New Dance Alliance Celebrates the
30th Anniversary Season of the
Performance Mix Festival
June 6–11, 2016 at Abrons Arts Center

Updated: May 31, 2016 **— New Dance Alliance** is pleased to announce the lineup for the 30th annual **Performance Mix Festival**, **June 6–11, 2016**. "The most elaborate festival of the unpredictable" (*The New York Times*), the 2016 festival will feature performances by 40 innovative artists in 13 distinct events over six days. Representing highlights from the past three decades of artists, the eclectic program includes experimental dance, improvisation, performance art, theater, and interdisciplinary works, as well as Performance Mix's annual community breakfast, artist talks, and surprises.

For thirty years the Performance Mix Festival has provided a unique platform for experimentation and creative risk-taking by both emerging and established artists. For this special season Performance Mix founder and curator **Karen Bernard** brings the festival back to its first venue, **Henry Street Settlement/Abrons Arts Center**, where it all started in 1986. Bernard has also invited five guest curators to join her this season. **Miriam Ginestier**, director of Studio 303 in Montreal, has curated the event ***EDGY NYC + MTL***, an evening of wild feminist performance and video by artists from New York City and Montreal. Other distinguished curators include **David Garland** (music), **Roxane Butterfly** (tap), and **Tim O'Donnell** and **Sarah Young** (Contact Improvisation), all of whom have curated events for the program ***Three Genres of Improvisation***.

A schedule of performances and events follows. Opening night reception following the 8pm performance on June 6. Closing night party on June 11.

Tickets are $20 (or free admission where indicated) and can be purchased online at www.abronsartscenter.org or by calling 212-352-3101.

Abrons Arts Center is located at 466 Grand Street (at Pitt Street) in Manhattan. Directions: F, J, M, or Z train to Delancey/Essex; B or D train to Grand Street.

For more information about the festival, visit: www.newdancealliance.org/performance-mix-festival.

Schedule of Performances and Events

Monday, June 6, at 7pm
Like a Nova star: three totally different trajectories—each exploding brilliantly away from the postmodern center.

LAVA, *Feminist Forest Training Grounds*
Clarinda Mac Low, *Make-a-dance* (work in progress)
Yasuko Yokoshi, *BELL Solo Unplugged*

Abrons/Experimental Theater
Tickets: $20

LAVA is known for explosive choreographic language, and boundary-pushing, postmodern movement incorporating dance, acrobatics, live music, theater, and visual art. Its latest work, ***Feminist Forest Training Grounds,*** maps an enchanted forest of physical training for a feminist future, incorporating acrobatics as a metaphor for personal strength, balance, and community support.

In ***Make-a-dance*** **Clarinda Mac Low** and **Carolyn Hall** create a participatory algorithm for dance making. They supply the parts, the audience supplies the sequence and timing, and the resulting dance surprises everybody. With her roots in dance and molecular biology, Mac Low's participatory performance installations investigate social constructs and corporeal experience.

Kyoto- and New York City-based choreographer **Yasuko Yokoshi** entwines cultures and personal insights to create radical performance works. Yokoshi will perform ***BELL Solo Unplugged***, a solo version of her highly acclaimed 2013 work *BELL,* a contemporary reimagining of the classical Japanese dance *Kyoganoko Musume Dojyoji (A Maiden and a Bell at the Dojgoji Temple)*.

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Monday, June 6, at 8pm and Tuesday, June 7, at 8pm
It's time for RECESS: recharge your batteries and combat the symptoms of neoliberal fatigue!

Michael Helland, *RECESS: Dance of Light*

Abrons/Underground Theater
Tickets: $20

Created and performed by **Michael Helland**, *RECESS: The Ritual Experience Concept Event Spa Show* is a site-responsive installation and situation for performance, offering a restorative, contemplative retreat from the outside world. This special edition of the *Dance of Light* ceremonial hour centers on a minimalist serpentine dance, a live sculpture where mind and body meet in a feat of mutual concentration, seeking to help sharpen and re-enchant our centers of perception.

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Tuesday, June 7, at 7pm
Path breakers create ever-evolving worlds of performance.

Michael Freeman, *It's not that I have anything against living…*
Headlong and The Riot Group, *Magic Wand*
James & Jen | McGinn & Again, *a Gram & a Gone* (excerpt)
Johanna S. Meyer, *Handbuilt, section three* (work in progress)

Abrons/Experimental Theater
Tickets: $20

Writer and performer **Michael Freeman**'s ***It's not that I have anything against living…*** tells the story of a gay Goth teenager in a small Amish town. Twisted dancing, dreadful puppetry, and a makeup table are all employed in this unlikely, genre-defying show.

