

Noelani Pantastico & James Yoichi Moore
ARTISTIC DIRECTORS



HERE & NOW

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It's A Wrap!

Seattle Dance Collective's next season, *HERE & NOW*, is officially underway, following the conclusion of a month-long artist residency in July on Vashon Island. Given this past pandemic year, working in the same space together was a great luxury and a source of renewal for the group of eight dancers, three choreographers and small crew. Audiences will be able to see the new creations when they premiere on screen this Fall.

Rehearsals took place at two theater spaces on the island, Open Space and Vashon Center for the Arts, with SDC collaborator Bruno Roque filming both in-studio and on location.



Videographer Bruno Roque (left) with SDC summer residency artists Jacqueline Burnett, Alice Klock, Florian Lochner, David Schultz, Andrew McShea, Jane Cracovaner, Noelani Pantastico and James Yoichi Moore. Photo by Elizabeth Dougherty/SDC

"The development of new works rarely gets the time and attention needed, but with the support of the Vashon Artist Residency, Vashon Center for the Arts, Open Space, as well as many others in the community, we have been able to create three unique and captivating dance films," said SDC Artistic Director Noelani Pantastico. "We felt the magic of the island every day, and paired with being able to finally share space again as a team, this has been an invaluable experience for all of us."

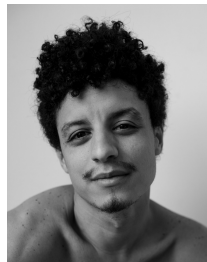
[Learn more](#) about our residency artists and check back often for upcoming film premiere dates.

HERE & NOW Choreographers



[Robyn Mineko Williams](#) - Robyn began making her own work in 2001 at Hubbard Street Dance Chicago, with whom she danced for 12 seasons. She has since created multiple premieres for Hubbard Street, and has choreographed for many other companies in the US and around the world.

[Juliano Nunes](#) - Juliano is a young Brazilian dancer and now full-time freelance choreographer, creating works for major companies such as The Royal Ballet, Marinsky Theatre and Pennsylvania Ballet.



[FLOCK](#) - Alice Klock and Florian Lochner are co-choreographers and dancers, starting their own company in 2017. They met while working at Hubbard Street Dance Chicago and now create and perform works worldwide. Alice is currently based on Whidbey Island and Florian resides in Germany.



FUN FACTS

- The eight residency dancers included SDC Artistic Directors Noelani Pantastico and James Yoichi Moore, plus dancers from Whim W'Him, FLOCK and Hubbard Street Dance Chicago. For most, this was the first opportunity since the pandemic began to collaborate in-person with a group of this size.
- A 56' x 36' sprung floor was trucked over from Seattle and temporarily laid on top of the existing concrete floor at Open Space's Grand Hall to make the surface suitable for dancing.
- Robyn Mineko Williams chose to set her piece at [Mukai Farm & Garden](#), a beautiful site on the National Register of Historic Places which spoke to her Japanese heritage.

DIVING DEEPER: FLOCK

Alice Klock & Florian Lochner

Interviewing [Alice Klock](#) and [Florian Lochner](#), the artistic duo behind FLOCK, is like being with fraternal twins - they may look different and have unique voices, but they are clearly cast from the same mold.

"We basically have the same brain," remarked Alice. *"Only now we have each become more sure about certain things, which has been helpful to the growth of our work."*

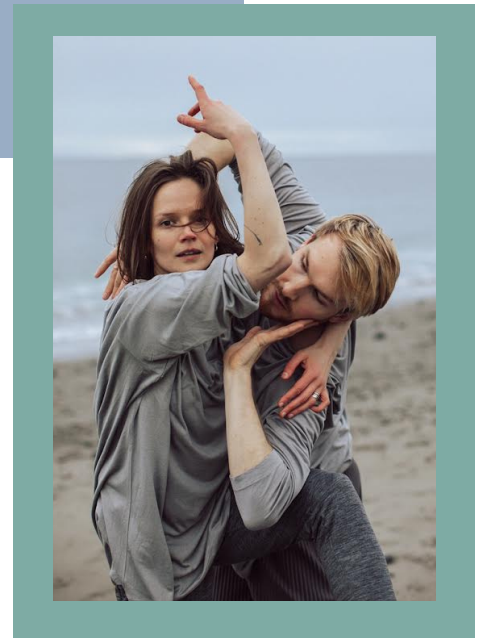
Whether finishing each other's sentences or moving together effortlessly in the studio, there is something organic about the way Alice and Florian relate to one another - an intangible bond that informs their dancing and choreography, which until recently, they took for granted.

