



Photo: Rich Ryan | Dancer: Linnea Calzada-Charma

SHARP Dance Company

est. 2005

FOUNDED & DIRECTED BY DIANE SHARP-NACHSIN

NONPROFIT 501(c)(3) DANCE COMPANY

MEDIA KIT

www.sharpdance.org

SHARP Dance Company



Photo: Bill Hebert

COMPANY BACKGROUND

SHARP Dance Company was established in 2005. The company is a 501 (c)(3) modern dance company and its theory of “meaning behind movement” is shown prominently throughout their work. SHARP feels that dance should be more than a performance, it should be an experience. SHARP blends classic dance technique with intriguing stories that speak to the human experience, which creates an artistic experience that is relatable to all audiences.

“SHARP Dance Company is quickly becoming recognized for their combination of inspired artistry, imagination capturing “stories of performance” and the discipline required of such performance mastery.”

- Barry Livingston Arts Spider Arts Scene, NH

SHARP Dance Company has been touring nationally and internationally for the past 14 years. SHARP has performed in over 30 cities in the U.S. including Boulder, Chicago, Cincinnati, New York, Phoenix, Portland, Portsmouth, Rochester, and San Diego among others. The company was selected as one of 11 artists worldwide to the BAU Institute in Italy for an artist residency and was selected for a residency in Paros, Greece, which inspired SHARP’s original work for “The Garden Tour”. SHARP has also performed in England as part of the BedFringe.

OUR MISSION

The mission of SHARP Dance Company is to connect people and communities to raw human emotion by presenting story-driven movement that is inspired by socially conscious issues.

SHARP Dance Company

FOUNDER, ARTISTIC DIRECTOR
Diane Sharp-Nachsins



Photos: Kylene Cleaver

After dancing professionally for 11 years and choreographing works for universities, schools and theaters, Diane Sharp-Nachsins suffered from injuries that forced her to retire from performing. Continuing in her love of choreography in 2005 she founded SHARP Dance Company and premiered the company in March 2006. Diane's work has been selected for performances in over 30 cities throughout the U.S and in the U.K., Greece and Italy.

She has been invited as a resident artist in the U.S. and abroad including: The Living Garden Residency (Greece), CEC New Edge Mix Residency (Philadelphia), and the BAU institute Residency (Italy). Diane's choreography has been commissioned for Mid Atlantic Ballet, the prestigious Governors School, Penn State University and the New Zealand Embassy, etc.

She started her career in Pittsburgh, dancing with Pittsburgh based, Mary Miller Dance Company from 1992-1994. She returned to Philadelphia to dance on scholarship with Philadanco's training program. Diane has also danced professionally with Juan Antonio and dancers, Trapezius Aerial Dance Company, Deborah Birrane, Anne-Marie Mulgrew and Dancers, Convergence Dancers and Musicians/Dance Matrix and Amsterdam based company Jacqueline Knopps and dansers. She has performed with Pennsylvania Ballet Theaters' Principal dancers Leslie Carothers and Meredith Rainey and Dirk Platzik, formally of The White Oak Project with Mikhail Baryshnikov.

"SHARP's choreography was Graham-grand with Horton punctuation marks brought into an exciting contemporary expression."

-Ashabi Rich PhiladelphiaDance.org

SHARP Dance Company

THE DANCERS

Juliet Bernstein (Company Member, Booking Assistant) Juliet is a dance artist and performer, originally from Los Angeles, CA where she began her formal dance training. Juliet graduated from The University of the Arts in Philadelphia, PA, where she earned her BFA in dance with a minor in musical theatre under the direction of Donna Faye Burchfield. She has been fortunate to work with various notable artists including, Bobbi Jean Smith, Gary Jeter, Juel D. Lane, Roni Koresh, and Sidra Bell. Juliet's professional performance career includes the feature film "Aviva" directed by Boaz Yakin and choreographed by Bobbi Jean Smith, performing in Roschman Dance Company's 2018 season, and performing and working with choreographer Alisia Ialicocco in Mare Nostrum Elements Emerging Choreographer Series. Juliet joined SHARP in the spring of 2019.

Linnea Calzada-Charma (Company Member) Linnea began her dance education in her hometown, Newark, Delaware with Mid-Atlantic Ballet. Linnea graduated as a Dance Major from The University of the Arts in 2016, with honors and an Artist's Merit Award Scholarship. She has had additional training in multiple styles of dance at; Central PA Youth Ballet, Pittsburgh Ballet Theatre School, Ballet Austin, The Rock School for Dance Education, Alonzo King's LINES Ballet, Secret Circus Philly: School for Contemporary Circus Arts, and was invited to dance with BalletX and Pennsylvania Ballet in 2015. Linnea joined SHARP Dance Company in 2013.

