

**277**  
PROJECT

**DANCE**



PHOTO BY STEVEN SCHREIBER

## the company

**277 Dance Project** is a contemporary dance company founded in 2009 by the Artistic Director **Nicole Philippidis**. 277 Dance Project creates work that promotes social awareness and consciousness, exploring the balance between chaos and stillness, the intersection of lives, and the eternal struggle to connect and to survive - most often working in the context of the unique NYC frame of mind. Collaboration plays an integral part in the creation of each piece. Working with original music, visual art, and collaborating with movement and theater artists, we create work that evokes empathy, emotion, and deeper meaning. Through the process, we uncover and highlight the very essence of empathy- what makes us care for other people, feel compassion, love, responsibility, and loss. What makes us human?

277 Dance Project's work has been presented at a variety of venues and festivals including but not limited to: Abrons Arts Center, Baryshnikov Arts Center, Bryant Park Dance Festival, Dixon Place Presents, Dance NOW at Joe's Pub, Inception to Exhibition Festivals, Triskelion Arts Presents, Wave Rising Festival, Westchester Music Hall.

## the artistic director

Choreographer **Nicole Philippidis**, a native and lifelong New Yorker, created 277 Dance Project in 2009. Nicole's dance training has included extensive studies of Limón and Cunningham techniques, as well as Contemporary Forms. As a dancer, she has appeared in works choreographed by Geraldine Cardiel, Alan Danielson, and Deborah Santos, who have influenced her unique movement style. Nicole earned her BFA in Dance from Marymount Manhattan College where she is currently on the Advisory Board for the Dance Department. She is also an accomplished arts educator: earning her MS in Education from City College, she was awarded a Teaching Fellowship for the Arts. Nicole's long history as a dance educator informs her process as both a Choreographer and Artistic Director. She has taught at numerous dance centers and schools throughout New York City and held leadership positions at RIOULT Dance and the New York Institute of Technology. Nicole is on faculty at Mark Morris Dance Center and performs lecture demonstrations and dance residencies for numerous institutions. She continues to work with socially conscious organizations, such as Gleason's Give a Kid a Dream and National Water Dance to inspire change through the arts.



## artist's statement

I started dancing as a very young woman and quickly developed good skills only to discover that from my perspective, movement is just a part of what I would like my art to be. It took stepping away from performance and becoming a Teaching Fellow to rediscover what I really long for: dance as means of making a difference and connecting people. 277 was the street number for two buildings in two far-removed neighborhoods where my family members lived at the time of great adversity; it seemed so much more than a coincidence to be connected by it when we could not share everything under one roof. Ever since, it is a special number for me: it signifies a tie that lasts at the moment of great loneliness, something bigger and stronger than a physical connection. That is what making dance is about for me: discovering and highlighting through movement the very essence of what makes us care for other people, what makes us feel compassion, love, responsibility, loss. These feelings make us human. I chose dance as my main medium because through its immediate and wordless expression it often speaks more eloquently than words. But at heart, I am still a storyteller, and believe in sharing stories as a way of finding our place.

