

Noelani Pantastico & James Yoichi Moore
ARTISTIC DIRECTORS

GALLOP APACE



[*Streaming extended until April 25*](#)

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"GALLOP APACE, YOU FIERY-FOOTED STEEDS..."

It's funny how things come along in life that can mirror exactly the sentiment of a moment. Our newest film GALLOP APACE is inspired by Juliet's soliloquy from Shakespeare's *Romeo & Juliet*. Juliet is impatient, waiting for the forever day to turn to night. She asks the sun god to whip his horses so they'd carry him faster across the sky, allowing night to fall like a thick curtain. She marvels at how long a day could be and daydreams anxiously about the future with all that looms around her existence...

Like seedlings ready to burst from the soil, we wait eagerly, containing ourselves until the absolute right moment to open up to the bright, sun-filled sky. We have a better understanding of what is ahead, and what is needed for us to grow. And just like Juliet, we push forward in the name of love. As we recognize and connect with this often lost moment in Shakespeare's play, we hope this past year and all the lessons from it are not lost on us as a community. The hardships were hard, but we learned so much from them, and surely will continue to do so.

We hope you enjoy this issue as we celebrate Spring, our new artists and collaborators, and the forecasted bright skies of the future ahead. Now gallop apace, you fiery-footed steeds!

With gratitude, Noelani Pantastico,
Co-founder/Artistic Director

SUMMER RESIDENCY

on

VASHON ISLAND

Finally, there is light at the end of the pandemic tunnel! The recent rollout of vaccinations has brought with it an optimistic view of the future for both our physical health, and for the health of our industry. What does that mean for SDC? An exciting new chapter of growth and creativity, with the possibility of live performance on the horizon.

This July, SDC will gather a sizable group of dancers and choreographers for a month-long artist residency on Vashon Island. This long-anticipated opportunity will enable us to experiment, create and perform in the same space together, in greater numbers than the past year has allowed. If conditions permit, we hope to end our residency with a presentation of socially-distanced outdoor performances, but if that is not possible, we will create new films to share broadly with the world.

Vashon Island is an ideal location to hold an artist residency. Not only is the community a strong supporter of the arts, but the physical environment lends itself to contemplation, reflection and inspiration. One of the primary locations for the development of our new work this summer will be at the Vashon Artist Residency, founded by island resident and visual artist Cathy Sarkowsky. SDC is honored to be one of the first invited groups to benefit from her vision, which Cathy describes as a “deep desire to provide artists the space to create and develop new work, the time to explore new practices and relationships, and the opportunity to rest and recharge their physical, spiritual, and creative energy.” An idyllic setting, indeed.

In some ways it seems like an eternity since SDC made its company debut on Vashon in 2019. We are thrilled to be returning to the island as a creative ensemble, and look forward to sharing the fruits of our labor again with you, our devoted audience.

Stay tuned in the coming months for information on our residency artists and performance plans.

To learn more about the Vashon Artist Residency, visit their website at

<https://vashonartistresidency.com/>



Photo Courtesy of John de Groen



Photo Courtesy of John de Groen

DIVING DEEPER: Bobbi Jene Smith & Or Schraiber

Bobbi Jene Smith & Or Schraiber are an inspiring couple. As partners they have danced, choreographed and directed together, describing their lives as “living within a creative process every minute of the day.” While it could drive most people nuts, Or sees it differently. “I am extremely lucky to have Bobbi as my partner, teacher, best friend, and collaborator. Also, I am her fan, so it is even more fun...!”. Bobbi appreciates that Or “knows what I am trying to say when I have no words, and I trust his vision and taste more than anyone. We are anchors for each other in this crazy sea of life and the creative process.”

For their most recent collaboration Bobbi and Or created GALLOP APACE, SDC’s latest film featuring dancer Sara Mearns and inspired by a pivotal scene in Romeo and Juliet (Act III, Scene ii) in which Juliet reveals the depth of her inner strength and emotions. “Sara came to Bobbi with the idea of being Juliet,” says Or. “We searched for scenes from the play, and this one winked at all of us.” Rarely found in dance and film versions of the play, this particular scene gave them a large platform on which to explore.

With such incredible material and themes to dig into, Bobbi and Or said they had a lot of ideas on how to bring the character of Juliet to life in the present day. Asking questions such as “How has Juliet been portrayed in the past?” and “Are there parts of Juliet that we usually do not get to see?” helped them develop the film’s trajectory and what they wanted the audience to see and feel by watching it.

“Sara was interested in finding her own interpretation of Juliet, one that was full of strength and desire, and someone you could relate to,” shared Bobbi. She hopes viewers empathize with Sara and connect with her portrayal. Or says that his goal as a choreographer “is always to create an opening in the heart of the



spectator. Forming a coherent narrative through kinetic expression."

"In the beginning we were interested in working with the mundane movements that we create as humans when we wait," says Bobbi. These movements were then amplified by playing with speed and timing, and consequently other themes arose. "We started to ask questions about desire, strength, hope, fear, shame, and pressure. Our interpretation of Juliet started to take shape and we [then added] inspiration from the text."

