

Movement of the People Dance Company Full Repertoire 2005 - Present

Song and Dance You (2016)

Song and Dance You is a provocative, no holds barred multidisciplinary evening length performance in collaboration with musician Zoë Aqua, Playwright Amina Henry, and MOPDC's SADY workshop participants. The choreography balances comedy and tragedy, makes parallels with Minstrelsy and our modern society, and looks to answer the question: what will it take for Black Lives to Matter to all people? Based in Contemporary Dance Theater the movements fluctuate between Contemporary Dance, Traditional Jazz, and House. MOPDC also provides SADY choreography workshops that explores the Black Lives Matter Movement in relationship to the history of racism in the United States, and includes movement phrases and gestures created in these workshops within our choreography. 9 dancers, 1 musician, 60min.

• January 2016 – FLICfest Artist-in-Residence Performance @ The Irondale Center, Brooklyn, NY

Alma Liberada/Liberated Soul (2015)

Alma Liberada/Liberated Soul is made up of various Afro-Brazilian inspired company repertory pieces including: Solte Sua Samba, Natureza Viva! and Aconteceu. An ode to the vibrant and lively dance and music of Brazil as well as the community building nuances of dances such as: Samba-Afro, Samba, Dances of the Orixás, Passinho, and Samba de Roda. Choreography unites folkloric dance with contemporary dance and live music. This performance also includes engaging interactive audience participation. 6-11 dancers, 4 musicians, 30-50min.

- August 2015 Boogie on the Boulevard/Bronx Museum of Art, Bronx, NY
- June 2015 Lincoln Center's Meet the Artist Saturday's @ The David Rubenstein Atrium, New York, NY

Her Veiled Reflections (2013)

This collaborative choreography explores the secrets women keep and carry. It investigates how secrets shape the ways women move through their lives, view themselves and each other. Experience a dynamic dialogue between movement, live musicians, and anonymous contributors who have dared to share their secrets in writing. Watch women unite and empower each other across culture, class, religion, and age. Witness how secrets can be transformed from what keeps us separate into what keeps us connected. This interactive multimedia piece includes audience members reading secrets from collected index cards and video installations. Secrets shared by over 200 women from around the world via an online anonymous survey. 9 dancers, 4 live musicians, 75min full production, 10min solos/duets.

- July 2015 The Southern Vermont Dance Festival, Brattleboro, VT (solo)
- June 2015 Casita Maria Artist-in-Residence Performance, Bronx, NY; site-specific version (full production)
- October 2014 For Ferguson @ The Muse, Brooklyn, NY; donations went to the Michael Brown fund (solo)
- February 2014 International Woman Artists' Salon @ Dixon Place, New York, NY (duet)
- May 2013 The Performance Project @ University Settlement Artist-in-Residence Performance, New York, NY (full production)



Word is Audubon (2015)

A satirical 1min piece that addresses the effects of gentrification and the relocation of entire communities. Fueled by the Audubon Project in Hamilton Heights aka Harlem, and their spray painted murals on business gratings and sides of buildings. The curators pay muralists from outside the community to "beautify" it with giant graffiti murals of endangered birds. The parallel of this project to gentrification, colonialism, and relocated populations as endangered species is unnerving and MOPDC has created *Word is Audubon* to address these issues. The Dance Theater choreography explores MOPDC's unrest with this subject matter. 3 dancers, 1min.

October 2015 – 60 x 60 Dance Festival @ The Winter Garden/Brookfeild Arts, New York, NY

Paint the town red Hook (2014)

Paint the town red Hook is a site-specific work that looks at the various communities that have called Red Hook home. The piece was originally created to be seen from 360°, based on the site chosen and used the trees of the site as additional characters rather than obstacles. The choreography is based on true stories from people who have lived in Red Hook, including the Italian longshoremen, African-American and Latino populations that live in "The Back," as well as the newly forming gentrified areas. This Contemporary dance piece also includes various folk and popular dances from the aforementioned communities. 6 dancers, 15min.

