



UNIONPDX
FESTIVAL OF CONTEMPORARY DANCE

PUSH/FOLD PRESENTS
UNION PDX - FESTIVAL:26

MAY 28-31

FOSTER THEATER

26



FROM THE DIRECTORS

Welcome to the 6th Union PDX - Festival of Contemporary Dance, **Festival:26!**

When we look at this year's program, we see artists from Portland, Woodburn, Los Angeles, and Houston, each carrying a different relationship to tradition, place, and movement. We also see the years since our last festival, and the work it has taken to arrive here again. This weekend, at the Foster Theater, a space built with community in mind, we get to gather around that work together.

For **push/FOLD**, this weekend marks a major return. Since our last festival in 2023, we have continued to build through collaborations, education and touring programs, and advocacy. The years between festivals also brought profound changes to our lives, including becoming parents, which deepened our understanding of time, labor, community, and the future.

Like many artists and smaller organizations, we feel the shifting ground of our time. Yet our work in the arts has always been about responding to what is happening around us: moving forward with resolve, strengthening community, and building toward the future we believe in. Bringing back this festival is one of the clearest expressions of that work.

So, to you, we offer the fruits of our work *with you* in one of the best ways we can: a festival of dance, and the union this weekend makes possible.

Union PDX exists because of many hands, many conversations, and many people who believe that the arts are not optional. To the artists, volunteers, donors, board, partners, staff, and every audience member gathered here this weekend: thank you for making this festival possible.

Thank you for being with us.

- Holly & Samuel -

PUSH/FOLD & UNION PDX

push/FOLD is a Portland-based contemporary dance company founded by Samuel Hobbs. The company creates interdisciplinary performance works rooted in athletic partnering, original sound compositions, visceral biomechanics, physics, and the deep intelligence of the human body.

Through performance, education, and artist support, **push/FOLD** works to expand how dance is made, shared, taught, and sustained. The company's productions often develop music and movement together, treating sound, choreography, lighting, and stage design as interdependent parts of the same creative structure. Its works are known for immersive moods, rigorous physicality, and an approach to movement and partnering that asks dancers to move with power, sensitivity, trust, and precision.

push/FOLD's educational and community programming grow from the same artistic practice. The company works with professional artists, students, athletes, training programs, schools, and community partners. Through performances, mentorships, and education, these programs are built around the belief that dance and movement are essential to how people learn, organize, communicate, and understand the world.

In 2019, **push/FOLD** founded the **Union PDX - Festival of Contemporary Dance** as a platform for artists working across forms and lineages, curated through an open application and community panel process. The festival brings artists from all over the world into Portland to perform, teach, and learn with our community in one shared space, creating opportunities for artists and audiences to meet through both the work itself and the processes behind it.

Union PDX was created in response to real gaps in the dance field. The festival supports artists by providing curated teaching and performance opportunities, professional support, and a space where artists from different practices can gather without being flattened into a single aesthetic. **Union PDX** creates a full ecosystem around the artists and provides the tools and opportunities they need to define the future of their own careers.

Together, **push/FOLD** and **Union PDX** reflect one larger mission: **to develop community power through arts and movement education, support, and advocacy.**

push/FOLD is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit arts organization sustained by the artists, audiences, donors, partners, and community members who make this work possible.

PART I | PROGRAM

'Quetzalcoatl ipan Mictlän' | Ritual Azteca Huitzilopochtli

Drawing from one of the most powerful themes within the Aztec worldview, duality, 'Quetzalcoatl ipan Mictlän' follows Quetzalcoatl's descent into Mictlan, the underworld, to recover the bones of humanity during the era of the Fifth Sun, when a new world must be formed again. Centered on Quetzalcoatl's encounter with Mictlantecuhtli, guardian of death, the danza reflects life and death not as opposing forces, but as necessary and interconnected elements within the continual cycle of rebirth that sustains human existence.

