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West Wave Dance Festival Returns in 2013 With New Producer at the Helm



From left to right: Dance Brigade; credit Yahya Diwer; Anne-René Petraca; credit: Erik Alberg; Jesse Hewit; credit: Robbie Sweeney; Amy Seiwert; credit: David DeSilva

Joe Landini of The Garage and its non-profit SAFEhouse for the Performing Arts, takes over the long-time Bay Area Festival and reorganizes programming into a string of four performances in September and October curated by in order of dates: Dance Mission Theater, followed by a quartet of choreographers consisting of Anne-René Petraca, Anandha Ray, Holly Shaw and Casey Lee Thorne, and then Jesse Hewit—with a cast that includes Monique Jenkinson, Sara Shelton Mann, Keith Hennessy and Mica Sigourney—all leading up to the festival's final performance, *Make.Believe*, an evening of contemporary ballet curated by Amy Seiwert

September 16 at Z Space; October 5 at ODC Commons; October 21 & October 28 at Z Space; tickets \$15 advance / \$20 at the door www.zspace.org for Z Space performances, www.odctheater.org for ODC Commons; additional information at www.westwavedance.org

August 1, San Francisco – Now in its 22nd year, the West Wave Festival reorganizes under a new producer Joe Landini in 2013 with a string of four performances by noted and upcoming choreographers and dancers. The first and final two events will be at Z Space in the Mission, with the second in the series taking place at ODC Commons. In that sense, the West Wave Dance festival is firmly grounded in the long fertile Mission dance scene and ethos.

Known in the dance community for his constant championing of new performers who showcase their nascent works at The Garage, Landini encourages experimentation and originality. The space he gives these performers allows for some very entertaining evenings where dancers and choreographers not only show their new works—or still-forming snippets of them—but because the audience is often made up of other dancers and choreographers, they contain a refreshing amount of old fashioned showing off as well.

"I love dancers and choreographers" says Landini – himself a prolific choreographer who has presented work locally for twenty years. "I find them fascinating. Some of them like to entertain and make a big splash, whereas others might be a bit more cerebral or classically inclined and some of them are more in-your-face and are really trying to challenge the audiences. What they all have in common is this pursuit of creativity and opportunity to share their skills on stage. I love being part of that, and am happy to have this opportunity with West Wave to continue to push that idea."

Schedule and Description of Performances

What: West Wave Dance Festival Presents Dance Mission Theater

When: Monday, September 16 @ 8pm

Where: Z Space, 450 Florida, SF; Box Office: 866.811.4111

Tickets: \$15 advance / \$20 at the door www.zspace.org

Dance Mission Theater's West Wave Dance Festival entry is *The Beat of 24th and Mission*, an evening of new dance from the globe that will weave Hip Hop, Taiko, political dance theater and more into a raucous and rebellious single evening that will feature the Dance Mission family of resident artists, teachers and students, including

- Dance Brigade
- Grrrl Brigade
- Allan Frias / Mind Over Matter
- Anna Sullivan / Anna and the Annadroids
- Sean Dorsey / Sean Dorsey Dance
- Nicole Klaymoon's Embodiment Project
- Joti Singh / Duniya Drum and Dance
- Susana Arenas / Arenas Dance Company
- Ramon Ramos Alayo / Alayo Dance Company
- Nol Simonse
- Juan de la Rosa

Dance Brigade is known for its sumptuous, full-throttle dancing; biting, intellectual, insightful wit, and provocative originality. This dynamic multi-racial troupe of women proves that socially relevant dance can be technically brilliant, as well as exuberant with down-home hilarious fun.

Images: <https://picasaweb.google.com/shaveandahaircutPR/WestWaveDanceDanceBrigade916>

More Info on the September 16 West Wave Dance Festival Presentation: westwavedance.org

What: West Wave Dance Festival Presents Anne-René Petraca, Anandha Ray, Holly Shaw and Casey Lee Thorne

When: Saturday, October 5 @ 8pm

Where: ODC Commons, 351 Shotwell, Studio B, SF

Tickets: \$15 advance / \$20 at the door www.odctheater.org

This year, as part of the festival's new format, producer Landini decided to offer four new commissions, helping create new choreographic premiers that are being developed in residence at The Garage. Local choreographers proposed new works that were evaluated by a committee of peers from the contemporary dance field.

the last of light from choreographer Anne-René Petraca is piece for a quartet of women that investigates the idea of community and connection among women, and the power and hope that can spring from it.