- July 2015 The Southern Vermont Dance Festival, Brattleboro, VT
- December 2014 The Gathering VIII: A Night of African Music and Dance, New York, NY
- October 2014 Dance on the Greenway, Brooklyn, NY; commission

Movimento do Povo (1999)

Movimento do Povo (Movement of the People) depicts the effects Portuguese conquistadors, Catholicism, slavery, the 20yr Military Regime and racism have had, and still have, on Brazil. It fuses Contemporary Dance Theater, Afro-Brazilian dance, Capoeira and Dances of the Orixás in order to perform various historical occurrences with integrity. The entire piece takes the audience on a visceral journey through time and space, propelling them into the mind-set and atmosphere of pinnacle issues Brazil has faced. Movimento do Povo focuses on different social issues in Brazil and how people remain strong through their faith. 5-9 dancers, 30min full production, individual sections 5-10min.

- July 2015 The Southern Vermont Dance Festival, Brattleboro, VT; site-specific version @ Pliny Park (sections 1-3)
- July 2015 chashama Resident Artist, New York, NY; site-specific version @ Anita's Way (sections 1-3)
- April 2014 Critically Kinaesthetic: Performing Bodies of Political Engagement at The Heliconian Hall, Toronto, ON (sections 1-3)
- April 2014 Ya'el Tap's Choreographers Collective at Fireproof, Brooklyn, NY (section 1)
- July 2007 SummerStage @ St. Mary's Park, Bronx, NY (section 1)
- April 2001 Barnard's Emerging Choreographers Spring Concert @ Minor Latham Theater/Student Choreography full performance (full production)
- April 2000 Barnard's Emerging Choreographers Spring Concert @ Minor Latham Theater/Student Choreography (section 3)
- April 1999 Barnard's Emerging Choreographers Spring Concert @ Minor Latham Theater/Student Choreography (section 1)



Aconteceu/It Happened (2012)

Based on the Candelária Massacre of 1993 in Rio de Janeiro Brazil, where 8 street children were massacred by police, the work provocatively fuses Contemporary Dance and pedestrian movements with Afro-Brazilian dances including Dances of the Orixás, Capoeira, and Samba. In questioning the role of fate in how the world unfolds around us, as well as paralleling Greek Fates and the Goddess Yemanja of the Afro-Brazilian religion Candomblé, the structure of the piece follows the format of a Greek Tragedy. Choreography includes both live spoken word and singing. Originally set for 23 dancers, can be performed with at least 11 people, 25min.

- May 2015 A Thread That Ties Us All @ University Settlement (co-produced production), New York, NY
- April 2012 Closed Body/Safe Heart @ The Center for Dance, Movement and Somatic Learning, Stony Brook, NY/Faculty Choreographer Performance Dance Ensemble

Solte Sua Samba (2011)

Uplifting and vibrant choreography based on the traditional Samba styles of Pagode and Samba de Roda, with a Contemporary flare. Audiences are transported to the streets of Bahia and join in on the exciting rhythms, call and response songs/choreography, and rejoice in the lively energy. 4-10 dancers, 10-20min.

- May 2015 NYC Multicultural Festival, New York, NY; included 10 3rd-5th graders from partnering school PS65
- December 2014 The Gathering VIII: A Night of African Music and Dance, New York, NY; joined by Brooklyn International High School students
- May 2014 Celebrate Diversity Dance Festival, New York, NY; included 10 3rd-5th graders from partnering school PS65
- November 2013 The Gathering VII: A Night of African Music, Dance and Dialogue at Farafina Cafe and Lounge, New York, NY
- May 2013 Celebrate Diversity Festival, New York, NY
- June October 2012 Sol y Sombra's Out of Africa Festival @ Suffolk Community College, Brentwood Library, Smithtown Arts Council, and The Rainbow Theater at Heckscher Park, Long Island, NY
- July October 2011 Sol y Sombra's Hispanic Dance Festival II @ Suffolk Community College, Smithtown Arts Council, and The Rainbow Theater at Heckscher Park, Long Island, NY
- August 2011 The Wild Project (co-produced performance), New York, NY

Black Lives: a Movement (2014)

Explored an improvisational solo rendering of feelings and thoughts surrounding the controversial statement "Black Lives Matter." Movement vocabulary included West African, Contemporary and Dance Theater. Solo, 7min.

December 2014 – The Gathering VIII: A Night of African Music and Dance, New York, NY

Blurred Minds (2014)

Blurred Minds is a solo piece that explores: the progression of schizophrenia, the internal struggle of fighting and giving into hallucinations and delusions, as well as the difficulties to act normally in social situations. It reflects real life experiences of one teetering on the precipice of being able to distinguish reality. Solo, 8min.

