

For Immediate Release

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RESILIENCE Dance Company presents *Entry Points*

Entry Points

October 13th - 15th at 7:30pm; October 15th at 2:30pm

\$15 - \$20

Intersect Arts Center: 3636 Texas Ave, St. Louis, MO 63118

Tickets: www.resiliencedancecompany.com

St. Louis; July 5th, 2023:

Entry Points is a dynamic repertory dance performance featuring five individual dance works, four of which are premieres. Established choreographers from around the country will create exceptional works that pull from contemporary, modern, and improvisational vocabularies. Audience members can expect to see RDC dancers thrive in their element, fusing their own voices with those of the choreographers. Each dance is furthermore presented as an “entry point” into a new creative perspective, with the performance sparking conversation, curiosity, and artistic exchange. The movements will range from expansive to intricate, oscillating between unison and disjointed. Virtuoso and pedestrian movements will also come together, highlighting each artist as both human and dancer. Audiences will feel engaged, entertained, and curious in the intimate setting of Intersect Art Center’s ballroom.

RDC has commissioned Rosanna Tavaréz, Mike Esperanza, Xi Zhao, Suzanne Beahrs, and Persi Mey to create new works alongside repertory by Artistic Director Emily Haussler. Tavaréz brings a background in Counter technique, commercial dance, and academia from Los Angeles, while Esperanza utilizes “bold, athletic movement and theatricality” with his company in New York. Both are accomplished, mid-career artists. Zhao and Beahrs come together in collaboration, fusing divergent movement interests that evolved from a shared MFA program at Tisch. Mey, a nonbinary artist, contributes their fresh voice and striking floorwork style to the mix. These choreographers represent diverse identities, perspectives, ages and career focuses. *Entry Points* will be a celebration of their voices in artistic conversation with RDC.

Quotes:

Praise for RDC from *Come With Me*, April 2023

"I find Resilience Dance Company to be one of the most exciting things to happen to St. Louis' dance community in years. Their research-based movement approach and embrace of

improvisation have captured my attention every time I've been fortunate enough to see them perform." - St. Louis Dance HQ

"Come With Me was a beautiful blend of the companies' spontaneous, in-the-moment, creative energy and a structured journey the audience could accompany. It's a treat to watch a group of dancers move with such alacrity. Bravo!" -Stephen Blood, Audience Member

Tickets will be live on August 15th and can be purchased online via our website (www.resiliencedancecompany.com) up to an hour before showtime, or at the door. Students, working artists, and seniors over 65 can access discounted tickets for \$15 each. The performance will be followed by an informal reception where audience members can enjoy a beverage, peruse Intersect Art Center's gallery, and mingle with company members and choreographers.

A Friday Master Class series, running between August 11th and September 29th at Intersect Arts Center, will furthermore provide local dancers with an opportunity to learn from our guest choreographers. More information will be available on our website July 15th.

About RESILIENCE Dance Company:

RESILIENCE Dance Company (RDC) is a non-profit, contemporary-modern dance company, producing both repertory performances and original evening-length premieres in St. Louis. We create exceptional dance artwork and programming through sustainable work practices that support dancers physically, mentally, and financially. RDC asserts that creating high-quality art and building healthy dance communities are necessarily intertwined. We uplift our community through education and outreach that fuses dance with the importance of mental health and self-advocacy.

Bios:

Rosanna Tavarez (Choreographer) Los Angeles, CA

Rosanna Tavarez received an MFA in Choreography from The Ohio State University and a BFA in Choreography from University of Michigan. She has a diverse background as a performer/entertainer and has had the honor of working with Marina Abramovic, Ryan Heffington, Travis Payne, Tony Michaels and Rosanna Gamson/Worldwide. She also toured with N'SYNC and Jessica Simpson as one-fifth of the girl group Eden's Crush and covered the Emmys, Grammys and Oscars in addition to hosting her own shows as a television personality for FOX, E!, TVGuide Network, and Telemundo/NBC.

As a dance educator, Tavarez is on faculty at CalArts Sharon Disney Lund School of Dance. She has taught as faculty and guest artist at numerous institutions including USC Kaufman School of Dance, University of Michigan, Loyola Marymount University, Scripps College, CalState Long

Beach, Studio School, University of Southern Mississippi, Texas State University and Cal State LA.

She also creates her own work under the moniker LA DANSA DANSA. This work has been presented at The Broad Museum, ODC Theatre, REDCAT, Dance Camera West, The Odyssey, Breaking Ground Dance Festival, LA Department of Cultural Affairs LA Dance Platform, Sarasota Contemporary Dance and Highways Performance Space.

