



Sonia Plumb

Dance Company

THE DANCE OF

DA VINCI



ARTISTIC DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

Special thanks to Amy Lamenzo and Sean Cocco for sharing their knowledge and passion of Leonardo. Thank you to my friends, colleagues and family who believed in me and my work, pushing me, nudging me and lifting me forward. Thank you to my son, Alexander who is the light of my life.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

I believe Leonardo da Vinci devoted his life to movement. His enduring passion to learn about what makes birds soar, gorgeous horses gallop, and human beings smile shows us that dance is everywhere and in everything.

From the beginning of time, we have used movement to communicate, collaborate, celebrate, and console. I have learned that a simple wave can have more power than the grandest grand jeté.

So the next time you reach for your grandchild's hand, hug a friend in crisis, or groove to the music while you are stuck at a red light, know that you are dancing.

If you are reading this, thank you from the bottom of my heart. Whether you are here to support your sons and daughters, brothers and sisters, or extended family and friends, you understand how essential dance is in all of our lives. Please spread the word.



Mary Cadorette-Daly

Photography by **Thomas Giroir**

THE DANCE OF --- DA VINCI

Choreography and Direction: Sonia Plumb

Music: Michael Wall

Costumes: Sabrina Notarfrancisco

Lighting: Michael Chybowski

Projections: Bryan Swormstedt

Vocals: Suzanne Gates

and the Hartford City Singers

Dancers: Sarah Barney, Corrine Bates,
Joseph Beltre, Meagan McGrail, Jasmine

McPherson, Richard Pye,

Alanna Sade-Milberg, Lamaree Wilson

Ballet Mistress: Jeanne Girroir

Il Corpo

Artists' Studio

“The painter who is familiar with the nature of the sinews, muscles, and tendons, will know very well, in giving movement to a limb, how many and which sinews cause it; and which muscle, by swelling, causes the contraction of that sinew; and which sinews, expanded into the thinnest cartilage, surround and support the said muscle.”

Vitruvian Quartet

“Weight, force and casual impulse, together with resistance, are the four external powers in which all the visible actions of mortals have their being and their end.”

The Sculptor's Dilemma

“That sculpture is less intellectual than painting, and lacks many characteristics of nature.”

The Artist's Dilemma

“Men and words are ready made, and you, O Painter, if you do not know how to make your figures move, are like an orator who knows not how to use his words.”

Vite degli animali

Dragons

“These go in companies together, and they twine themselves after the manner of roots, and with their heads raised they cross lakes, and swim to where they find better pasture and if they did not thus combine they would be drowned, therefore they combine.”

Storks

“This bird, by drinking saltwater purges itself of distempers. If the male finds his mate unfaithful, he abandons her; and when it grows old its young ones brood over it, and feed it till it dies.”

Elephants

“The huge elephant has by nature what is rarely found in man; that is Honesty, Prudence, Justice, and the Observance of Religion”

Lemurpa Light - Fame

“This is found in Asia Major, and shines so brightly that it absorbs its own shadow, and when it dies it does not lose this light, and its feathers never fall out, but a feather pulled out shines no longer.”

INTERMISSION

Fisica, Geometria, e Luoghi Sacri

Rituals, Reverence and Confessions

“I have offended God and mankind because my work didn’t reach the quality it should have.”

Clock Gears

“In rivers, the water that you touch is the last of what has passed and the first of that which comes; so with present time.”

War Machines

“As every divided kingdom falls, so every mind divided between many studies confounds and saps itself... Men fight wars and destroy everything around them. The earth should open and swallow them up. He who does not value life does not deserve it. Never destroy another life through rage, or through malice.”

Arches

“A continuous body which has been forcibly bent into an arch, thrusts in the direction of the straight line, which it tends to recover.”

Componere

Dragons Return

“This creature entangles itself in the legs of the elephant which falls upon it, and so both die, and in its death it is avenged.”

Sarcophagus

“For, verily, great love springs from great knowledge of the beloved object, and if you little know it, you will be able to love it only little or not at all.”

