

ANNE-MARIE MULGREW AND DANCERS CO



PRESS KIT



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CONTACT INFORMATION

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AMM & DCO is most grateful to The Philadelphia Cultural Fund, PA Council Creative Sector Flex Fund, and many generous individuals.



ABOUT THE COMPANY

ANNE-MARIE MULGREW AND DANCERS CO (AMM & DCO) is an experimental modern dance troupe based in Philadelphia, PA. AMM & DCO was founded in 1986 by artistic director/founder Anne-Marie Mulgrew. Its first full-length multi-media production *Hard Facts and Stuffed Gardenias* wowed audiences at Group Motion Multi-Media Theater (4th & South St.) with its movement invention and verve. Ms. Mulgrew created ninety works for the company that have been seen nationally and internationally. These productions have appeared on traditional and nontraditional stages, film/TV, and festivals. Venues include Mandell Theater, The Painted Bride, Movement Theater International, UARTS/Drake Theater, Chester Springs Studio, Philadelphia Museum of Art, Suzanne Roberts Theater, Ryerss Museum, Philadelphia Fringe/Live Arts Festivals, Conwell Dance Theater, Group Motion, CEC, The Philadelphia Cathedral, The PIFA Festival, The Barnes Museum, Christ Church Neighborhood House Theater, The Performance Garage and Buddies in Bad Times Theater (Toronto, Canada), to name a few. In NYC, AMM & DCO have performed at DanceSpace, Movement Research, the DIA Center, University Settlement House, UBU Repertory Theatre and the Dumbo Festival (Brooklyn NY). In 2011, the company made its debut at Dance Place, Washington, DC.

AMM & DCO was featured on WHYY's Friday Arts Program produced by Karen Smyles that aired June 2017 through Spring 2018 and on Arts Access TV, March 10, 2021, July 7, 2021, and August 4, 2021. Recent performances include Mifflin Square Park, Cherry Street/Race Street Piers, Dickinson Square Park, Chi Movement Arts, The Performance Garage, and showcases at Koresh Dance Center and The Inhale Series. AMM & DCO was part of Temple University's Dance Department's 50th Anniversary Exhibit at the Charles Library March-April 2025.

AMM & DCO holds the distinction of being the only Philadelphia troupe to appear twice at the ffIDA Festival in Toronto, Canada. The company consists of 5-7 core dancers, collaborating artists in mixed media, and additional community-based performers for large-scale works. Fusing modern dance, theater, music, technology, and art, AMM & DCO charms and informs audiences of all ages with its insightful and at times wacky views of the world. AMM & DCO also believes in dance education and offers classes, workshops, and residency activities tailored to the needs of the community. AMM & DCO is a nonprofit 501(c) 3 organization. AMM & DCO's mission is to educate and involve the public in the performance and creation of new interdisciplinary dance works through performances, workshops, residencies, and special projects.

ABOUT THE ARTISTIC DIRECTOR/FOUNDER

Anne-Marie Mulgrew (collaborator, choreographer, performer, and educator) is the Founder/Artistic Director of ANNE-MARIE MULGREW AND DANCERS CO., (AMM & DCO), an experimental modern dance company founded in 1986. For the company, she has created ninety major works that have appeared on traditional concert stages, festivals, alternative venues, unusual places, museums and film in the United States and Canada. In the spring 2001, under her direction, AMM & DCO was selected for a prestigious month-long artist-in-the schools' residency at The Yard, Chilmart, MA. Anne-Marie is the recipient of the Temple University Fellow Award, Stella Moore Dance Award, two Woo and an Art for Change award from The Leeway Foundation, a PA Council Fellowship, and a Philadelphia Fringe Rocky. Under her direction, AMM & DCO has received numerous grants and commissions, notably from WHYY, Channel 12 TV, funded by PEW, to create a video *Tales of the Buffoon* that aired nationally, a commission from the Friends of the Rodin Museum, a commission for a new work instigated by Mahler's music and a commission to create the *Opening Dance* for the 10th Enterprise Awards ceremony.

Anne-Marie holds a BS in Ed and an MFA in Dance from Temple University where she was adjunct faculty for five years. Anne-Marie has also served as dance faculty for Penn State University, The College of NJ, and University City Arts League. She has performed special projects with internationally known artists - Kei Takei, Wendy Perron, Stephan Koplowitz, Bridgman/Packer, and Boris Charmatz. She has appeared as an extra with London's Royal Ballet, Opera Philadelphia's 2018 "Sky on Swings," and was one of two featured actor extras in Curtis Institute's 2024 Opera, *The Cunning Little Vixen*. She was a featured actor for Jonas dos Santos' Lila Wallace Digest documentary, appeared in Robert Palumbo's film *Fallout* and Night Shyamalan's *The Last Airbender* and was the subject of a thirty-minute documentary *Creativity* produced by and aired on Comcast Cable TV. In June 2017, Anne-Marie and the company were featured in the Friday Arts Program produced by WHYY TV. Anne-Marie was selected from a national pool to attend the first Choreography for the Screen program at The School of Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival, Beckett MA. Under her direction, AMM & DCO has

conducted sixty-five residency programs for inner city and rural youth as well as *The Keepers Project* Workshops for senior citizens. Anne-Marie has served as a panelist for Philadelphia Cultural Fund, PA Council's Project Stream, NJ Arts Council, The Ellen Forman Memorial Scholarship Fund, and the National High School Dance Festival. Anne-Marie enjoys teaching free Yoga classes and movement classes for the Free Library of Philadelphia and community events in public spaces and is an Education Consultant for Penn Live Arts.