Bobbi hopes that their movement style will continue to change and adapt to whomever they collaborate with, and prompt reactions of "Wow! That performer is incredible!". She is not concerned with having an identifiable style, but simply wants to see people for who they are. Or agrees and adds that he likes to generate movement by "digging into the given circumstances." When asked what he hopes the audience sees and feels by watching GALLOP APACE, Or's answer was simple and to the point. "I hope people empathize and remember what it is like to wait for someone so eagerly."

FIND OUT MORE ABOUT THE GALLOP APACE TEAM

Anthony Roth Costanzo, vocals

Adam Charlap Hyman, set designer

Coleman Itzkoff, cello

Lihi Kornowski, spoken word

Sara Mearns, Juliet

Or Schraiber, director & choreographer

Bobbi Jene Smith, director & choreographer

Trevor Tweeten, director of photography

Bligh Voth, Nurse



STREAMING OF GALLOP APACE HAS BEEN EXTENDED THRU APRIL 25!

Don't miss Sara Mearns in what The New York Times describes as:

"a brief, near-static dance of compressed intensity, by Bobbi Jene Smith and Or Schraiber. Her performance here is a tour de force of encapsulated erotic passion, waiting, grief, shame and anger, and Tweeten's cinematography makes the most of Ms. Mearns's beauty and interiority." NYT (4/20/21)



SDC ARTISTS IN THE NEWS

SeaPertls New Mural

- SeaPertls collaborated with Izz Hsieh to display a mural of “outcry and a statement against the rise of violence against Asians in the devastating wake of COVID in the U.S.” You can find this beautiful mural in Pioneer Square on the Cannery Building on the corner of 2nd Ave. Ext. South & South Main Street.



Angelica Generosa featured in 425Mag

- Angelica was featured in a segment titled “Setting the Barre” in 425Mag. You can check out her feature online [here!](#)



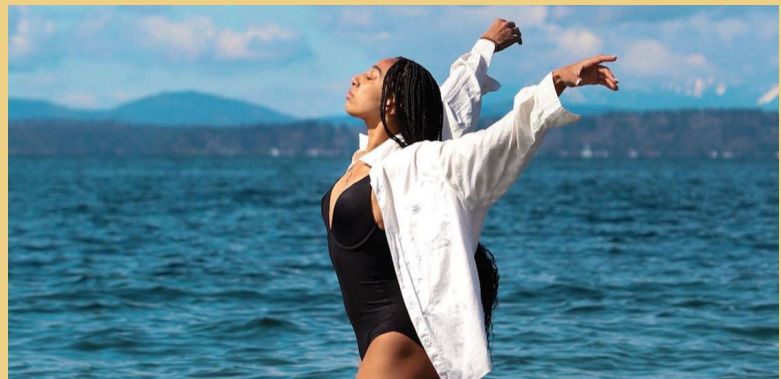
Stephan Bourgond invited to cook at Lumen Field for “Field to Table”

- Stephan was invited to cook for “Field to Table”, an event which transformed Lumen Field into an expansive open-air dining room to highlight Seattle’s diverse restaurant culture.



Amanda Morgan interviewed by the National Endowment for the Arts

- Amanda spoke with the NEA about her journey to becoming a choreographer and starting “The Seattle Project”. Hear her thoughts on dance and the arts post-pandemic, and when we might return to live theater. Give the podcast a listen [here!](#)



Penny Saunders & Bruno Roque co-created “In Any Event” for Hubbard Street Dance Chicago

- Following their work together on SDC’s “ALICE”, Penny and Bruno have continued their collaborative relationship with IN ANY EVENT, a creation for the artists of Hubbard Street Dance Chicago. To see this incredibly heart-warming piece, click [here](#).



ASIAN PACIFIC AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

May is just around the corner, which means it's a time to honor Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders in the United States. Seattle Dance Collective is proud to work with so many individuals representing this heritage, all of whom have contributed greatly to the success of our organization. As we celebrate our AAPI friends and colleagues, we encourage you to do the same.

SDC-AAPI TEAM

Highlighting a few of our AAPI collaborators:

James Yoichi Moore - Co-Founder/Artistic Director, Dancer

Noelani Pantastico - Co-Founder/Artistic Director, Dancer

Jim Kent - Dancer

Liane Aung - Dancer

Angelica Generosa - Dancer

Leah Terada - Dancer

Lindsay Thomas - Photographer/Videographer

Yuki Takahashi - Newsletter Editor, Dancer

Paul Matheson - Webmaster

Reed Nakayama - Lighting Design

We are proud to highlight these incredible individuals that contribute and make SDC great.

To our dear supporters,

May 4th & 5th is #GiveBigWa ☑ When you think of giving we hope you think of Seattle Dance Collective. Please follow the link [here](#) to donate or visit our [website](#). Thank you for believing in us and our mission as we navigate through 2021!



SDC SEATTLE
DANCE
COLLECTIVE

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