Taking Flight

“The human bird shall take his first flight, filling the world with amazement, all writings with his fame, and bringing eternal glory to the nest whence he sprang.”



ARTISTIC DIRECTORS' NOTES

WHY THE DANCE OF DA VINCI?

Renaissance humanism is relevant now more than ever - that we cannot continue to separate science from math from art from dance from humanity in our schooling and in our lives. The Renaissance, especially under Da Vinci's watch spurred an incredible amount of inquiry, invention, thought and art in many forms. We need that inquiry and forward thinking again to allow humanity to flourish and to survive.

WHAT INSPIRED THIS FOCUS ON DA VINCI?

I would say that it is one of those dances that found me. A few years ago I took my first trip to Italy. Fell in love with the country, the art, the culture, as I suspected I would. We spent only a day in Florence where I began only to touch the surface of the Florentine history. On a subsequent trip to France I remember seeing the Mona Lisa in an incredibly over crowded Louvre. Suffocating really. Everyone there was trying to take selfies with the Mona Lisa. Turned me off. A couple of years later I was mulling about what my next big project would be and The Dance of da Vinci popped into my head. I said to myself, "Well that is interesting, I know almost nothing about him." Then things began to snowball. I met a new friend who introduced me to Jean Paul Richter's "Notebooks." On one side Leonardo's writings are in written in Italian and the other the English translation. They are filled with sketches, musings, maxims and "how-tos." Once I dove in, I discovered the human he was: an artist, a mathematician, philosopher, scientist, architect. I felt a kinship as I, too, have always felt myself more than just a dancer.

HOW IS DA VINCI USED TO SHAPE THE CHOREOGRAPHY?

The primary reason Leonard da Vinci works as an inspiration is because he himself was a humanist polymath. He studied everything and limited himself to nothing. He felt, he loved, he had his “demons,” he had his “passions.” He embraced life and nature, science and art. Our present world is filled with Leonardo’s work as an artist and a scientist. Our present world of flight is because he dared to dream about flying. He observed the birds. He felt we could go there. The question now is: Where can we go? Where do we as humans need to go and how do we get there?

HOW HAS THE PIECE BEEN CRAFTED TO ALLOW THE AUDIENCE TO ACKNOWLEDGE DA VINCI’S WORK?

The dance is broken into four sections that correspond to Leonardo’s work. Section 1 focuses on his work as a sculptor, painter and observer of human movement. Section 2 is inspired by his observations of animals, not only for drawing purposes but also how they equate to human behavior and vice versa. Section 3 draws from his work as an architect, machine builder, and inventor. Section 4 brings it all together. His work was forward thinking. We, as humans, can continue to be forward thinking, must be forward thinking to survive, create and thrive.

The dance is supported with original music, Italian renaissance madrigals, live vocals from 26 voices, projections, light and of course the dancers. Marrying the elements as da Vinci would appreciate.

WHAT STYLES OF DANCE ARE INCORPORATED?

While the main “technique” is modern, I pull from all I and my dancers have absorbed through study and practice Ballet, hip-hop, acrobatics, Renaissance dance, Cross-Fit, contemporary. Dance is movement refined. Humans move.

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

Sonia Plumb attributes her artistic style to a morphing of ideas with dance, constantly seeking to observe, learn, question, and collaborate. Her choreographic studies led her to multiple intensives with Mark Morris, Pilobolus and Susan Marshall. Early on her work was presented in dance festivals such as New Dance/New Haven, A New Generation of Dance/SUNY Purchase, New Haven International Festival of Arts and Ideas, and Hartford's Dance Services Network.

In addition to her role with the Company, Sonia has served as the first Artist-in-Residence at the University of St. Joseph and teaches at the award-winning magnet school, the CREC Greater Hartford Academy of the Arts High School.

Sonia is a two-time recipient of the Connecticut Commission on the Arts Fellowship for Artistic Excellence, and the Hartford Business Journal's list of 40 under 40 for distinguished achievement. She received a National Teaching Fellowship (2013), and was one of only nine artists nationwide to receive the Community Legacy Project award for her Arts Integration programs (2015). Born and raised in Vermont, she migrated to Hartford to attend Trinity College in Hartford, Connecticut where she received a B.A. in Theater and Dance.