Wren Coleman (Company Member, Props Master) Wren Coleman is a trans-masculine dance artist and educator from Hatboro, Pennsylvania. Wren has been trained in multiple styles of dance, including ballet, acrobatics, post modern and contemporary dance. He received their BFA in Dance from Temple University and was awarded the "One Last Dance" Award for his dedication throughout his time at Boyer. As a teacher, his main goal is to make those that he interacts with feel supported and encouraged. Being trained by and performing with educators such as Timothy Early, and Dara Meredith, they have learned the importance of connection between peers within a classroom and strong foundational technique, as well as a positive attitude towards others and themselves. When he is not teaching, they are working on freelance dance projects to promote inclusivity, positivity, and freedom within the dance and LGBTQ+ community, as well as performing with Monet Movement Productions: The Collective. This is Wren's second season with SHARP Dance Company.

Sandra Davis (Company Member/Assistant Director)

Sandra is a native of Philadelphia and started her training at the Anastasi Dance Studio. She received her BFA in Ballet Performance from the University of the Arts in 2007. During her time at the University of the Arts, she studied under such instructors as: Christine Cox, Scott Jovovich, Andrew Pap, Eva Szabo, Ronen Koresh, LaVaughn Robinson, and Kim Bears-Bailey. She currently teaches at the Blue Bell School of Dance, passMORE Dance, and Tricia Sloan Dance Center. She was Artistic Director of Mid-Atlantic Ballet in Delaware from June 2018 to December 2021. Sandra also teaches ballroom dance for Dancing Classrooms Philly. She received her certification in Progressing Ballet Technique (PBT) in 2020. Sandra started performing with SHARP in the spring of 2009 and was named Assistant Director in 2014.

SHARP Dance Company

Kate Lombardi (Company Member/Artist Liaison/Booking Assistant) Kate received her BFA from The University of the Arts, along with training at The Martha Graham School of Contemporary Dance and the American Dance Festival. Kate is a member of SHARP, Dancefusion, and Anne Marie Mulgrew & Dancers in Philadelphia, where she enjoys both reconstructing historical works and exploring new choreography by local artists. Kate previously danced with Underground Dance Works and Between Movement Contemporary Dance Company. She was a guest artist with Esse Eficionado and joined Jeanne Ruddy Dance for its farewell season. Along with performing, Kate helps bring music and dance to children throughout the Philadelphia region as Director of Philanthropy and Community for Dancing Classrooms Philly and Musicopia. Kate joined the SHARP family in January 2011.

Miguel Quiñones (Company Member, Assistant Rehearsal Director) Miguel Angel Quinones III was born in New York, NY, in 1984 and moved to Miami, Fl. at the age of five. He began training in Ballet at the age of seven at the Miami Conservatory, now known as the Thomas Armour Youth Ballet. Miguel also studied at Joe Michaels studio with the New Image Dance Ensemble where he learned other forms of dance. Attending college at New World School of the Arts, in downtown Miami, Fl. he furthered his study of ballet as well as other techniques and styles of dance including; jazz, modern, contemporary, tango, improvisation, acting, and break dancing. He attended college from 2002-2005 graduating with honors. Shortly after graduating he danced with the Parsons Dance company in 2005-2011. Miguel has also performed at several gala's in Indianapolis and Houston. Miguel has worked with artists such as; David Parsons, Robert Battle, Monica Bill Barnes, Donald McKayle, Michael Uthoff, Arthur Mitchell, Nicholas Andre, Mark Stuart, Shea Sullivan, Greg Dolbashian, and other artists. He has taught both ballet and Parsons style contemporary master classes while on tour all over the United States and internationally. He is currently living in Philadelphia, to continue his career in dance education and choreograph. He is currently teaching at, Institute of Dance Artistry, and Ballet 180. Miguel is also dancing for "SHARP Dance Company" and "Pages to Pirouettes."

Rosemary Scalise (Company Member, Social Media Director) Rosemary earned her BFA in Dance Performance and Choreography from Towson University in 2017. During her college career, Rosemary was a member of the Towson University Dance Company and trained under direction of Runqiao Du and Linda-Denise Fisher-Harrell. She performed original works by Darrell Grand Moultrie, Kim Y. Bears-Bailey, Vincent Thomas, Quilan Arnold, and Susan Mann. Following graduation Rosemary moved to Philadelphia, PA where she joined Nickerson-Rossi Dance (East). She has been a guest performer with Matter Movement Group, Allegory Dance Theatre, and other local artists. Rosemary joined the SHARP family in 2019. Along with performing, Rosemary is a dance educator and choreographer. Currently, Rosemary is a full-time instructor at Institute of Dance Artistry. Aside from dance, Rosemary is also a RYT 200hr (Registered Yoga Teacher) and teaches yoga throughout the Greater Philadelphia area.