Shelby Bakota (she/they) is a performer, choreographer, and teacher from Woodbury, New Jersey. Shelby focused her classical ballet studies at Ballet NJ under David Gallagher. She attended Gloucester County Institute of Technology, where she trained in modern, ballet, and contemporary forms. Shelby graduated with a BFA in Dance from Mason Gross School of the Arts at Rutgers University. While at Rutgers, she trained in modern, ballet, contemporary, improvisation, and cultural dance forms. She has performed in works by Pam Tanowitz, John Evans, Niall Jones, Alfdaniels Mabingo, and multiple student choreographers. In addition to dance, Shelby also instructs yoga, which provides a different approach to movement and the body. Her choreography has been performed at festivals in NYC and throughout New Jersey. Currently, she performs with Anne-Marie Mulgrew and Dancers Co. and Bart.Co Dance in NJ. She is also a freelance choreographer and teacher in South Jersey and Philadelphia.

Joe Cicala (Guest Artist) received a BFA in dance at the University of the Arts in Philadelphia. He has danced professionally with Ann Vachon/Dance Conduit, Group Motion, Paradigm Dance, Body Language Dance Co, Convergence, P3, Trapezius Aerial, Dancefusion, SHARP Dance Company, and Anna Sokolow's Players Project NYC and Sokolow NOW, the archival repertory company performing the works of legendary choreographer Anna Sokolow. He has been a guest artist with Unexpected Co. of Seattle, Buffalo Contemporary Dance, and Mid Atlantic Ballet. Throughout his career he has also choreographed over 100 musicals for high schools, community, and professional theatres. Joe was a founding member of Anne-Marie Mulgrew and Dancers Company.

Jasmin Cicchino is a multidisciplinary artist. She trained as a ballet dancer following the Royal Academy of Dancing program. In 2019, she moved from her little hometown in Italy to Milan to start her training journey with the musical academy "MTS-Musical! The school," graduating in 2021 with knowledge of jazz, musical theater dance, singing and acting. In the same years she encountered a passion for aerial arts, more specifically for aerial hoop and she decided to immerse herself headlong until she became a CSEN (national educational sports center) certified instructor obtaining the gold medal in the 2023 Aerialympics on Lyra. In 2022 she moved to the United States and began working as a performer, dancer, aerialist and flowartist throughout the tri-state area. Among her most relevant works we remember "Sette Mondi": the Edu musical with the company "Incanto Productions" (in NYC) and others. She is also a dancer for KCBC dance company in Philadelphia. She has been a member of Anne-Marie Mulgrew and Dancers Co. since 2024.

J.A. Kirk (they/them) is a performing artist newly based in Philadelphia. They began their dance training in high school and are a graduate of Interlochen Arts Academy. They continued their education receiving a BA in Dance and a BS in Integrative Physiology and Health Sciences from Alma College in 2023. J.A. has had the pleasure of working with and performing works by artists such as Cisco Graciano, Winston Dynamite Brown, Yoshito Sakuraba, Ben Munisteri, and Kayt MacMaster. They most recently performed with ArtLab J I based in Detroit and Petra Zanki Dance Company in Brooklyn. J.A. is excited to be working with AMM & DCO this season!

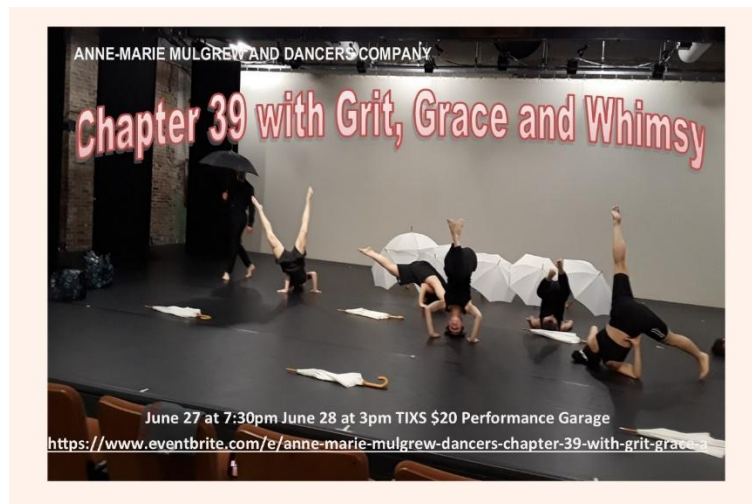
Leslie Ann Pike started her dance training at age 2. In 2005, she graduated with a BA in Dance from DeSales University in Allentown, PA. While at DeSales she studied under Trinnette Singleton, Vincent Brousseau and Lynne Mariani and was a member of the DeSales University Touring Company. Before graduating she joined BosmaDance of Washington, DC. Leslie Ann has performed with Mary LaBianca, Serendipity Dance Ensemble, Re-Cored Dance Co., Eng & Friends Dance Co., SHARP Dance Company, and Alchemy Dance. She has been member of Anne-Marie Mulgrew and Dancers Co. since 2009 and is a featured dancer in AMM & DCO works such as *SALT*, *The Keepers Project*, *Le Dada Va Gaga*, *Anywhere/The Big 30!*, *Strange Dreams: 30 Years Later*, *From the Feminine Gaze*, *Beautiful Chaos*, *NOW*, and *A Shout from the Bones*. Broad Street Review notes "Pikes' solo *Memories from Within*, choreographed by A. Mulgrew set to Bach was a highlight... Pike had lovely extensions and a series of splits ... and brought a touch of elegance to the performance." Pike also serves as Rehearsal Director.

India Scott is a Philadelphia based dancer and choreographer. In her work she explores the spectrum of self, identity, and sexuality through a feminist lens while also exploring how these areas interact with the media and literature. She is interested in taking her work from the general to the personal and working collaboratively and intimately with other dancers and artists. India received her diploma at Capital Area School for the Arts in Harrisburg PA, where she largely focused on interdisciplinary arts, as well as improvisational and choreographic techniques. She completed her B.S. in Dance from Drexel University in June 2024, where she refined her technical vocabulary and explored research in dance and choreographic methods.

