

THE DANCE GALLERY
festival

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SOUTH-CENTRAL
CONFERENCE

Dance Gallery Festival

Monday, March 6, 2023

7:30 PM - 9:30 PM

SAM HOUSTON STATE UNIVERSITY
Huntsville, TX

THE DANCE GALLERY *festival*

Dance Gallery Staff

Astrid von Ussar (*Artistic Director*), **Mojac Ussar** (*Co-Founder*), **Quinn Czejkowski** (*Managing Director*), **Andy Noble** (*Regional Programming Associate*), **Cassidy Counts** (*Administration and Marketing Assistant*)

VON USSAR danceworks - Board of Directors

Astrid von Ussar, **Alessandra Gouldner**, **Karen Walker**, **Quinn Czejkowski**

Young Artists Advisory Council

Cameron McKinney, **Khensani Mathebula**, **Teddy Tedholm**

The Dance Gallery Festival was created in 2007 by Astrid von Ussar and Mojca Ussar and has since become a well-known festival with annual showcases in New York City and Texas. Having been met with much praise and enthusiasm from artists, audiences and critics alike, The Dance Gallery Festival has quickly become an essential addition to the dance world. The aim of our festival is to help deepen public appreciation and support for concert dance.

Today, we run the festival with the same mission as when we started 15 years ago, but our reach and scope have grown in scale. We branched out in 2009 to Sam Houston State University in Texas, with whom we have worked to offer a combination of master classes, guest artist commissions, and professional level performance offerings. This has since matured into a 14 year partnership, and is a vital part of the yearly festival. In 2016 we began working with the Catskill Arts Society, a museum in upstate New York. As partners, we are able to offer a 1 week residency program for artists. Since 2016, we've brought on essential collaborators and colleagues, and wonderful new board members. We continue to provide a performance platform for Dance Gallery artists to present work in NYC and beyond, and I am grateful we have found these nurturing homes to foster our choreographers. By providing multiple avenues for artists to present their work, we feel we are contributing to keeping dance fresh with new ideas and perspectives. It has always been our goal to find artists who have unique points of view and to help them advance in their careers. It has been deeply satisfying and humbling for us to showcase choreographers in the festival and then see them gain traction and find success.

We're thrilled to partner with SHSU in 2023 to create the Opening Night performance of the ACDA South-Central Conference! Congratulations to Carlos Kerr Jr., Doron Perk, Olga Rabetskaya, and Chelsea Ainsworth & Jessica Smith whose works have been selected.

I hope you will enjoy this year's selections as much as I do!

Astrid

STATEMENT OF EMPOWERMENT

ACDA recognizes that Art can provoke; therefore, during the course of the conference, participants are empowered to remove themselves from conference activities.

Dance Gallery Festival Opening Night Performance ACDA South-Central Region 2023

GRANDFATHER VISIT

CHOREOGRAPHER: Doron Perk
MUSIC/SOUND SCORE: "Violin Concerto in E Minor Op 64" by Felix Mendelssohn - Kyung Wha Chung with Orchestre Symphonique de Montréal
LIGHTING DESIGNER: Original design by Kryssy Wright
PERFORMER: Doron Perk

Program Note for Grandfather Visit: A dance solo exploring themes of grief and heritage, inspired by many visits to my grandfather in the last few years of his life. I created this performance to both deal with my personal loss as well as my identity as a grandchild of a Holocaust survivor. The dance language ranges from contemporary ballet to free-form improvisation and uses Israeli folk dance to reach emotional climaxes. Through the framing narrative of a visit, I dance out embodied memories, using the movements to evoke forgotten sensations. It is the result of a two-year process, brought to life thanks to the support of LABA - Laboratory for Jewish Culture in New York City.

COMMON GROUND

CHOREOGRAPHER: Carlos Kerr Jr.
MUSIC/SOUND SCORE: Joep Boeving & Sontag Shogun, with original sound design & arrangement by Carlos Kerr Jr.
LIGHTING DESIGNER: David J Deveau
COSTUME DESIGNER: Carlos Kerr Jr.
PERFORMERS: Alexander Anderson and Carlos Kerr Jr.

Program Note for Common Ground: World Premiere

ELEVATOR

CHOREOGRAPHER: Olga Rabetskaya
MUSIC/SOUND SCORE: Masha Vasilevskaya
LIGHTING DESIGNER: Original design by Anna Wotring
COSTUME DESIGNERS: Anna Trubachova and performers
PERFORMERS: Carl Ponce Cubero, India Hobbs,
Olga Rabetskaya, and Brandon Woods

Program Note for Elevator: This work was created as a part of the residency at The Cell Theater (New York).

Warning: This work contains strobe lighting.