Choreographer Anne-René Petraca is a modern dancer, choreographer, Alexander Technique teacher and the artist-director of Sculpted Motion. She received her MFA in Dance from the University of Wisconsin/Milwaukee and her Alexander certification from ACAT (American Center for the Alexander Technique) in New York City. Since re-locating to the San Francisco Bay Area in 2009 after 20 years in New York City Anne-René teaches modern technique at Shawl-Anderson Dance Center and Alonzo King LINES Dance Center and she is the Alexander Technique teacher for the LINES Ballet Training Program and the Mills College Dance Department.

The *Quimera Project* from Anandha Ray is a work that she describes as “tribal fusion belly dance” that synthesizes those movements into modern dance and also includes elements of Odissi Temple Dance. For this new work, she will feature dancer Laura Rae Bernasconi, who is trained in ballet, Odissi and Acro-Yoga, and who will appear with two male dancers who are highly skilled in partnering via their experiences in acro-yoga and ballet. There will be an additional chorus of between 15-30 tribal fusion belly dancers.

Choreographer Anandha Ray is founder of Anandha Ray’s Quimera Project. After an award-winning, 30-year career in modern dance, Anandha Ray is re-emerging as a fusion choreographer synthesizing the disparate worlds of tribal fusion bellydance, Odissi and Acro-Yoga, among other ethnic forms, into modern dance.

Dancer Laura Rae Bernasconi has performed as a principal dancer with Labayen Dance/SF, Bern Ballet, Switzerland; Ballet Mainz, Germany; Joyce Trissler Dance Company, New York; KunstStoff SF and more. She is on the faculty of Alonzo King LINES Ballet.

The Outlaw comes from the team of choreographer Holly Shaw and composer/multi-instrumentalist, Laura Inserra. The result is a rhythmic live-music soundscape paired with contemporary flamenco dance that explores the idea of the renegade, the outsider, the outlaw. Shaw's contemporary flamenco choreography will evoke stand-offs, heat waves, and birds of prey, as the ensemble of flamenco dancers stretch the traditional forms in chosen moments, using footwork to punctuate, alter our sense of time, prod, and intimidate. Like cowgirls, the dancers will posture, strut, and even hold still for the rattlesnakes – each in their own way lassoing the energy and riding it into the imaginary sunset.

Choreographer Holly Shaw is a San Francisco Bay Area-based dancer/choreographer whose artistic work thrives on personal authenticity while drawing on her extensive knowledge of diverse dance traditions. Principally a flamenco dancer, Shaw has also studied contemporary modern dance, as well as other ethnic dances, and she draws on those techniques and sensibilities to weave tapestries of nuanced and emotionally expressive work. Shaw has performed as a soloist with Caminos Flamencos off and on for several years at the ODC Theatre, Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, Cowell Theatre, and with the Pacific Symphony Orchestra. For more information visit www.hollyshaw.net.

Composer Laura Inserra is a multi-instrumentalist, teacher, artistic director, and a classically trained musician with a strong improvisational background. She plays contemporary and world music in different

projects as a percussionist, multi-instrumentalist and composer. She authors and performs music for theater, dance performances and exhibitions as well as soundtracks for movies with internationally acclaimed musicians.

The Shadow of a Doubt is a contemporary ballet piece featuring collaboration between choreographer Casey Lee Thorne and interactive lighting designer Mark Janes. Inspired by Rumi, this piece will use kinetic light technologies to explore the poles and nuances involved with moving through states of clarity, confusion, and the grey area in between.

Choreographer Casey Lee Thorne is a dedicated dancer, choreographer, and teacher interested in the process of self-discovery. Thorne received her classical ballet training from American Repertory Ballet's Princeton Ballet School in New Jersey. She trained at various summer intensives including the Virginia School of the Arts, Boston Ballet, The Julliard School, Alonzo King LINES Ballet School, Janice Garret and Dancers, the San Francisco Conservatory of Dance, and the Gaga intensive with Batsheva Dance Company in Israel.

Interactive Lighting Designer Mark Janes is a multidisciplinary creative with a professional background in engineering and design who has created works for companies such as Cirque du Soleil, GoPro, Acura, Audi and Procter & Gamble. His interests lie in exploring the collective human experience through the use of technology, interactivity, and art. Mark's work has been featured in music festivals and events such as Burning Man, The Big Chill, Summit Series (Discovery Channel), Lightning In A Bottle, and in creative works for artists such as Metric.