SHARP Dance Company

STAFF & GUEST CHOREOGRAPHERS/PERFORMERS

Nikki Batestilli (*Company Manager*)

Drexel University (2015), B.A. (Theater, Dance Minor) Robert E. Cook Honors College-Indiana University of Pennsylvania. Nikki has had the opportunity to work for numerous organizations such as: Brian Sanders JUNK, Pasion y Arte Flamenco, Eastern University, and Kids Across America. She recently left her position at Wolf Performing Arts Center where she was the Marketing and Development Director for 3 years. Nikki recently moved to Pittsburgh to take the position of Marketing Director with City Theatre. Nikki is incredibly grateful to be part of the SHARP family since January 2013 and can never leave.

Joe Cotler (*Guest Choreographer*)



Joe started dancing at his mother, Robin Cotler's studio, Images in Dance, in Buffalo, NY. Joe's education continued at Broadway Dance Center in NYC and for college, Joe attended the University of the Arts and attained a BFA in Jazz in 2009. While attending University of the Arts, he worked with various artists such as; Scott Jovovich, Ronen Koresh, Eva Szabo, Rennie Harris and Rochelle Haynes. He was also chosen to perform works by Twyla Tharp, Paul Selwyn Norton, Bob Fosse, and Brian Sanders. After graduating from college Joe was offered an apprenticeship at the Koresh Dance Company and after a year was promoted to the main company. Joe has been a part of the Koresh Dance Company for 10 years and has traveled the world performing and setting works for Ronen Koresh, the Artistic Director. As well as dancing as a full-time member of this company,

Joe has also taken part in many performances with the Brandywine Ballet Company. Joe has been setting work in studios, schools and other dance companies including SHARP Dance Company (since 2013). Joe and Diane recently co-choreographed a collaborative piece named, "PUZZLE" for SHARP Dance Company past season to rave reviews. Joe's passion for the art makes him an inspiring teacher, dancer, and artist and he strives to share his knowledge and passion with his students. Joe recently relocated to Lake Worth, FL.

Micah Geyer (*Guest Performer*) Raised in North Carolina, Micah started dancing at a young age with Nina's School of Dance in Durham. He later joined the North Carolina Youth Tap Ensemble under the direction of Gene Medler. During his career, he had the privilege to perform at the Kennedy Center and the Joyce Theater for Tap City, as well as tour throughout Europe and South America. He received his BFA in Dance Performance and Psychology from East Carolina University and joined Koresh Dance Company in 2007.

Kevin Ferguson (*Guest Choreographer*)



Kevin is originally from Houston, Texas. He has studied at The Houston Ballet, Boston Ballet, The Ailey School, and graduated with a BFA from the Boston Conservatory of Music. Kevin is an NAACP and Arts Recognition and Talent Search recipient. He has taught and choreographed internationally and domestically. Kevin has performed work by Nilas Martins, Donald Byrd, and Larry Keigwin as a guest artist. He has danced with Elisa Monte Dance Company, Radio City, The Metropolitan Opera, Regis and Kelly, David Parsons Dance Company, Kevin is proud to be working with SHARP Dance Company.

SHARP Dance Company



Press

Quotes:

"...the gap between the audience age or level of appreciation for modern dance, choreographer Diane Sharp-Nachsin abridged it, capturing the free-form movements of concertgoers, but with an exciting, contemporary edge."

~ Nicole Finkbinder Philadelphia Weekly

"Pieces of U.....confronted the pains of discrimination through dance, multimedia, and prop. The piece generated an uncomfortable and uneasy sensation, which was completely effective"

~ Kathleen Glynn, The Dance Journal Philadelphia

"SHARP's performance has emerged as a center piece of the Philly Fringe"

~ Lewis Whittington, Edge Philadelphia

"...expect a roller-coaster ride of emotions and life experiences"

~ Denise N. Lewis, City Paper Pittsburgh

"...clean modern dance movement with a strong technique"

~ Jane Vranish, Post Gazette Pittsburgh

"... the work tackles some weighty themes uncommon to the dance stage"

~ Lewis Whittington, Edge Philadelphia

SHARP Dance Company

SHARP Dance Company has also been featured in the following publications:



944 Magazine
Philadelphia City Paper
Philadelphia Dance Journal
Philadelphia Gay News
Philadelphia Weekly
Pocono Record
Portland Press Herald
Spark247 Magazine
The Broad Street Review
The Philadelphia Inquirer
The Pittsburgh Gazette
Theater Metro D.C.