Andy Thierauf is a Philadelphia-based percussionist, composer, and educator specializing in contemporary music with a focus on integrating percussion with theater, dance, and technology. He often performs with the Arcana New Music Ensemble, NakedEye Ensemble, Unseen Rain, among others as well as collaborating with choreographers and dance companies like Vervet Dance, the Naked Stark, and Anne-Marie Mulgrew and Dancers Company. Andy teaches at Settlement Music School and is an adjunct professor at Kutztown University. www.andythierauf.com

Nerissa Tunnessen (they/them) is an American dancer and choreographer based in Philadelphia, PA. This is their first season with Anne Marie Mulgrew and Dancers Co. Nerissa has recently performed as a member of Gesture Theater in NYC, with Yu. S Artistry at the Philadelphia Fringe Festival and was a company member with the Vassar Repertory Dance Theater for four years. They have recently presented work at the Fringe Festivals in Philadelphia, Washington DC, Asheville, and Richmond, KYLD's Inhale, WAXworks at Triskelion Arts in Brooklyn, Kefalos Municipal Theater while in residence at the Ionion Center for the Arts and Culture in Kefalonia Greece, River Dance Festival in New Hope, When Waves Collide Festival in Flemington, and Leah Stein's Studio Works. A graduate of Vassar College, Nerissa has had the pleasure of working with and learning from choreographers such as Desmond Richardson, Hofesh Shechter, Guy Nader and Maria Compos, Tom Weksler and Roser Tutusaus, Larry Kegwin, Steve Rooks, and Leslie Sachs. They are excited to be joining AMM & DCO for its 39th season

PRODUCTIONS 2025



***Chapter 39 with Grit, Grace, and Whimsy** echoes AMM & DCO's 39-year history in Philadelphia. In planning the concert these three words kept surfacing and became a mantra for me in describing the Company not only in the creation of works but in its sustainability. We do it with grit, grace, and whimsy. The program features dances from 1992 to the present and investigates ideas of beauty, resilience, experimentation, joy, and uncertainty in today's world.*

Anne-Marie Mulgrew, Artistic Director

Quartet for the Living Part 1 2024

Quartet explores building a sense of community based on trust, support, and hope as we head into the unknown.

Choreography Anne-Marie Mulgrew with dancers' input
Music Driftmachine URUK "The Encyclopedia of Civilizations Vol. 5 Babylon"
Projection Copyright Odili Donald Odita, Courtesy of the artist and David Kordansky Gallery
Quartet for the Living Part 2 2025 a premiere
Music Warehouse Medicine Mason Bates
Dancers Shelby Bakota, Jasmin Cicchino, Leslie Ann Pike, Nerissa Tunnessen

Tales of the Buffoon 1992

Tales was the brainchild of visual artist, Mitchell Taylor Gillette who invited Anne-Marie Mulgrew and Claude White to collaborate in his obsession with the subject material. *Tales* premiered as a stage work at The Painted Bride in 1990 and found its home in the six-minute film directed by Glenn Holsten that toured nationally. Gillette-Mulgrew-White collaborated on five major projects over a period of five years. [history | MitchGillette.com](https://www.mitchgillette.com/history)

Solo for 4 2025 a premiere

Solo is inspired by the lush, ease, and visceral beauty of Senneville's music. It was initially mislabeled Chopin's "Spring Waltz." In researching the internet, the error was discovered and credited accordingly.
Choreography Anne-Marie Mulgrew with dancers' input
Opening Solo Dancer:Shelby Bakota Music Zoe Keating "The Last Bird"
Quartet Section
Music "Mariage D'Amour "written by Paul de Senneville (pianist) performed by Richard Clayderman from his album "Lettre A La Mere" 1979.
Dancers Shelby Bakota Jasmin Cicchino Leslie Ann Pike Nerissa Tunnessen

Frances 2017

Frances was one of many Dance for Camera experiments created in collaboration with Carmella Vassor-Johnson (videographer) and Anne-Marie Mulgrew (choreographer) over a twenty-year period. We were invited to attend Jacob's Pillow first and only Choreography for the Screen program where Vassor-Johnson was the resident videographer for five years. We collaborated on works such as *Salt*, *Citrus Limon*, *The Kitchen Dance*, *The Keepers Project*, *Burn*, *Le Dada va Gaga* and *Excerpts from The Yard*. *Frances* was filmed at the Performance Garage prior to its renovation on the steps leading to the second floor in 2013 and realized in 2017.

Stunned 2022

Conceived as a solo in a chair, *Stunned* was a response to COVID when everything stopped. It was created for a tiny space using a sparse movement vocabulary as if "stunned" by personal and world events. It seems timeless in view of events happening today.
Choreography Anne-Marie Mulgrew
Dancers Shelby Bakota, Jasmin Cicchino, Leslie Ann Pike, Nerissa Tunnessen
Live music by Andy Thierauf playing Steve Reich "Nagoya Marimbas"

Behind the Scenes View about the making of Improvisation created by Francesca Costanzo

Improvisation for the Future 2025 a premiere

Concept/Direction Anne-Marie Mulgrew
Choreography Anne-Marie Mulgrew with dancers' input
Created in collaboration with Andy Thierauf Music Andy Thierauf
Dancers Shelby Bakota Joe Cicala Jasmin Cicchino J.A. Kirk Leslie Ann Pike India Scott Nerissa Tunnessen

Lighting Design and Technical Direction Liam Shaeffer
Documentation Francesca Costanzo and SEB Photography





THINKING DANCE REVIEW of AMM & DCO's 39th Hom Season Concert Chapter 39 with Grit, Grace, and Whimsy



<https://thinkingdance.net/articles/2025/07/13/4/Pas-de-Umbrella-On-Weathering-the-World-with-Whimsy/>

Pas de Umbrella: On Weathering the World with Whimsy by Lauren Berlin

On a rainy June evening, an audience slips into the Performance Garage—a vaulted brick hideaway. Inside, Anne-Marie Mulgrew and Dancers Company offers something zany, charming, and gently provocative: *Chapter 39 with Grit, Grace, and Whimsy*. Mulgrew, celebrating the company's 39th year, has always had a gift for weaving the sprightly with the poetic, blending the offbeat, the surreal, and the heartfelt into something distinctly her own.

