



RIRIE-  
WOODBURY  
DANCE  
COMPANY



# 2025 - 2026 Annual Report

photo by Marissa Mooney

Dear Friends,

Thank you for being part of another extraordinary year at Ririe-Woodbury Dance Company. Because of your support, the 2025–26 Season was filled with inspiring performances, meaningful artistic collaborations, and impactful education and outreach programs that reached communities throughout Utah and beyond. Together, we celebrated our rich legacy while embracing new ideas and creative possibilities that will shape the Company's future.

Joan Woodbury and Shirley Ririe believed in the power of dance and, specifically, in the power of creation. As we enter this next chapter, we are leaning into their extraordinary vision by prioritizing cutting edge and experimental dance makers. RW serves as a disciplined incubator for talented choreographers, which serves the community with inspiring shows. This public impact broadens with the innovative pedagogy of our education programs, creating dance experiences for all ages.

Looking ahead, we are excited for a performance schedule that will feature extraordinary dancemakers, major institutional collaborations, expanded touring opportunities, and new ways to connect with audiences both at home and across the country. Together, these initiatives will honor and extend Joan and Shirley's legacy, ensuring that their vision continues to inspire artists and communities in Utah and far beyond. None of this would be possible without you. To our audiences, patrons, donors, sponsors, and community partners, thank you for believing in the power of dance. Your generosity sustains not only the work on our stages, but also the educational experiences, community engagement, and artistic opportunities that make Ririe-Woodbury an essential cultural resource.

With gratitude,

Leslie Kraus  
Artistic Director



Thom Dancy  
Executive Director





“ *My goal is to honor the legacy that brought us here while creating space for new ideas, new voices, and meaningful connections through dance.* ”

## WELCOMING ARTISTIC DIRECTOR LESLIE KRAUS

The 2025–26 season marked the beginning of an exciting new chapter for Ririe-Woodbury Dance Company with the appointment of Leslie Kraus as Artistic Director. Leslie brings a remarkable breadth of experience as a performer, choreographer, educator, and arts leader. Her career includes serving as Associate Professor at the University of Oklahoma, performing with the acclaimed Kate Weare Company, and appearing in the internationally celebrated immersive production *Sleep No More*. These experiences have shaped a collaborative artistic vision rooted in curiosity, excellence, and the transformative power of contemporary dance.

As she begins her second Season, Leslie is building on the extraordinary foundation established by founders Joan Woodbury and Shirley Ririe while charting an inspiring path forward. Her leadership embraces bold new voices, interdisciplinary partnerships, and meaningful engagement with audiences both on and off the stage. Looking ahead, Ririe-Woodbury is poised for an exciting era of ambitious collaborations and commissions that will strengthen the Company's role as a national leader in contemporary dance.



# 2025 - 2026 SEASON



The 2025–26 season celebrated the power of dance to connect, challenge, and inspire through three dynamic programs: **Reverberation**, **Traverse**, and **Vantage Point**. Together, these performances showcased a diverse range of artistic voices, inviting audiences into experiences that explored movement, identity, resilience, and human connection. Each program reflected Ririe-Woodbury Dance Company's commitment to presenting work that is both artistically adventurous and deeply relevant.

Throughout the season, audiences experienced exceptional performances by the Company's extraordinary artists in works by acclaimed choreographers **Tzveta Kassabova**, **Kellie St. Pierre**, **Keerati Jinakunwiphat**, **Annie Rigney**, **FLOCK**, and **Leslie Kraus**. These distinctive artistic voices offered audiences an inspiring range of perspectives while highlighting the versatility and excellence of the Company. Whether welcoming longtime supporters or first-time attendees, the season sparked meaningful conversations and reinforced Ririe-Woodbury's role as a vital cultural resource for Utah.

The company's successful return of its Traverse performance series showcased the organization's unique approach to performance art as an experience, not just a theatrical event, delighting hundreds of patrons each night. RW was also excited to continue its longstanding collaboration with the **University of Utah School of Dance**, bringing advanced students down to the Rose Wagner to join the company onstage.



# 2025-26 EDUCATION & COMMUNITY IMPACT

**30,512**

STUDENTS SERVED

**1,670**

TEACHERS SERVED

**504**

INSTRUCTIONAL  
HOURS

**153**

PUBLIC  
SCHOOLS

**23**

DISTRICTS

**14**

CHARTER  
SCHOOLS

## WHAT WE GOT UP TO...

RURAL TOURING, INTERACTIVE ASSEMBLIES, VIRTUAL DANCE DAY, STUDENT MATINEES,  
KIDS IN MOTION, SECONDARY SCHOOL DANCE EDUCATION PROGRAMS,  
SYNTHESIS: YOUNG ARTIST SHOWCASE MOVE-IT YOUNG DANCER WORKSHOP,  
MOVE-IT TEACHER WORKSHOP, CREATIVE LEAPS FIELD TRIP AT THE UTAH MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS





# COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT & SPECIAL EVENTS

## LOCAL ENGAGEMENTS

- **Fisher Brewing Collaboration** – Launched a special collaboration beer, bringing together artists and supporters for a night of fun at the brewery.
- **Community Master Classes** – Leslie Kraus and Annie Rigney led classes with Dance Class for Humans, engaging dancers from across the Wasatch Front.
- **Choreofest** – Presented *The Rate We Change* alongside performances by Ballet West, RDT, and SALT Contemporary Dance.



