




soniaplumb
dance company
Annual Report 2022

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This **Annual Report** encompasses the past two years of the pandemic, beginning March 2020 when the world shut down to March 2022. During an unprecedented time in modern history, Sonia Plumb Dance Company held on tight, creating dances for the digital world and the real world of the body and soul, making new connections locally, nationally and internationally, pivoting to on-line programming and back again to in-person, safely and joyfully, thanking the universe when our feet finally touched the vinyl marley flooring and we could dance together in person, in the flesh. We continued to provide robust, forward-thinking dance performances, classes, community outreach, training and so much more. Peruse the contents of our 2020-2022 Annual Report at your leisure, click on links to YouTube and experience our dance like never before.

- Yours truly and ever grateful – Sonia Plumb, Artistic Director.

Our Mission: Sonia Plumb Dance Company was formed nearly thirty years ago with the mission: **to enrich and educate the community through innovative modern dance.** We fulfill our mission through performances, classes, workshops, community outreach, arts integration residencies and collaborations with musicians and composers, artists and actors, puppeteers, poets and educators. SPDC is known for reaching beyond the arts community with a diverse repertoire that often reflects upon larger societal issues. Our vision is to create a transformative perspective of the world.

The Pivot

No longer able to work in person, SPDC pivoted to the digital world creating podcasts, webcasts, webinars and digital dance films and on-line classes. Did we mention March 2020 was the first time we had ever used Zoom?



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Commitment to Diversity, Accessibility, Community and Inclusion

Since our inception in 1990, we have been committed to ensuring our programming, staff, artists and board reflect the needs of the diverse community we live in, work with and connect to. From work-study Apprentice Training and scholarships for underserved and economically challenged youth, free community outreach and bilingual services in the classrooms, studio and social media. These long standing initiatives made it possible for us to receive relief funding throughout the pandemic to best serve our community while holding onto our artistic integrity, and for that we are truly grateful.

In-Person Programming 2020

Dance of da Vinci 2.0

Launching a premiere is no easy feat – and in the middle of a pandemic is that much more notable. On July 31, 2020 we premiered the long awaited Dance of da Vinci 2.0 at the Hill-Stead Museum in Farmington, CT.

It was professional dancers' interpretation of Leonardo Da Vinci writings and drawings... with sky and summer sounds ..wonderful movements. And choreography...what athletes. Costumes divine. I give it A plus. – Dolly Curtis.



We found it amazing that the music, dancers, choreography were all drawn from Da Vinci's writings. Though we do not speak Italian, it was not necessary. The emotion was so clearly the dance, it was so beautiful to watch. We felt it. – Anonymous

A Quick Glance at SPDC's 2022/2023 Season
Penelope's Odyssey – full premiere in Hartford, CT AND touring to Castleton University, VT featuring world-class dancer Daniel Navarro Lorenzo from Spain as Odysseus.

The Sound of Migration – work in progress at The Quick Centre for the Arts, Fairfield, CT featuring composer Jeph Vanger of Athens, Greece. Re-instating the **Apprentice Training Program** for talented high school graduates and underserved resuming scholarships for underserved youth to train at the School of SPDC. **Young Choreographer's Concert** for aspiring choreographers.

Be sure to sign up for our weekly newsletters to catch up on the latest.

Columns Dance Festival
at Bushnell Park Pavilion,
September 2020

Duos & Trios – Hill-Stead Museum,
Farmington, CT, September 2020



The Pandemic Continues...2021 Inside/Outside/Inside

We hunkered down, back inside producing virtual content and offering free, on-line performances, streaming classes and webinars. By June, we were ready to rehearse in person and then headed back outside to share our work with the world. A postponed and much anticipated arts residency on the island of Crete brought us new inspiration and a new, global following.

Participated in the University of Saint Joseph's **First Virtual 5X5 Dance Festival**;

Provided six **Dance in the Parks** performances and family classes in Hartford's neighborhood parks;

Hired to create **Bushnell's Digital Dance Community Project**, now being shown both inside and outside Hartford's premiere touring venue and available on YouTube

Presented **"Penelope's Solo"** at the MudHouse on the island of Crete, Greece;

Premiered **"Penelope's Odyssey – Work in Progress, Part 1 (Trailer)"** at the Theater of the Performing Arts Main Stage on November 5/6;

Returned to in-person **Arts Integration Residencies** in the Hartford Public Schools through Hartford Performs;

Sonia Speaks

Let's Talk Leonardo with Trinity Professor Sean Cocco *Privacy in a Digital World* with Sherwin Yoder and dancer Bryan Smith Empathy podcast with Uchenna Richards, Sherwin Yoder and Upward Hartford

Lust, Appetite and Death with Myles Langston, Marlayna Locklear and William Roberson

Music and Dance with composer Mike Wall
Dance in a Digital World – Digitally Fit with Dr. Brianne Dwyer and Ricki Stevenson, LAT
Mental Self-Care for Dancers with Terry Hyde, Counselling for Dancers, MA MBACP

Penelope's Odyssey webinar with Trinity College Professor Vincent Tomasso

Women's Voices Then and Now webinar with UMass Amherst Professor Lauren Caldwell
Recorded six learning videos for Hartford Public students with Hartford Performs.

connecting curriculum to dance for virtual learning. Created and presented **Touch**, our first dance made specifically for the digital world. Offered numerous **free, on-line** classes for dance students of all ages.