Chapter 39 features five dances—two dance films and three live premieres that balance playful absurdity with moments of nostalgia and bold experimentation. *Quartet for the Living*—which is presented in two parts—pulses with energy, set to the industrial rhythms of “Warehouse Medicine.” Solo for 4 blends intimacy and theatricality, unfolding to the layered string textures of Zoë Keating's "[The Last Bird](#)" and the romantic sweep of pianist Paul de Senneville's "[Mariage d'Amour](#)." In *Improvisation for the Future*, a 20-minute dance-theater collaboration with percussionist [Andy Thierauf](#), the performers navigate a terrain of risk, rhythm, and raw invention. Together, these

works reflect the company's evolving identity while inviting the audience into a world where imagination, emotion, and play take center stage.

In *Quartet for the Living Part 1 and Part 2* (2024/25), the ensemble is dressed in sleek black, moving with a captivating blend of discipline and abandon—at times precise and sculptural, at others loose and swingy. The choreography shifts between geometric sharpness and moments more Isadora Duncan than Martha Graham, leaning fully into spontaneity: head rolls, twirls, limb-flung spirals, yogic tree poses held just long enough to teeter. Think *leap, hop, clap, bounce, skip, chase*—the vocabulary of childhood. Then there is the spontaneous, unfiltered burst of laughter from the performers—a collective nervous system reset. The dancers feed off each other's energy, their movements loose, flailing, perfectly timed in their shared kookiness. It is slap-happy and alive, the kind of laughter that needs no punchline—just presence, permission, and a little chaos.

But nothing quite captures Anne-Marie Mulgrew's tender eccentricity like the mixed-media dance film, *Tales of the Buffoon* (1992), a collaboration with visual artists Mitchell Taylor Gillette and Claude White. There's inspiration from Russian folklore—namely the [skomorokh](#), the medieval clown-musicians who satirized society with songs, stories, and mischief. Like the harlequin in *Commedia dell'arte* or Japan's [kyōgen](#) comic relief, the Russian buffoon is part of a long lineage of fools who reveal uncomfortable truths by way of absurdity. Think *Wee Sing in Sillyville* meets Ballet Russes on acid. Scored with Prokofiev, the piece green-screens its dancers into a black-and-white, pen-and-ink cartoon world—populated by oddball characters, surreal gestures, and comic plot points involving trickery and, yes, goat murder. Part slapstick, part constructivist hallucination, and wholly sincere, *Tales of the Buffoon* doesn't mock the ridiculous—it honors it.

Frances (2017) is for anyone who grew up dancing down stair railings, ducking under docks, or inventing musicals in a bathrobe cape. One short film captures a dancer navigating a narrow wooden staircase, her boots clicking like a percussionist's metronome, using the handrail as a duet partner. The dancer slinks and side-steps with kinetic cleverness that feels familiar and fresh, reminding us how a railing once became a barre, a stair, a stage, and a creaky house—a limitless playground for imagination.

In *Improvisation for the Future*, six dancers spin, dart, and dash with stark white umbrellas, lifting them skyward with such rhythmic devotion that for a moment, you believe they might actually take off: *run, run, run—gasp, run, run, run*. The umbrellas serve as kites, propellers, and partners. That giddy, improvised twirl—remember your younger self alone in the living room at age seven, declaring “Look at me! I'm flying!”—is resurrected here with total sincerity. And that's the point: Play, at its best, is radical in its refusal to perform.

As the dancers move to the bright, bouncing tones of a live marimba, I'm transported to the '90s—pre-9/11—when that wooden, percussive sparkle was everywhere.

A quietly powerful motif runs through Mulgrew's repertoire: movement that feels instinctive, unscripted, unburdened, and playfully alive. A staircase becomes a stage. A cartoon kitchen becomes a universe. In her world, the absurd is elevated, the risible is revered. And in that freedom—unguarded, curious, a little chaotic—we return to the purest form of creativity.

39 is a reclamation of the wild, exuberant child still flickering within.

After the show, in the soft rain, I think of Anne-Marie Mulgrew—not just as a choreographer, but as a kindred spirit. Thirty-nine years in, Mulgrew's work transcends a world that often forgets how to play—a world that has become more digital, more distracted, and more disillusioned. Instead, Mulgrew reminds us that grace can be unruly, grit can be tender, and whimsy might just be the point.

Not every choreographer can hold all three in a single breath—but she's been doing it for nearly four decades, and she's not done yet.