- **Nicole Philippidis**

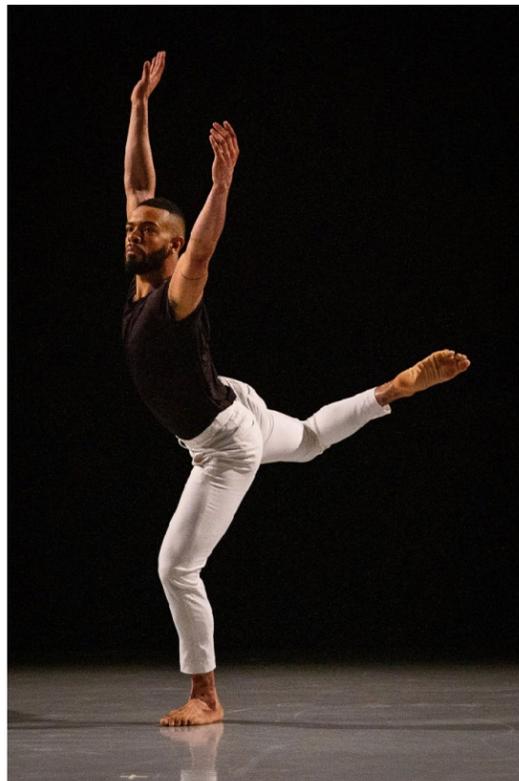


PHOTO BY ANJOLA TORO



PHOTO BY JENNIFER KLEIN

PHOTO BY ANJOLA TORO

## recent works

### sixth exit

**work in progress; 2019 - Present**

Running time: 60 minutes

Sixth Exit will have its premiere in 2020. The work explores the connection between the energy of the planet, humans, and the effects of climate change on social structure. Sixth Exit will consider the disconnect of humanity amplified by the digital age, and how the anthropogenic nature of climate change impacts structures such as human rights.

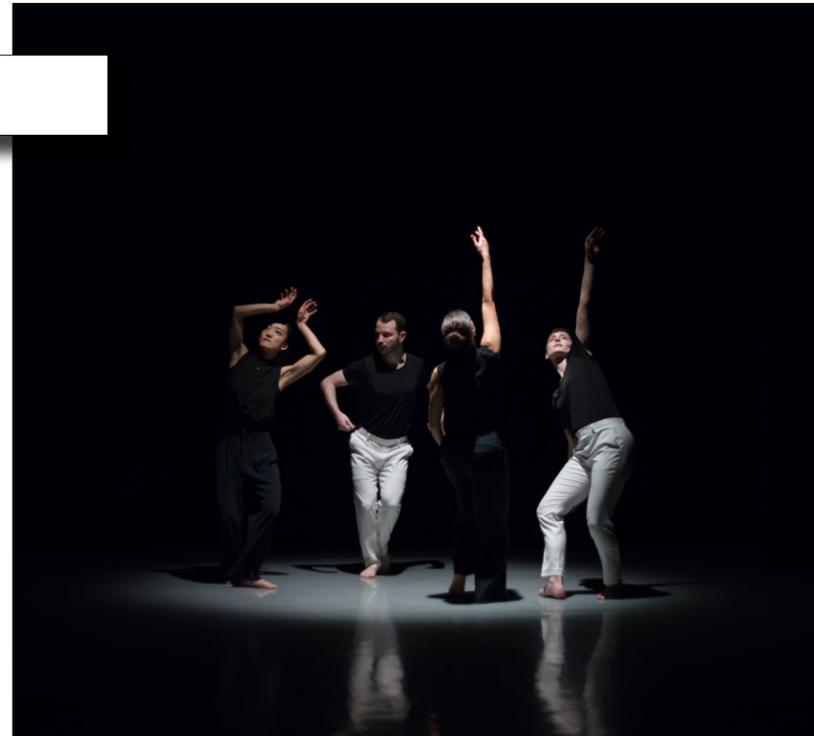


PHOTO BY ANJOLA TORO

Though the earth's vibration can be clearly measured in nature and on the ocean, it is almost impossible to measure it's pulse in a city where manmade energy has drowned out the natural signals nature has created since the beginning of time.

**CREDITS:**

Choreography: **Nicole Philippidis**

Original Score: **John Philippidis & Jacob Wolos**

Medial Art: **Arend Thorp**

Dramaturge: **Stacey Cervellino**

Dancers: **Dani Cole, Ross Daniel, Yuriko Hiroura, Meghann Padgett, Andrew Pester, Emily Tellier**

[click to view work in process studio showing](#)

## recent works

### cardboard stage

**Preview: 2017 Abrons Arts Center  
World Premiere: 2018 Triskelion Arts**

Running time: 60 minutes

Conceived as a two-part work – a live performance and dance film created in collaboration with filmmaker Jennifer Klein – Cardboard Stage looks at the experience that became an important fact of life in New York City in recent years: the growing economic and social divide in the city that once promised a chance for upward mobility to everyone, regardless of their origins.

In the summer of 2015, 277 Dance Project had been invited to rehearse at a warehouse in Mott Haven, a community in the South Bronx. The space was located in the close proximity of a methadone clinic, right in the middle of one of the most neglected and underprivileged neighborhoods in the area – but also a short drive from the quickly gentrifying new district, bustling with high-end condos. As the ensemble members found themselves in this unfamiliar and setting, they were met by local residents whom showed a genuine interest in their work and began sharing their life stories and observations. This real-life material became inspiration for the choreography that on its deepest level examines themes of social power, injustice, and self-perception.

