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Heidi Duckler Dance Northwest  
presents

[COME AS YOU ARE](#)



PORTLAND, OR (April 1, 2024) Portland based dance company Heidi Duckler Dance Northwest (HDD/NW) presents "Come As You Are," a multidisciplinary salon featuring dance, visuals, storytelling and perfumes that will take place on Saturday, April 27th at PLACE Studio from 7:30pm-9pm.

"Come As You Are" showcases a curated selection of original works by esteemed artists Heidi Duckler, Tony Carnell, Nicole Cardona, Kenny Frechette, Carla Bengtson, Daniel Giron, and Joni Whitworth.

"Come As You Are" will immerse guests in multimedia magic, where music, performance, and visuals converge. Enjoy the interactive environment of sight, sound, and scent, shedding inhibitions and embracing authenticity. "Come As You Are" extends a warm welcome to each individual without reservation. Post-performance discussion and refreshments will follow the show.

*Come As You Are was made possible with support from PLACE Studio, the Heidi Duckler*

*Dance/Northwest Board of Directors, and the Oregon Arts Commission.*



Marie Lamfrom

CHARITABLE FOUNDATION



**Details for Calendar Listings:**

What: Come As You Are

Who: Heidi Duckler Dance Northwest, <http://heididucklernorthwest.org>

When: Saturday, April 27th at 7:30pm

Where: PLACE Studio, 735 NW 18th Ave, Portland, OR 97209

Tickets at: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/come-as-you-are-tickets-874138179827>

**About Heidi Duckler Dance Northwest:**

Heidi Duckler Dance/Northwest (HDD/NW) redefines relationships between artists and audiences by curating and presenting original site specific performances and learning experiences in historic and iconic places in the Pacific Northwest. HDD/NW collaborates with diverse artists and communities in Oregon, creating meaningful, multidisciplinary performances and opportunities for dialogue to explore themes of social justice and civic engagement.

Since its inception in 2010 Heidi Duckler Dance Northwest (HDD/NW) has been creating captivating storytelling through site-specific dance. HDD/NW has produced over 55 site-specific works, films and festivals in Portland, OR and the surrounding metropolitan areas and its performers have animated iconic Pacific Northwest locations such as a contemporary coworking office space, the paths through local forests and lumber mills, the graffiti-decorated ruins of a burned out building across the bridge and the historic vacant US Customs House. The practice of Heidi Duckler Dance Northwest encourages engagement and investment in Portland's creative, diverse, locally-rooted and globally conscious communities, made up of artists, activists, educators, entrepreneurs, and community members.

Working with a diverse range of artists, HDD/NW curates original performances around architecture, audience members, and each other. With input from creative partners and collaborators (dancers, musicians, architects and community partners, among others), a truly site-specific and environmentally responsive work emerges, capturing the multiple dimensions of each place, performer, and collaborator.



**Heidi Duckler, Founder/Artistic Director**

Heidi Duckler is the Founder and Artistic Director of Heidi Duckler Dance in Los Angeles, California and Heidi Duckler Dance/Northwest in Portland, Oregon. Titled the “reigning queen of site-specific performance” by the LA Times, Duckler is a pioneer of site-specific place based contemporary practice. Through the use of expanded techniques and a methodology that encourages us to understand how dance, born from our experience, can be a tool for awareness, Duckler has contributed to redefining the field and has created more than 400 dance pieces all over the world.

Duckler was the recipient of the 2021 Oregon Arts Commission Fellowship and most recently, her film “Where We’re Going” has been selected for first prize by the Cinedanza Festival jury amongst 28 films from around the world. “Where We’re Going” was also selected for the California Natural Resources Agency (CNRA) Digital Media Wall in their new building in downtown Sacramento, scheduled to premiere in 2022. Currently, Duckler is on faculty at the University of California, Santa Barbara in the Film and Media Studies Department.

Duckler earned a BS in Dance from the University of Oregon and an MA in Choreography from UCLA, and served as a Board Member of the University of Oregon’s School of Music and Dance Advancement Council. Awards include the Distinguished Dance Alumna award from the University of Oregon School of Music and Dance, the Dance/USA and the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation’s Engaging Dance Audiences award, and the National Endowment of the Arts American Masterpiece award. Duckler was a recipient of the 2019 Oregon Dance Film Commission and her work received the award for Best Choreography for the Lens at Verve Dance Film Festival.