Choreographers & Performers:
Cihuacoatl Quetzalli & Tlalnantzin Tonalli

Drummers:
Miquiztli Ameyalli & Jose Carlos

'THE KID' | VOLTA

'THE KID' examines intimacy, alienation, and our longing for authentic connection in the digital age. Two performers' explore a mundane object as an extension of the body, a negotiation with technology as a surrogate for human connection.

Choreographer:
Mamie Green

Dancers:
Jordan Beasley, Ryley Polak

Music:
Dylan Fujioka

'Hybrids of Plants and of Ghosts' | Rosanna Tavarez

Inspired by the stamina and spirit of her grandmother, an influential matriarch who was a mother of seven, a street vendor, an immigrant, and a fighter, and featuring poetic interviews and movement, 'Hybrids of Plants and of Ghosts' evokes the memory of a beloved figure lost to Alzheimer's.

Choreographer:
Rosanna Tavarez

Performers:
Jen Hong, Rosanna Tavarez

Knitted Pieces:
Ariana Daub

Sound Design:
Suzy Goldish & Rosanna Tavarez

* *The title of this work is after the book of poems by Jorie Graham **

'Alice in the Nite Hawk' (Film) | Heidi Duckler Dance

Friends are forced to navigate a new world when their tradition is disrupted. However, the transformative change leaves them questioning their existence.

Choreographic Direction:
Heidi Duckler

Film Director:
Devin Tau

Dancers:
Kiel Edward Boston Moton, Kya Bliss,
Joshua "Snubb" Dudley,
Conrad "Icon" Kaczor

Music:
Joe Cunningham

'Aviator' | PUSH/FOLD

Aviator emerges from a reflection on Latine mestizo heritage held through absence: a lineage that remains formative even where language, memory, and direct access have been interrupted. Opening with a voice that addresses the world from somewhere beyond clear translation, the work considers culture not as certainty or arrival, but as a force that persists through mutation, adaptation, and the effort to understand what has been carried forward.

Composer, Choreographer, Animation:
Samuel Hobbs

Dancers:
Bryony Bowman, Alana Rae, Marina Vianello

'Sampark' | Tarika Dance Company

Told through Kathak dance, 'Sampark' follows the journey of red cardinal birds, believed to be the most commonly presented "signs" from the afterlife. As the cardinals carry their celestial duty of connecting with loved ones on Earth, the grieving discover a way to meet in the middle. That connection, or "sampark," in Tarika Nath's work is made through rhythm, revealing the enduring bond between those lost and those left behind.

Choreographer, Musical Composition & Padhant:
Tarika Nath

Performers:
Vinita Chanpura, Piya Mehta, Tarika Nath, Asmita Ramalingam

Musicians (Tabla, Vocals, Synthesizer):
Guru Pramod Mishra, Ankit Singh, Krishna Kumar Mayura



Photography: Samuel Hobbs

CIHUACOATL QUETZALLI & TLALNANTZIN TONALLI

Ritual Azteca Huitzilopochtli
Woodburn, OR

Performers, Choreographers

Choreographers Cihuacoatl Quetzalli and Tlalnanzin Tonalli are members of Ritual Azteca Huitzilopochtli, a nonprofit danza group dedicated to preserving and sharing the Indigenous traditions of Anáhuac through dance, music, and cultural practice. Rooted in ceremony, discipline, and community, Huitzilopochtli teaches Aztec culture and traditions through free community gatherings, dance instruction, music, and cultural exchange programs serving families throughout the region.

Under the artistic direction of Aztec Capitan General Jose Carlos, based in Woodburn, Oregon, the group regularly participates in ceremonies, presentations, and cultural exchanges throughout the Pacific Northwest, creating spaces where Indigenous traditions are actively practiced and passed between generations.

Bringing forward their own choreographic voice within the tradition, Tonalli and Quetzalli draw from their ongoing involvement in danza and prior performance experience. Their work reflects danza as both cultural expression and living practice, grounded in rhythm, community, and ancestral continuity.



SAMUEL HOBBS

push/FOLD | Portland, OR

Choreographer, Composer

Samuel Hobbs is a dance presenter, educator, and interdisciplinary artist (Dance, Art, Film, Music), and is the Artistic Director and composer-choreographer for push/FOLD. 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.