PHOTO BY JENNIFER KLEIN



**“A a tense negotiation for individual identity and meaning while navigating the dark, isolated corners and cold, industrial planes of a “dystopian-like” mechanized society.”**

-Scott Stiffler, Downtown Express

**CREDITS:**

Choreography: **Nicole Philippidis**

Original Score: **John Philippidis**

Art Filmmaker: **Jennifer Klein**

Text: **Steven Delopoulos**

Dancers: **Stephen Galberth, Chris Makens, Eric Para, Elisa Schreiber, Emily Tellier, Mika Yanagihara**

[click to view video clip](#)

**“A visually stunning art piece where each character has a specific role and face life from the inside-out and outside-in.”**

- Robert Wirsing,  
The Bronx Times

## recent works

### flight

**World premiere: 2014,  
Dixon Place**

Running time: 55 minutes

FLIGHT draws on Nicole Philippidis' personal experience as a New Yorker in the post-9/11 reality and explores the pull between our need to escape and disconnect and our deep need to connect and belong. The work shares personal and collective thoughts had while riding the subway - an underground portal of ideological diversity. It is a meditation on altruism, compassion, and interpersonal connections. Dance, video and music serve as means of expressing a conflicted state of mind, inherent for the urban existence in the city that offers unlimited inspiration and possibilities, but also takes as much as it gives.

**CREDITS:**

Choreography: **Nicole Philippidis**

Film: **Nicole Philippidis**

Text: **Nicole Philippidis  
and Ben Wolk**

Music: **Burlap to Cashmere,  
John Philippidis & Steven  
Delopoulos**

Dancers: **Nathan Duszny,  
Hannah Emerson, Jordan  
Gehley, Ben Wolk, and Mika  
Yanagihara**

[click to view video clip](#)

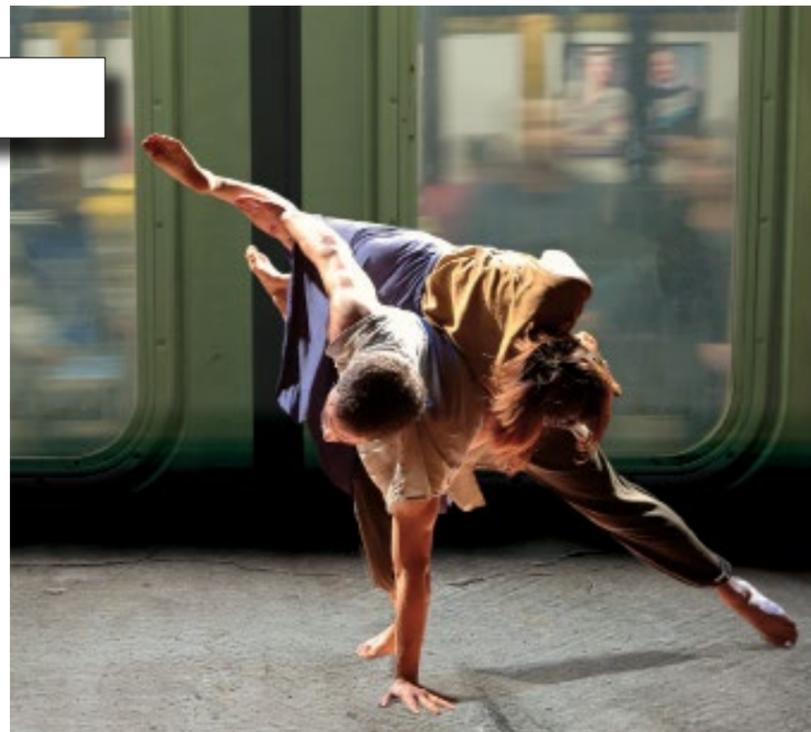


PHOTO BY STEVEN SCHREIBER

**“A dark and driven work grounded in isolation, but not abandoned to it.”**

– Scott Stiffler, Downtown Express

**“An interesting expression of anonymity, connection, inspiration and escapism. Its contemporary style is sure to please a diverse audience.”**

– Joy Chiang Ling, Asian in NY

## recent works

### this is heaven to me

**World premiere: 2013, Dixon Place**

Running time: 65 minutes

A midnight love affair, a beauty pageant, a French cafe, a woman who gets everything she has ever wanted, a couple who can not say goodbye, and a man who worries about the end of the world. Stuck in a state of limbo, they are given a chance to play their secret fantasies or to repeat moments from past relationships in the hopes of finally getting exactly what they want. In this work combining dance and theater, 277 Dance Project explores relationships, intangible expectations, desire and personal myths.