Before the pandemic, Alice was unsure about whether she wanted to continue performing. Exhausted after years of full-time work with Hubbard Street Dance Chicago and then the constant hustle of freelancing with FLOCK, she contemplated stepping away from the stage and only choreographing for others. But the year and a half respite forced by the pandemic changed her mind.

"I feel like I have this second dance life, where I'm going to dance for at least another ten years," said Alice. *"And, I have a whole new love for dancing with Florian. During the year we had to spend apart due to the travel bans (Florian in Germany and Alice in the US) I realized that my soul needs this experience."*

Florian had his own internal struggle last summer. Unsure whether the arts really held any importance for people, he contemplated doing something else with his life. *"It was very painful to go through that process and forget about my passion for dance,"* explained Florian.

[cont.]



Seeing a show last August jolted Florian out of this difficult place and rekindled his desire. *“I thought to myself ‘this is what I love - we have to be back together!’. Being apart for a year made me realize that Alice was lifting me up every day. With many things in my life, doing them on my own is not as fulfilling as when I do them with Alice. Like if I go on a hike, I prefer to have Alice there with me because it is double joy.”*

Although classically trained in different corners of the world, Alice and Florian found their true calling in the contemporary realm and eventually met as dancers and Choreographic Fellows at Hubbard Street, where the ever-changing repertory gave them exposure to a variety of choreographers. *“It was like conducting research as we looked for our own language,”* observed Florian.

Inspired by each other’s movement and choreographic sensibilities, Alice and Florian founded FLOCK in 2017, and have been teaching, choreographing and dancing as partners ever since.

“
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When asked how their work has evolved over the years, they say that since it is always inspired by who they are at the time, who they are working with and what’s going on around them, the work is constantly changing. So, it is no surprise that the self-reflection Alice and Florian both experienced just prior to and during the height of the pandemic has added new depth.

“Our choreography is now more multi-dimensional and complex,” said Alice. *“Through the pandemic we figured out more of what we care about individually and what we want to create. This has led to some difficult conversations, which has helped to make the work more layered.”*

One of the first things you notice when watching a FLOCK piece is how the movement is simultaneously intricate and seamless, rooted in fluid body weight exchange and near-constant contact between dancers. The fact that FLOCK does not typically choreograph with counts in mind makes it all the more wondrous.

[cont.]

“We never count if we’re doing a duet together,” said Florian. *“But we end up being very musical,”* added Alice.

