

VELOCITY

VELOCITY DANCE CENTER

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For Immediate Release

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Velocity Dance Center announces:

OUT THERE: A WEST COAST EXPERIMENTAL DANCE FESTIVAL

SEATTLE, WA – [JUL 9, 2025] – Strap in for for *OUT THERE*, Velocity's brand new whiplash of a dance festival October 2-12, 2025, featuring West Coast dance artists who are here to f*ck shit up, and show us what is OUT THERE.

OUT WHERE? Not OVER there. HERE! OUT HERE! On the West Coast, where experimentalism has always been a primary making material of the artists who live here, pushing our region towards a more connected, sassier, imaginative, expansive, expressive, engaging, intuitive, sweaty, and collaborative future!

This new festival has contemporary dance that is driving and aspirational, coupled with the fun and irreverence we need to get real with one another. Each of the two festival weekends features a different lineup: two different West Coast artists sharing an evening with two

30-minute works, framed by “pre-vibes” and “afterglows” featuring dj sets and time for audiences to connect, celebrate, and of course, dance. Seattle dance is a vibe y’all.

Of the festival, Velocity’s Creative Producer explained Velocity’s curatorial intention to launch dance festival that speaks to the current moment:

“As the millennial cynic that I am, I always ask myself what the hell I am doing here on this planet. Why does art matter? Why does dance matter? It sounds like a joke, but I always come back to dance as the final frontier—our bodies as the final frontier. With the rise of AI and diminishing of human rights across the globe, our bodies expressing themselves is one of the last vestiges of authentic human expression.

This is why we make art happen in our city, to preserve authentic human expression.”

—Shane Donohue, Velocity’s Creative Producer

Come see dances that are real and experimental, in a festival that is meaningful but also not overly precious, because after all, what else is there to do but dance?

ABOUT THIS YEAR’S ARTISTS

This year’s festival features four new works by:

WEEK 1 - OCT 2–4

maia melene durfé (SEA) //
Jobel Medina + Elliott “L” Sellers (LAX)

WEEK 2 - OCT 9–11

Jordan MacIntosh-Hougham +
Jesse Freitas (SEA) //
Vanessa Goodman (VAN) with
Tonga Collective (POL)

Each weekend these different pairings of artists share an evening show of their own 30 minute works, one from in town and one from out-of-town. Before and after each show there will be drinks and a DJ in the lobby for ultimate post art-viewing vibes.

ABOUT THIS YEAR’S WORKS

WEEK 1

The first week of the festival is a slow simmer against the backdrop of chaos, with artists exploring subtle connections amidst aggressive existentialism and dysregulation.

Come see dancers shine in what we do best; namely expressing the body-based and intangible. In this split-bill Seattle’s **maia melene durfé** and **Jobel Medina + Elliot Sellers** from LA each share meaning that is elegantly unresolved, performance that is virtuosic and deft, and compositions that highlight the body as potential for innovation.

durfé's **"a crisis of standing"** is a microscopic approach to choreographing the qualities of the body, examining

"failure, flexibility, and firmness in an ever-evolving, metastable form." – maia melene durfé

Medina + Sellers' work **"IMMDED IMMGEWD"** is chock full of movement between the performers and a range of musical instruments on stage.

"The piece is both athletic and explosive in its physicality, yet it delves deeply into the real and raw experiences of what it means to be human." – Jobel Medina

Join us as this opening week explores the dynamic possibilities of dance composition and their relationship to the political consequences of having a body.

WEEK 2

The second week of the festival takes a more cerebral approach to the body. With AI, where does the organic end and the artificial begin? And looking inward, is our chemistry our humanity? Both questions blur the boundaries between self and science.

Seattle's **Jordan MacIntosh-Hougham** and **Jesse Freitas**, and Vancouver's **Vanessa Goodman** in collaboration with **Tonga Collective** from Poland show us that our scientific explorations are still of us, and of the body, at the end of the day.