**CREDITS:**

Concept and direction:

**Nicole Philippidis and Stacey Cervellino**

Choreography:

**Nicole Philippidis**

Dancers:

**Stacey Cervellino, Kevin Chu, Alissa Clarke, Hannah Emerson, Jordan Gehley, Saya Harada, Olgierd Minkiewicz, Nicole Philippidis, Ben Wolk, Mika Yanagihara**

Music:

**Dave Barbour, Wilfurd Burns, Gordon Jenking, Gertrude Lawrence, Yann Tierson, Alva Noto**

Sound design:

**John Philippidis**

Set design:

**Peter Zaharatos**

Costumes:

**Marianna Tsartolia**

[click to view video clip](#)



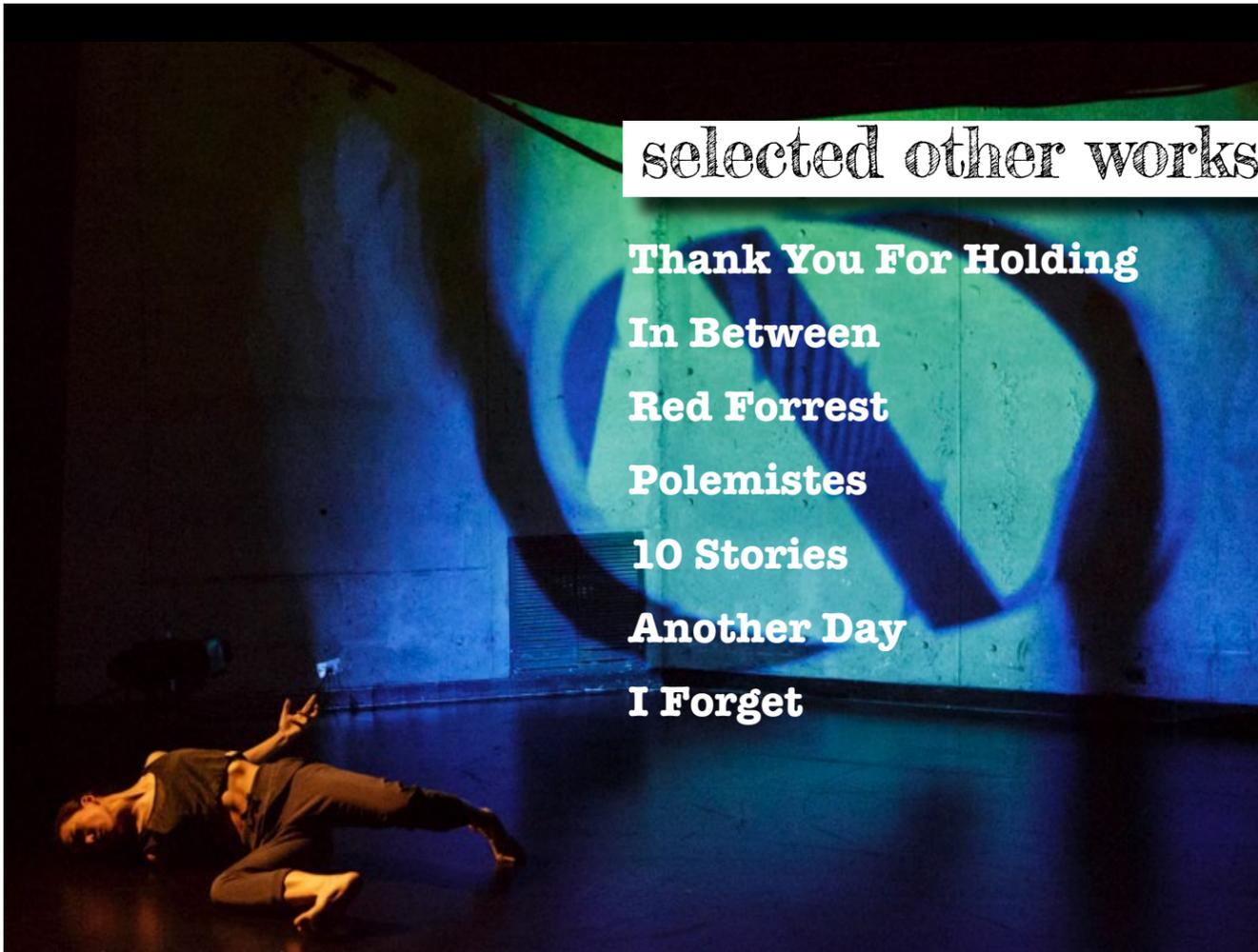
PHOTO BY JAQLIN MEDLOCK

**“It clicked all the way through, in a well paced fantasy-comedy about the perils and pitfalls of romance and romantic innocence... This is dance fleshed out on a theater skeleton, and the two elements meld beautifully.”**

– Quinn Batson,  
Offoffoff.com

selected other works:

**Thank You For Holding  
In Between  
Red Forrest  
Polemistes  
10 Stories  
Another Day  
I Forget**



**Jennifer Klein, Filmmaker**



Jennifer Klein's diverse creative flair has come to the fore as a photographer, combining her skills learned while working as a set designer in the early days, under the wing of such design greats as Tony Walton both on Broadway and on various films. Klein combines her unique style by shaking all the tools in a box and articulating the essence of a situation with excitement, grit, style and a touch of humor. In a world so often characterized by soulless automatons she brings an energy and enthusiasm to the field. Her great love of the human character in its various conditions is reflected in her work.

Her film, photos, and design display her enthusiasm to innovate and experiment, and often portrays just the essence of a situation through abstraction.

Jennifer Klein was born in South Africa, lived in England where she obtained a first class honors degree in 3D design from Kingston University, she now resides and works in the Bronx and Woodstock New York.

**John Philippidis, Composer/Musician**



John is one of the founders of indie folk band "Burlap to Cashmere" and tours nationally and internationally. He has recorded records with Lateral View and Sony artist Danielle Evin. Worked with legendary Producer Jack Douglas, Michael Brauer, and Jay Mesina. He has created work for Touch film and media, VH1, MTV, and other media outlets. John has worked with director Brett Leonard, starring in "The Other Country"