**Carla Bengtson**

Interested in creating situations on the verge of the impossible, Carla Bengtson’s speculative projects ask what might be seen and what might be said between species. Recent projects include creating a perfume based on the scent blends male orchid bees craft to attract a mate, learning the embodied

language of Western fence lizards, and partnering with crows to give other species a voice in climate-crisis politics. Bengtson has received awards from the Ford Family Foundation, the Oregon Arts Commission, the National Endowment for the Arts, the Institute of Art and Olfaction, and has had residencies at Djerassi, Ucross, Mass MoCA, 18th St Arts Center, Tiputini Biodiversity Station in the Amazon, and a Signal Fire Outpost Residency at the Arizona/Mexico border. She has exhibited at the San Francisco Museum of Craft and Design, Cincinnati Contemporary Arts Center, Queens Museum, Craft Contemporary LA, and the Portland Art Museum. Raised in Charleston, West Virginia, she received an MFA from Yale School of Art, a BFA from Tyler School of Art, and was a two-time participant in the Whitney Independent Studies Program. In addition to her art practice, Bengtson lectures on environmental thought at international environmental philosophy and biodiversity conservation conferences, and is a Professor in the Department of Art and an Associate of the Environmental Studies Program at the University of Oregon.



### **Tony Carnell (they/them)**

Tony, originally from Boise Idaho began their dance training in 2009 at a local community center in Boise. After just 2 years of training Tony was scouted by Ballet Idaho's Academy directors while participating in a dance outreach program. After nearly 12 years of training and performing with the ballet, taking advantage of apprenticeships and training programs around the country, Tony was offered their very first official company position with Project Flux Dance Company under the direction of Lydia Sakolsky-Basquill.

In the years that followed Tony took on a number of professional opportunities in Idaho and abroad. Working as a principal performing artist with Idaho Dance Theater under the direction of Marla Hanson, Ballet Idaho under the direction of Garrett Anderson, LED under the direction of Lauren Edson, W'HIM W'HIM Dance Company under the direction of Oliver Weavers and OPEN SPACE under the direction and guidance of Franco Neito, were they spent two seasons working as a company soloist and choreographer as well as Heidi Duckler Dance Company, under the leadership of PDX/LA based founder and choreographer Heidi Duckler.



**Nicole Cardona (they/them)**

Nikki is a movement artist originally from Chicago, IL. They hold a BFA from Columbia College Chicago, as well as secondary dance training from AMDA LA. As they approached their senior year of college, they had the great opportunity of being a founding member of Alluvion Dance Chicago and serving as Rehearsal Director in their inaugural season. Since then, they have had the opportunity of performing with companies such as LA Contemporary Dance Company, Psychopomp Dance, and Heidi Duckler Dance Theater. Life has gracefully planted them in the beautiful city of Seattle since 2021. Having been in Seattle for just a short time, Nikki has been so grateful to have performed most recently with Coriolis Dance in their 2021 evening length work: *The Art of Seafaring*. Nikki has also been selected as a choreographer for The 2023 Bridge Project through Velocity Dance Center and feels so ecstatic to be switching gears and creating more work. As a teacher, Nikki feels it is of the utmost importance to allow their students to find their own creative voice in their class. They strive to create a safe space where movement is a vehicle for students to learn but also find their own sense of self. Nikki is so humbled to be a part of the Dance Fremont Staff!



**Kenny Frechette (they/he)**

Kenneth is an independent dance & performing artist based in Portland, Oregon. Over the past decade

they have spent my time training and engaging with dance/movement communities in Portland, Seattle, New York City, Florida, and Europe. Their most recent projects include creation of a solo in residency at New Expressive Works (Portland, OR), dance films, festival performances, and experimental theatre. They hold a Bachelor of Arts in Dance Studies from the University of Florida, with foundational training in both dance and theatre techniques / processes.