DESIGN TEAM

Suzanne Gates has been Artistic Director of CitySingers of Hartford since 1985 when she established it as a professionally performing chamber choir of approximately twenty-five singers who perform music of a variety of styles and periods, both a cappella and accompanied, including works with instrumental ensembles. Other projects include conducting the treble choir for a production of Benjamin Britten's WAR REQUIEM, a MESSIAH sing-in, guest conducting for the American Choral Directors Association SUMMER SING-INS, preparing the chorus for a performance of Samuel Barber's PRAYERS OF KIERKEGAARD and conducting Bach's CANTATA 182 for choir, soloists and chamber orchestra for the American Guild of Organists. Ms. Gates graduated with a BA degree in music from Trinity College in Hartford, CT. She has a Masters of Music degree from Westminster Choir College of Rider University in Princeton, NJ where she studied conducting with Joseph Flummerfelt, Allen Crowell and Dennis Schrock. She has also studied orchestral conducting at Hartt School of Music in Hartford and done workshop study with Robert Shaw, Robert Page, Dennis Keene and Charles Bruffy.

Sabrina Notarfrancisco (Costumes) is an Associate Professor of Theater at Connecticut College and has designed costumes for over 70 academic and professional productions. She is an active member of OISTAT (The International Organization of Scenographers and Theater Architects) and serves as the international costume delegate for USITT (United States Institute of Theater Technology). In addition to designing and teaching, Sabrina has presented her designs at numerous conferences around the world, exhibited her work in the Costume at THE TURN OF THE CENTURY exhibit at the Bakhrushin State Central Theatre Museum in Moscow, and was recently appointed the associate international editor for the Theater Design & Technology journal. Sabrina is thrilled to join the Sonia Plumb Dance Company and looks forward to collaborating on costumes for future productions.

Michael Wall (Composer) is an internationally recognized composer, performer and educator who collaborates with dancers, choreographers and filmmakers around the world. He composes original music, accompanies dance classes, and teaches sound design for dance and performance with Ableton Live. Michael has worked at Rutgers University, Princeton University, NYU, The Ohio State University, The Bates Dance Festival, The American Dance Festival and is currently on faculty at The University of Utah, School of Dance. He has supported independent artists in digital music distribution for the last ten years and offers a comprehensive online library of music for dance students, teachers and choreographers. You can find all of his music at www.sound-FORMovement.com.

Bryan Swormstedt (Projections) is a local filmmaker who graduated from the University of Connecticut with a BFA in Theater. After moving to New York City and appearing in a few stage productions he decided to pursue further education and received his Masters in Film and Television from Savannah College of Art and Design. He is currently an Artist Instructor at the Greater Hartford Academy of the Arts and is also filming a documentary and scripting two dramatic web-series.

Michael Chybowski (Lighting Designer) is an internationally known lighting designer having worked in opera, dance and theater. His credits include designs for Mark Morris, Mark Morris Dance Group, Laurie Anderson, The Public Theater, Seattle Opera, Chicago Opera, American Repertory Theater and internationally with Theatre de Carouge, Geneva, L Train to El Dorado Squat Theatre (Vienna, Holland, Zurich, Hamburg) and Dreamland Burns Squat Theatre (Milan, Sardinia), as well as appearances at the Edinburgh, Hong Kong, Adelaide, and New Zealand Arts Festivals with the Mark Morris Dance Group.

Sarah Barney (Apprentice Level 1) loves to dance and circus. She has trained in jazz, acrobatics, tap, and contemporary dance. She has received technical awards for her advanced acrobatic ability. Sarah recently graduated from CREC's Greater Hartford Academy of the Arts dance department. She also trains in aerial silks and slings, and the flying trapeze.

