

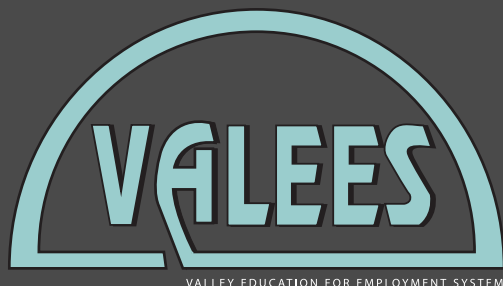
Exploring Boundaries, Connections and Communication





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Building Partnerships for America's Future

Exploring Boundaries, Connections and Communication: Seeking to Understand and to be Understood

In an increasingly diverse, fast-paced, technologically driven world, we are faced with questions regarding personal and societal boundaries, who we are, where we fit in, how we connect with each other, how we communicate, and the interplay of these factors.

These complex issues will be explored in creative ways through movement that will encourage us to examine our own perspectives as well as consider the perspective of others.

Dance pieces to be performed:

Grounded in the Soil set to music by Otis Redding by Shana Simmons Dance. Choreographer: Shana Simmons

Red Rover, Red Rover inspired by the concepts of placement and displacement and an exploration of personal and physical boundaries by Shana Simmons Dance.

Choreographer: Shana Simmons

The Screen Between Us set to narration by Sherry Turkle's TED talk "Connected, but alone?" It explores the relationship between technology and the human connection.

Choreographer: Brady Sanders

Grounded In The Soil

Heartache, fame, presentation, rooted, waiting, an emotional out pour... These words encapsulate Shana Simmons' piece connecting her movement style with the voice and personality of Otis Redding's music. Inspired by the way his music connects to that deep inner core shared by us all, Grounded in the Soil takes you on a journey through different Redding songs and moods.

Choreography: Shana Simmons

Music: Otis Redding, "Ole Man Trouble (Live at the Whisky a Go Go, 1968)", "(Sittin' on) The Dock of the Bay", "I've Been Loving You Too Long (Live in Europe)", "I'm Depending On You (Live at the Whisky a Go Go, 1968)"

Dancers: Kerra Alexander, Jamie Erin Murphy, Brady Sanders, Jean-Paul Weaver

Costumes: Jamie Erin Murphy

"Always think different from the next person. Don't ever do a song as you heard somebody else do it." --Otis Redding



Red Rover, Red Rover

Red Rover, Red Rover was presented as a part of Shana Simmons Dance's Fall 2015 project entitled Objective I. It was inspired by Judith Mackrell's article, "Do choreographers need editors?" published in The Guardian (2014). Objective I is the result of an experimental creative process where Shana Simmons and fellow choreographer from The Moving Architects (NYC) Erin Carlisle Norton, created and edited their own work--and each other's.

The critical stage of showing both original and edited versions of each choreographer's work was revealed to a live audience on November 21, 2015 at the Gibney Dance Center in New York City. The audience was asked one simple open ended question: "Of the versions shown, which two should be presented in Pittsburgh?" From there, a post show conversation was moderated by Boston based art maker and Dance Entrepreneur Think Tank Founder, Kathleen Nasti (www.katnasti.com).

What you see now is the final program as selected in NYC. The audience chose both edited works to be preferred over the artists' original versions. Red Rover, Red Rover was inspired by concepts of placement and displacement and has manifested in an exploration of personal boundaries and physical boundaries.

Choreography: Shana Simmons, in collaboration with the dancers

Edited by: Erin Carlisle Norton

Music: Closure #2, original composition PJ Roduta, John Lambert (Violin)

Dancers: Jessica Marino, Brady Sanders, Shana Simmons

Costumes: Jamie Erin Murphy



Shana Simmons (Artistic Director, Dancer) graduated from Point Park University with a BA in Dance in 2003. Simmons lived in New York City for four and a half years and performed with choreographers such as Noemie Lafrance "Agora", Alexandra Beller, Tomé Cousin, bigGRITS dance co, Debra Wanner/Amy Larimer, Amanda Drozer, and was a member of white road Dance Media.

Simmons holds an MA in Choreography from LABAN in London, England. She performed and choreographed with companies and choreographers such as Flat Feet Dance Company, Stacy Abalogun and Nadine Doran-Holder and has performed her own works in New York, NY, Belgium, London and Pittsburgh.