### **Daniel Giron**

Originally from Veracruz Mexico, Daniel Giron aka “Papi Ada” (He / They) is a Model, Activist and well rounded dancer featured on HBO Max hit show LEGENDARY Season 3. You may recognize Daniel from being immortalized as a meme with the floor performance in the sand heard 'round the world. Daniel uses his social media not only as a platform to educate on Ballroom culture, but to activate and create change through movement. They shatter gender norms and use their engagement as a means of resistance and equity within communities of Queer people of color.

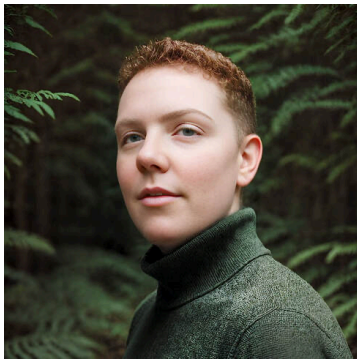


**Dao Strom** is an artist who works with three “voices” — written, sung, visual—to explore hybridity and the intersection of personal and collective histories. She is the author of the poetry collection, *Instrument* (Fonograf Editions, 2020), winner of the 2022 Stafford/Hall Oregon Book Award for Poetry, and its musical companion piece, *Traveler’s Ode* (Antiquated Future Records, 2020); a bilingual poetry-art book, *You Will Always Be Someone From Somewhere Else* (AJAR Press, 2018); a hybrid-form memoir, *We Were Meant To Be a Gentle People*, and song cycle, *East/West* (2015); and two books of fiction, *The Gentle*

*Order of Girls and Boys* (Counterpoint Press, 2019, 2006) and *Grass Roof, Tin Roof* (Mariner Books, 2003). Her works also include interdisciplinary music/poetry performance and visual-poetry installations. She received a 2020 Oregon Literary Arts Career Fellowship and a 2016 Creative Capital Artist Award. Her work has received support also from the Oregon Community Foundation/Creative Heights Grant, Regional Arts & Culture Council (RACC), Precipice Fund/Warhol Foundation, Oregon Arts Commission, National Endowment for the Arts, and others.

Strom is a founding member of two collaborative art projects: *She Who Has No Master(s)*, a collective of women writers of the Vietnamese diaspora; and *De-Canon*, a literary + social art + publishing project highlighting books and works by writers of color.

Born in Vietnam, Strom grew up in the Sierra Nevada foothills of northern California and is a graduate of the Iowa Writers Workshop. She lives in Portland, Oregon and teaches with Pacific Northwest College of Art's Low-Residency MFA in Creative Writing.



**Joni Renee Whitworth (he/they)** is a poet, experimental filmmaker, and curator from Oregon. They have performed at The Moth, the Segerstrom Center for the Performing Arts, and the Museum of Contemporary Art alongside Marina Abramovic. Whitworth served as the inaugural Artist in Residence at Portland Parks and Recreation, Poet in Residence for Oregon State University's Trillium Project, and 2020 Queer Hero for the Gay & Lesbian Archives of the Pacific Northwest. They are currently a New Media Fellow at Portland Art Museum's Center for an Untold Tomorrow. They were a 2021 Fellow at Lambda Literary and a 2019 and 2020 Fellow at Tin House.

They work at the intersection of art, performance, and activism, with a focus on queer and neurodivergent perspectives and themes. They've given lectures, participated in panel discussions, founded a non-profit queer art museum and artist collective, been a teaching artist for a youth program, and hosted a podcast about the future of art and culture. Additionally, they have written and performed several plays and participated in a variety of performances and art installations that deal with issues of mental health and neurodivergence, queer culture and the intersection of spirituality, technology and body consciousness.

Their writing explores themes of nature, future, family, and the neurodivergent body, and has appeared in *Lambda Literary*, *Tin House*, *Oregon Humanities*, *Proximity Magazine*, *Seventeen Magazine*, *Eclectica*, *Pivot*, *SWWIM*, *Smeuse*, *Superstition Review*, *xoJane*, *Inverted Syntax*, *Unearthed Literary Journal*, *Sinister Wisdom*, *Dime Show Review*, *the Oregonian*, and *The Write Launch*. They are currently working on slipstream climate fiction.

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