



## NEWS

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Additional photos are available upon request

### **ANNE-MARIE MULGREW AND DANCERS COMPANY**

“Anne-Marie Mulgrew and Dancers Company offers something zany, charming, provocative.” (Mulgrew has) “a gift for weaving the sprightly with the poetic, blending the offbeat, surreal and heartfelt into something distinctly her own.” *Thinking Dance*

#### **40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Concert *Sea of Memories***

Two Performances Only!

Friday June 26 at 7:30pm

Saturday June 27 at 3pm

Performance Garage 1515 Brandywine Street, Phila. PA 19130

Tickets \$20-\$25 online [ANNE-MARIE MULGREW AND DANCERS CO](http://www.ammulgrewandancersco.com)

Anne-Marie Mulgrew and Dancers Company (AMM & DCO) returns to The Performance Garage for its 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Concert with an exciting immersive event *Sea of Memories*, choreographed/conceived by Artistic Director/Founder Anne-Marie Mulgrew. The program reflects the company’s unparalleled history over the decades built on collaboration, experimentation, risk taking, resilience, and pure joy. The program includes works for concert stages, alternative sites, and film. Highlights include the reconstruction of AMM & DCO’s first major work *Facing 9-5* (1986), excerpts from *Unknown City* (1999) and *Project 2012* (1996) to original music by Peter Price. These two works made their international premiere in Toronto, Canada. In addition, there are excerpts from the full-length work *SALT* (2009-2010) created in collaboration with Mulgrew and video artist, Carmella Vassor-Johnson, *Three Women Three Bowls* 2017, and two premieres *The Living Museum* and *Sea of Memories* plus selected works for film.

***The Living Museum*** opens the concert It features iconic moments from the Company’s arsenal of works re-envisioned for the concert stage. Seven performers inhabit seven distinct worlds from works such as *Strange Tongues* 1997 created for a film studio rowhouse in South Philly; *The Lemon Lady* 2003 produced by Philadelphia Fringe Festival at the Nexus Gallery window running the length of the festival; and *Le Dada va Gaga* 2011 set in the glorious and somewhat dilapidated Rotunda’s sanctuary space for the Kimmel Center’s PIFA Festival. Willing audiences may join the performers and narrator on stage, view from off stage, or from their seats.

***Facing 9-5***, set to an eclectic sound score for six dancers in black pants, ties and white shirts, explores the intensity, repetition, diversity, and frustration of the 9-5 human machinery. It comments on the artist life – the struggles, hopes, and dreams as one straddles two worlds of belonging and not belonging.

**SALT** was inspired by Mark Kurlansky's fascinating book "Salt A World History." The program includes four excerpts from the full-length work – the opening duet with two dancers (Joe Cicala and JA Kirk) around a silver tub of salt and *Cleanse* a solo originally performed by Mulgrew danced by Nerissa Tunnessen plus two short films by Carmella Vassor-Johnson.

**Unknown City** features soloist Joe Cicala wrapped in forty yards of red material, expressing the underbelly of a city – the fears, anxiety and hidden secrets that haunt us. **Project 2012** used Carl Sagan's "Pale Blue Dot," the Mayan Calendar (which predicted the end of the world in 2012) and overwhelming media overload as departure points. We find ourselves in a post-apocalyptic state with no desire to be futurist but mere mortals. The excerpt features the ending duet and a trio using a familiar prop.

**Sea of Memories**, a 16-minute work, performed by the six Company dancers, closes the program. The sea is a metaphor for life, mystery, wonder, vastness, fluidity, and awe. Set to music by Elecktron Analogue Four, Armand Amar, Mechanics Clasica, with moments of silence and the human voice, this contemporary abstract work explores an underwater community and its connectedness/relationship to one another, the environment and like the sea its constant shifting behavior. The movement vocabulary features unison phrases, duets, solos, group lifts, drops, falls, slides, inversions, extensions, shakes, leaps, and extensive use of stage space interspersed with movement tableaux.

The program also includes **Three Women Three Bowls** inspired by bucolic paintings of women at ease in the natural world and an encore interactive short celebration dance.

In addition to Ms. Mulgrew (choreography-concept-direction), the collaborative team who provided input for *Sea of Memories* features dancers Elrey Belmonti (AMM & DCO alum, *The Living Museum* narrator and featured in the *SALT* film), Joe Cicala (30+ year company member making a rare appearance in *The Living Museum*, *Unknown City* and *SALT*), Company members Leslie Ann Pike in her 16<sup>th</sup> Season, Shelby Bakota, Jasmin Cicchino, JA Kirk, India Scott, and Nerissa Tunnessen. Major collaborators on the program include composer Peter Price, installation artist Vida-Vida (*Unknown City Project 2012*, *Strange Tongues*), visual artist Susan Sapareto (*Facing 9-5*), and video Carmella Vassor-Johnson (*SALT*, *The Lemon Lady*, *Le Dada va Gaga*).

This program is for all ages. There will be a short Q &A with the Company after the show after Sat.3pm.

Visit us <https://annemariemulgrewdancersco.org/>

**Tickets \$25 General Admission; \$20 for Students and Seniors**  
For Tickets: [performancegarage.org/performances](https://performancegarage.org/performances) or AMM & DCO's website

**AMM & DCO is grateful for the support of The Philadelphia Cultural Fund, Pennsylvania Council on the Arts Creative Sector Flex Fund administered through GPCA and many individual donors.**

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**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 (4<sup>th</sup> & South St.) with its movement invention and verve. Ms. Mulgrew created ninety-two works for the company that have been seen nationally and internationally. These productions have appeared on traditional and non-traditional 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, The Cherry Street Pier, Chi Movement Arts, 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 50<sup>th</sup> 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.