## TOURING & MAJOR EVENTS

- **St. Louis & Palm Springs Tours** – Shared Ririe-Woodbury's work with audiences beyond Utah through national touring engagements.
- **Palm Desert Choreography Festival** – *The Rate We Change* by Kellie St. Pierre received the Grand Prize for Choreography.
- **Spring Forward Annual Benefit** – One of the most successful fundraisers in recent years, exceeded its goal with an evening celebrating dance, community, and philanthropy. Immersive floral experience provided by GALORE Floral.





# CHOREOGRAPHIC CANVAS

CLICK ME  
FOR VIDEO!

**Choreographic Canvas** was launched by Artistic Director Emeritus Daniel Charon in 2024 to champion emerging choreographers and create new artistic opportunities. During the 2025–26 season, a distinguished panel — including **Kate Weare, Glenn Edgerton, Chloe Jones, and Artistic Director Leslie Kraus** — selected **Annie Rigney** for the commission, reflecting Ririe-Woodbury's commitment to mentorship, innovation, and the future of contemporary dance.

Rigney, whose career includes performing with Batsheva Ensemble and Sleep No More, premiered her new work during Traverse on the Jeanne Stage, offering audiences an intimate encounter with her distinctive artistic voice. Through Choreographic Canvas, Ririe-Woodbury continues its legacy of nurturing exceptional artists and bringing exciting new work to Utah.

*This project was graciously underwritten in 2026 by the National Endowment for the Arts.*

# FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

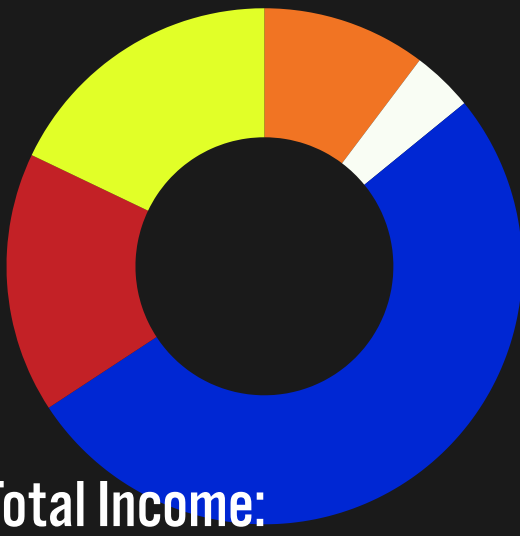
## FY 2025–26

The 2025–26 season marked a significant step forward in Ririe-Woodbury Dance Company's financial stewardship. Through responsible multi-year management and the continued support of our community, RW has successfully navigated and closed a planned, year-over-year operating deficit while maintaining its commitment to artistic excellence and education.

As Ririe-Woodbury transitions to a founder-inspired institution, the Company honors the legacy of Joan Woodbury, Jena Woodbury, and Shirley Ririe while building a sustainable future. These efforts are positioning Ririe-Woodbury to return to a strong financial foundation while continuing to invest in artists, programs, and the Utah community.

### Income Breakdown

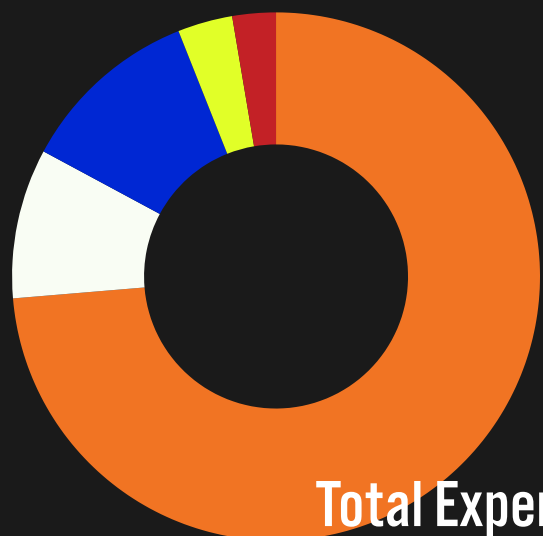
Program Revenue   Investment Income  
Government Support   Foundations   Individual Giving



Total Income:  
\$952,260.04

### Expenses Breakdown

Salaries and Benefits   Artistic Programming  
General Administration   Marketing   Fundraising



Total Expenses:  
\$933,290.22

NET OPERATING INCOME:  
+\$18,969.82





# PREVIEW OF THE 2026–27 SEASON

The 2026–27 season celebrates the power of contemporary dance to transform spaces, spark curiosity, and connect communities. Featuring nationally acclaimed choreographers, immersive artistic collaborations, and world premieres, the season continues Ririe-Woodbury's tradition of bringing bold, innovative work to Utah.