Corrine Bates is a dancer, teacher and choreographer based in the Hartford area. She grew up in Middletown, CT and attended the Greater Hartford Academy of the Arts as a dance major. Corrine received her BFA in Dance and Choreography from Virginia Commonwealth University where she worked with such choreographers as Monica Bill Barnes, Daniel Gwartzman, Heidi Weiss, Gerri Houlihan, and faculty member Christian Von Howard. While attending VCU her work was presented at the American College Dance Association and she was invited to perform at the National Festival at the Kennedy Center, under the instruction of Christian Von Howard. Corrine has performed and presented her own work at the Ailey Studios in New York, and in 2011 was again invited to perform at the Ailey Studios, dancing with the Von Howard Project. In 2014 she spent the year dancing with dancEnlight, led by Lorelei Chang. Corrine is currently a Core Dance Faculty member at the Greater Hartford Academy of the Arts high school.

Joseph Beltre (Apprentice Level 2) was born and raised in Brooklyn, NY. Joseph attended Fiorello H. LaGuardia High School of Music, Art and Performing Arts. He graduated in 2015 and began his studies as a performance emphasis major at The University of Hartford The Hartt School. He studied there for two years before branching out into the professional world of dance. Joseph has worked with choreographers such as Adam Barruch, Damani Pompey, Yesid Lopez, Lucy Bowen McCauley and Stephen Pier. Joseph participated as an apprentice with DeMa dance company in New York. Professional performance venues include, Be A Light For Peace- Shinnyo Lantern Floating Ceremony, ACDA New England Regional Dance Conference, In Remembrance - Dancing for Orlando at City Center Dance Studios, Mandela The Premier, The East Harlem Repertory Theatre, Festival of Schools at the Alvin Ailey Theatre and Jacob's Pillow.

Meagan McGrail (Apprentice Level 2) is from Goffstown, NH where she attended New England School of Dance and studied numerous styles of dance since the age of three. She trained in Jazz, Tap, Modern, Improvisation, Contemporary, Musical Theater, Pointe, and Ballet, completing all levels of the Royal Academy of Dance (RAD) syllabus. She is currently a junior at the University of Hartford with an anticipated graduation date of May 2019 with a BSBA in Marketing and a Minor in Dance and Project Management. While studying at the University of Hartford Meagan performed at ACDA New England Regional Dance Conference. She recently studied at San Francisco Conservatory where she performed dances under the direction of Courtney Mazeika, Alex Ketley, and Christian Burns.

Jasmine McPherson (Apprentice Level 1) is a passionate dancer who enjoys all forms of movement and has both danced and performed since she was five years old. She is trained in Jazz, Modern, Ballet, Contemporary, Hip-Hop, Popping, House, and Waacking. She competes in world-wide and local competitions such as Hip Hop International, Prelude's New York and Boston, and World of Dance. Aside from the Sonia Plumb Dance Company, she dances at Studio-8-Sixty in Hartford where she teaches and is also captain for the senior dance team (Team 860) and the junior team dance team (Elite 860).

Richard Pye was born in North Norfolk, England and trained in a variety of dance styles from a young age. After graduating from the Centre for Advanced Training scheme, he attended Purchase Conservatory of Dance New York and London Contemporary Dance School graduating with First Class Honours. During his studies, Richard performed with Lea Anderson on *HAND IN GLOVE* at The Victoria and Albert Museum, a new work, *SHE PAINTED FLOWERS* by James Cousins and Jose Limon's *A CHOREOGRAPHIC OFFERING* at the Joyce Theatre Limon Festival. After graduating he performed *The SNOW QUEEN* with The London Ballet Company on their UK tour. Richard has also worked with choreographer Adrian Look on his new creation *FATHERS AND SONS* and with Choreographer James Cousins on his work *ROSALIND*, performed at The Edinburgh Festival. Most recently just finished an Italian Tour with Artistic Director Stephano Poda.