****The cast features longtime collaborator Leslie Ann Pike, marking her 14th year with the company, and founding member Joe Cicala, who returns from retirement for a rare appearance in Improvisation for the Future. They are joined by dance artists Shelby Bakota, Jasmin Cicchino, Nerissa Tunnessen, JA Kirk, and India Scott.**

Chapter 39 with Grit, Grace, and Whimsy, Anne-Marie Mulgrew and Dancers Company, Performance Garage, June 27, 2025

Homepage Image Description: *One dancer is elevated in a supported position while others provide grounded bases for a lift, demonstrating coordinated weight-sharing and balance. The movement highlights contemporary partnering, spatial precision, and controlled transitions.*

Article Image Description: *In Mulgrew's premiere, Improvisation for the Future, dancers Shelby Bakota, JA Kirk, India Scott, Nerissa Tunnessen, Jasmin Cicchino, and Leslie Ann Pike, alongside percussionist Andy Thierauf, blur the lines between sound and movement in a spirited performance. Umbrellas become central props—sometimes statues, sometimes partners—adding elements of surprise and stillness to a piece rich with playful energy and shifting roles.*

By Lauren Berlin
July 13, 2025

Video links to **June Concert 2025 Chapter 39 with Grit, Grace and Whimsy**
Friday Evening. Quartet for the Living, Part One public
<https://youtu.be/-UeTJQzIp-w>

Friday Evening. Quartet for the Living, Part Two
<https://youtu.be/UEgovKMOusU>

Solo for 4
<https://youtu.be/EZXFrz9slbw>

Stunned with live music by Andy Thierauf public
https://youtu.be/n6PY1nR_Cts

Improvisation for the Future Friday June 27, 2025 public with live music by Andy Thierauf public
https://youtu.be/qAs_j240uM0



PRODUCTIONS 2024

***A Shout from the Bones* premiere June 28 Performance Garage**

Concept Anne-Marie Mulgrew **Choreography** Anne-Marie Mulgrew with dancers input
Dancers The Company Em Godfrey Leslie Ann Pike Ava Pizzi Arielle Ridley Tori Vincent

A Shout from the Bones conceived and choreographed by Artistic Director Anne-Marie Mulgrew is a response to recent violent events, and the need for healing and action in today's world. This ongoing investigation examines contemporary issues that haunt and motivate us to face our humanity. A Shout explores themes of community, loss, resilience, understanding, joy, and hope. Built on a series of eleven charged scenes and dances using props, text, music, and projections, audiences are invited to create their own stories, share them, and discover a greater understanding of ourselves and the world we live in.

As an American contemporary dancemaker, the intent of my work is to provide a framework for thought, dialogue, and change. With so much unrest in today's world, in this new work, I aspire to validate how dance has the power to bring awareness to an issue and to remind us of the need for beauty, empathy, relief, and joy in our lives.

Anne-Marie Mulgrew

Choreography and Direction: Anne-Marie Mulgrew with dancers' input

Dancers: The Company - Em Godfrey, Leslie Ann Pike, Ava Pizzi, Arielle Ridley, Tori Vincent, and Anne-Marie Mulgrew in cameo appearances

A Shout section one "A Call to Action"

Music: Armand Amar "The Train 11"

Dancers: The Company

A Shout section two "The Box"

Music: Evil Stoox Koksukoo "F____ Vivaldi"

Dancers: The Company

A Shout section three "Gestures"

Music: Street Urban Sounds Chaotic Atmosphere

Dancers: The Company

A Shout section four "Quartet for the Living"

Music: Driftmachine URUK “The Encyclopedia of Civilizations Vol. 5 Babylon”

Dancers: Em Godfrey, Leslie Ann Pike, Arielle Ridley, Tori Vincent

Projection: Odili Donald Odita Mamba Negra

A Shout section five “The Empty Chair”

Music: Armand Amar ‘Kabala the Geography of the History’ Dancer: Anne-Marie Mulgrew

A Shout section six “The Interlude”

Music: Presto Maestro Daniel Nering

Dancers: Ava Pizzi, Leslie Ann Pike

A Shout section seven “Trio” 2023

Music: Bach ‘Quia Respexit’ sung by Alexandra Sidorova

Dancers: Em Godfrey, Arielle Ridley, Tori Vincent

A Shout section eight “White Space “

A video short produced by FC Video Productions

A Shout section nine “A Glimpse of the Times”

Music: Chinese Baroque

Dancers: Ava Pizzi (soloist), Em Godfrey, Arielle Ridley, Tori Vincent

A Shout section ten “The Red Section” from *The Big Dance* revised 2024

Music: Angelique Kidjo Iemanja

Dancers: Leslie Ann Pike (soloist), Em Godfrey, Arielle Ridley, Tori Vincent, Ava Pizzi Puppeteer

A Shout section eleven “All is One” The Finale

Music: Secession All is One - “One is All” and Gothic Bells

Dancers: The Company







Images shot during performance *Two Worlds," A Shout from the Bones,"* June 28-29, 2024 by Anne Saint Peter

Link to full review of *Two Worlds*

[Anne-Marie Mulgrew and Dancers Company and... | Broad Street Review](#)

It has been three years since COVID 19 shocked the world, changing perceptions, challenging structures, and posing questions about one's basic needs as well as providing opportunities to explore solutions. ***NOW! Three Years Later 2023*** is a response to the pandemic's personal, political, and social impact on us as humans and how it impacted our world and our environment. *NOW!* explores themes of understanding, resilience, hope, and joy as we emerge from the pandemic into a new era. The title encompasses the dance/film works you will experience today. Viewers are encouraged to make their own interpretations. The program opens with my newest installment as a sequel of sorts to *Beautiful Chaos 2022*. My intent is not to create a storyline but provide a framework for thought and dialogue.

Anne-Marie Mulgrew, Artistic Director

NOW 2023 – Three Years Later premiere June 23 2023 Performance Garage

Concept Anne-Marie Mulgrew

Choreography Anne-Marie Mulgrew with dancers input

Dancers The Company Em Godfrey Leslie Ann Pike Ava Pizzi Arielle Ridley Tori Vincent

Costumes Leslie Ann Pike

Section One Emerging Music "This place was a shelter"

Oalfor Arnalds

Section Two Connecting Music "Canon"

Divan Gattamorta

Section Three If Trees Could Talk

Music "Playful Ambient" Library of the Human Soul Gabriel Brosteau

Section Four- Created by Anne-Marie Mulgrew in collaboration with Francesca Costanzo

Section Five ""Reeling in the Meadows" Music "Catherine, Stay Jump at the Sun" Traditional

Section Six The Bird Music "The Last Bird" Zoe Keating

Section Seven Wave of the Future Music Bird Sounds Tribal Arabic Music

TwoFer 2023

The dance explores the relationship between two people moving together, sharing space, supporting one another in a joyful romp. As choreographer my intent was to create something more playful, lighthearted and fun as we enter into new post pandemic age.