School of SPDC Opens at New Space February 2022 –

Originally scheduled to launch in March of 2020, The School of SPDC finally opened it's doors to in-person classes in February 2022. The School is run by our new Director of Education, Julianne Guarnieri, a former student and performer with SPDC. With seed funding from Hartford Foundation for Public Giving and generous private donors, SPDC is able to offer 23 scholarships to underserved Hartford BIOC youth who wish to train in the field of dance.

The New Home for Sonia Plumb Dance Company – 960 Main Street, Hartford, CT

After years of searching, SPDC found a new home at 960 Main Street, Hartford, CT, formerly the old GFox department store that was the gem of Hartford. The beautiful Art Deco building provides an essential backdrop for professional dance in downtown Hartford. Fully outfitted with high grade sprung floors, mirrors and the dancers' choice of beloved black marley, SPDC can now offer classes, workshops, community events and performances in our own space and on our own terms.

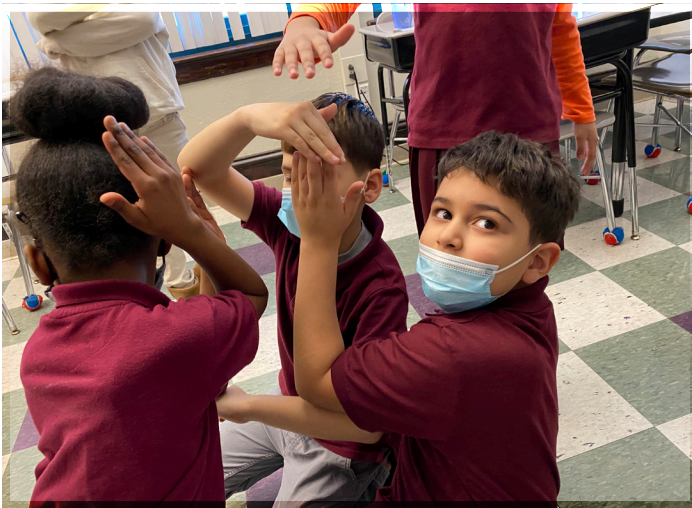
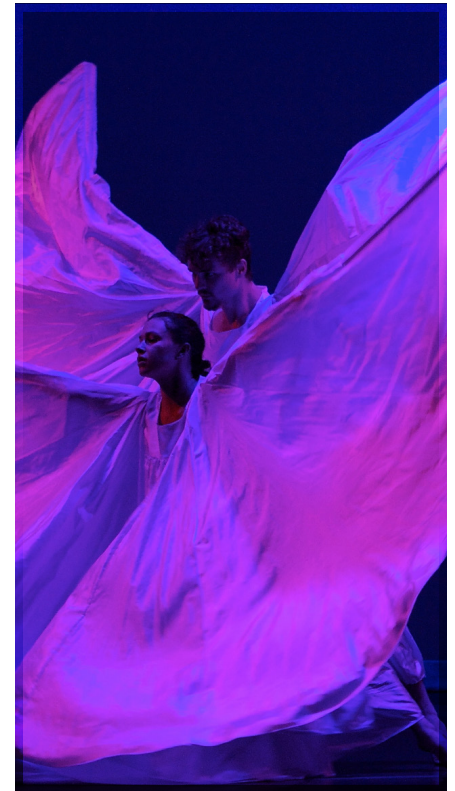


THE IMPACT

Statistics

Following our Fiscal Year programming, from the height of in-person, transitioning to virtual and on our way back to a hybrid model, keeping in mind that audiences have remained reluctant to attend in-person programs since March of 2020. *Notable: Between 1/1/2019 – 12/31/2019 we served 4514 people of all ages. The pandemic changed everything.

July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2020		July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021		July 1, 2021 to March 31, 2022	
In-Person		In-Person		In-Person	
Adult in state in person	1379	Adult in state in person	200	Adult in state in person	275
Adult out of state in person	350	Adult out of state in person	7	Adult out of state in person	137
Children in state in person	570	Children in state in person	60	Children in state in person	950
Children out of State	52	Children out of State		Children out of State	51
	2351		267		1413
Virtual		Virtual		Virtual	
Adult virtual in state	250	Adult virtual in state	733	Adult virtual in state	500
Adult virtual out of state	322	Adult virtual out of state	191	Adult virtual out of state	32
Children virtual		Children virtual	950	Children virtual	3
children out of state virtual		children out of state virtual	6	children out of state virtual	0
	572		1880		535
Total Reached	2923	Total Reached	2147	Total Reached	1948



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The Future and Our Commitment to Diversity, Accessibility and Inclusivity

Nowhere is it more evident of our on-going commitment to ALL individuals regardless of race, gender, sexual orientation, ability and socio/economic/cultural factors than in the photos and videos capturing our community. This is also demonstrated through data and testimonies.

Thank you to our Supporters

Hartford Foundation for Public Giving
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Andrea Blesso, Boston Center for the Arts

Kim Stroud, Greater Hartford Academy of the Arts

Sonia Plumb, Founder and Artistic Director

Staff

Samantha Rice – General Manager

Julianne Guarnieri – Director of Education

Brandon Gregorie – Social Media/Community Engagement

www.soniaplumbdance.org