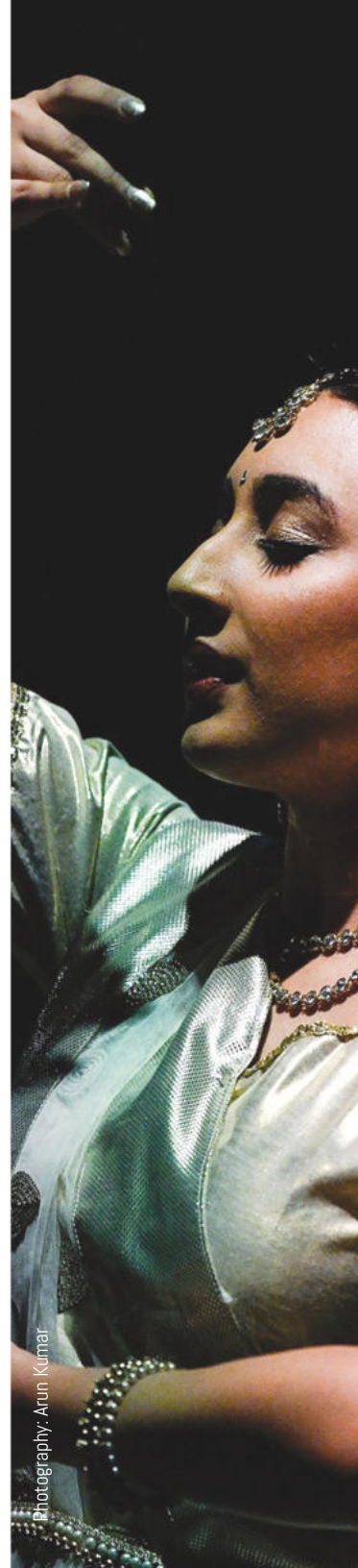
Samuel's artistic process draws from themes influenced from Dreamtime and a profound fascination with athletic forms intermixed with their experience of audio-spatial synesthesia. Building upon their movement foundations in Track, Swimming, and various dance styles including Street, Break, Ballet and Contemporary, Samuel integrated their expertise in visceral biomechanics as an Osteopathic Manual Therapist to develop the unique somatic movement method called Visceral Movement Theory™ (VMT). VMT plays a pivotal role as the core framework underpinning push/FOLD's distinctive style and training.

Samuel's recent notable commissions and projects include their Oregon Ballet Theatre 2023 work 'Part II', and their evening-length work 'Vespers' combining 100 live vocalists and dance. Samuel's latest work 'Aviator y Coyote' is set to debut in Portland, Oregon in 2027.

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.

www.pushfold.org

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



TARIKA NATH

Houston, TX

Performer, Choreographer

Tarika Nath is a Kathak dancer, performing artist, and dance educator based in Houston, TX. She trained for 15 years under Guru Smt. Shiva Mathur before continuing advanced study at Kalashram Delhi under the late Padma Vibhushan Pt. Birju Maharaj and Vidushi Saswati Sen. Tarika currently serves as Assistant Director of Shivangini Academy of Arts, where she leads choreography at one of the largest Kathak institutions in Houston.

Her work draws from the intricacies of the Lucknow Gharana while engaging contemporary themes through traditional storytelling. Tarika's solo and ensemble works have been presented at venues and festivals across North America, including the inaugural New York Kathak Festival at Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater. She has also performed at Madison Square Garden and Wortham Theater Center with Kalashram Delhi's touring production of Romeo and Juliet.

Tarika was selected as a 2024 Artist-in-Residence with Dance Source Houston and is an alumna of the 2023 YUVA Cohort curated by Silambam Houston. In 2023, she produced Avikathita, an original full-length production exploring the untold stories of seven female figures in South Asian literature.

Working alongside several esteemed artists, Tarika choreographed multiple works at Native Earth Performing Arts in Toronto for the Sadhana and Tarana Emerging Artist Series in 2022. She is the recipient of the 2024 Youth Leadership Award from Disha USA and currently serves as a 2026 Lotus Fellow with Arts India US, a national fellowship supporting the growth and sustainability of Indian classical performing arts in the United States.