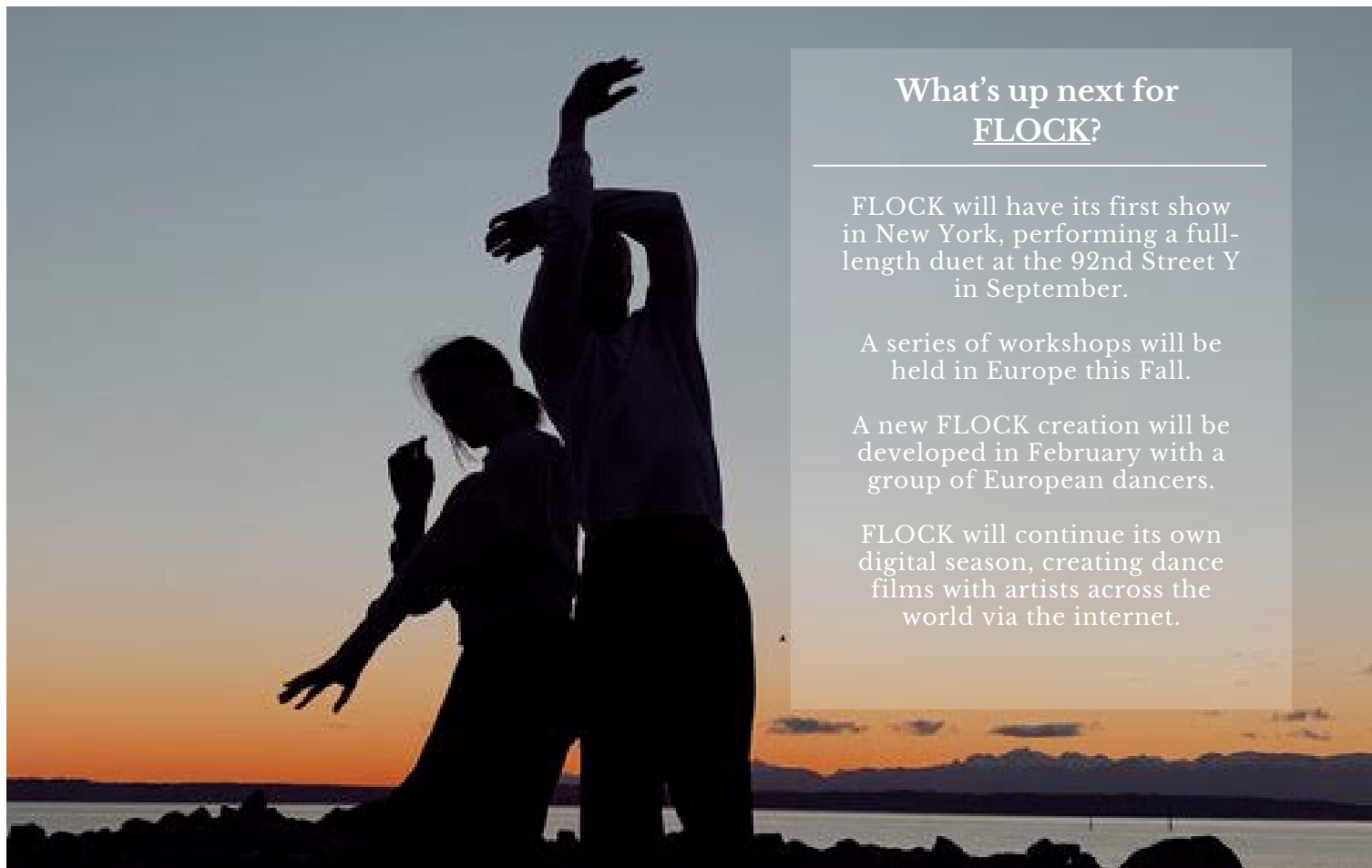
For many dancers, the absence of counting during the learning process can be disconcerting, but Alice and Florian believe this achieves precisely what they are after.

“We feel that if a dancer is focused on counting, they’re just running a track in their head and not as hyper-aware,” explained Alice. *“We like the intense community feeling of needing to be super aware of everyone else all the time. It’s a little bit of anxiety that we put them through, but it adds something that you feel in the air.”*

And when it comes to music, it is often added after the movement has been worked out, setting it to the choreography in what Alice describes as *“an emotional landscape”*, to help achieve a certain mood.

FLOCK’s latest piece created for SDC during the summer residency is set on six dancers, weaving together duets and ensemble work. Recognizing the overwhelming challenges of the last year, Alice and Florian asked each dancer and the composer to answer questions beforehand and identify five favorite things about themselves. These “nuggets of personal positivity” were used as a starting point for the choreography, and were eventually woven together into a theme of community, trust and support.

“Through complex times and in complex ways, we can build beautiful things,” offered Alice, providing not only a description of this particular work, but also an apt illustration of FLOCK’s enduring partnership.



What’s up next for FLOCK?

FLOCK will have its first show in New York, performing a full-length duet at the 92nd Street Y in September.

A series of workshops will be held in Europe this Fall.

A new FLOCK creation will be developed in February with a group of European dancers.

FLOCK will continue its own digital season, creating dance films with artists across the world via the internet.

