



New Dance Alliance Announces the 40th Annual Performance Mix Festival June 4-7, 2026 at Abrons Arts Center's Underground Theater

New York, NY, March 25, 2026 – **New Dance Alliance (NDA)** has announced the lineup for the **40th Annual Performance Mix Festival**, marking four decades of supporting innovative experimental work. Performances are Thursday, June 4 to Sunday, June 7, at Abrons Arts Center's Underground Theater, 446 Grand Street (at Pitt Street) in Manhattan. Performance times vary. Tickets for the festival are \$16.60 (including fees). Special packages are also available. Tickets can be purchased online at <https://abronsartscenter.app.getcuebox.com/o/C5XTY485/shows/1N78CWNK>.

For 40 years, Performance Mix has been a vital platform for artists who challenge convention and a place where artistic risk-taking is not only welcomed but celebrated. Described by *The New York Times* as “the most elaborate festival of the unpredictable,” this four-day festival brings together more than 35 artists with deeply personal and expansive approaches to performance, inviting audiences to engage with some of the most compelling voices in experimental dance today. The 2026 festival is curated by New Dance Alliance Artistic and Executive Director **Karen Bernard**, Managing Director **Alexandra Doyle**, and artist panel **Lindsey Barlag Thornton**, **Kyle Marshall**, **Nubian Néné**, **Lisa Parra**, and **Alexa West**.

“This year’s festival marks the 40th anniversary of Performance Mix, a testament to its continued vital necessity to our city’s cultural community,” said Karen Bernard. “We have invited festival alumni, including Quebec artist Dorian Nuskind-Oder who last presented in the Mix 20 years ago. The festival also includes a commissioned work from Ursula Eagly, works by our resident artists, and works by several early career artists from a pool of applications. This anniversary celebration will strengthen our alumni network across generations and geographies, create new opportunities for international artistic exchange, and reinforce NDA’s role in helping experimental artists advance their careers in the cultural capital we call home.”

The artists of the 40th edition of Performance Mix are: festival alumni **Martita Abril (Pichu)**, **Julia Antonozzi**, **chameckilerner**, **Ursula Eagly**, **Stacy Grossfield**, **Jil Guyon**, **Anya Liftig**, **Christopher “Unpezverde” Núñez**, **Dorian Nuskind-Oder** and **Simon Grenier-Poirier**, **Antonio Ramos & The Gangbangers in collaboration with Saúl Ulerio**, **Molly Ross**, **Rosy Simas**, **Anh Vo**, and **Nami Yamamoto**; resident artists **Tatiana Desardouin & K’niin Abbrey/Passion Fruit Dance Company**, **binbinFactory/Satoshi Haga & Rie Fukuzawa**, **Imani Gaudin/gaudanse**, **Morgan Gregory**, and **Emilio Wettlaufer**; and artists **James Barrett**, **Karen Bernard Projects**, **IV Castellanos**, **CoCoMotion**, **Natalia Fernández**, **Marie Lloyd Paspe**, **lumenbodies (Akane & Benja)**, **Kat Sotelo**, and **Ime Soul (fka Immanuel J.)**.

New Dance Alliance will also host its annual **Breakfast Mix**, a convivial gathering and discussion with the festival's international artists. This season will include a discussion with Karen Bernard and a workshop with Montreal-based artists **Dorian Nuskind-Oder** and **Elena Lev**, a pioneer in the hoop discipline.

The Breakfast Mix will be held on Friday, June 5, 10am-2pm, at New Dance Alliance Studio, 182 Duane Street, in Tribeca. Admission is free, but reservations are required. Space is limited. Please email admin@newdancealliance.org to reserve a place for both the Breakfast Mix and the workshop with Dorian Nuskind-Oder and Elena Lev.

Festival trailer: <https://vimeo.com/manage/videos/1174626044>

Link to download images:

https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fo/mjxms413p9vp9iu36dr5z/AEfgG_0PN56pgo7sgOWRvZc?rlkey=0crb6d yg4k4hk4wo82cbbi589&st=8yhnhboc&dl=0

Schedule of Performances and Events

Thursday, June 4

Program A - 7pm: IV Castellanos | chameckilerner | Ursula Eagly

IV Castellanos / *Leche Hervida en Vivo*

Leche Hervida en Vivo is an ongoing abstract performance with low tech, sculptural wearables, a living set, and a physically direct and embodied choreography. A self-sufficient piece coming out of activist livelihoods.

chameckilerner / *Translations*

Translations studies the ways we imprint ourselves on one another. Borrowing from the childhood game of Telephone, chameckilerner create a movement phrase from a collage of segments that appeared on their social media during a single day in 2025. The phrase is passed on to a series of willing participants and street passersby. The work unfolds as an accumulation of different translations, exposing the mechanics of learning, communication, interference, and communion.