Magic Wand is a collaborative work created and performed by **Amy Smith** of **Headlong Dance Theater** and **Adriano Shaplin** of **The Riot Group**. *Magic Wand* explores the history of the Hitachi Corporation, the androgyny of the body, the politics of orgasm, and what happens when you invite an imaginary audience member onto the stage.

This excerpt from **McGinn & Again**'s ***a Gram & a Gone*** explores the processes in building pluralist movement constellations among long-term friends. Composite symbolism, geometry, spectral materiality, and the abyss are all kaleidoscopically touched upon, albeit with dark humor, via McGinn & Again's multidisciplinary capacities.

Johanna S. Meyer*'s* ***Handbuilt, section three*** is an ensemble piece expanding on her previously developed duet material derived from John Woo's 1989 Hong Kong cult film, *The Killer.* Drawing on the absurdly operatic plot, Meyer's choreography weaves the movie's editing, choreographic gun battles, kitsch, and sentimentality into a starting point for this next show.

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Wednesday, June 8, at 7pm and 8pm
EDGY NYC + MTL

An evening of wild feminist performance and video by artists from New York City and Montreal. The event is guest curated by Miriam Ginestier, artistic director of Studio 303 — an organization that hosted an artist exchange with Performance Mix for over 10 years. Each program features Studio 303-associated artists, most of whom have been presented in the context of 303's late Edgy Women Festival. Edgy is dead! Long Live Edgy!

EDGY NYC: **7pm**
Featuring works by **Karen Bernard**, **Susana Cook**, **T.L. Cowan & Jasmine Rault**, **Jess Dobkin**, and **Rebecca Patek**

Abrons/Experimental Theater
Tickets: $20

EDGY MTL: **8pm**
Sound art, physical theater, and dark humor by three festival muses (**Alexis O**, **Dayna M**, **Nathalie C**, **WIVES**), as well as new work by soon-to-be-announced upstarts.

Abrons/Underground Theater
Free admission

Damn Your Eyes, created and performed by **Karen Bernard** in 1996, and performed now by **Jil Guyon**, comprises a series of precise, provocative movements through which the performer reflects upon her half-naked body and self-image. It's "a short, lean construction of linked images — as if a mild earthquake had jolted a statue into motion" (Deborah Jowitt, *The Village Voice*).

Susana Cook will present the premiere of ***Rescue Remedy****.* Bold, funny, at times surrealistic and poetic, the work of this Argentine-born, New York-based playwright/director/performer cleverly tackles issues of social justice. This is theater as ritualistic transformative force.

Writer, performer, video-maker, and professor **T.L. Cowan** will present the public service announcement, *Edgy Women Memorial Institute*, starring Mrs. Trixie Cane and Her Handsome Cellist.

Jess Dobkin will present a recent untitled performance work. Stirred by points of tension and dissonance, frictions and fractures, Dobkin's work is driven by a desire for meaningful, intimate exchange with the audience, and the performance's potential as catalyst for dialogue and hope.

Rebecca Patek will present a video work created especially for Performance Mix. The controversial New York-based choreographer and performance artist synthesizes dance, theater, and comedy into incisive social commentary and institutional critique, which has even resulted in implosive censorship.

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Thursday, June 9, 10:30am–12:30pm
Breakfast Mix: An Edgy Long Table
Abrons/Gallery
Free event

Reservations required: newdancealliance@gmail.com

A festival tradition: Observe and/or converse with "edgy" artists on how Canadian and American economic/political contexts influence creative practices and production, as you assess who makes the best bagel: Montreal or New York?

The **Long Table** is a public forum, a hybrid performance installation/roundtable/discussion/dinner party designed to facilitate dialogue through the gathering together of people with common interests. Developed by **Lois Weaver**, the Long Table questions ingrained institutional boundaries, while providing a democratic forum for intimate exchange. People are invited to either simply observe around the table or to take a seat and participate.

This event is hosted by the Quebec Cultural Services in New York.

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Thursday, June 9, at 7pm
Connecting the lines: dynamic forms.

Arthur Avilés, *Garden of Mi Amigo El id*
Tara Bernstein, Work in progress
Barbara Mahler, *Precipice*
Emily Wexler, *Golden Wolf* (premiere)
Nina Winthrop and Dancers, *Inner Elation*

Abrons/Experimental Theater
Tickets: $20

Arthur Avilés dips into his archive by presenting a dance work from his Kamikaze series. This work, originally presented at Performance Mix 10 years ago, was created by and for Avilés' 5' 4" frame and will now be performed by **Jonathan Gonzalez** who is 6' 4". In a stream of non sequiturs this dance takes us on a jagged journey through an ever-changing mind as it bounces, swirls, and flips from place to place.

