

nichole canuso dance company

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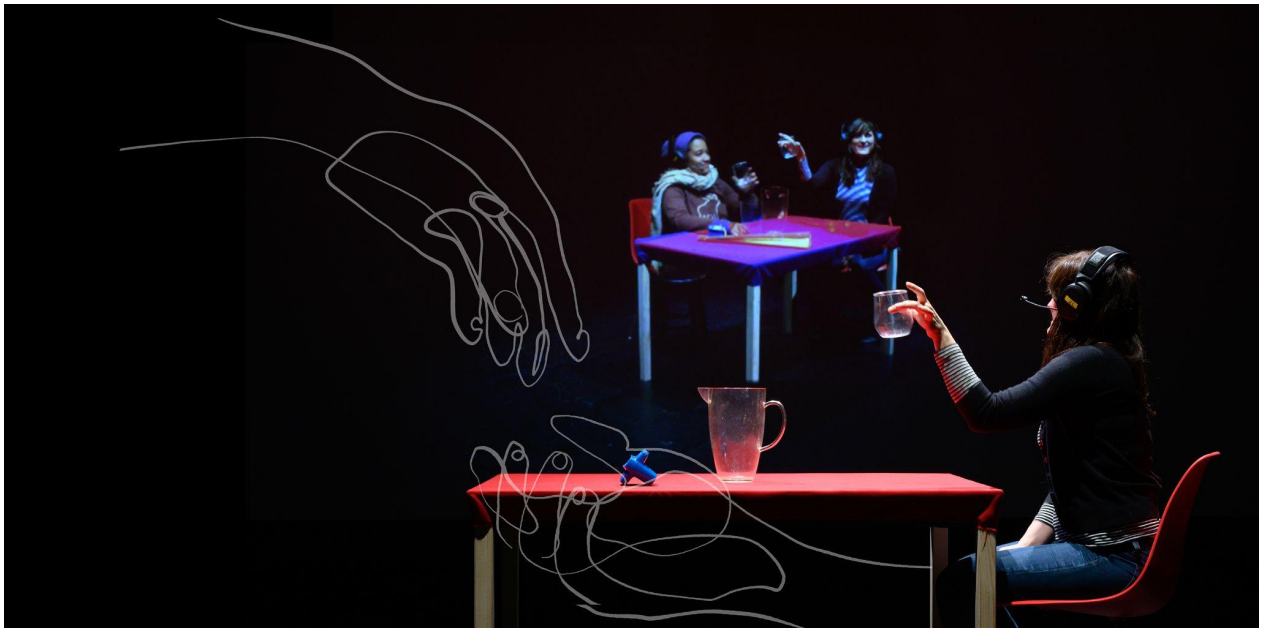
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Nichole Canuso Dance Company Announces

The Premiere of
Being/With

Presented by FringeArts at the Philadelphia Fringe Festival



MEDIA TOOLS FOR DOWNLOAD: <http://bit.ly/3tm4Bzo>

PHILADELPHIA – *Being/With*, a new piece by Nichole Canuso Dance Company and curated and presented by FringeArts, is a performance installation that aims to find new ways of connecting communities and individuals through a coordinated personalized experience in geographically separate spaces. For its Philadelphia World Premiere, the intimate participatory performance—which explores separation, connection, and the power of listening—will be simultaneously located in South Philadelphia’s Trinity Church (2300 S 18th St., Philadelphia) and West Philadelphia’s Pearlstein Gallery (3401 Filbert St., Philadelphia) at Drexel University, Sept 9 - Oct 2. Tickets available via the [Philadelphia Fringe](#).

Being/With is an intimate and expansive work that brings people together, two at a time, in a tender, immersive experience. Designed by Nichole Canuso alongside an accomplished team of video, audio and scenic designers, the project also includes community workshops co-developed with Spiral Q's Jennifer Turnbull, a community-led story archive project designed by Canuso, Turnbull and Sadah Espii Proctor, and a gallery installation featuring interviews from local residents and commissioned works by local visual artists.