Ursula Eagly / *Collective Imagination*

Collective Imagination is a landing place for Ursula Eagly's long-term work with group action and using dreamwork as choreographic material. Imagining together is easy and hopeful and needed right now.

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Program B - 8:30pm: Julia Antinozzi | CoCoMotion | Antonio Ramos & The Gangbangers in collaboration with Saul Ulerio

Julia Antinozzi

Julia Antinozzi brings a new variation of a duet exploring the relationship between the form of postmodern dance and ballet. The work is performed by Paulina Meneses and Sienna Russo.

CoCoMotion

CoCoMotion will present a mixed-media performance featuring still photography of parents with their children. In addition, they will expand and revamp a solo from their work *Movement Mamas*.

Antonio Ramos & The Gangbangers in collaboration with Saúl Ulerio / *Turista*

This is an excerpt of *El Pueblo de los Olvidados*, an experimental piece set in the aftermath of Hurricane Maria, the 2018 catastrophe that devastated Puerto Rico and exposed the fragile reality

behind the island's postcard image. Through satire, irony, and moments of raw humanity, the piece confronts the contradiction between the paradise sold to tourists and the daily struggles of the people who call the island home.

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Friday, June 6th

10am-12pm: Breakfast Mix

12pm-1pm: Workshop

This meet and greet discussion, open to the public, will be facilitated by Karen Bernard, Executive Director of NDA, with Montreal-based Dorian Nuskin-Oder and the festival artists in attendance. A workshop with Dorian Nuskind-Oder and Elena Lev, a pioneer in the hoop discipline, will follow the talk.

About the Workshop:

Join Elena Lev, circus artist and performer, in 'Looper' for an introduction to her unique approach to hoop manipulation. This workshop is for adult dancers and movers who are interested in exploring the basics of Lev's technique. Participants will learn how to turn the hoop on their hands and body: a precise, playful and meditative challenge. Please wear comfortable, close-fitting clothes to move in (socks and leggings are ideal). Hoops will be provided.

Space is limited, so an RSVP is mandatory. Please email admin@newdancealliance.org to reserve your place for both the Breakfast Mix and workshop.

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Program A - 7pm: Tatiana Desardouin & K'niin Abbrey/Passion Fruit Dance Company | Rosy Simas | Nami Yamamoto

Tatiana Desardouin & K'niin Abbrey/Passion Fruit Dance Company

In this work, two bodies meet sound as if it could listen, respond, and remember. This work imagines music as a living presence—one that speaks through movement, resonance, and shared breath. Choreography by Tatiana Desardouin. Music production: K'niin "TPM" Abbrey.

Rosy Simas / *Bare Hill*

Choreographer Rosy Simas (Seneca Nation of Indians) will present a dance for five performers, that she describes as “a movement between the stars and the earth to generate peace.”

Nami Yamamoto / *Future Memory*

Nami Yamamoto's *Future Memory* began with a conversation with a childhood friend about their aging mothers. Witnessing this fragility showed a reflection of their own futures and compelled Yamamoto to confront time—how the past, present, and future must be held, lived, and relived in our bodies. Through improvisational practices such as “body memoirs” and “future memories,” the dancers transform their bodies into vessels of soulful movement. The project continues to evolve as an embodied reflection on how memory, dream, hope, tragedy, and loneliness move, collide, and erode through time and the body.

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Program B - 8:30pm: James Barrett | Stacy Grossfield | Christopher “Unpezverde” Núñez

James Barrett

Five performers croon and shout after a fleshy landscape. They collectively search for, question, and exaggerate their own senses of self. Muscles contract and expand and emptiness billows in the room.

Stacy Grossfield / *redux*

A fusion of beauty, the grotesque, the intensely visual, the expressive and mysterious, something disconnected yet integrated into a web of shifting meanings.