Tara Bernstein combines her influences as dancer (including Skinner Releasing dance technique), dance teacher, and Iyengar Yoga teacher into a timely East-West synthesis that is as highly physical as it is internally focused.

Barbara Mahler's ***Precipice*** is an abstract solo employing the sculptural lines and possibilities of the body. Set to a score of outdoor sound, the spare and powerful piece portrays a woman who is at once grounded and settled in time and space, yet always moving, however subtly, even when still.

Emily Wexler's ***Golden Wolf*** is a new duet performed alongside **Courtney Cooke**. The work embodies physical transitions of pain within one's skeletal and emotional systems by drawing from memories of heartbreak, loss, hope, and beauty in pursuit of revealing the underpinnings of Truth.

Nina Winthrop's ***Inner Elation*** is a journey, both solitary and universal, of discovery and acceptance. Her choreography conveys emotions into the visible realm. Simple gestures – reaching, stretching, pulling, punching — physicalize a relentless current of emotions. Winthrop's work employs highly focused dancing/movement to riveting effect.

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Thursday, June 9, at 8pm and Friday, June 10, at 8pm
A tale that should be told: Kitty and Daniel Daly of St. Mary's Bay, Newfoundland, had 12 children, six of whom were very tall and six of whom had achondroplasia, or dwarfism.

Louise Moyes and the Daly Collective, *If a Place Could Be Made* (excerpt)

Abrons/Underground Theater
Free admission

This excerpt from ***If a Place Could Be Made*** weaves personal tales of inclusion into a journey of friendship and song. **Louise Moyes** and **Diana Daly**, together with director-collaborator **Anne Troake**, bring family memories to life through powerful images, dance, stories, laughter, and a bit of Carlton Showband!

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Thursday, June 9, at 8:30pm
Typography, images, landscape, heightened drama.

Jil Guyon, *Desert Widow*
GREYZONE, *Drift*

Abrons/Underground Theater
Tickets: $20

Melding the performative with the pictorial, **Jil Guyon**'s *Desert Widow* is part live solo performance, part photographic cinematography. It features a woman traversing an otherworldly landscape — her ritualized actions converging with a subtly dramatic interplay of movement, light, music, silence, and stillness.

Drift, a new dance work by **GREYZONE**, evokes figures standing against time, revealed and moved by natural forces, buried or sculpted by shifting sands within a symbolic topography of rituals, mechanisms, clocks, monuments, and hieroglyphs.

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Friday, June 10, at 7pm
Three artists... three fantastical/fanciful perspectives on performance.

Melinda Ring and Renée Archibald, *Renée vs the Rectangle* (excerpt)
Paula Josa-Jones | Performance Works, *Speak*
Patti Bradshaw and Valerie Striar, *Flowers in Space* (premiere)

Abrons/Experimental Theater
Tickets: $20

Renée Archibald performs a section of a new two-part solo, ***Renée vs the Rectangle*** (working title), made in collaboration with **Melinda Ring**. This fanciful minimalistic reexamination of the basic rules of theatrical perspective asks, "How can I act on the space, and can the space in turn act upon me?" The dance is a dialogue with forces both seen and unseen.

Paula Josa-Jones' ***Speak*** springs from her questions about language and the absence of language in its usual form. It is about the obsession and excavation of meaning of the body when words cannot be shaped. *Speak* is inspired by **Josa-Jones**' 13 years of working with her profoundly autistic godson and her research into aphasia, apraxia, and synesthesia.

Flowers in Space is a solo conceived and directed by **Patti Bradshaw** and performed by **Valerie Striar**. Inspired by the painter and poet Florine Stettheimer, the work draws on Bradshaw's background in puppetry and choreography to create an evocative portrait of the shy and idiosyncratic early 20th-century artist.

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Friday, June 10, at 8:30pm
Typography, images, landscape, heightened drama.

GREYZONE, *Drift*
Rachel Thorne Germond, *A Story of Sorts* (premiere)

Abrons/Underground Theater
Tickets: $20

Drift, a new dance work by **GREYZONE**, evokes figures standing against time, revealed and moved by natural forces, buried or sculpted by shifting sands within a symbolic topography of rituals, mechanisms, clocks, monuments, and hieroglyphs.

Rachel Thorne Germond's multidisciplinary performances incorporate dance, video, and photography. Her dances employ a deft range of choreographic strategies to create ambiguous juxtapositions and new, unfamiliar languages. In Germond's work "questions of freedom, control, and identity are played out…the body speaks of itself as a political battleground" (Deirdre Kelly, *The Globe and Mail*).