Choreography Anne-Marie Mulgrew

Dancers Ava Pizzi Arielle Ridley **Costumes** Anne-Marie Mulgrew

Music "Espectro Sonoro" Divan Gattamorta

Trio 2023

Choreography Anne-Marie Mulgrew

Dancers Tori Vincent Arielle Ridley Em Godfrey

Costume Concept Anne- Marie Mulgrew

Music Bach Quia Respexit Alexandra Sidorova 3:27

Memories from Within 2022

Memories explores the inner landscape of one's internal chaos filled with emotions, memories, vulnerability.

Choreography Anne-Marie Mulgrew

Dancers Leslie Ann Pike

Music Bach Marcello Adagio Concerto for D Minor

Un Petit Love Story video created and performed by Anne-Marie Mulgrew and Sean Thomas Boyt

Beautiful Chaos 2022 (revised for 2023)

Choreography Anne-Marie Mulgrew with dancers input

Tribute to Isaiah Film Created by Anne-Marie Mulgrew in collaboration with Francesca Costanzo

Dancers The Company

Music "Sociopath" "Pain" Lucas King

Text: *Simple Chaos* selected poems of Yukio Tsuji "Silence"

Props - Book of poems

This dance informed by ideas and the haunting music seems to encompass society with all its ills and glories.

"Out of chaos, the future emerges in harmony and beauty." Emma Goldman



Images from NOW 2023 Three Years Later opening dance





Image bow *Beautiful Chaos* 2023

Review June 25, 2023

[Anne-Marie Mulgrew and Dancers Company presents... | Broad Street Review](#)

Link to full concert

<https://youtu.be/zszl11746Ls>

2022 Beautiful Chaos, an hourlong, full-length work, choreographed by Anne-Marie Mulgrew with dancers' input, is a collection of new dances and films inspired by the tumultuous world we live in today. In development since early 2020, sections were to premiere in AMM & DCO's June Concert cancelled by COVID19. Additional works were developed during the pandemic and set on the Company when able to rehearse in person. Beautiful Chaos aspires to raise questions by taking audiences on a quest that is poignant, uplifting, and joyful. Beautiful Chaos premiered at AMM & DCO's 35th Anniversary, June 24-25, 2022. Chaos comes from Greek Khaos which means "formless primordial space." Many of us think about it is as danger, confusion, or turmoil but it can also be seen as an opportunity for exploration and transformation. The title resonates even more now in pandemic times where order and control are in constant flux. I was haunted by this title and notion of how beauty and chaos can coexist and support one another conceptually.

Anne-Marie Mulgrew, Artistic Director; Choreographed/Concept/Direction by Anne-Marie Mulgrew with dancers' input
Dancers: Em Godfrey, Anya Kress, Kate Lombardi, Anne-Marie Mulgrew, Hannah Murphy, Leslie Ann Pike, Ava Pizzi, Arielle Ridley; Technical Director: Sean Thomas Boyt
The concert features eight dances and three short films.

- **Prelude 2022** was inspired by the physical space, the creative process, and the individual talents of the seven dancers and live marimba music by percussionist, Dr. Andy Thierauf Based on a movement score, it touches on themes of chaos and beauty sprinkled with phrases from the full work.
- **Basking in Bach2022** six dancers, Bach Concerto for Oboe This dance is a response to Bach's brilliance and timelessness. Earlier phrases were danced to a French love song. With the music change, the work became more intense and urgent involving a community that supports one another while joyfully navigating unknown spaces.
- **Memories from Within 2021** a solo for longtime AMM & DCO dancer Leslie Ann Pike, to Bach Marcello Adagio Concerto for D Minor, the dance explores the inner landscape of one's internal chaos filled with emotions, memories, vulnerability.
- **Chaos One 2022** a trio to music by Divan Gattamorta "Experiments." This evolving dance examines an inner battle filled with doubt, fear and eventually hope amidst chaos.
- **Stunned 2022** a dance for four dancers and six chairs, set to Steve Reich's "Nagoya Marimbas" played by Dr. Andy Thierauf. Conceived as a solo in a chair, Stunned is a response to COVID when everything stopped. It was created for a tiny space using a sparse movement vocabulary as if "stunned" by personal and world events.
- **A Meditation on Healing the World 2022** a duet, set to Anonymous 4: Love Illusion: The Montpellier Codex 13th Century. With so much chaos (COVID, war, gun violence, racial, social, economic, and political injustice) this dance explores the need to heal, hope, listen, allow, and encourage change.
- **Quiet Power 2019** is a solo for longtime AMM&DCO dancer Kate Lombardi to Ramin Djawadi. This dance invites us to enjoy the beauty of quiet power and resilience.

Beautiful Chaos 2022 (the ending dance) is a full company work to Lucas King's music "Sociopath" "Pain." Text: Simple Chaos selected poems of Yukio Tsuji "Silence." This dance informed by ideas and the haunting music seems to encompass society with all its ills and glories. "Out of chaos, the future emerges in harmony and beauty." Emma Goldman



Images from Beautiful Chaos – *Stunned* (in chairs); *A Meditation on Healing, Prelude* (the wall), *Basking in Bach*, *Beautiful Chaos* (ending dance) *Basking in Bach*

"The 35th Home Season Concert of Anne-Marie Mulgrew & Dancers Company (AMM & DCO) began with a welcome from founder/artistic director Anne-Marie Mulgrew, who remarked upon the thrill of performing indoors for a live audience after two years outside. AMM & DCO, an experimental modern dance troupe based in Philadelphia, has a history of innovative approaches that included outdoor performances long before the pandemic. Mulgrew and the dancers brought the company's inventiveness to their exploration of today's tumultuous times. *Beautiful Chaos*, a new full-length work, considers the hope and potential of uncertainty."