Christopher “Unpezverde” Núñez / *Cadaver Dog*

Cadaver Dog deals with the relentless search for something lost, hidden, or dead within our body as a living geopolitical state and the haunted nature of our own mortality.

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Saturday, June 7

Saturday Night Special - 7pm: Karen Bernard Projects and Dorian Nuskind-Oder and Simon Grenier-Poirier

Karen Bernard Projects / *Rheumatica*

Rheumatica, a new work in development by movement-based artist and New Dance Alliance founder Karen Bernard, celebrates the lifeblood of returning to movement after a debilitating disease, drawing on sampled dance styles, episodic scenes, visceral physicality, and the free popular movement, Bernard rediscovered dancing to cover bands. Continuing her exploration of the female body’s complexities, the piece juxtaposes the mundane with the extravagant and challenges audiences to reconsider their perceptions of femininity, aging, and mortality in a culture desensitized in the digital era.

Dorian Nuskind-Oder and Simon Grenier-Poirier / *Looper*

Elena Lev, a pioneer in the hoop discipline, has been perfecting her craft for 30 years. Since childhood, she has toured the world with her now iconic act—an explosive choreography lasting approximately five minutes. But how to continue? How to renew one’s interest through so many revolutions? Choreographer Dorian Nuskind-Oder and dramaturg Simon Grenier-Poirier pose a new question to this seasoned artist, now in the final stage of her career: What would happen if she could spend as much time as she wanted on stage? *Looper* is the answer: an intimate performance in which spinning the hoop becomes a meditation on time, perseverance, and play. The trio of Nuskind-Oder, Grenier-Poirier, and Lev blends choreography, performance, and circus, radiating mastery, humor, and a fascination with movement.

8pm: Reception with DJ Rectum to follow the performance. All are welcome.

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Sunday, June 7

Program A - 12pm: binbinFactory/Satoshi Haga & Rie Fukuzawa | Imani Gaudin/gaudanse | Ime Soul (fka Immanuel J.)

binbinFactory/Satoshi Haga & Rie Fukuzawa

binbinFactory challenges itself to explore imaginary stories through movement, with or without props, creating a fancy and playful world of dance.

Imani Gaudin/gaudanse / *new york, please*

new york, please is an exhaustive, blackly humorous plea for comfort, success, and relief from a city that feels like a bad habit that refuses to be quit.

Ime Soul (fka Immanuel J.) / *Scripts We Learn and Lines We Misremember*

The banality of evil is when hardship meets protocol. Loosely borrowing bodily percussive movement forms as well as text from pop songs, Ime Soul moves through financial negotiations with their credit union.

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Program B - 1:30pm: Martita Abril (Pichu) | Molly Ross | Emilio Wettlaufer

Martita Abril (Pichu)

Martita Abril will be revisiting some concepts in combination with some FUnCKy nICE ideas.

Molly Ross / *Plaid Ashley*

Molly Ross will present a new dance called *Plaid Ashley*.

Emilio Wettlaufer / *This of Mine*

This of Mine is an ongoing solo born from an inner turmoil. By Indulging oneself within states of extremity, this is an attempt to search for something better than what came before and what already exists now.

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Program C - 3pm: Natalia Fernández | Jil Guyon | Anya Liftig | lumenbodies (Akane & Benja)

Natalia Fernández / *dulzura, sagrada y hambrienta*

Sweetness, sacred and starving investigates desire and dreaming, indulgence in fantasies and haunting memories of home. The work is a sticky, bittersweet and dense ritual of recalling that asks: what parts of ourselves do we repress in order to sit sweetly on someone else's tongue?

Jil Guyon / *Threshold*

Threshold follows an unnamed woman confined to the rooftop of a Portuguese castle. To survive she inhabits the role of a modern-day Scheherazade—wielding seduction and cunning in a world where past and present, reality and imagination, danger and performance collide. The viewer is made witness and accomplice to a psychological duel that seeks catharsis through exposure.

Anya Liftig / *Animate/Inanimate*

Performance Mix 40 marks Anya Liftig's return to the New York stage for the first time in 10 years. Her new solo performance is grounded in the fragility of memory, disintegration, and unstable territories.

lumenbodies (Akane & Benja) / *(softspells)*

(softspells) is a ritual space unfolding from the flesh of two trans lovers' embodied and visual experiences of domesticity. Inspired by Carolee Schneeman's *Fuses*, the bodies invoke Sapphic lineages while weaving together movement rituals, improvisational scores, and projected images of falling fabrics, intimacies of the flesh, and looks from cats.

