



**For Immediate Release**

Rachael Singer

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**Local dance collective presents second annual choreography showcase**

*The voices and visions of independent choreographers are gathered together on one stage*

PORTLAND, ORE — January 30, 2018 — *Voices: A Choreographers' Showcase* is PDX Dance Collective's second production of works including guest choreographers from the Portland area. After the sold-out success of last year's showcase at The Headwaters Theatre and glowing reviews from audience members and participants, the collective is once again offering the opportunity for independent choreographers to set their dances before an audience. This year, the showcase will be at Bodyvox Dance Center, allowing a larger audience to gather and more of the local community to experience the art of dance.

"PDX Dance Collective was founded by a group of friends lamenting that there are so few opportunities to perform as a dancer when it's not your professional career," says April MacKay, dancer and choreographer with group. "Since the inception of PDX Dance Collective in 2010, we have worked hard to build an organization that provides a platform for us to speak our voices as choreographers, and we want to share that opportunity with the rest of the dance community. We're proud to connect independent choreographers who are seeking that same platform with an audience and offer our audiences a truly diverse show."

There will be nine guest choreographers presenting this year, including returning guest choreographer Amelia Unsicker, who will be dancing a solo inspired by the power of women overcoming oppression and sexual assault in today's society. KT Kusmaul also makes a powerful statement with her piece about body positivity: "Weighted Bodies". Kusmaul has been exploring the narrative "I can do this even though I'm fat" and has now pushed that inquiry further to "I can do this *because* I'm fat." Other guests include Alexander Dones, Ella Matweyou, Jessica Post, Jordan Mitchell, Katie Burks, Kristalyn Gill and Tongue Dance Project—a contemporary dance company that recently relocated to Portland from Los Angeles—who will be presenting a duet of female warriors telling their story of power in their community.

PDX Dance Collective choreographers will also be presenting work. Elise Ericksen will be making a brief return to Portland from Vashon Island to present a duet about rediscovering personal identity and how to balance societal norms with one's true self. April MacKay continues her focus in musicality and aesthetics, presenting a contemporary ballet piece to an instrumental arrangement of "Bohemian Rhapsody" and an experimental vignette exposing a possible reason why women often keep from speaking up for themselves as connected to the lyrical story of "She" by Green Day. Zahra Garret has composed a piece based on a movement alphabet, and Rachael Singer offers a large group ensemble where one person finds it impossible to keep up with the masses due to anxiety they simply can't allow themselves to speak up about.

**Show details:**

*Voices: A Choreographers' Showcase*, presented by PDX Dance Collective

March 3 – 7:30 p.m.

March 4 – 3:00 p.m.

Bodyvox

1201 NW 17<sup>th</sup> Ave

Portland, OR 97209

Cost: \$20

For tickets, call 503-512-0104 or visit [www.pdxdancecollective.org](http://www.pdxdancecollective.org).

**Mission:**

PDX Dance Collective's mission is to embody diversity and express passion through a shared vision of creating inspired and innovative art.

**Vision:**

PDX Dance Collective values a collaborative environment that fosters creativity, personal expression, and dedication. We embrace the individual differences in people and believe that the sum of all of our unique characteristics will create a far superior result than what we could accomplish on our own. As such, we do not believe dancers need to fit into any particular mold. We support the integration of multiple dance forms from our diverse backgrounds into our productions, drawing in a broader audience while engaging them in new ways. We seek out collaborations with other artists and musicians to further enhance our work. We also strive to experiment with involvement in different types of productions and performance venues, with the goal of exposing dance to new audiences and being accessible to the local community.

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