 [TARIKA.KATHAK](https://www.instagram.com/tarika.kathak)



ROSANNA TAVAREZ

Los Angeles, CA

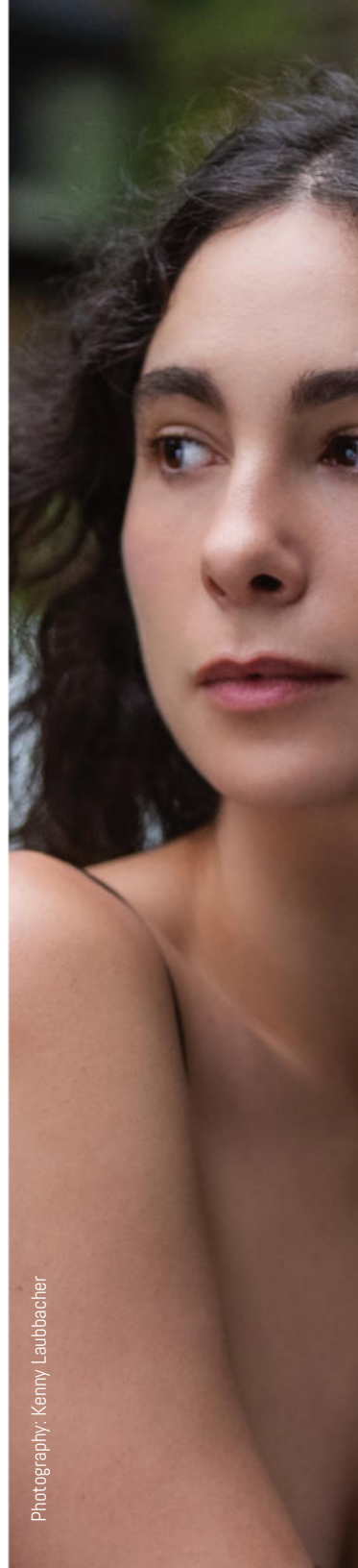
Performer, Choreographer

Rosanna Tavarez received an MFA in Choreography from The Ohio State University as a University and Teaching Fellow, and a BFA in Choreography from University of Michigan. She has a diverse background as a performer and entertainer, working with Marina Abramovic, Ryan Heffington, Travis Payne, and Rosanna Gamson. She toured internationally with NSYNC and Jessica Simpson as a member of Eden's Crush, and worked as an on-air host for FOX, E!, TV Guide Network, and Telemundo/NBC.

Tavarez has studied Countertechnique since 2011 and became a certified teacher in 2016. In 2023, she was named a Senior Teacher after co-leading the One Body One Career Intensive with founder Anouk van Dijk at Gibney in New York City. She continues to teach nationally and internationally.

Her choreographic work has been presented at The Broad Museum, ODC Theater, REDCAT, and other venues, with support from the Center for New Performance, the Center for Cultural Innovation, and UCLA. As an educator, she has taught at institutions including USC Kaufman School of Dance, University of Michigan, Loyola Marymount University, and Cal State LA, and currently serves as BFA Program Director at California Institute of the Arts.

www.rosannatavarez.com
@ROSANNATAVAREZDANCE



VOLTA

Artistic Director: Mamie Green
Los Angeles, CA

Choreographer

Mamie Green is a choreographer and the director of VOLTA, an interdisciplinary performance project that fuses physicality, theatricality, and multidisciplinary approaches to performance. Named in Fjord Review's Best of Dance 2023 and Bachtrack's Young Choreographers to Watch, Green's work has been commissioned and presented across the US, Europe, and the UK at the MAXXI National Museum, Jeffrey Deitch, Ace Hotel Brooklyn, MAK Center at the Schindler House, New Hollywood Theater, and Skirball Cultural Center, among others with upcoming presentations at LACMA and Guggenheim Museum in Bilbao, Spain. Green holds a BFA from Mason Gross School of the Arts and is the recipient of grants from the German Consulate General, the US Embassy, Community Engagement, and Center for Cultural Innovation, and more.