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Program D - 5pm: Morgan Gregory | Marie Lloyd Paspé | Kat Sotelo | Anh Vo

Morgan Gregory / *NEW NEW NEW*

NEW NEW NEW is a performance-based work set within musical vignettes and scenic structures, which works to allegorize a story of excessive egotistical solution building. These vignettes utilize live sound building to create a mosaic that exposes misguided and exploited forms of aid intended for communities that have a historical lack of resources and promise. This work will explore the trajectory of aid and labor as it becomes increasingly assimilated into dominant capitalist superstructures, examining the degradation of function and community concern in favor of market value, status, and clout.

Marie Lloyd Paspé / *STONE BELLY*

STONE BELLY is a dance-theater performance that calls upon the wisdom of the Philippine babaylan's mythology in the healing of their *katawang lupa*, Tagalog for earthly bodies, dis-membered from their homelands, environment, and each other. Inspired by a two-year research odyssey of the Philippine babaylans (precolonial shaman matriarchs whose traditions still persist today), the work involves dance and live sound as a shape-shifter between the parallels of the immigrant body and the land/water bodies of our earth. The theater becomes a belly of stone—a site of lost souls—where memories are hardened into timelessness, stuck within our bodies folds. Inspiring a critical connection between land-based labor and physical healing, *STONE BELLY* considers that their service to the land is in direct relation to the worlds you rebuild. It questions the impact of soul loss from migration, genocide, and capitalist gain—and its impact on the land and each other.

Kat Sotelo / *I AM THE BEST SLUT IN TOWN*

I AM THE BEST SLUT IN TOWN is a fever dream, a Filipino soap opera, a doo-wop-soaked battle for stardom. With an effervescent, ravenous appetite, a maniacal trio whirls in sugary pop choreography, CCTV video feeds, and desperate pageantry, captivating the audience with dewy-eyed fervor and an impulse to destroy. Sexuality becomes cultural currency, flashing between seduction and satire as the performers push themselves toward impossible perfection.

Anh Vo / *Study, Study More, Study Forever*

Study, Study More, Study Forever follows a performer working through research notes and inherited stories in real time, testing how they can be arranged into form. Rather than presenting concrete conclusions, the piece exposes the labor of translation itself, where confusion and ambiguity become the material from which structure is built.

Schedule subject to change.

Artist biographies are available here:

https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fo/vmtx bq1uio0jw6wpmi25m/AL6kQuc5pDDyeUHy4amz_5Y?rlkey=g37ryr3ywtk3wn7kyho65n9yy&st=wwc2j042&dl=0

About Abrons Arts Center

Abrons Arts Center is a home for contemporary interdisciplinary arts in Manhattan's Lower East Side. A core program of the Henry Street Settlement, Abrons believes that access to the arts is essential for a thriving city. Through performances, exhibitions, education programs, and residencies, Abrons mobilizes communities with the transformative power of art.

About Performance Mix Festival

For 40 years, New Dance Alliance's Performance Mix Festival has offered diverse emerging and mid-career artists an opportunity to share work with audiences in Manhattan. Annually, it offers this jam-packed program of local, national, and international artists with the direct aim of supporting the development of experimental works with the public. The original Performance Mix Festival in 1986 was groundbreaking in that it was the only festival at that time exclusively dedicated to performance art in Lower Manhattan. Its continued success is testimony to its vital necessity in New York's cultural community.

About New Dance Alliance

Incorporated in 1989, New Dance Alliance (NDA) is a performing arts nonprofit. Its mission, from the earliest days, has been to support emerging experimental movement-based artists. NDA has made an explicit commitment to equity and inclusion by creating programs that center the work of artists from historically marginalized communities of color, LGBTQ artists, and artists with disabilities. NDA provides space, residencies, performance, and networking opportunities that help artists cultivate relationships, develop their artistry, and open doors to share their work in the US and internationally. NDA's programs are: Performance Mix Festival, Black Artists Space to Create, LiftOff Residency, Satellite, Work

Session, and Karen Bernard Projects. These programs support the work of more than 100 experimental artists and 2,500 audience members each year. <https://newdancealliance.org>

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