Since her return to Pittsburgh, Simmons has performed with companies such as Attack Theater, STAYCEE PEARL Dance Project, the Pittsburgh Opera, The Murphy/Smith Dance Collective, Jamie Erin Murphy, and was a founding company member of Continuum Dance Theater. She has choreographed for festivals such as the Next Stage Residency and newMoves Festival through the Kelly-Strayhorn Theater, The Three Rivers Arts Festival, and Evolve Productions. SHANA SIMMONS DANCE, founded in 2009, has a long standing collaborative relationship with The Eclectic Laboratory Chamber Orchestra, producing four separate works to date. Simmons has produced a variety of works in Pittsburgh since 2012: Relative Positions (2012), PASSENGER (2014) and Objective I (2015). SHANA SIMMONS DANCE has received support from the Heinz Small Arts Initiative, the Kelly-Strayhorn Theater and the National Aviary for such projects. She is currently adjunct dance faculty at Point Park University and teaches at DanceArts Aspinwall.

www.shanasimmonsdance.com

The Screen Between Us

Immersed in a culture of digital connection and communication, we are constantly confronted by the ever-expanding reach of technology. *The Screen Between Us* explores our love affair with technology and poses the question, "Is our relationship with technology redefining human connection?" Set to excerpts from the insightful TED talk *Connected, but alone?*, Sherry Turkle examines how technology is shaping relationships with others and ourselves. Vic Damone's haunting rendition of *Can't Take My Eyes Off of You* also offers a poignant and clever perspective to the musical composition.

Music: *Connected, but alone?* by Sherry Turkle, TED talk

Can't Take My Eyes Off of You, Vic Damone

Choreographer: Brady Sanders

Dancers: Jessica Marino, Jamie Murphy, Brady Sanders, Shana Simmons



Brady Sanders (Choreographer, Dancer), originally from Oswego Illinois, began his dance training at the School of DanceWest Ballet in Naperville. He attended Illinois State University, where he performed with the Illinois State Dance Theater and Point Park University, where he performed with the university's Conservatory Dance Company. While living in Chicago, Brady performed with Dansz Loop Chicago, Inaside Chicago Dance and Thodos Dance Chicago. Brady has toured nationally and internationally with Thodos Dance Chicago and The Cavaliers Drum and Bugle Corps (2004 and 2006 Drum Corps International Champion and International Flag Duet Champion, 2006). International performances include the Republic of Korea Busan International Dance Festival and numerous cities throughout Japan.

Currently residing in Pittsburgh, he has had the pleasure to perform with Attack Theatre in the Pittsburgh Opera, the Murphy/Smith Dance Collective and Shana Simmons Dance. His choreography has been performed at newMoves Festival, Kelly-Strayhorn Theater, Pittsburgh and at the Aronoff Center's Jarson Kaplan Theater, Cincinnati.

As founder and Artistic Director of the Pride of Cincinnati Dance Ensemble, Brady is passionate about offering students professional level performance experiences. He has had the privilege to teach many successful and artistically innovative groups including, but not limited to, The Cavaliers Drum and Bugle Corps, the Pride of Cincinnati Winter Guard, The Pride of Cincinnati Dance Ensemble, Slippery Rock University Winter Guard, Norwin High School Marching Band and Winter Guard, Marian Catholic High School Marching Band and Winter Guard, Kiski High School Marching Band and Winter Guard, Mt. Prospect High School Marching Band, and Fremd High School Lyrical Flag. Brady is a Resident Artist at Pittsburgh Musical Theater and teaches Ballet at the Richard E. Rauh Conservatory Pre-College Program. Most recently Brady has taken on marketing and media roles for the Pride Youth Development Foundation. He is currently teaching and choreographing extensively throughout the Pittsburgh area and across the midwest. As a presenter at the 2015 National Career Pathways Network conference and a contributing author to the NCPN newsletter, Brady is thrilled to share his passion for dance and education with students and audiences of all kinds.

www.bradylsanders.com



Kerra Alexander (Dancer) graduated in 2007 from Point Park University with a BA in dance, ballet and modern concentration and since has been performing in the Pittsburgh area. Her recent works have been with Jamie Erin Murphy and Madhouse alongside Shana Simmons Dance. She trained with many renowned instructors during her years as a student and believes that dance is a vibrant art form that can express all aspects of the human spirit as a voice for positive change and growth. She is also quite passionate about passing her love of dance to her many students. Her most precious work is being a mother to her wonderful son!



Jamie Erin Murphy (Dancer) is a Pittsburgh based choreographer, dancer and educator who is passionate about exploring the human body through movement. She graduated from Point Park University in 2007 and broke into the Pittsburgh dance scene soon after. Jamie has worked with Attack Theatre, STAYCEE PEARL dance project, Texture Contemporary Ballet, Xpressions Contemporary Dance Company, The Pillow Project, Knot Dance, Zany Umbrella Circus and was co-director of Murphy/Smith Dance Collective. Her choreography has been presented throughout Pittsburgh, as well as Ohio and New York. Last year she completed a 6 month mentorship with Doug Varone and Dancers (NYC) and presented work at the historical 92nd Street Y as part of the CHIN Project.