SHARP Dance Company

Guest Artist Residency & Master Classes



SHARP Dance Co. offers unique and innovative residencies that allow universities/schools to incorporate our style and choreography into their current programs and curricula. Residencies will include dance integrated with introductions to creative movement, choreography and dance techniques. Residencies may also incorporate SHARP Dance Co performances or original SHARP repertory/choreography set on the students.

Program Components & Planning:

SHARP staff will happily speak with your artistic team to develop the goals and strategies for our partnership. We offer a broad range of programs that enrich the learning process. These innovative education programs reflect the spirit of SHARP and its collaborative theory of dance and music. SHARP provides instruction in Modern, Ballet, Jazz & Hip-Hop techniques, as well as SHARP Dance Company repertory. The company also offers "It is never too late" class for anyone who always wanted to dance and never did.



For additional residency or master class information, please contact:

Nikki Battestilli
Company Manager
Email: nikki@sharpdance.org

or

Diane Sharp-Nachsin
Artistic Director
Email: diane@sharpdance.org

SHARP Dance Company

Touring Repertory

(3 Different Nights of Work to choose from to fit your Community)

SHARP Dance Company

“PUZZLE”



PUZZLE is a collaborative modern dance experience designed to piece together diverse life experiences and challenge the ingenuity of both the artists and audience. Co-created by Joe Cotler, Former Koresh Dance Company Member, and Diane Sharp-Nachsin, SHARP Dance Company's Artistic Director, PUZZLE will be a combination of two: styles, ages and experiences all rolled into one exciting piece.

Video

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/z1wg6sccieu044b/Puzzle%20MAP.mp4?dl=0>

Press

<https://www.broadstreetreview.com/dance/sharp-dance-company-presents-facade?fbclid=IwAR2AP4zahnaFePV8XF4DJl5kc8feUpWH5BNP0M8gmMzj4ymO6ZsaYEUs3Tw>



SHARP Dance Company

“669”



“669” dance piece inspired by the stories of Sir Nicholas Winton and the families for whom he intervened. He secured 669 children of mostly Jewish families safe passage to Britain and continued in finding homes for all of them. Most of their parents perished in the Auschwitz concentration camp. “669” demonstrates the wide array of human experiences from the crushing hatred of bigotry to the purest compassion of the human soul. The piece was created with amazing original music by Liliya Danieva, from Moscow, Russia. Additional extensive lecture demonstrations are also available for this performance.

Video

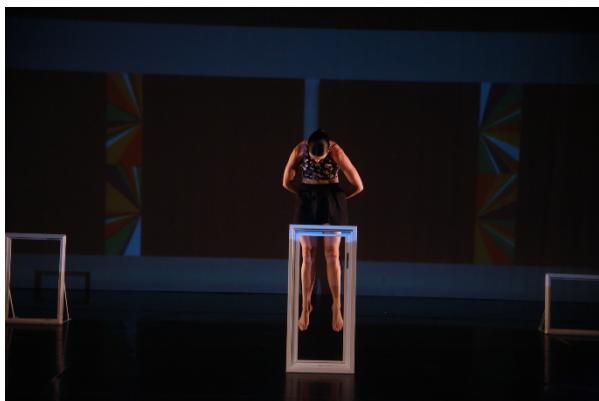
<https://vimeo.com/347822101>

Press

<https://philadelphiadance.org/dance-journal/2017/11/30/review-sharp-dance-companys-humanity/>

SHARP Dance Company

“Seven Windows”



“Seven Windows” utilizes collaborations with amazing visual artists from around the world. Based on the dream of a dancer in which she is visited by her recently departed mother, Seven Windows looks into the world of reincarnation and moving on in the afterlife. With new choreography by Diane Sharp-Nachsin and inspired by original paintings made by: Jill Brandwein (Italy), Danielle Hallman (Philadelphia), Patricia Zarate (NYC) and Julia Salinger (Massachusetts), Seven Windows asks the questions, “How do we know it’s time to move on?”



Video

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aRypcGmfrCo>

Additional Video Excerpts:

Wings (Seven Windows)
<https://vimeo.com/146982874>

Flower in the Storm (Seven Windows)
<https://vimeo.com/123058283>

Press:

<https://www.rochestercitynewspaper.com/rochester/rebecca-reviews-seven-windows/Content?oid=2887214>

<http://legacy.citybeat.com/cincinnati/article-35428-seven-windows.html>

SHARP Dance Company

"AWAKENINGS"



Choreographed by Kevin Ferguson of Parsons Dance Company and Doug Elkins Dance Company. "Awakenings" gives a glimpse inside the head of a lost man who is afraid to reveal himself and reveal that he is gay.