• August 2014 – This/That @ The Brick Theater, Brooklyn, NY



(For) Those We Left Behind (2010)

(For) Those We Left Behind is an exploration of families who fought for the opportunity to immigrate to the US, and in turn settled in Brooklyn. The story is told through the haunting imagery and voices of family members stuck in their native lands. The choreography delves into the recognition of our vulnerability, a surrender of our desire to control events, and concept of morphing transformation. Live musical accompaniment inspired by Klezmer and Gypsy Folk music. Site-specific to each location it is performed. 6 dancers, 1 musician, 12min.

- July 2014 ChEck Us OuT Dance Festival @ Central Park, New York, NY; site-specific version for Summit Rock; violinist Sean Devare
- September 2010 White Wave's DUMBO Dance Festival, Brooklyn, NY; site Specific version for Brooklyn Bridge Park Pier 1; bassist Michael Thurber

Las Madres (2005)

Las Madres is a Modern Dance/Tango influenced composition based on the history of Las Madres de Plaza de Mayo, a group of women who helped take down the Military Regime in Argentina. Dancers perform with foam wood posters of enlarged photos of their own loved ones who have passed. 7 dancers, 14min extended version, 7min section 1.

- May 2014 Sans Limites Spring Performance @ The Drilling Company, New York, NY; Guest Artist (section 1)
- September 2013 FAB! Arts Festival, New York, NY (section 1)
- May 2010 Bronx Academy of Arts & Dance/BAAD!'s "Boogie Down Dance Festival" Bronx, NY (section 1)
- April 2010 Amnesty International's Human Rights Art Festival, Silver Spring, MD; joined by Stony Brook University students (extended version)
- September 2007 White Wave's DUMBO Dance Festival (John Ryan Theater and the Empire-Fulton State Park) Brooklyn, NY (section 1)
- April 2005 NYU Dance Education Master's Concert @ The Fredrick Lowe Theatre, New York, NY/student work (section 1)

A Escolha da Mulher (2013)

A Escolha da Mulher/Woman's Choice, celebrates the voices of women and their independence. The quintet is based in Afro-Brazilian dance including the Dances of the Goddess Oxum and Samba, as well as improvisations that come out of a West African/Afro-Caribbean influence. It was originally choreographed for the One Billion Rising NYC event, which featured special guests: Glenn Close, Rosario Dawson, Donna Karan, Kathy Najimy, and Rosie Perez. 5 dancers, 6min

- May 2014 Celebrate Diversity Dance Festival, New York, NY
- February 2013 On Billion Rising at the Hammerstein Ballroom, New York, NY
- February 2013 Diaspora Conversations at Our Lady of Lourdes School, New York, NY

Understand Your Ground (2012)

Understand Your Ground, a dance trilogy inspired by the Trayvon Martin trials, provokes the senses and invokes thought about our current society's stand on racial stereotypes and prejudices. Dancer's weave in and out of emotions stemming from the case, including movement representations of the viral reactions people have included on the internet, and looks to find humanity in our humanity. Choreography blends Modern and Hip



Hop dance vernaculars *Taste the Rainbow* follows the first moments of finding out about the horrendous act, along with the details pertaining to the night of Trayvon's murder. 5 dancers, 6min. The second section, *knock, knock. who's scared?* speaks to the way in which the proceedings of the Trayvon Martin trial were handled and the integral discourse that was left in the gutter – that this was indeed a case fueled by race. Originally created as a site-specific work inspired by G. Fredrick Morante's sculpture *Relative*. 2 dancers, 6min. *Cyclical Coda* is a discourse of our nation's unrest and combines the many feelings helplessness, anger, and sadness left in the wake of injustice. 11 dancers, 5min. Full production 7-11 dancers, 17min.

