer, leading to questions and fresh perspectives.

www.outrunthebear.org

📍 MEG.DOHENY | 📍 OUTRUN.THE.BEAR



JULIENNE DOKO

Copenhagen, Denmark

Choreographer, Dancer

Julienne Doko is a French dance performer, teacher, and choreographer with roots in the Central African Republic, training in many styles in France, the United States, Canada, Brazil, Denmark, and Senegal, exploring different traditional and contemporary dance styles (Samba, Traditional West African dances, Afro-contemporary, Afro-Brazilian and Modern Dance) in addition to Ballet, Jazz and Hip Hop.

Since 2002, Julienne has performed with several companies in festivals, TV shows, and musicals, teaching internationally traditional West African, Hip Hop, Samba, and contemporary dance since 2006. As a choreographer, Julienne has presented work across the globe in film and dance performances, exploring connections between different dance styles and using contemporary dance as a space of hybridization and a vehicle for synergy between techniques and expressions.

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SAMUEL HOBBS

push/FOLD | Portland, OR

Samuel Hobbs is a dance presenter, educator, and multi-disciplinary artist in Dance, Art, Film, and Music; and is the Artistic Director, composer-choreographer, and filmmaker for the Portland-based dance company push/FOLD. Fascinated by abstract storytelling, Samuel's works are known for their unique athletic movement, immersive moodscapes, and original, evocative sound scores, centering themes of Power and Identity.

Samuel's national and international performance career began in 2005, teaching nationally and internationally dance and partnering since 2008 and composing and choreographing professionally since 2014. Before dance, Samuel was a university track athlete studying Math and Computer Science at the University of Oregon and Western Oregon University, graduating in 2007 with a B.S. in The Arts, studying Music, Illustration, Sculpture, Dance, and Computer Programming.

In 2021, Samuel made their international debut of choreography at the Dancing on the Edge Festival in Vancouver, BC, and the International Festival of Contemporary Dance in Mexico City. This 2022/23 season marks major milestones and partnerships for Samuel, premiering several new works, notably with Western Oregon University, push/FOLD's latest production 'Illum' at the Patricia Reser Center for the Arts, and Samuel's recent commission from Oregon Ballet Theatre for a world premiere work for their main company's 'Made in Portland' program at the Newmark Theatre.

www.pushfold.org

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MAKINO HAYASHI

Portland, OR

Choreographer, Dancer

Makino Hayashi was born in Kumamoto, Japan, where she began ballet training at Kumamoto Ballet Studio at nine years of age. In 2002 she joined Colorado Ballet as an apprentice and was promoted to corps de ballet in 2004. In 2010, Makino began dancing with Oregon Ballet Theater, performing in soloist and principal roles. She has been a guest dancer with: Washington Ballet in Washington DC, Festival Ballet in Rhode Island, The State Street Ballet in Santa Barbara, CA, Okamoto Ballet in Fukuoka, Japan, and Hunter Noack's "In a landscape," throughout the state of Oregon.

As a choreographer, Makino has created works both here in the US and Japan, setting several commissioned works on Oregon Ballet Theatre's main and second companies and holding several tours internationally in various countries. Makino's work previously performed at the SzólóDuo choreographic competition in Budapest, Hungary ("Black Earth," 2020); "KIZUNA" for Ten Tiny Community Healing Dances for Portland's City Arts Program; and last year's "Rock' n' Sugarplum" for Aaron Meyer's Christmas Special Rock the Holidays televised across Portland, OR.

MAKINO

SWETA RAVISANKAR


Sarada Kala Nilayam | Portland, OR

Choreographer

Sweta Ravisankar is a Bharatanatyam performing artist, teacher, and choreographer, who began her journey in this art form nearly three decades ago. Holding a Masters in Fine Arts in Bharatanatyam, Sweta is the artistic director of Sarada Kala Nilayam (SKN), where she teaches Bharatanatyam and Nattuvangam (cymbals). She performs extensively throughout the US and India as a solo artist and freelance dancer performing with other dance companies. Sweta believes that dance is a mode of communication and has performed socially engaging, emotive, and rhythmic pieces at festivals throughout the west coast of the United States and trains youth and adult dancers into serious cultural arts practitioners. Sweta's recent works play with the themes and concepts around the joy of dancing, rhythmic expressions, community building during the pandemic, working with depression, and principles of learning.

During the summers, Sweta's Sarada Kala Nilayam company and the school provides their community engagement program, focusing on classical Indian dance and music workshops led by leading percussion artists from India. The program culminates in live orchestral music and dance performance.

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Photography: Svagato Basumallik



STEPHANIE ZALETEL

szalt | Los Angeles, CA & Las Vegas, NV

Choreographer, Dancer

Stephanie Zaletel is a choreographer, dance artist, movement facilitator, dream-tender, caregiver, environmentalist, plant-based eater and cook, and mental health advocate currently residing on the US West Coast between Las Vegas and Los Angeles. Stephanie's early career was threaded together with prolific creative practices inspired by her quest to access and create dance experiences in trauma-informed and consciously feminist-led spaces. In 2015 she founded szalt to deepen this learning. As a freelance artist, Stephanie performs and creates works for musicians, short films, dance, opera, and theater companies nationally and internationally.

Stephanie holds a BFA in Dance Performance and Choreography from the California Institute of the Arts and a CE Certificate in Somatic Psychotherapy and Practices from Antioch University.

www.szaltdances.org

@_SZALT_



Photography: Jingzi Zhao | Festival21 Artists

PERFORMANCES

Nov 17 @ 8:00pm
"Student Preview"

Nov 18 & 19 @ 7:30pm
Nov 20 @ 4:00pm

MASTERCLASSES

Structured Play | Nov 18 @ 11:45am

Stephanie Zaletel
(Contemporary Movement)

Storytelling through Bharatanatyam | Nov 18 @ 1:30pm

Sweta Ravisankar
(Bharatanatyam)

Suspended Action | Nov 18 @ 3:15pm

Samuel Hobbs
(Athletic Movement & Partnering)

Contemporary Tools | Nov 19 @ 1:30pm

Megan Doheny
(Contemporary Movement)

Rooting | Nov 19 @ 3:15pm

Julienne Doko
(West African, Afro-Contemporary)

WORKSHOPS

Deciphering Grants | Nov 20 @ 10:00am

Samuel Hobbs

Leveraging Narrative | Nov 20 @ 12:30pm

Amy Leona Havin

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SPECIAL THANK YOU

Holly Shaw • Ashley Morton • Briley Jozwiak • Hailey Bill
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