Mike Esperanza (Choreographer)
New York City, NY

Mike Esperanza is an acclaimed artist from New York City who has established an international presence in the dance community. Mike has presented on prestigious stages including the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, Sergerstrom Center for the Arts, McCallum Theatre, Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, Salvatore Capezio Theater at Peridance, The Royal Conservatory in Cordoba, Spain, and the Australian Circus Festival. The Los Angeles Contemporary Dance Company, Dark Circles Contemporary Dance, Whim W'him and multiple universities around the United States have commissioned Mike's work. Mike's talent garnered Dance: Creation for Performance grant presented by Dance/USA and the Irvine Foundation, "Innerstate" tour presented by ODC Theater, the paid engagement award at the Palm Desert Choreography Under the Stars Festival, the Reverb Dance Festival commission award, and the CUNY Dance Initiative. Mike currently teaches at Broadway Dance Center and Peridance.

Xi Zhao (Choreographer) in collaboration with Suzanne Behrs
St. Louis, MO

XI ZHAO received her MFA from Tisch School of the Arts at NYU and her MA at the School of Dance, Minzu University of China, where she stayed as a tenured lecturer after graduation and worked for 12 years. Xi's choreographic works including Chinese Dance, modern dance, and Chinese Opera have won many major prizes in China and have been presented internationally. She is the founder and artistic director of Beijing New Dance Festival, one of the most influential international contemporary dance festivals in China. From 2015 to 2000, the festival invited over 100 international artists from more than 25 countries to perform and to teach in Beijing, introducing various contemporary dance artists and companies from central and Eastern Europe to China for the first time. In view of Xi Zhao's contributions to the international contemporary dance exchanges, the Dance Fest Skopje in North Macedonia honored her the "Award MENADA for Extraordinary Achievement in the Field of Contemporary Dance" in 2019. Xi moved to St. Louis as a Visiting Guest Artist in the Dance Department at Webster University where she currently serves in the faculty team and has been the Artistic Director of Webster University Dance Ensemble since 2021.

Suzanne Behrs (Choreographer) in collaboration with Xi Zhao

Berkeley, CA

Suzanne Beahrs teaches modern dance at Shawl-Anderson Dance Center in Berkeley and ODC in San Francisco, and creative workshops. She is interested in how modern dance classes can support expansive physical movement, expression, and community. She is grateful to have worked alongside many collaborators, including Ishika Seth, Chelsea Brown, Scott McPheeters, Brianna Taylor, and through her own company in NYC (2012-2015), with Sarah Hillmon, Julia Jurgilewicz, and Celine Syslo. She taught multiple courses at Elon University, NC. Suzanne works as a consultant in equity and inclusion, most recently with Justice Outside. MFA Dance, NYU Tisch School of the Arts; BA Geology, UC Berkeley. suzannebeahrs.com

Persi Mey (Choreographer) Houston, TX

Persi is from Detroit, Michigan, but is currently based in Houston, Texas where they are creating independent works as well as performing with Urban Souls Dance Company and Rivkah French Choreography. They also spent time in Kansas City as a company member with City in Motion Dance Theater and Tristian Griffin Dance Company. Persi received their BFA in contemporary dance from Indiana University ('20), during which time they had the opportunity of studying abroad at the Jerusalem Academy of Music and Dance. Over the years they have trained in many movement styles including: Modern, tap, jazz, contemporary, breaking, muay thai, capoeira, and ballet. The culmination of these practices helped cultivate the diverse sense of exploring connection and athletic nature seen in their works.

Emily Haussler (Director, Choreographer) St. Louis, MO

Emily Haussler is the Artistic and Executive Director of RESILIENCE Dance Company (RDC), founded in 2019 in St. Louis, MO. Overall, her work centers on building healthier, more sustainable dance communities by equipping dancers with resources for their mental health, physical wellbeing, and artistic success. She believes in the power of collaboration and in challenging the toxic norms of the dance world, seeking to create high quality, insightful dance works inside of healthy dance spaces. Her full-length choreographic works for the company include *Come With Me* (2023), *All Times At Once* (2022), *Making Room* (2021), *Stanzas & Sculptures* (2020). Her notable short works have been shown in St. Louis, MO (Washington University, The Link Auditorium), Kansas City, MO (The Gem Theater), Cape Girardeau, MO (Southeast Missouri State University), Nashville, TN (The Looby Theater), and Durham, NC (American Dance Festival). Furthermore, her dance film, *There Are No Rules*, was shown at Exchange Choreography Festival 2020. She has danced professionally with Common Thread Contemporary Ballet (2017) and Emily Duggins (2020), and as a trainee with Nashville Ballet (2018) and The Big Muddy Dance Company (2019) prior to founding RDC. She has taught master classes at St. Louis University, Southern Illinois University Edwardsville, Washington University, Southeast Missouri State University, Missouri Dance Organization Conference, and American College Dance Association Conference. Emily holds a B.A. in Dance and Biology

from Washington University in St. Louis where she was the recipient of the Ian D. Cramer Prize for Dance (2018) and the Marcus Artist in Residence Award (2022).