- April 2014 Tanz Consciousness at The Center for Dance, Movement and Somatic Learning, Stony Brook, NY/Faculty Choreographer, full performance
- February 2014 National Black Theatre's #HoodiesUp Art Exhibit, New York, NY/video
- February 2014 Black History Month Closing Ceremony at City College, New York, NY/knock, knock? who's scared
- October 2013 The Outlet Dance Project at The Grounds for Sculpture, Hamilton, NJ/knock, knock? who's scared site-specific version
- January 2013 From Obama to Occupy: Works of Outrage from 2008-2012 @ BAX/Brooklyn Arts Exchange, Brooklyn, NY/*Taste the Rainbow*
- July 2012 ChEck Us OuT Dance Festival @ Central Park, New York, NY/Taste the Rainbow site-specific version

Esquenta (2014)

Ambitions Dance Company

Esquenta is a commissioned piece that explores the power of Afro-Brazilian Dance to unite communities. The choreography combines Samba Afro, Capoeira, Dances of the Orixás, and Contemporary Dance. 16 dancers, 5min.

• April 2014 – The Legacy at Schwab Auditorium Penn State University, State College, PA/Guest Choreographer

30 going on HAG (2011)

A contemporary dance quartet about society's antiquated gravitational pull on women, and what is deemed acceptable for women in their thirties: marriage, stable career, and kids. It looks at the wake of these preconceived notions as to what constitutes as respectable. This dark choreography addresses what it's like to take on the pressures of society, nature, and one's personal fears, as a woman in her 30's. An ode to the single, temporary job having, childless woman's midlife crisis.

- October 2013 NYC10! at Dixon Place, New York, NY
- February 2011 White Wave's Cool NY Dance Festival, Brooklyn, NY

Natureza Viva!/Dances of the Orixás (2011)

MOPDC's folkloric Dances of the Orixás of the Afro-Brazilian religion Candomblé – Oxum (Goddess of the rivers), Iansã (Goddess of wind), Ogum (God of iron), and Oxossi (God of the hunt). Choreographed and improvisational movements depict the essence of each deity. 3-4 dancers, can be performed for 5-10min.

- October 2013 Latino Heritage Culture Show at City College, New York, NY
- August 2013 African Unity and Resource Day, New York, NY
- May 2013 Celebrate Diversity Festival, New York, NY



- June October 2012 Sol y Sombra's Out of Africa Festival @ Suffolk Community College, Brentwood Library, Smithtown Arts Council, and The Rainbow Theater at Heckscher Park, Long Island, NY
- July October 2011 Sol y Sombra's Hispanic Dance Festival II @ Suffolk Community College, Smithtown Arts Council, and The Rainbow Theater at Heckscher Park, Long Island, NY

Bonne Récolte (2012)

Based on various traditional West African harvest dances, this lively and engaging piece reflects community building with upbeat rhythms and intricate movements. 3 dancers, 6min.

- May 2013 Celebrate Diversity Festival, New York, NY
- October 2012 Sol y Sombra's Out of Africa Festival @ Suffolk Community College, Long Island, NY
- October 2012 Sol y Sombra's Out of Africa Festival @ Brentwood Library, Long Island, NY
- September 2012 Sol y Sombra's Out of Africa Festival @ Smithtown Arts Council, Long Island, NY
- June 2012 Sol y Sombra's Out of Africa Festival @ Rainbow Theater Heckscher Park, Long Island,
 NY

Love on the Rocks (2013)

Love Against the Rocks is based on the Jamaican folktale Lovers Leap, and inspired by the beauteous location of Summit Rock. As legend has it, either two enslaved Africans or an enslaved African and a plantation owners daughter fell in love. Rather than being forced to separate and live without each other, they fled the plantation and were chased to the edge of a 1,700 foot cliff above the Caribbean Sea. They jumped. MOPDC uses traditional Jamaican folk dances and music woven with a Contemporary dance flare to tell this tragic tale.

• July 2013 – ChEck Us OuT Dance Festival, Central Park, New York, NY

Movement of the People Dance Company at A Chance to Dance: coordination and performance MOPDC participated in ABC Carpet's event for the One Billion Rising campaign. Men and women worldwide rise up and take part in a unifying global crusade to demand the end of violence against women and girls. In solidarity with a myriad of events in NYC, ABC Carpet housed a harmonious dance demonstration in their iconic Broadway windows. The space was transformed into a public performance aimed to raise awareness and inspire activism in our community. MOPDC performed an improvised installation in six of the windows. 6 dancers, 15min.

