

BATTERY DANCE COMPANY



Jonathan Hollander (Resident Choreographer and Artistic Director) founded Battery Dance Company in 1976 and established the Company's Downtown Dance Festival in 1982. He was a Fulbright Lecturer in India in 1992, and founded the Indo-American Arts Council in New York in 1998. He began working in Germany in 2006 with the Dancing for the Blue House Project in Breisach and Freiburg. The following summer, he directed *Dancing to Connect* in Freiburg, and in 2008, *Dancing to Connect* in Berlin, Stuttgart and Freiburg. He has choreographed over 75 works that BDC has presented throughout the U.S., Europe, Asia, Middle East, North Africa and Australia. Hollander has played a leadership role in the dance world internationally,

building coalitions to support bilateral dialogue between the U.S. and many countries around the world. He is also a dedicated arts advocate for the Lower Manhattan community. His awards include the Silver Mask of the Silesian Dance Theater in Poland, Encore Award from the Arts & Business Council and Fellowships from the National Endowment for the Arts. He has served as a judge of the International Choreography Competition in Poland, and keynote speaker at the India Foundation for the Arts and Ford Foundation's Conference on Arts Education in India. Recent performance highlights have included the First International Dance Festival in Beijing; 10th Annual METU Dance Festival in Ankara, Turkey; Musical Comedy Theater in Baku, Azerbaijan; Gangnam District Hall in Seoul, S. Korea; National Cultural Hall in Vientiane, Laos; Opera House, Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia; and two performances in Rangoon, Burma, the first by an American Dance Company in over 3 decades.



Barry Steele, (Production Designer) For two decades, Barry Steele has created the lighting and scenic designs for opera, dance, and music productions in the United States, Europe, and Asia including Battery Dance Company's national tours of India, Finland, Portugal, Vietnam, Hungary, Jordan and *Dances for the Blue House* in Germany. Other important engagements include San Francisco Opera Center, Lucinda Childs Dance Company, Portland Opera, Ballet Stars of Moscow, Nantes Opera, and Nai-Ni Chen Dance Company. He has lit fifty productions as Resident Lighting Designer for Sarasota Opera, Des Moines Metro Opera, and New Jersey Opera Theatre. Additionally his video projected

environments are in demand for new opera productions from *Lost Highway* to *Der Zauberflöte* with many more in development. Music ensembles Mr. Steele has illuminated include the Bang on a Can All Stars, Queen Esther Marrow and the Harlem Gospel Singers, So Percussion, Alarm Will Sound, the pop noir group Melomane, and DJ Spooky in performances in New York's Symphony Space, Amsterdam's Grachtenfestival, Berlin's

Tempodrom, and Vienna's Volkstheater. Barry Steele has supported Battery Dance Company's arts education residencies in the U.S. and overseas as a teacher, mentor and technical advisor.



Tadej Brdnik (dancer/teaching artist) is a dancer, choreographer, educator and program director. He began his professional dance career in Slovenia. Since moving to New York in 1993, he has performed with Mikhail Baryshnikov's White Oak Dance Project, theater director Robert Wilson as well as in works of Maurice Béjart, Lucinda Childs, Yvonne Rainer, Susan Stroman and others. He is a principal dancer with the Martha Graham Dance Company (since 1996) and began his association with Battery Dance Company in 1998. Tadej's choreography, "*God is playing golf*", won a Benetton Dance Award, and was taped for Slovenian National TV. He participated in Dancing to Connect in 2007 in Freiburg and toured Asia with Battery Dance Company in 2008. He is a member of the faculty at the

Martha Graham School of Contemporary Dance and has been a Battery Dance Company teaching artist in the New York City public schools.



Robin Cantrell (dancer/teaching artist) is a native of St. Paul, Minnesota and attended the University of Utah on a Willem F. Christensen scholarship and received a B.F.A. in Ballet performance. Robin has been a member of City Ballet of San Diego and several companies in New York. Since joining Battery Dance Company in 2008, Robin has had the opportunity to combine her love of performing and teaching with her fascination for learning about other cultures. Over the past two years she has performed and taught ballet and modern dance technique in Turkey, Azerbaijan, South Korea, Laos, Burma, Taiwan, Mongolia, and China. She has participated in several Dancing to Connect programs in Germany, and with inner city youth at Millenium High School in NYC. She is co-director of Trans-continental

Dance Collaborative; a company that produces site specific dance films world wide, and is sponsored by Dance Films Association.



Bafana Solomon Matea (dancer/teaching artist) made his Battery Dance Company debut during the 2004 Hungary and Poland Tour. He was born in Mamelodi, South Africa and is a Cecchetti Advanced Dance Graduate of the Pro Alphen Art School in Pretoria and the recipient of the Alvin Ailey South African Dance Fellowship. His previous company affiliations have been with Elisa Monte Dance and Ballet Hispanico. With Battery Dance Company, he has taught and performed around the world. This is Bafana's third year as a Dancing to Connect Teaching Artist in Germany.