www.voltacollective.com
@VOLTA_COLLECTIVE



HEIDI DUCKLER DANCE

Artistic Director: Heidi Duckler
Portland, OR

Dance Film

Heidi Duckler is the Founder and Artistic Director of Heidi Duckler Dance/Northwest, based in Portland, Oregon. A pioneer of site-specific, place-based contemporary dance practice, Duckler has been instrumental in redefining the field through expanded choreographic techniques and a methodology that views dance, rooted in lived experience, as a powerful tool for awareness and transformation. Over the course of her career, she has created more than 400 original dance works.

Duckler was the recipient of the 2021 Oregon Arts Commission Fellowship. Most recently, her film *Mother/Other* was selected as Best Experimental Film at the 2024 Cannes Arts Festival.

Duckler attended Reed College and was commissioned to create a new work for the opening of the college's Performing Arts Center. She earned a Bachelor of Science in Dance from the University of Oregon and a Master of Arts in Choreography from UCLA. She has served as a Board Member of the University of Oregon School of Music and Dance Advancement Council and was honored to deliver the commencement address for the School of Music and Dance.

An American Masterpiece award from the National Endowment for the Arts enabled Duckler to set her signature work, *Laundromatinee*, on University of Oregon students. Additional honors include a National Historic Preservation Award for her recent work at the Keller Fountain and support from the Oregon Community Foundation for her work with the Community Transitional School.

www.heididucklernorthwest.org

 [HEIDIDUCKLERNW](https://www.instagram.com/heididucklernw)



Photography: Jingzi Zhao | Festival'23 Artists

PERFORMANCES

May 28 @ 8:00pm
"Student Preview"

May 29 & 30 @ 7:30pm
May 31 @ 4:00pm

FESTIVAL SOIRÉE

May 31 - Post-Performance
"Free & Open to All"

MASTERCLASSES

Countertechnique | May 30 @ 10:00am
Instructor: Rosanna Tavarez

Kathak Dance Movement | May 30 @ 11:45am
Instructor: Tarika Nath

Colliding Bodies | May 30 @ 1:30pm
(Contemporary Partnering)
Instructors: VOLTA

Danza Xochitl-Quetzal | May 30 @ 3:15pm
(Danza Azteca)
Instructors: Grupo Ritual Azteca

WORKSHOPS

Deciphering Grants & Budgets | May 29 @ 12:30pm
Instructor: Sara Parker

Leveraging Artist Statements | May 29 @ 2:45pm
Instructor: Sara Parker

'To Tour or Not to Tour' | May 31 @ 10:00am
(Touring & Presenter Strategies for Independent Artists & Companies)
Instructor: Minh Tran



SPONSORS & PARTNERS

Ronni S. Lacroute
Fund of Oregon Community Foundation

NATIONAL ENDOWMENT for the ARTS
arts.gov



Bill & Wendy Whitsell

Carolyn Hope & Steve Lyford

SPECIAL THANK YOU

Dean Munroe (Lighting Technician) & Lucia Baughman (Festival:26 Intern)

Holly & Mia Shaw • Alana Rae • Marina Vianello • Bryony Bowman
Briley Jozwiak • Ronni Lacroute • Bill Whitsell • Hailey Schademan Erin
O'Shaughnessy • Christina Grooms • Carolyn Hope & Steve Lyford
Connie Guist • George Thorn • Susan Gendein-Marshall & Lee Marshall
George Thorn • Sharon & Alan Jones • Walter Barillas-Schwartz • Sarah Rigles
Paul LeFeber • Deanna Reeves • Graham Cole • Christopher Carvalho

FESTIVAL SURVEY



CLICK OR SCAN

SUPPORT DANCE



CLICK OR SCAN



UNION PDX - FESTIVAL:26

WWW.PUSHFOLD.ORG/UNIONPDX

📍 UNIONPDX 📍 PUSH.FOLD

SUPPORT DANCE



CLICK OR SCAN