• February 2013 – One Billion Rising, ABC Carpet Windows, New York, NY

Dispossession (2012)

Inspired by the Occupy movements and George Segal's statue "Depression Bread Line," located in The Grounds for Sculpture, MOPDC's new work *Dispossession* will explore the parallels between The Great Depression and our lives and times in this past year. This dance theater site-specific quartet will use the tableau created by Segal to set the stage and create the environment in which the dancers will weave in and out of creating their own tableaus. The premiss of the choreography is based on real stories from both The Great Depression and the Occupy movements, as a means to show that life repeats itself if we do not learn and grow from our mistakes. Music by composer Dylan Glatthorn. 4 dancers, 8min.

• October 2012 – The Outspoken Dance Project @ The Grounds for Sculpture, Hamilton, NJ



Land of the Rising Tide (2012)

An ode to the countries and areas devastated by natural disasters in the form of water: Japan – tsunami; Indonesia/Thailand – tsunami; New Orleans – Hurricane Katrina. This site-specific piece of choreography blends contemporary dance with splashes of traditional folk dances from the above mentioned locations, choreographed for the giant staircase on Pier 1 in Brooklyn Bridge Park. Original music by Dylan Glatthorn. Collaborative choreography by Joya Powell and dancers. 6 dancers, 15min.

• September 2012 – White Wave's DUMBO Dance Festival, Brooklyn, NY

Farm, House-Rules (2012)

Farm, House-Rules, is a farce on the state of our government and the elections of 2012. Like the interactions of dominant male animals put in close quarters, each party puffs out their chests to look the most suitable for the position of President, while strategically implementing jabs at each other. Adorned in a donkey and elephant masks the duet jovially explores the state of our nation while addressing a few of the issues that revolve around this year's elections. This interactive piece breaks the fourth wall and instigates audience responses as well as encourages the audience to dance in order to get the final votes for President. 2 dancers, 10min.

- July 2012 WHEC Community Block Party, Hamilton Heights, NY
- June 2012 FIGMENT Arts Festival NYC @ Governor's Island, NY

Personal Private Apartheid (2011)

A sextet based on one's inner struggle; how at times people separate themselves from society without realizing it, resulting in a subconscious fight for self understanding causing some to live segregated lives, however obvious or ambiguous it may be. Choreography fuses West African dance and contemporary dance. This piece also looks at the shadow and outline of movements at a metaphor for our unconscious minds. Each dancer uses headlights attached to their costumes to create shadow effects within the bookends of the piece. 6 dancers, 10min

- March 2012 Dance Conversations at The FLEA Theater, conversation moderated by Gina Gibney, New York, NY
- April 2011 The Center for Dance, Movement and Somatic Learning's Spring Performance, Stony Brook, NY/Faculty Choreography

Vento da Memoria/Wind of Memory (2012)

This Afro/Afro-Brazilian fusion piece inspired by the traditional movements of Iansã (Yoruban Goddess of wind, hurricanes, and cemeteries), addresses the tendency to settle into conformity, and the beauty that abounds once the stale air around us is disturbed propelling us into momentum. Co-choreographed with Adia Wilson of MOPDC. 2 dancers, 8min.

• February 2012 – Rivers of Honey @ WOW Cafe, New York, NY

Grev Matter (2012)

An expounded version of a previous work *Shades of Gray*, a somber Modern dance piece that depicts the difficulties of being interracial in today's society, this rendition includes other societal stereo-types, and preconceived notions based on dancer's personal experiences with adversity. This site-specific interpretation is influenced and performed in and around the sculpture: *Space of Stone*, 2002 by Magdalena Abakanowicz – a giant geometrical stone garden. 5 dancers, 9min.

• October 2012 – The Outspoken Dance Project @ The Grounds for Sculpture, Hamilton, NJ



Social Tremor (2011)

This solo dance theater piece consisted of interactive dancer/audience choreography based on the Haitian and Japanese earthquakes. Choreography arranged like a "choose your own adventure" book: set points where the dancer elicits the help of the audience through physical interaction/verbal discourse. The dancer continues the piece based on the choices the audience makes. Solo, 15min.

• June 2011 – FIGMENT Arts Festival @ Governor's Island, NY

Cog in the Machine (work-in-progress) (2010)

Cog in the Machine, a dance theater piece which explores how everyone is a cog, whether they acknowledge it or not, in the machine that is society. An experimental mixture of choreography and improvisation, it is somewhat comical, satirical, and yet has serious undertones. Company members and friends delve into the concept of manipulating people as props. 6 dancers, 10min.