Jamie has an extensive teaching career and is currently a proud faculty member of the Pittsburgh Ballet Theater School where she teaches Modern, Jazz, Choreography, Dance for Parkinson's, Adaptive Dance and Creative Movement through elementary school residencies. She has had the honor of being nominated twice for The Carol R. Brown Achievement in the Arts Award. On top of being an independent artist, she is currently a collaborator of Shana Simmons Dance and STAYCEE PEARL dance project. Jamie is very proud to be a part of the Pittsburgh dance community and will strive to continue her mission to make art and dance accessible for everyone.



Jessica Anne Marino (Dancer) is a Pittsburgh based arts administrator, educator, and performing artist with a BA in Dance, Point Park University. Originally from Lehigh Valley, Pennsylvania, her training started at Schubert School of Dance Arts and was part of the first graduating class of the Lehigh Valley Performing Arts Charter High School. Jessica maintains deep roots in her hometown and passionately activates for growth of community dance opportunities as Co-Director of Lehigh Valley Dance Exchange (LVDE). She has contributed to building LVDE programs such as choreography commissions, open masterclasses and showcases, and the annual SpringUP Dance Festival - now in its fourth season. As Director and Artist Manager with River City Artists Management (RCAM), Jessica represents a roster of renowned dance companies nation-wide. She also functions as project manager for Shana Simmons Dance (projects include; Relative Positions, Passenger, Objective I).

Jessica is a collaborator with STAYCEE PEARL dance project (SPdp), Shana Simmons Dance, and active free lance dancer. In 2014, she (choreographer/dancer) collaborated with Joanna Dauner (designer), Emre Karagozler (engineer), and Shana Simmons (dancer) on cube[d]. This project was supported by Disney Research Pittsburgh and resulted in a performative, interactive installation in which artists use new technology to explore the relationship between movement and energy.

Past professional performances include work with; EVOLVE Productions/Continuum Dance Theater, Jamie Erin Murphy, Jasmine Hearn, Maree Remalia, Attack Theater, Kathleen Bibalo-Nasti, Michael Walsh, Michele Van Doeren, Riva Strauss, Alyce Finwall, Beth Jucovy, Sarah Carlson, Gina Mento, Monarch Dance Company and appearing as guest artist with SPdp for University of Pittsburgh Theater Arts Department production of In the Heights.

Jessica is an adjunct faculty member at University of Pittsburgh, jazz faculty at Pittsburgh Ballet Theatre, and on the creative team of the Center for Theater Arts (CTA). Choreography credits including CTA's Zombie Prom, Music Man, Singing in the Rain, Camp Rock, Pippin, Urinetown the Musical, Godspell, and 13 the musical. Recent choreography projects include Opera Theater Pittsburgh's production of The Merry Widow and an original work titled Infatuation, created for a cast of Pitt Dance Ensemble students. In spring 2016, Jessica will be choreographer for University of Pittsburgh Theater Arts Department production of NINE.

Jessica has recently been nominated as an emerging artist for the Carol R. Brown Creative Achievement awards.



Jean-Paul Weaver (Dancer) is an artist based out of Pittsburgh, PA. He began his movement training as a martial artist, receiving his black belt by the age of 16. It was not until his freshman year of college that he began his formal dance training. After receiving an A.A. in Theatre and Dance from Casper College, he went on to train at Alonzo King's Lines Ballet Training Program. He has worked with choreographers such as, Alan Obuzor, Kelsey Bartman, Staycee Pearl, Kathleen Hermendorf, LeeWei Chao, Kara Davis, Micheal Velez, Elizabeth Castineda, Cleo Parker Robinson, Kemba Shannon, Camille A. Brown, Nijawwon Matthews, and Gustavo Ramirez Sansano. Company credits include, Deeply Rooted Dance Theater II, Elements Contemporary Ballet, apprenticeship with Luna Negra, Polaris Dance Theatre, Anthony Williams Dance Project, Texture Contemporary Ballet, and STAYCEE PEARL dance project. He has also danced for San Francisco Opera and Pittsburgh Opera, as well as recently having the opportunity to present his own work at the Kelly Strayhorn Theater's new Moves Contemporary Dance Festival and Texture Contemporary Ballet. In addition to being a dancer/choreographer he is also a visual artist. He is very excited to be a guest dancer with Shana Simmons Dance!

CREDITS

Louis Cappa, Videographer, Pittsburgh.

Mark Simpson Photography, Pittsburgh.

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