Carmen Nicole (dancer/teaching artist) began her dance training in Chicago, Illinois where she studied at Ruth Page School of Ballet and as a scholarship student at Lou Conte Studio and performed with several companies. In New York she has danced with many independent choreographers and companies and is a Feldenkrais Practitioner, Pilates and Yoga Instructor, Dance and Creative Movement Teacher and Holistic Nutritional Counselor. She has been on faculty at Neighborhood Playhouse, Steps on Broadway, and among others. As a member of Battery Dance Company, she has had the opportunity to teach master classes, lead Dancing to Connect residencies and perform in New York, Europe and Asia.



Sean Scantlebury (dancer/teaching artist), a member of Battery Dance Company since 2003, is a native of Barbados. He moved to New York City as a child and at the age of 8 was invited to study at the New York City Public School for Dance. He became a member of Ballet Tech, performing in the Company's Joyce Theater seasons in New York for 10 years. His first performance with Battery Dance Company was at the European Conference on Tolerance in Kraków, Poland. He has since toured with Battery Dance to 21 countries including Germany where he has been a teaching artist for every of the Company's projects since 2006. Sean is Battery Dance's hip-hop specialist and has taught workshops in hip-hop in all of the countries the company

has visited, as well as in New York City at Millennium High School, Washington Irving High School and elementary and middle schools



Mayuna Shimizu (dancer/teaching artist) a native of Fukushima, Japan, moved to New York in 1998 and trained at Joffrey Ballet School. Soon after, she founded Blue Muse Dance. She has performed with several companies in New York and has been associated with Battery Dance Company since 2004, presenting her choreography at BDC's Downtown Dance Festival, and in 2006, when she joined BDC as a guest artist in its Japanese debut performance at International House in Tokyo. Mayuna made her debut as a Battery Dance Company member in the summer '07 European Tour and has since toured the Middle East, Asia and Europe

with the Company. She has participated in the 2007 and 2008 Dancing to Connect projects in Germany.

DRASTIC ACTION

Aviva Geismar (artistic director, Drastic Action) partnered with Jonathan Hollander and Battery Dance Company for the 2006 Dances for the Blue House as well as Dancing to Connect projects in Germany from 2007 forward. Her dances have been presented by many well-known venues in North America including Jacob's Pillow's Inside/Out series, the Millennium Stage at The Kennedy Center, Dance Theater Workshop, and Symphony Space. In 2004 she was featured in Dance Magazine's "25 to Watch". Her dances have been commissioned by Dancing in the Streets, The University of Maryland, Rutgers University and James Madison University. She was an artist-in-residence at HERE Arts Center and at the Djerassi Resident Artists Program. Aviva holds a BFA from NYU's Tisch School of the Arts and an MFA from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee.



Sophie Bortolussi (dancer/teaching artist) is a native of France where she started her training in modern, contemporary and improvisational dance. In 2002, Sophie received a grant from the French Ministry Of Culture and Communication and a full scholarship from The Martha Graham Center and moved to New York. Since then she has performed with Martha Clarke as a principal dancer in "Garden of Earthly Delights ", Martha Graham Dance Company, Nu Dance Theater (of which she is also Artistic Associate) and AMDaT. Sophie is also practicing Yoga, Butoh, Flamenco and Physical Theater. She holds a degree in Philosophy from Paris University. This is her fourth Dancing to Connect

project in Germany.



Alessandra Larson (dancer/teaching artist) is an independent performer, producer, educator and publicity manager for dance artists in New York City. She holds degrees in dance and psychology, and is studying conflict resolution at Columbia University. Alessandra has danced with Aviva Geismar/Drastic Action since 2005 and has been a teaching artist for Dancing to Connect since 2007.



Cara Angela Liguori (dancer/teaching artist) NYC native graduated with a BA in Dance from Connecticut College in 2005. She has studied with Paul Taylor Dance Company, Doug Varone & Dancers, and at the Impulstanz Festival and Workshops 2008 with ROSAS and The Forsythe Company. Cara has performed with Heidi Latsky Dance, Stefanie Nelson Dance Group, DendyDance Theater, and Propel-her Dance Collective, of which she is a co-founder. Her choreography has been presented by the Envision Chamber Orchestra and New York City FRINGE Festival. This is Cara's second Dancing to Connect project in Germany.



Kathy Wasik (dancer/teaching artist) is a native of South Orange, NJ, where she received her early training. She attended the Joffrey Ballet School in New York City throughout high school. Kathy continued on to Vassar College, where she received her BA in mathematics in 2004. She has worked with Drastic Action/Aviva Geismar, Tommy Noonan, and Regina Nejman & Company. She was a teaching artist with Dancing to Connect in Germany last year.