In this individual experience, two strangers connect digitally in a tender and deeply personal exchange across geographies. *Being/With* is an exploration of distance and proximity; absence and presence in a real and virtual environment that invites them to share stories and explore movement together in a guided artistic encounter. *Being/With* is fueled and informed by Canuso's parallel interests in immersive performance forms, interactive media and oral history interview practice. *Being/With* marks the third major collaboration between choreographer/performer Canuso and video designer Pablo N. Molina, the first being *TAKES* (2010), a duet between Canuso and Dito VanReigersberg, followed by *Pandæmonium* (2016) a trio performed by Canuso, Geoff Sobelle and musician Xander Duell.

Canuso and her Philadelphia-based dance company are delighted to present this work after 2 years of community workshops, neighborhood interviews and the successful run of *Being/With: Home*, a quarantine-adapted expression that was curated and presented by the Philadelphia Fringe in 2020 and went on to tour internationally. *American Theatre Magazine's* Alix Rosenfeld described *Being/With: Home* it as: "Complex and rich...With every direction from the audio guide, I felt layers of myself peel back to be shared...and the connection I felt was as potent as it would be had we been in my kitchen dancing together."

Canuso, a lauded leader in the field of Dance and Technology and immersive performance forms is a native Philadelphian and longtime favorite in the FringeArts festival since its inception, when Canuso's solo *Bored on a Sunday* premiered in the inaugural Fringe Festival in 1997. She has since premiered over 15 full length works in the Festival and performed in countless performances, community events and late-night cabarets. Philly FringeArts Artistic Producer Zach Blackwood notes:

"Over the course of our long relationship with Nichole Canuso Dance Company, our audiences have had the opportunity to follow the evolution of Nichole's practice and its ambitions to blur and recontextualize traditional orientations between artists and audiences. Nichole tenderly leverages complicated media technology to mine machines for new forms of community. Being/With represents the fullest realization of that ambition, building on impulses from both Pandæmonium and The Garden of Forking Paths to produce a distinct and uncanny encounter."

Being/With premieres Sept 9 - Oct 2. Gallery, performance details and tickets are available via the [Philadelphia Fringe](#).

COVID precautions: The audience participants will experience ***Being/With*** as a guided solo encounter and will not come into direct contact with any other individuals. All creators, guides and event staff will be masked and fully vaccinated, and maintain social distancing. The same will be required of participants

FULL CREDITS

Written and Directed by Nichole Canuso in collaboration with Pablo N. Molina (Video and Lighting Designer/Software Architect), Jesse Garrison (Co-Video Designer and Software Developer), Sadah Espii Proctor, (Composer/Sound Designer), Elizabeth Dean (Sound and Systems Engineer), Tojo Rasedoara (Assistant Sound Designer), Adiah Hicks (Assistant Programmer), Christopher Ash (Scenic Designer), Emily Schuman (Props Designer), Tenara Calem (Audience Engagement Liaison), Jennifer Turnbull (Workshop Facilitator and Community Outreach Facilitator), Rebecca Kanach (Costume Designer), Nic Labadie Bartz (Production Stage Manager), Payton Smith and Brandon Ehrenreich (Stage Managers), Robin Stamey (Production Manager), Peter Smith (Technical Director), Colin Sass (Head Electrician), Meredith Boggia (Producer), Suzanne Snider (Oral History Interview Consultant), Sasha Kostyrko (Audience Communications) and Annie Wilson, Lillian Ransijn, Izzy Sazak, Rhonda Moore, Jennifer Kidwell (Performer/Guides).

Community Interviewees: Liljana Alimadhi, D'Wayne Drummond, Victoria Ellis, Linda Furia, Cass Green, Bruno Melone, Vernoca Michael, Brother Rahim Muhammad, Derrick Pratt, Jade Rota, Terri Shockley.