## Season Highlights

- **ACT I (September 2026):** New works by acclaimed New York choreographers **Dual Rivet** and **Kayla Farrish**.
- **ACT II (January 2027):** The world premiere of **Leslie Kraus'** immersive dance theatre work at the Utah Museum of Contemporary Art.
- **ACT III (April 2027):** *Palace* by **Outrun The Bear**, alongside a world premiere commission by Bessie Award-winning duo **Baye & Asa**.
- The return of the **Synthesis Young Artist Showcase**, featuring nearly 500 student dancers.
- **The Big Kids Show**, an imaginative family production inspired by the Scandinavian fairytale *Ronja*.

A season of **all-new work** by celebrated dancemakers underscores the company's ongoing commitment to supporting today's most compelling choreographic voices while creating memorable experiences for regional audiences.

# NEW PROJECTS & STRATEGIC INITIATIVES



The coming season will introduce exciting new opportunities for Ririe-Woodbury Dance Company to expand its artistic reach, strengthen community connections, and create deeper access to dance throughout Utah and beyond. The Company will continue to grow its touring initiatives with an upcoming fall engagement in Boise, Idaho, where Artistic Director Leslie Kraus will also serve as the keynote speaker for the Idaho Dance Education Organization. These efforts will extend Ririe-Woodbury's presence beyond the state while sharing the Company's artistic vision with new audiences and dance communities.



Closer to home, Ririe-Woodbury will expand opportunities for artists, students, and supporters through dynamic new education and community initiatives. The Company will launch an **artist-in-residence program** for Wasatch Front choreographers and continue its partnership with **Dance Class for Humans** to offer affordable master classes with celebrated dancemakers. The launch of **Open Company Class** will invite advanced Utah dancers into the Company's creative process through ongoing, accessible training opportunities alongside Ririe-Woodbury's artists. Throughout the year, "**Team Woodbunny**" — the Company's dedicated community of patrons and donors — will be invited to exclusive gatherings, behind-the-scenes experiences, and special events designed to celebrate the artists, creativity, and connections that make Ririe-Woodbury thrive.

# THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

Ririe-Woodbury Dance Company gratefully acknowledges the generosity of the following individuals, foundations, corporations, and public agencies whose support made our work possible during the fiscal year.

*\*We sincerely apologize for any omissions. Please reach out to us at 801-297-4241 concerning any discrepancies.*

## \$100,000 AND HIGHER

UTAH STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION | ZOO ARTS & PARKS (ZAP)

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## \$5,000–\$19,999

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NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE ARTS, MARRINER S. ECCLES  
FOUNDATION, ROBERTA SCHLICHER, SALT LAKE CITY ARTS  
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## \$20,000–\$49,999

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JOHN AND MARCIA PRICE FAMILY FOUNDATION  
LAWRENCE T. & JANET T. DEE FOUNDATION  
UTAH DIVISION OF ARTS & MUSEUMS

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# THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

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ZEB KNUDSEN

THANK YOU TO **RISE4 FITNESS,**  
**SALT LAKE POWER YOGA, AND**  
**UNIVERSITY OF UTAH HEALTH**  
FOR YOUR WORK AS OUR  
**WELLNESS PARTNERS.**

# BOARD, STAFF, & ARTISTS

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MICHAEL ANDREW CURREY  
ZACH MARQUEZ  
GLENN EDGERTON  
LIZ BETTY  
CHASE THOMAS

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LESLIE KRAUS, ARTISTIC DIRECTOR  
THOM DANCY, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
AI FUJII NELSON, EDUCATION DIRECTOR

## STAFF

ADEENA LAGO, EDUCATION ASSISTANT  
SASHA RYDLIZKY, BOOKING COORDINATOR  
LUKE DAKOTA ZENDER, SOCIAL MEDIA COORDINATOR  
CODY POTTER, COSTUME COORDINATOR  
KEN JAMES, PRODUCTION MANAGER

## ADDITIONAL SUPPORT

TORI DUHAIME, GRAPHIC DESIGN & WEBSITE MANAGEMENT  
DREW JAUSSAUD, GRANT WRITING  
KAYLA MADSEN / KT ACCOUNTING, BOOKKEEPING  
FLORIAN ALBERGE, WEBSITE DESIGN