- November 2010 WAXworks, Brooklyn, NY
- July 2010 The TANK "New Works Dance Series," New York, NY

Meditations on NutIsland (2010)

A multidimensional site specific improvisation titled "Meditation on Nut Island." This solo explored the history of Governor's Island, from the Lenape Tribe's seasonal activities to the conditions in which the island was bought by the Dutch. Movement sequences were inspired not only from the historical context but by also living and physically exploring the breadth and boundaries created within the *Pallet City* sculpture installation. Solo, 7min.

 August 2010 – Pallet Jam/FIGMENT Arts Festival Terrace Season-Long Sculpture Garden, Governor's Island, NY

Breathless (2008)

Co-choreographed by Denise Brown and Jillian Perkins, members of Movement of the People Dance Company, "Breathless" is a Modern dance piece that looks at the of noose related incidents in the United States in 2010. Performed as a solo, duet or sextet, short version 7min, 13min.

- April 2010 Amnesty International's Human Rights Art Festival, Silver Spring, MD/duet
- April 2010 Moving Beauty Dance Series w/ QAS @ Webster Hall, New York, Performance streamed live on www.nycliverock.com./duet
- December 2008 NuDance Festival @ The Riverside Theatre, New York, NY/sextet
- August 2008 The TANK: Two Nights of Political Dance, New York, NY/duet
- August 2008 Evoke's Celebrate Dance Festival, San Diego, CA/duet
- April 2008 The Festival at Dance Theater Workshop: Raw Festival Studio Series, New York, NY/solo
- January 2008 White Wave's Cool New York Dance Festival, Brooklyn, NY

Shades of Gray (2008)

A somber Modern dance trio, adapted to appear as a duet or solo, which depicts the difficulties of being interracial in today's society. This piece stems from both a personal perspective and collective struggles from people of mixed races. 2-3 dancers, 9min.

- April 2010 Amnesty International's Human Rights Art Festival, Silver Spring, MD/solo performance
- May 2009 Rivers of Honey @ the WOW Cafe New York, NY/duet performance



- January 2009 WAXworks, Brooklyn, NY/trio performance
- August 2008 Evoke's Celebrate Dance Festival, San Diego, CA/trio performance

Layers (work-in-progress) (2009)

This new modern dance work-in-progress explores the inner dialogue people have while in public spaces, how we filter people's perceptions, as well as vocalizing the inner dialogue dancers have while performing. Choreography by Joya Powell and Pam Pollock, for five dancers. Performance by Movement of the People Dance Company members as well as Stony Brook University students. 5 dancers, 8min.

 December 2009 – Movement Research "Open Performance" @ Dance Theater Workshop, New York, NY

Ao Ilê (2008)

Living Legacy Dance Company - Urban Assembly School for Law and Justice

Commissioned to choreograph an Afro-Brazilian piece for twelve High School dance company members for their second annual production. 10 dancers, 5min.

• May 2008 – Mark Morris Dance Center, Brooklyn, NY/Guest Choreographer

A Girl Like Me (2007)

The collaborative piece is based on the acclaimed documentary "A Girl Like Me" by Kiri Davis. It mirrors the documentary focusing on how young African-American women see themselves in today's society. The choreography combines African, Modern and Hip Hop dance. 7 dancers, 10min.

• July 2007 – SummerStage @ St. Mary's Park, Bronx, NY

La Ironia del Duende (2006)

Created a modern dance/Flamenco influenced composition based on the struggles of the traditional Flamenco and Gypsy concept of the Duende, the dark depths one must traverse in order to create profound works of art, and is set in Guernica, a small town in Southern Spain, during the Spanish Civil War (1936-1939). 9 dancers, 10min

- July 2007 SummerStage @ St. Mary's Park, Bronx, NY
- June 2006 RAW Material @ Dance New Amsterdam, New York, NY

Urban Confinement (2006)

Created a solo modern dance piece choreographed for 'Iolani Lightbourne, and depicts the ever present reality of the inner struggle of women displaced from their native soil. Solo, 5min.

• March 2006 – OUTSPOKEN @ Bric Theater, New York, NY