FRINGE FESTIVAL RUN DETAILS

September 9th - October 2nd

Performances (ticket required)

Mondays: 1:30, 2:15, 3:00, 3:45 / 5:45, 6:30, 7:15
Tuesdays: 1:30, 2:15, 3:00, 3:45 / 5:45, 6:30, 7:15
Wednesdays: 11:00, 11:45, 12:30, 1:15
Thursdays: 1:30, 2:15, 3:00, 3:45 / 5:45, 6:30, 7:15
Fridays: 1:30, 2:15, 3:00, 3:45 / 5:45, 6:30, 7:15, 8:00, 8:45
Saturdays: 1:30, 2:15, 3:00, 3:45 / 5:45, 6:30, 7:15

Gallery hours (no ticket required)

The gallery spaces at both venues will be freely open to the public during the following hours:

Mondays: 1:30-8pm
Tuesdays: 1:30-8pm
Wednesdays: 11am-2pm
Thursdays: 1:30-8pm
Fridays: 1:30-9:30pm
Saturdays: 1:30-8pm

MEDIA CONTACT:

NCDC: Adriane Dalton, adriane@nicholecanusodance.org
More on NCDC: nicholecanusodance.org
Philadelphia Fringe: Bryan Buttler bryan@bryanbuttlermediarelations.com
Ticket Link: [Philadelphia Fringe](http://PhiladelphiaFringe.com)

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

Nichole Canuso, artistic director of Nichole Canuso Dance Company, is interested in the stories we tell ourselves and the stories we tell other people. This artistic obsession manifests in performances that explore presence and absence, participation and spectacle. She is committed to long-term development processes that enable relationship-building with artistic collaborators, community partners and audiences. Together with her collaborative teams she designs immersive worlds for audience members to inhabit. For the past two decades, sitting at the crossroads of movement, visual art, and theater, Canuso's choreographic projects have been presented nationally (New York Live Arts (NYC), American Repertory Theater (MA), Los Angeles Performance Projects (CA), Velocity (WA), HERE (NYC), The International Festival for Art and Ideas (CT), among others) and internationally (Hungary, Mexico, UK and others). Choreographic residencies include the Maggie Allessee National Center for Choreography (FL), MacDowell (NH), Millay Colony for the Arts (NY), NCCAkron (OH), Hambidge Center for Creative Arts and Sciences (GA) and Headlands (CA). She has received support for her choreographic work from a wide range of champions, including The National Endowment for the Arts, New England Foundation for the Arts, National Dance Projects Funding, The Knight Foundation, a Bessie Shoenberg First Light Commission, The Wyncote Foundation, The William Penn Foundation, the Leeway Foundation, the Independence Foundation, The Pew Center for Arts and Heritage, the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts, the Philadelphia Cultural Fund, the Ellen Foreman Memorial. Canuso has been commissioned to create new work for The American Philosophical Society Museum, Axis Dance Company, Drexel University, Dickinson College, Bryn Mawr College and The Philadelphia Museum of Art. Choreography for theater productions includes Arden Theater Company, Theatre Exile, Theater Horizon and most recently The Institute on Disabilities' production of *A Fierce Kind of Love*. She is a faculty member of the MFA program at University of the Arts /Pig Iron School for Advanced Performance Training (APT). She is a 2017 Pew Fellow and a 2021 New York Stage and Film NEXUS fellow. nicholecanusodance.org

Pablo N. Molina is a video, lighting and interactive media artist who employs emerging technologies such as realtime processing, mixed/extended reality (MR/XR), and projection mapping to devise groundbreaking immersive environments. While his practice is firmly rooted in experimental performance, Molina also designs architectural installations, large scale rock concerts, and commercial entertainment, such as the recent Paramore and Marvel Universe Live arena tours. He originated the video design for the Alex Timber directed musical *Rocky* in Hamburg Germany and collaborated with video designer Dan Scully on the Tony award winning Broadway production. As a core member of Early Morning Opera, Molina is responsible for the visual design and custom interactive software for *ABACUS*, *Holoscenes*, and *The Institute of Memory (TIME)*. He also collaborated with Nichole Canuso and Lars Jan on the creation of *TAKES* and *Pandæmonium*. Molina helped establish the Interactive Media for Performance MFA at CalArts, where he has served on the faculty for nine years. He currently teaches workshops and master classes on emerging trends in video design and software development for the stage as both a guest artist and panelist at conferences and trade shows.