"The dance (*Beautiful Chaos*) contained evocative and haunting images featuring the entire company. Ridley and Lombardi shone as a pair caught in a movement frenzy. This gave way to a space full of movement with multiple things going on at once: people dancing, someone reading a poem, and Mulgrew, shrouded in layers of clothing, seeming to represent an enduring, insightful wise woman. The piece concluded with Mulgrew alone on stage, removing the shirts and pants draped around her frame one by one. She laid them in a trail on the floor before exiting, leaving beauty and mystery in the space formerly filled by chaos."

"In finding opportunity for creation and growth in formless uncertainty, *Beautiful Chaos* is a thoughtful and hopeful reflection on our times and a testament to AMM&DCO's creativity and endurance." –

Broad Street Review, Melissa Strong June 27, 2022

Beautiful Chaos the title name for AMM & DCO's Home Season Concert as well as the closing dance premiered June 24-25, 2022 Chi Movement Arts Center, 1316 S. 9th St. Phila. PA 19147

***Stunned, Quiet Power and Memories from Within* were performed at showcases at Koresh Dance Center and Chi Movement Arts.**

2021 The Umbrella Dance reimagined for Cherry and Race Street Piers Anne-Marie Mulgrew and Dancers Company (AMM & DCO) will perform a reimagined version of its signature traveling site-specific dance video installation as part of the Fermentation Festival, Cherry Street Pier and Race Street Piers, June 11, 2020 at 5pm-6:30pm. The event included a video “Selected Works for Film, Sites and Stages” in celebration of AMM & DCO’s 35th Anniversary Season.

The Umbrella Dance is a site-specific performance tailored to the natural beauty and architecture of a specific location. It features 6-10 dancers in white carrying white umbrellas accompanied by roaming documenters. This live installation travels slowly and silently through an area. The work is built on a walking score accented by a series of movement tableaux, intimate gestures, and choreographed phrases. The Umbrella Dance has appeared to critical acclaim at 25 of the City’s most treasured landmarks including DanceBOOM, Wilma Theater, Schuylkill River Banks, and The Barnes Museum.

Enjoy this special pop-up performance on June 11 as it moves from Cherry Street Pier to Race Street Piers for eight dancers accompanied by two documenters. (photographer and videographer)

Additional performances: Dickinson Square Park, Sept. 19, 2021 and Mifflin Square Park, August 8, 2020





Images: The Umbrella Dance – inside Cherry Street Pier, outside along Race Street Pier

From the Feminine Gaze 2019 is a collection of five dances and two films celebrating feminine power, grace, and whimsy conceived and choreographed by A. Mulgrew for six dancers, inspired by the 100th Anniversary of the passing of the 19th Amendment and current events. Dance works include *In the Spirit of* a quartet to Astor Piazzolla's "Citi Tango;" *Quiet Power*, a solo, to music by Ramin Djawadi; *Zikr: The Time Before* to music by Armand Amar; *What*, a solo, to Bach's "The Cello Song" by The Piano Guys with video by Francesca Costanzo from her larger work "The Eyes Project" 2019; *Skirting*, a sextet, to Steve Reich's music. The program included a new film, *This Woman*, created in collaboration with video artist Carmella Vassor-Johnson and A. Mulgrew



"Anne-Marie Mulgrew presented her dance company's 33rd home season concert at the Performance Garage on June 14 and 15. The playbill showcased a re-imagined One Minute Dances for Small Spaces from 2017, some film pieces, and a world premiere, *From Feminine Gaze*, all of which showcased her unique and poetic interpretation of feminism and relationship between our spirituality and our bodies. " - **Phindie Review Eri Yoneda**

"Interesting ideas, standout performances, and Mulgrew's signature inventive yet thoughtful use of props contributed to an enjoyable and entertaining evening of dance. From the *Feminine Gaze* contained multitudes, challenging notions of a single, unified female experience. " - **Broad Street Review Melissa Strong**

Since 1986, the dancer has led the South Philly-based Anne-Marie Mulgrew and Dancers Company through thought-provoking works in spaces spanning from alleyways to museums. " - **South Philly Review Grace Maorino**

Additional Performances of *One Minute Dances* at East Passyunk Pop-Up June 8, 2019

Strange Dreams: 30 Years Later 2018 is a multimedia work for seven dancers, colorful props, constructed costumes, a swing, and projections. Length is 48 minutes. The work tackles dream-like states - the sensations, memories, colors and sounds in a non-linear stream of consciousness format. Dreams appear, disappear, and continue to haunt the dreamer who questions the logic of it all. *Strange Dreams* is a reaction to the political and social realities we face today, and the need to dream, heal and celebrate the resilience and joyfulness of the human spirit. Sections included: *The Opener (Dream Swing)* Music: Relaxing Water Sounds; *Cathedral Dreams*: Music: "Ancient Gusli North Ambient Soundscapes" by Sadko; *Interlude One* Music: Gothic Church Bells Sounds; *The Mirage* Music: "Renaissance Atmospheric Music" by The Sacred Order; *A Prelude of Sorts* Music: "Kozatskty 'til You Dropsky" by Shirim; *Interlude Two* Music: PetRUality: "Infinity of Consciousness;" *Forward/Backwards* Music: Discovering China Li Bai: China's Immortal Poet; *Sad Cat* Music: Sad Cat Diary; *L'Amour* Music: "Tango Poema 1925" Francisco Canaro; *Three Women Three Bowls* Music: "La Laguna" by Mike Dowling & David Lang; *Inflatable Dreams* Music: "Summertime" by Janis Joplin, "Old Ticket Booth" by Brandon & Derek Feichter, "Exciting Baroque Music" most likely by Vivaldi, and silence; *The Finale* "A Narnian Lullaby on Dudek" by Harry Gregson-Williams and "When You Are Old" by WB Yeats.