Video:

<https://vimeo.com/158265838>

SHARP Dance Company

"I AM HERE"



Video

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/uapf4x270mruojw/I%20AM%20Here-Clip.mp4?dl=0>

Press:

<https://www.broadstreetreview.com/reviews/sharp-dance-company-presents-the-other-side>

"I AM HERE." is the first full company piece, created for SHARP Dance Company by Miguel Quiñones. Before dancing for SHARP Dance Company, Quiñones was a Parsons Dance company member from 2005-2011. "I AM HERE" touches on the different types of support we experience as people. The transition of the piece moves from exploring the weight of anxiety and an empathetic type of support to a physical support for one another when that weight becomes too much to bear. This piece explores the emotional support we show for one another when we decide enough is enough and when we see people going through something and all you can do is give them a look or a nod because you're going through your own something. In the end you literally have decided to put your foot down.

SHARP Dance Company

"BLIND FAITH"



Impressions.life

Video:

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/8fahr22nuwhin0h/BLIND%20FAITH-PART%203.mov?dl=0>

"BLIND FAITH" is SHARP's signature piece, created for the Company using a 34 ft. long-skirt constructed by Brian Strachan and the choreographic ideas of Diane Sharp-Nachsin. BLIND FAITH is an iconic piece for SHARP, showing the strength of each other and the ability to support each person in different parts of their life.

SHARP Dance Company

STAND ALONE "COVID FRIENDLY" OUTDOOR PERFORMANCE

"Garden Tour"

The Garden Tour was originally inspired by the gardens of Ravello, Italy. It intertwines the beauty of nature and the beauty of dance in one symbiotic art. The selection of pieces are designed to be performed in a park, garden or in various outdoor locations with no marley needed.

Additions to the performance can include aerial work and a "living fountain".

Engaging the Community with the Garden Tour - SHARP also offers unique and innovative ways to incorporate the community into our performance.

Video

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2DX48pH5NkU&feature=youtu.be>

Add-on Option – The Garden Tour can be performed with a Living Fountain.



SHARP Dance Company

SHARP DANCE COMPANY BOARD



DIANE SHARP-NACHSIN
Founder, Artistic Director



TOM FARRELL
President



RYAN NACHSIN
Vice President



DAWN CALZADA
Treasurer



MEGAN O'HAGAN
Secretary



PATRICK KORSTANGE
Executive Board Member

SHARP Dance Company

PHOTO LINKS

“669” Photo Links

Photo Credit: Bill Hebert

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/itclrxjndv7v0hp/OV8A1581.JPG?dl=0>

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/4im8qflfgdnvois/OV8A1644.JPG?dl=0>

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/qxy24srqquiq9vv/OV8A1651.JPG?dl=0>

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/d5cxkiethvs6xp9/OV8A1677.JPG?dl=0>

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/zs6q1afxn5jc9ml/OV8A1760.JPG?dl=0>

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/9mws13nze4xoiqg/OV8A1959.JPG?dl=0>

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/kki9qn8x220yer0/OV8A1966.JPG?dl=0>

“PUZZLE” Photo Links

Photo Credit: Kylene Cleaver

https://www.dropbox.com/s/jm9cpdq3jia2he/SharpDanceCo_Facade_001.jpg?dl=0

https://www.dropbox.com/s/bqehrsv14ckxbip/SharpDanceCo_Facade_036.jpg?dl=0

https://www.dropbox.com/s/fefx3ohhw5v8ti6/SharpDanceCo_Facade_100.jpg?dl=0

https://www.dropbox.com/s/375alg8y2ayo3hk/SharpDanceCo_Facade_104.jpg?dl=0

https://www.dropbox.com/s/cabs3t9o44ityii/SharpDanceCo_Facade_141.jpg?dl=0

https://www.dropbox.com/s/dgimq43t9sguuwn/SharpDanceCo_Facade_161.jpg?dl=0

**All Photos can be resized and sent at any DPI you would like.
Please contact us if you have any questions or requests.**

SHARP Dance Company



Dancer: Sandra Davis | Photo: Bill Hebert

**For Booking information:
Jennifer Morris
Siegel Artist Management
jennifer@siegelartist.com
570-258-5700**

www.sharpdance.org

**Thank you for your interest in
SHARP Dance Company!**