SDC ARTISTS IN THE NEWS

[Liane Aung](#) at Yin Yue Dance Company Residency

- Liane Aung was a Guest Artist with Yin Yue Dance company for their Summer Residency at Perry Mansfield Performing Arts School & Camp in Colorado. The residency will culminate in a live performance of new works, and the cast will be setting YYDC repertory on pre-professional artists studying at Perry Mansfield. Find out more about the residency [here](#).

[Dylan Wald](#) , [Elle Macy](#) , [Miles Pertl](#) , & [Leah Terada](#) at Ballet Sun Valley

- Dylan, Elle, Miles, and Leah performed at Ballet Sun Valley, an annual summer dance festival held in Idaho's open-air Sun Valley Pavilion. Dylan & Elle performed Edward Liang's "The Veil Between Worlds" previously premiered on PNB's virtual season. Leah & Miles performed in the world premiere of Price Suddarth's "Reverie".

[Nia-Amina Minor](#) at The Henry

- Nia-Amina Minor performed alongside four other dancers in an exhibition at the Henry Art Gallery titled "Everlasting Stranger", curated by New York-based choreographer and writer Will Rawls. "Everlasting Stranger" activates the relationships between language, dance, and image through the fragmentary medium of stop-motion animation. Learn more about the installation [here](#).

[Elizabeth Murphy](#) welcomes Baby Zoe

- Congratulations to Liz & Reed Nakayama who are thrilled to welcome Zoe Rynn Kalialani Nakayama! She was born on June 23, 2021.



HERE & NOW Matching Gift Campaign

We can't wait to get back to live performance!

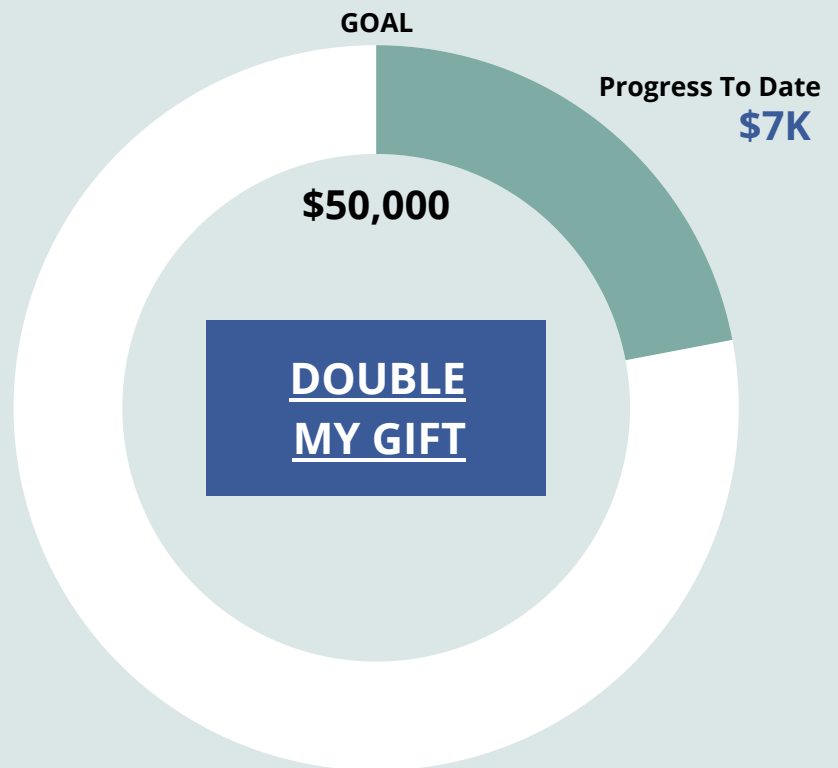
Thanks to the generosity of some loyal supporters, all gifts to SDC will be matched **up to \$50,000 between now and September 15.**

Make a donation of any amount knowing that your contribution will have **2x the impact.**

Help us reach our goal and donate today!



Jacqueline Burnett & Andrew McShea ©Lindsay Thomas



SDC SEATTLE
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COLLECTIVE

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