In **"ALAN,"** Jordan, a choreographer and dancer, and Jesse, a software engineer grapple with the ethics and humanity of AI by creating ALAN, a real life chat bot who is the perfect artistic collaborator, here to take the drudgery out of making art. ALAN is designed to "synthesize machine learning, genetic memory, and hallucination, all to meet the need of digitizing and streamlining humanity's need for creative expression."

"We are all born in the matrix, and the rest is drag." — ALAN (as in, the chat bot)

"BLOT" explores movement in relation to the bacteria in our bodies. Featuring two dancers, this work shows two people who are moving in a seemingly unrelated fashion while being integral to each other and the environment that surrounds them.

"From micro to macro, the performance addresses how bacteria influence these processes and connect us with the planet." —Vanessa Goodman

Bring your deep thinkers to explore the edges between science, the body and humanity, in this second weekend of dance.

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IN SUMMARY

Look to the skies and summon the mothership! You'll be absolutely wrecked (in a fun way) by the energy of West Coast Dance with shows, music, and great drinks. We would love to see you there so we can say together...

"Those dance shows were f*cking OUT THERE!"

IN PROCESS SHOWING: JUL 18, 2025 | 5:30–7PM | [RSVP](#)

SHOW DATES: WEEK 1, OCT 2–4, 2025

WEEK 2, OCT 9–11, 2025

DAILY SCHEDULE:

PREVIBRATIONS | 6PM – drinks + DJ | free to the public

OUT THERE DANCE SHOW | 7:30PM – two, thirty minute works by two West Coast movement artists

AFTERGLOW | 8:30PM – a party featuring drinks, DJ for dancing and post show conversation | free to the public

LOCATION: 12th Ave Arts | 1620 12th Ave

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

maia melene d'urfé is a Seattle dancer and choreographer who creates movement as a genuine expression of their sensations, convictions, fears, and musings. They hold a BFA in dance from Cornish College of the Arts and have traveled nationally and internationally to train with renowned conservatories, dancers, and companies. They dance and train with the local contemporary dance, Breaking, and House communities and have worked with companies and choreographers zoe | juniper, Undercurrent, Cameo Lethem, Elia Mrak, Tariq Mitri and Beth Twigs. Their choreography has been presented internationally at Festival Internacional de Danza Contemporanea de Mexico (CDMX), and (upcoming, 2025) Quinzena de Dança de Almada (Lisbon, PT), nationally at ADF (Durham, NC), Estrogenius Dance Festival (New York, NY) and Bates Dance Festival (Lewiston, ME), and locally in Seattle, through Northwest Film Forum, 12 Minutes Max, Velocity Dance Center The Hybrid Lab - curated by Amy O'Neal, eXit Space, and Seattle International Dance Festival. In addition, they have produced three dance and mixed media events Liminal, Ode, and ode • K'an, presenting their own work as well as creations by other local artists. They find their voice through quality of movement, their language through physical facility, and flow through

melody and rhythm, all in service of investigating facets of the human condition and how we change and respond to difference and instability within the self, interpersonal relationships, and wider culture.

Jobel Medina (b. 1990, Pasig City, Philippines) is a Filipino-American dancer and choreographer based in Los Angeles.

His choreographic practice engages with the inherent contradictions between commercial and experimental modes of performance, negotiating a dynamic space where spectacle intersects with subtlety. His work explores the productive tension between explosive physicality and nuanced restraint, positioning contradiction as a generative force within his creative process.

His work spans the United States and France, and he has collaborated with renowned artists such as Tino Sehgal, Benjamin Millepied, Dimitri Chamblas, Alex Prager, Kim Gordon, Simon McBurney, Shahar Binyamini, Danielle Agami, and Tom Weinberger.

Medina's choreography has been presented at leading institutions including The Broad Museum (Los Angeles), the Museum of Contemporary Art (Los Angeles), the Musée d'Orsay (Paris), and the Institute of Contemporary Art (Los Angeles).