and recording the soundtrack for the film. John has been a collaborator with contemporary dance company 277 Dance Project since 2013.

**Stacey Cervellino, Dramaturge**



Stacey is a dramaturge, actress and educator with extensive performance and teaching experience. She was an International Acting Fellow at the Globe Theatre in London, and has been seen in plays and musicals in New York, Chicago, Toronto, Washington D.C., and Boston. Former Artistic Director of Isadora Productions and has created, performed and toured their original piece exploring Human Tracking, entitled Becoming Natasha, produced in collaboration with the UN, Amnesty, V Day, and Safe Horizons.

She wrote the script, music, and lyrics for her social satire, DRESS, presented at HERE and The West End Theatre. She has received work and study grants from the Fund for Teachers and the Fund for Contemporary Artists. She was the Education Director for Brave New World Studio, and has taught in various graduate and undergraduate programs in the U.S.

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**277 Dance Project** is a fiscally sponsored member of New York Live Arts, Inc., a non-profit tax-exempt organization. **Contributions** in support of 277 Dance Project's work are greatly appreciated and may be made payable to New York Live Arts, Inc., earmarked for "the New York Live Arts member project of 277 Dance Project. A description of the work and current project activities for which such contributions will be used are available from 277 Dance Project or New York Live Arts, upon request. All contributions are fully deductible to the extent allowed by law.

(Note: A copy of New York Live Arts' latest annual financial report filed with the New York State Department of State may be obtained by writing to the N.Y.S. Dept. of State, Charities Registration, 162 Washington Avenue, Albany, NY, 12231, or to New York Live Arts, 219 West 19th Street, New York, NY, 10011)

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