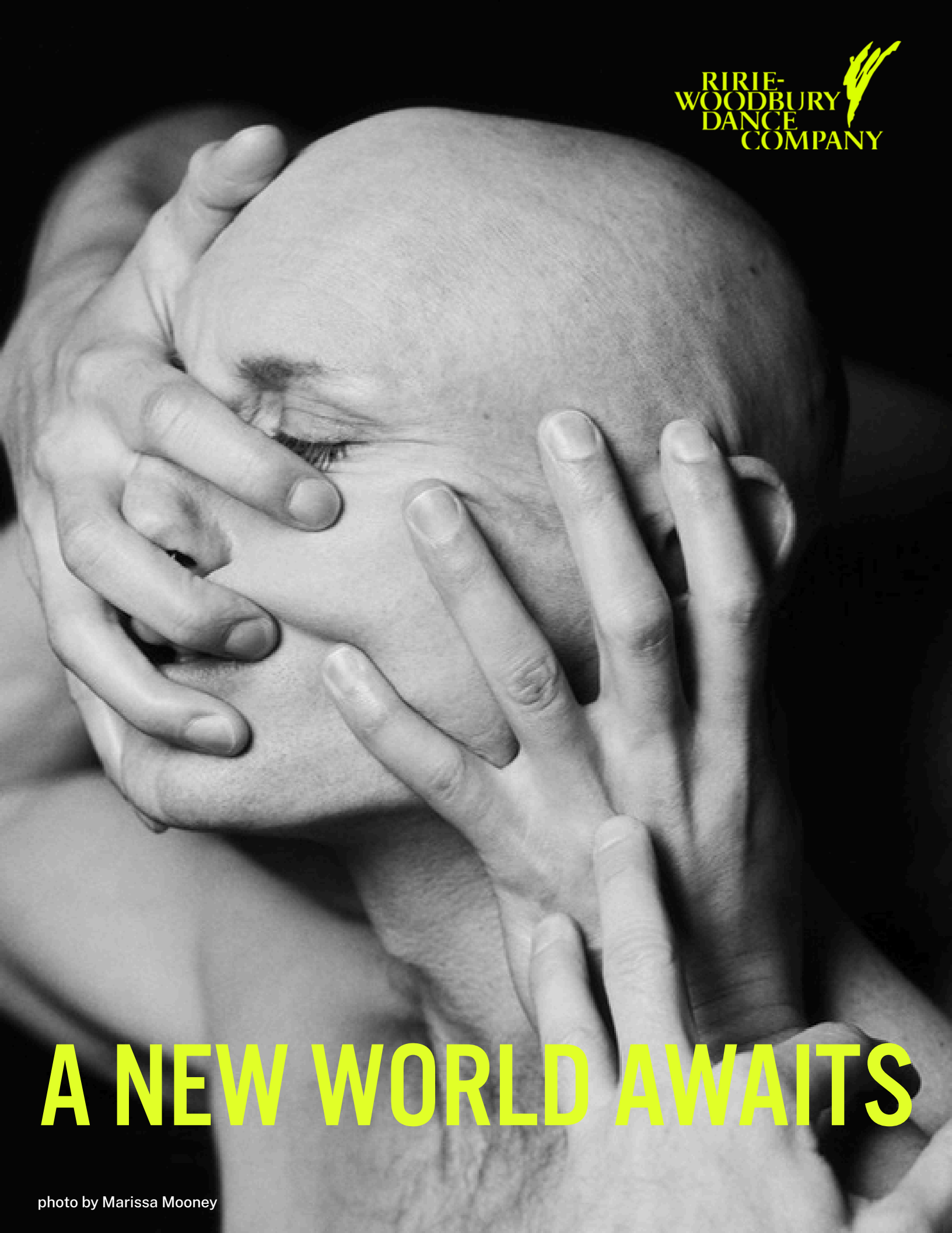
## COMPANY ARTISTS

CODY POTTER | FAUSTO RIVERA | LUKE DAKOTA ZENDER  
MEGAN MCCARTHY | MICHE' SMITH | SASHA RYDLIZKY

## VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION

Ririe-Woodbury Dance Company extends heartfelt thanks to the volunteers who generously give their time, talent, and enthusiasm throughout the year.

We would like to extend a special thanks to our Ambassadorial Board:  
Tracy Fisher, Henry Wythe, Sara Caldiero, Rebekah JoAnn Guerra, Rachel Miller, Natalie Desch, Brandin Steffensen, Juan Carlos Claudio, Sharon Daurelle, and Kiya Green.



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WOODBURY  
DANCE  
COMPANY

# A NEW WORLD AWAITS

photo by Marissa Mooney