Sadah Espii Proctor (sound design and original composition) is a VR director and sound/media designer for theatre and immersive experiences, who was named by *American Theatre* magazine as one of "6 Theatre Artists to Know" for multimedia storytelling. Her work encompasses global stories of women, social issues, and the African Diaspora, often with an Afrofuturist/Cyberpunk lens. Her original work is also influenced by gothic horror, anime, and visual kei. She received her MFA in Performance and Interactive Arts from Brooklyn College and is a proud alumna of Virginia Tech. Proctor's work lies at the intersection of art, technology, and community. Proctor works regularly throughout New York City and across the country as a sound and video designer in places like JACK, Brooklyn Museum, Pioneer Works, Portland Stage, Passage Theatre, August Wilson African American Cultural Center, and La MaMa. She's

received developmental support for her work as a Member of NEW INC through the Kate Spade Fellowship, Creative to Founder Lab at NY Media Center, Digital Art Resident at Con Artist Collective, Researcher-in-Residence at Virginia Tech's Spatial Music Workshop, and XR Lab Fellow at NYU Tandon/Timewave Festival. She's also given back as a mentor at institutions such as #BUILTBYGIRLS, Elgin Community College, MIT, and NYU.

Christopher Ash is a Philadelphia-based Designer and Filmmaker. His work has been seen in 13 countries and been recognized for 15 awards. Ash is equally at home designing projections, scenery or lighting for theatre, opera, and dance as well as direction and cinematography for film. His opera designs have been seen at The Met, Lyric Opera of Chicago, Canadian Opera, and Houston Grand Opera, and his Broadway credits include: *Sunday in the Park with George* (starring Jake Gyllenhaal), *Saint Joan*, *Network*, *The Prince of Broadway*, *the Crucible*, and *On The Town*. Christopher holds an MFA in design from the Yale School of Drama.

Rhonda Moore is a dancer, performance artist, educator and a founding member of the Bill T. Jones/Arnie Zane Dance Company. Moore has danced with Jamie Cunningham's ACME Dance Company and began her dance career with intensive training in Dunham technique, performing with the Akosua Afro-Haitian Dance & Drum Troupe. Currently a teaching artist for the award-winning Pierre Dulaine's Dancing Classrooms Program, Moore previously served as Choral Director for the Singing City-in-the-Schools Program. Moore's extensive international and domestic portfolios include conducting professional sound and movement workshops; creating site-specific interdisciplinary installations that integrate sound, movement and visual art through shared experience collaborative elaboration; teacher-specific professional development laboratories geared to generate curriculum development with a focused, integral inclusion of visual art, design, movement; and music and vocal concerts as jazz soloist in small combos as well as with chamber and full orchestral formations. She holds a BFA from SUNY Purchase, a diploma in classical piano performance from Hoff-Barthelson Music School in Scarsdale, NY, and full, permanent certification in Italian as a second language, conferred by the Foreign University of at Sienna, Italy. Ms. Moore serves as adjunct professor, dance faculty at Boyer College of Music and Dance, teaching a variety of courses spanning from dance composition to the study of the development of jazz music and dance in the United States.