Alanna Sade-Milberg is from Buffalo, NY where she trained in the Balanchine style of ballet for 13 years at the American Academy of Ballet. In 2012, Alanna began attending the University of Massachusetts Amherst as a Dance major with a concentration in Pre-Medical Studies. At UMass Amherst, she began exploring other types of dance such as Modern, Jazz, and Contemporary. She had the opportunity to perform works by Sidra Bell, Jennifer Hart, Thomas Vacanti as well as other choreographers. In 2014, Alanna attended the American College Dance Association National Festival where she performed in the Gala performance at the Kennedy Center. In 2016, Alanna graduated with a B.A. in dance and has recently been accepted into the Yale School of Nursing.

Lamaree Wilson (Apprentice Level 1) is trained in popping, jazz, contemporary, street jazz, ballet, and Hip-Hop dance. He competes in world wide Hip-Hop competitions such as World of Dance, Prelude Hip-Hop dance competition, and HHI(Hip-Hop International). He's also captain of two Hip-Hop competing teams called 860 Elite and Team 860 at Studio-8-Sixty in Hartford and does performances locally and out of state.



CITY SINGERS

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR : Suzanne Gates

SOPRANO

Karen Dillon

Nicole Holmeen

Susan Hussey

Denise Jakel

Joanne Miller

Tema Silk

Donna Wink

ALTO

Helen Douglas

Christina Hung

Rami Levin

Karen Loveland

Carol Negrelli

Dorothy Villano

TENOR

Zach Brecher

Jean-Michel Sibille

Tom Sicilia

Jack Sullivan

BASS

John Church

Ken Ko

Stan Livenspire

Ken Loveland

Chuck Naugle

MUSICIANS

Eric Hansen, Lute

Mickey Koth

Elliot Wallace

SOLOIST

Zach Brecher, Melody for One

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ABOUT THE COMPANY

Sonia Plumb Dance Company (SPDC) was formed in 1990 with a mission “to enrich, educate, and connect diverse audiences through innovative modern dance.” SPDC serves diverse audiences statewide through live performances; K-12 arts education; community engagement events; collegiate and professional level classes; movement programs for children with autism; and dance apprenticeships for talented high school graduates lacking the socio-economic resources to attend college level dance programs.

FACULTY / STAFF

Mary Cadorette-Daly (Executive Director) primary passion is -- and always will be -- dance. On Broadway, she was an original member of the cast in Gower Champion's 42nd Street, and went on to have a successful career in television, film and regional theater. Mary returned to Connecticut in 2000 and enjoyed a career in marketing and development at CPTV/WNPR until 2010, when she returned to dance as an arts educator. Mary is now on the Musical Theater faculty at the Greater Hartford Academy of the Arts. This spring, she will earn her Master of Fine Arts degree in Arts Administration from the Graduate School at UConn.

Yoeliz Santana (Video Apprentice) is an aspiring young artist. She graduated from CREC Greater Hartford Academy of the Arts in the musical theater department, in 2015. Yoeliz is working with Sonia Plumb Dance Company as a Videographer apprentice, funded by a Jobs Grant from the Greater Hartford Arts Council. She is also involved in HartBeat ensemble's (YPI) program as intern actor for the upcoming one act play about sexual harassment.

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We thank them for their guidance, stewardship, and passion for our mission.

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General - \$5 / Children under 12 - free

Sunday, June 10, 2018 - 3:00 pm
New Britain Museum of American Art
56 Lexington St, New Britain
860-229-0257

Admission Fee to Museum / Members free

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2018-2019 SEASON

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Saturday, December 15, 2018 - 4:00 pm
Enfield Congregational Church
1295 Enfield Street, Enfield

Sunday, December 16, 2018 - 4:00 pm
Saturday, December 22, 2018 - 4:00 pm
First Church of Christ
12 South Main Street, West Hartford

CELTIC FIRE!

Sunday, March 3, 2019 - 4:00 pm
Wapping Community Church
1790 Ellington Road, South Windsor

Saturday, March 9, 2019 - 4:00 pm
St. John's Episcopal Church
679 Farmington Avenue, West Hartford

Sunday, March 10, 2019 - 4:00 pm
Bethany Covenant Church
785 Mill Street, Berlin

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