He holds a Master of Fine Arts from the California Institute of the Arts and has taught at various universities across the United States.

Elliott "L" Sellers is a director, producer, writer, cinematographer, editor, drummer and multi-instrumentalist based in Los Angeles. Sellers has released experimental albums like 'Glasswerx' with Chris 'Mid-Air' Harbach, made solely with sounds of glass. Ridley Scott hand selected "DREAMS" by Zhu+NERO as apart of Saatchi + Saatchi's new directors showcase at Cannes Lions. Sellers has directed work for artists such as Raphael Saadiq, Broken Bells, John Legend, Terrace Martin, Simone Biles, Tame Impala, Willow Smith, Lil Miquela, Young Thug, Gunna, Lil baby, 2-Chains, Lil Jon, Offset, Zhu, Ty Dolla \$ign, Nico Muhly, Yuna, Lil Wayne, and Portugal the Man.

Jordan MacIntosh-Hougham (they/them) holds a BA from Bennington College, and is currently based in Seattle. Jordan has performed for artists such as Kota Yamazaki, Dana Reitz, Heather Kravas, Morgan Thorson, Drama Tops, and Alice Gosti. They have participated in artist residencies at EMPAC, Velocity Dance Center and Studio Current, and had their work curated by On the Boards, Velocity Dance Center, WHYTEBERG, and Shaun Keylock Company. Coming from a dance and somatics background, Jordan creates performance works that amplify video and telecommunication mediums as queer, transhuman collaborators.

Jesse Freitas (he/him) is a software engineer based in Seattle with an MS from the University of Washington, and a background in computational linguistics. He is part of a

team that builds AI powered writing tools responsibly that help people be more clear, concise, and inclusive. Jesse has worked in the industry for seven years and is passionate about improving the way we interact with each other through technology including how we present ourselves authentically and communicate online.

Vanessa Goodman acknowledges that she lives, works, and creates on the ancestral and unceded territories of the Coast Salish peoples, including the Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), Stó:lō, Səl̓íl̓wəṭaʔ/Selilwíl̓h (Tsleil-Waututh), and xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam) Nations. She holds a Bachelor of Fine Arts from Simon Fraser University and is the artistic director of Action at a Distance Dance Society. She is drawn to art that carries meaning beyond aesthetics, using choreography as a means to explore liminal expressions within the human condition. Her choreographic practice weaves together generative movement and sonic embodiment to create immersive performative environments. Through her work, she seeks to cultivate intimacy between the body and its surroundings, challenging conventional forms of performative hierarchy through collaborative approaches. She has received several awards and honours, including The Iris Garland Emerging Choreographer Award (2013), The Yulanda M. Faris Scholarship (2017/18), The Chrystal Dance Prize (2019 & 2024), the Schultz Endowment from the Banff Centre for Arts and Creativity (2019), The Isadora Award (2025) and participation in the "Space to Fail" program (2019/20) through Hyde Productions (NZ), Critical Path (AU), and The Dance Centre (CA). Longstanding collaborations include "Graveyards and Gardens" with Caroline Shaw, "BLOT" with Simona Deaconescu, and multiple works with Loscil (Scott Morgan), Brady Marks, and James Proudfoot. Her work has toured Canada, the United States, Europe, and South America. www.actionatadistance.ca

ABOUT VELOCITY

Velocity is Seattle's center dedicated to contemporary dance, and an essential incubator for new dance in our region. With artist-driven, community-responsive programming, Velocity provides vital resources and advocacy for one of the most active dance communities in the nation. Velocity's programming includes classes, workshops, residencies, performances, discussions, and the Seattle Festival of Dance + Improvisation.

Velocity advances contemporary dance and movement-based art by fostering the creative explorations of artists and audiences through an invested commitment to education, creation, performance, inquiry, community participation, and inter/national exchange.

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