UNRAVEL

CHOREOGRAPHERS: Chelsea Ainsworth & Jessica Smith
MUSIC/SOUND SCORE: "Underground Cocek" by Balkan Brass Band;
"Sposa son disprezzata" by Vivaldi,
Cecilia Bartoli, Gyorgy Fisher
LIGHTING DESIGNER: Original design by Beau Banks
PERFORMERS: Chelsea Ainsworth & Jessica Smith

NEVER ODD OR EVEN

CHOREOGRAPHER: Carlos Kerr Jr.
MUSIC/SOUND SCORE: Carlos Cipa, William Basinski & Max Richter
Original Sound Design & Arrangement by
Carlos Kerr Jr.
LIGHTING DESIGNER: Marc Hostettler
COSTUME DESIGNERS: Valeria Marangelli & Sarah Hoffer
PERFORMERS: Alexander Anderson, Emily Paige Anderson,
Carlos Kerr Jr., and Tori Mazzacone

Program Note for Common Ground: US Premiere

~~~End of Program~~~

## *Dance Gallery Festival*

### *Choreographer Bios*

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**Carlos Kerr Jr.**, Belizean-American artist from Brooklyn, New York, attended Fiorello H. LaGuardia High School of Music Art & Performing Arts. He then continued his education at the Ailey Fordham BFA in Lincoln Center, receiving his Bachelor of Fine Arts in Dance and graduating with honors. He has worked internationally, performing with the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, the Metropolitan Opera Ballet, Rubberband Dance Group, Kibbutz Contemporary Dance Company, Stadtheater Ulm, and the Tanz Luzerner Theater in Switzerland. He has performed in repertoire and original creations throughout his career with notable choreographers, including Crystal Pite, William Forsythe, Hofesh Shecter, Johan Inger, Bryan Arias, Georg Reischl, Fernando Melo, Itzik Galili, Inbal Pinto & Marcos Morau. As a choreographer, his work 'Remotely Equal' was selected as a finalist in the Concours Choreographique of Mandalain Ballet Biarritz. His creation "Never Odd or Even" was featured as part of an evening of work alongside Patrick Delcroix for the Tanz Luzerner Theater. Carlos was commissioned to create original work as an Emerging Choreographer for Springboard Danse Montreal in Canada in 2022. Along with his choreographic endeavors, Carlos is an international dance teacher, gyrokinesis practitioner, photographer, music composer, and filmmaker. He holds a Master's Certificate in Advanced Sciences in Dance Science with a focus in Health & Performance from the University of Bern.

**Olga Rabetskaya** is U.S. based artist originally from Belarus. She is a choreographer, director and photographer whose work spans film, choreography and photography, multimedia production. Olga's artistic research and exploration focus on the deep knowledge of the body and how to share our emotional experience, memories, and body intelligence through movement. She was a soloist in the Contemporary dance troupe of the State Youth Theater of Belarus from 2014 to 2019. Her dance works and dance films have been presented at international festivals in the United States, Poland, Belgium, United Kingdom, Portugal, China, Brazil, Bolivia, and Belarus. She has held four personal photo exhibitions in Belarus and USA and has been awarded residencies at the Monira Foundation (2022), The Cell Theater (2022), School of Visual Arts (2021), Gallim Moving Women+ (2021), El Camp (2021), Fellowship at SMUSH Gallery in Jersey City (2021), Kunstrraum (2021) and Residence for Young Choreographers in Moscow (2018).

**Doron Perk** is a dancer, choreographer, and teacher on a journey to find ultimate freedom in movement and promote authenticity in dance. Doron's contemporary style is a merge between classical ballet, Israeli folk, and free improvisation. Born in Israel, Doron started folk dancing at 8. He then studied ballet, contemporary, and composition at the high school and conservatory of the Jerusalem Academy of Music and Dance with the support of the America - Israel Cultural Foundation. He danced in the Croatian National Theater Ballet in Split, Compañía Nacional de Danza in Madrid, and The Batsheva Ensemble in Tel Aviv. In 2016, Doron moved to New York City with an O1 visa and started working as an independent artist, Gaga movement teacher, and dancer/associate director with ZviDance. He was then listed in "Best Performers of 2016" by Dance Magazine. Doron's solo performance, "Grandfather Visit", is currently nominated for a Bessie Award and has been presented by LABA NY at the 14th Street Y, Pioneers Go East Collective at Judson Church, and Arts on Site NYC. Doron's newest film, "Pedestrian", was chosen to be screened at CreateArt Film Night and Motion State Dance Film Series this coming Fall.

Directors **Jessica Smith** and **Chelsea Ainsworth** have been making and presenting work since 2017. They come from an international background of creating and performing work in places such as England, France, Germany, Japan, Philippines, West Africa, Canada, and the United States. Dual Rivet has performed at venues such as West End Theatre, Kittery Maine, Musikfest Pennsylvania, Peridance Capezio Center, CreateArt, and Arts On Site. The company teaches a myriad of classes, throughout the United States, with an emphasis on contemporary partnering and floorwork. Dual Rivet is currently on faculty at The Juilliard School, Gibney, SUNY Purchase, Adelphi, Peridance and DanceWave. Dual Rivet aims to share what it means to be female leaders in the arts.



Visit **[DANCEGALLERYFESTIVAL.COM](http://DANCEGALLERYFESTIVAL.COM)** for more information  
about programming and opportunities

# ACDA SOUTH-CENTRAL CONFERENCE

## 2023 Adjudicators

Joe Goode, Michelle Manzanales, & Ursula Payne

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The American College Dance Association gratefully acknowledges Dance Magazine for its generous support of the National College Dance Festival and recognizes the following individuals for their on-going commitment as Lifetime Members of ACDA:

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Judy Allen

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Ruth Barnes

Jean Baxter

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Jeanne Beaman

Paul Besaw

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