Images: <https://picasaweb.google.com/shaveandahaircutPR/WestWaveOctober5ODCPerformances>

More Information on the October 5 West Wave Presentation: www.westwavedance.org

What: West Wave Dance Festival Presents *WE HAVE THIS* curated by Jesse Hewit

When: Monday, October 21 @ 8pm

Where: Z Space, 450 Florida, SF; Box Office: 866.811.4111

Tickets: \$15 advance / \$20 at the door www.zspace.org

WE HAVE THIS from Jesse Hewit is an investigation into how one-on-one encounters between artists might create a kind of sustainability for the artists themselves, for the forms they are working in, and for the arduous political and socio-economic situation that artists often find themselves in.

WE HAVE THIS will feature five pairs of artists/dancers known for their unstinting commitment to what they do:

- Jesse Hewit and Sara Shelton Mann
- Monique Jenkinson and Liz Tenuto
- Keith Hennessy and Mica Sigourney
- Jose Navrette and Amara Tabor-Smith
- Laura Arrington and Brontez Parnell

Jesse Hewit is a dance artist who lives in San Francisco. His works and teaching have been seen in SF at Z Space, YBCA, CounterPULSE, and The Garage, and nationally and internationally at TBA Festival in Portland, Dock 11 in Berlin, and The Firkin Crane in Cork, Ireland. He has the honor of collaborating recently on works with Amara Tabor-Smith, Kieth Hennessy, Sara Shelton Mann, and his sister in madness, Laura Arrington. As curator, Jesse has created events for the National Queer Arts Festival, for THEOFFCENTER, and for Dancers' Group and CounterPULSE. He, along with Arrington, is a 2013 MAP Fund recipient, and his latest work, *ADULT*, was supported by residencies from Headlands Center for the Arts and Ponderosa Tanzland.

Images: <https://picasaweb.google.com/shaveandahaircutPR/WestWaveWEHAVETHISJesseHewit1021#>

More Information on the October 21 West Wave Presentation: westwavedance.org

What: West Wave Dance Festival Presents *Make.Believe* an evening of contemporary ballet curated by Amy Seiwert

When: Monday, October 28

Where: Z Space, 450 Florida, SF; Box Office: 866.811.4111

Tickets: \$15 advance / \$20 at the door www.zspace.org

Make.Believe sees contributing artists from a cross section of the Bay Area's dance community creating new works based on fairy tales and myths.

Choreographer Amy Seiwert serves as the Artistic Director and primary choreographer of Imagery. Her collaborations with artists of other disciplines and commitment to experimental work from a classical base make her a unique voice in the Bay Area dance community. She was named one of "25 to Watch" by *Dance Magazine*, one of the "Hot 20 under 40" by *7x7*, was honored with a "Goldie" award from the *San Francisco Bay Guardian*.

Dancer and dance creators include:

- Milissa Payne
- Robert Dekkers
- Maurya Kerr
- Julia Adam

Images: <https://picasaweb.google.com/shaveandahaircutPR/WestWaveMakeBelieveSeiwert>

About West Wave Dance Festival

West Wave Dance Festival is a choreography showcase presented in a shared program format in San Francisco each year. West Wave's mission is to provide veteran and newly-established choreographers of all cultures and disciplines, in and beyond the Bay area, an opportunity to present their work in a professional venue in order to experiment, develop, and refine their repertoires, and to build audiences without the burden of self-producing. West Wave was founded by Kathleen McCarthy and was directed by Joan Lazarus for many years. More information see westwavedance.org

West Wave is funded by the National Endowment for the Arts and the SF Grants for the Arts.

About SAFEhouse for the Performing Arts

SAFEhouse (Saving Art From Extinction), founded in 2003 and based at The Garage (715bryant.org) in San Francisco, is a non-profit organization working to incubate new performing artists through residencies, workshops, and performance opportunities. SAFEhouse produces SPF (summer performance festival), RAW (Resident Artists' Workshop), AIRspace Queer Performing Artists Residency Program, the West Wave Dance Festival and Central Market NOW. For more information, about SAFEhouse for the Performing Arts, call (415) 518-1517.