Images from *Cathedral Dreams* top and *Inflatable Dreams* from *Strange Dreams* 30 years later

"Strange Dreams was a treat, offering moments of striking beauty, laugh-out-loud humor, and thought-provoking imagery. " - **Broad Street Review June 2018**

"Highlighted appealing and important aspects of contemporary dance: combining muscular athleticism with classical grace and undermining traditional gender roles. " - **Strange Dreams Broad Street Review June 2018**

Additional performances of Strange Dreams: 30 Years Later, Temple University Alumni Concert 2019 as part of a residency that included Ms. Mulgrew teaching a master class and senior seminar. Individual dances appeared in showcases and festivals.

A View from Within 2017, a site-specific traveling 55-minute dance work conceived by Anne-Marie Mulgrew for 14 performers and an assorted sounds core. This work took audiences on a journey from the outside grounds to the gallery spaces of The Ryerss Mansion and Museum culminating with an audience participation dance on the front porch, presented by the City of Philadelphia's Office of Arts, Culture and the Creative Economy, Performances in Public Spaces 2017. It included an adapted version of *One Minute Dances* tailored to the gallery space.





Images from *A View from Within* – One Minute Dance in landing, Umbrella Ladies with audience outside, Interactive audience ending on the porch, One Minute Dance in parlor of Ryerss Museum

2017 Celebrating 31 AMM & DCO's Home Season Concert featured *One Minute Dances*, (12 dances), *The Next Chapter*, WHY'Y'S Friday Arts program video, *Frances*, a Dance for Camera Work and Asya Zlatina's *Storm* by Ashley Searles. The Performance Garage June 8-10, 2017 with additional sections performed at





Images from *The Next Chapter*, a suite of four dancers. Image in the air taken at the Come Together Festival, Suzanne Roberts Theater, third image from *The Next Chapter* last section, duet, and solo images from *One Minute Dances*.

"Unlike some dance performances where it is on the audiences to reach to the world of the dance to feel and understand what is narrated on the stage, AMM & DCO steps into our world by citing common interests and phenomenon that may occur in our daily lives. Dance is, in fact, one of our most natural ways to communicate and express our thoughts." - **Phindie Review June 2017**

"*One Minute Dances* were appealing and intriguing. Anne-Marie danced two solos. Both were tender and graceful in the movements, poetic and narrative at the same time, which felt the shortest one minute that left the long-lasting impressions." - **Phindie Review June 2017**

Anywhere/The Big 30 2016 is a 30-minute work for five dancers and three musicians. This abstract dance is informed by the ambiances and architecture of the city which has nurtured Ms. Mulgrew's choreographic creations for 30 years. It is developed in collaboration with Adam Vidiksis (composer) and Carmella Vassor- Johnson (video artist). The concept of 30 is the departure point. It examines one's sense of time and space. The work aspires to look forward while reflecting on the past fusing dance, music, new technologies and film. Ideas explore sensations, memories, and observations about one's journey over time, the individual and the community, the relationships forged within a group, and how one is informed and impacted by the world we live in.

The piece opened with **Prelude**, site -specific works new and adapted to Christ Church Neighborhood Theater featuring a sax player playing while roaming through the audiences and performers in specific areas i.e., around the perimeter, using the walls, in the technical booth with the performance moving to the main stage area.

"Part art installation and part tribute, the performances of Anne-Marie Mulgrew and Dancers Company's 30th-anniversary (AMMDC) celebration were assortments of nostalgic delicacies and newer movement explorations. Each still helps to define the company's decades-long existence." - **Thinking Dance 2016**





Images 1,2,4 from *Anywhere the Big 30-* dancers with musicians, image 3 from *Prelude* -site work installation part.

For full list of repertoire AMM & DCO works and performances

<https://annemariemulgrewdancersco.org>

Selected Video Links

Anne-Marie Mulgrew and Dancers Co 38th Home Season, Two World, a joint concert produced by AMM & DCO and YU.S. Artistry, video shows AMM & DCO's work "A Shout from the Bones," The Performance Garage.

AMMDCO <https://youtu.be/kRK7OeB84O8>

Hosted on videographer's channel Francesca Costanzo by FC video productions

Anne-Marie Mulgrew and Dancers Co 37th Home Season NOW! Three Years Later full concert minus videos 45 minutes

<https://youtu.be/zszl11746Ls>

Anne-Marie Mulgrew and Dancers CO's 35th Season, a compilation of selected works for film, sites, and concerts screened at Cherry Street Pier June 11, 2021.

This contains an overview of works from the past 20 years.

<https://youtu.be/gv3gC8yswZ4>

Anne-Marie Mulgrew and Dancers Co present Beautiful Chaos 2022.

Shot during the performance at AMM & DCO's Home Season concert *Beautiful Chaos*, the clip contains two dances *Chaos One* and *Stunned*

<https://youtu.be/c0pCQSCNofk>

Temple University Dance Dept. presents Anne-Marie Mulgrew and Dancers Co. Full Concert October 2019

Strange Dreams: 30 Years Later

<https://youtu.be/b7oRYwNHcs8>

This contains the 48-minute version shot during a performance. Materials are revised from the 2018 premiere.

Additional links are available upon request.