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Saturday, June 11, at 7pm
Three Genres of Improvisation: Contact Improvisation, Spontaneous Connections: Improvised Music, and Raise the Hoof: Tap

Does improvisation really exist? How much is scored, how much planned, and how much just set free?

Abrons/Experimental Theater
Tickets: $20

Contact Improvisation, Curated by Tim O'Donnell and Sarah Young
Performers: Patrick Crowley, Carly Czach, Rob Flax, Elise Knudson, Tim O'Donnell, Sarah Young

Five movement artists come together for the first time as an ensemble, along with Rob Flax on violin and box drum, to share their artistic voices through Contact Improvisation. Exploring physical dialogues ranging from the gentle and subtle to the acrobatic and fluidly athletic, they shape a living composition that unfolds in real time.

Spontaneous Connections: Improvised Music curated by David Garland

Featuring multi-instrumentalist and vocalist **David Garland**, vocalist and percussionist **Anaïs Maviel**, tap dancer **Roxane Butterfly**, and other guests TBA**.**

Raise the Hoof: Curated by Roxane Butterfly
Performers: Roxane Butterfly, Jane Goldberg, Max Pollak, Jennifer Vincent

Raise the Hoof* or the *Art-of-Impromptu is a spontaneous musical gathering of three distinct generations of hoofers, orchestrated by underground tap dance icon **Roxane Butterfly**, featuring **Jane Goldberg**'s unique "rhythm 'n' schmooze," world-class tap stylist **Max Pollak**, and **Brinae Ali**, accompanied also by master bass player **Jennifer Vincent**.

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Closing Night Party: A multidisciplinary jam celebrating the conclusion of the 2016 festival. Food, drinks, and dancing! Everyone is welcome!

About Performance Mix Festival

In 1986 New Dance Alliance (NDA) created the Performance Mix series now known as the Performance Mix Festival to advance emerging methods, techniques, and trends of innovative dance. Of the many dance festivals in New York, NDA's Mix stands alone in its commitment to: 1) offering artists comprehensive career and artistic development support; 2) presenting risk-taking art by emerging and established artists at a critical experimental phase of their development; and 3) providing programming for audiences interested in the creative process of experimental dance and performance. The festival has grown to include artists from around the globe, including South Africa, Canada, Europe, and South America. Director Karen Bernard has been invited to many festivals across Canada and Europe, forming relationships that have broadened her curatorial process and widened the Festival's scope. By bringing her expansive awareness of culture into an intimate setting, Bernard cultivates an important international sharing of creativity.

About New Dance Alliance

Incorporated in 1989, New Dance Alliance (NDA) is an arts service organization whose mission is to actively promote emerging forms of innovative dance, music, video, and interdisciplinary performance. NDA's initial aims were to support an artistic community that had limited institutional resources, and to provide that community with increased opportunities for sharing experimental works with the public. Today, NDA's goals remain deeply rooted in those founding principles, and have also expanded in response to current artistic challenges and goals. NDA's expanded programming includes initiatives that foster national and international artists, and promote increasingly diversified audiences through annual events, retreats, educational panels and performances. Its four main programs are: Performance Mix Festival, LiftOff: Residency and Workshop, Subsidized Rehearsal Space, and Karen Bernard/Solo. Collectively, these programs support the work of more than 100 experimental artists, and bring in 2,500 audience members each year.

This season New Dance Alliance has received support for the Performance Mix Festival from the following foundations and organizations: Bernstein Family Foundation; Cultural Services of the Quebec Government, New York; the Harkness Foundation for Dance; the Mertz-Gilmore Foundation; as well as the retreat center Earthdance.

New Dance Alliance has received support from the following public funds: the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs, New York State Council on the Arts, and NYSCA's Electronic Media and Film Presentation Funds grant program, administered by the ARTS Council of the Southern Finger Lakes, and from generous individual donors.

About Abrons Arts Center

Abrons Arts Center is the 2014 Obie Award-winning performing and visual arts program of the Henry Street Settlement. The Abrons supports the creation and presentation of bold multidisciplinary work; cultivates artists in all stages of their practice through residencies, educational programs, and commissions; and serves as an international intersection of cultural engagement for artists and audiences. Each year, the Abrons offers more than 250 performances, 12 gallery exhibitions, and 25 residencies for emerging and international performing and visual artists. The Abrons also provides New York City public schools with teaching artists, involving more than 3,000 students annually. www.abronsartscenter.org

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For biographies go to: http://newdancealliance.org/performance-mix-festival/artist-roster/