Jennifer Kidwell is a performing artist. Recent projects include *Underground Railroad Game* (2017 Obie Award for Best New American Theatre Work, 2018 Edinburgh Fringe First Award), *Home* (Geoff Sobelle), *Demolishing Everything with Amazing Speed* (Dan Hurlin), *I Understand Everything Better* (David Neumann/advanced beginner group, 2015 Bessie Award for Outstanding Production), *Antigone* (The Wilma Theater), *Fire Burns Hot: Little Reno!*, *I Promised Myself to Live Faster* and *99 Break-Ups* (Pig Iron Theatre Company), *Dick's Last Stand* (Whitney Biennial 2014, as Donelle Woolford), *Zinnias: the Life of Clementine Hunter* (Robert Wilson/Toshi Reagon/Dr. Bernice Johnson Reagon). Projects in development – *A Hard Time* (PITC), *TABLE* with Thomas Graves & the Rude Mechs and Nichole Canuso's *The Octopus and the Interview*. Company member, PITC and Lightning Rod Special, Wilma Theater Associated Artist, co-founder of JACK. Her writing has been published in movement research *Performance Journal* #45 and at hyperallergic.com. 2013 TCG/Fox Resident Actor Fellowship (with PITC), 2015 Leeway Foundation Art & Change Grant, 2016 Pew Fellow, 2017 Independence Fellowship.

Annie Wilson is a choreographer and performer whose work intertwines experimental dance, humor, feminist practice, and audience interaction to, as she says, "enliven that which is actively repressed in public life: grief, empathy, emotional honesty, and the experience — instead of appearance — of the female body." Investigating what she describes as "public vulnerability and intimacy," Wilson is interested in expanding the definition of dance and drawing from different realms of culture, such as standup comedy, burlesque, viral videos, and DJ remixes.

Wilson's most recent work is *At Home with the Humorless Bastard* (2016), an exploration of personal and collective grief that shifts the audience's perspective by bringing them onstage and casting them in a story. With choreographer Susan Rethorst, Wilson curated and produced the weeklong The Remix Festival (2014), bringing together choreographers from around the country to "remix" one another's dances. Wilson was a 2014 Independence Foundation Fellowship recipient, and is currently an "incubated artist" at Headlong and a writer for *Thinking Dance*. She holds a BFA in modern dance performance from the University of the Arts. She is a 2017 Pew Fellow.

Jennifer Turnbull is *Being/With's* workshop co-facilitator and audience engagement coordinator. She is co-director of Spiral Q with Liza Goodell where they unleash the power of art to connect people to their collective creative force for change. She has worked with education and community-based programs since 2008 as teaching artist, community liaison, and performing artist. Turnbull balances a range of organizational, artistic, teaching, and community relations experience to her work at Spiral Q. With training in Ballet, Jazz, Contemporary, Hip-Hop and West African dance, Turnbull received a BA from Tufts University in 2002 and has taught at Dance Center of Westchester, NY, at the Barnes Foundation and independently, developing movement curriculum that weaves academic subject matter and sustainability into the bodies of her students. Along with her NCDC involvement, Turnbull currently collaborates within two mixed media and discipline performance-collectives: BareTeeth and SWARM.

FUNDING / COMMISSIONING PARTNERS

Being/With has been developed with support from the New England Foundation for the Arts, National Dance Projects Award, The Pew Center for Arts & Heritage, A William Penn New Audiences / New Places grant, The Wyncote Foundation and support from our presenting partner, FringeArts and our venue partners at Trinity Church and Drexel University. Development residencies include MacDowell (NH), Bryn Mawr College (PA) and Hambidge Center for Creative Arts and Sciences (GA). Production residency funded by the New England Foundation for the Arts' National Dance Project, with funding from The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation.

ABOUT PHILADELPHIA FRINGE FESTIVAL

The Philadelphia Fringe Festival is an annual 4-week-long, city-wide celebration of innovation and creativity in contemporary performance. Each September, the Festival explodes into every nook and cranny of Philadelphia, with more than 1,000 artistically daring performances, including national and international performances curated by FringeArts, and works produced by hundreds of independent artists. 2021 marks the 25th annual Fringe Festival, which runs September 9—October 3. For more information, visit [FringeArts.com/2021FringeFestival](https://www.fringearts.com/2021FringeFestival). FringeArts is located at 140 N. Columbus Blvd. (at Race St.), Philadelphia, PA 19106. 215.413.9006