

Art as Action Dance Company
presents



SATURDAY NOVEMBER 23, 2019 AT 7:30PM
SUNDAY NOVEMBER 24, 2019 AT 4PM
AT COLORADO CONSERVATORY OF DANCE

ORIGINAL COVER ART BY MARGIE DAHLIN

act one

the moving project (title track)

Dancers: Carol Cowley, Margie Dahlin, Lisa Johnston, Jan Leversee, Sarah Leversee and Laurie Wood
Choreographed by the dancers with Miranda Downey, Wayne A. Gilbert and Karen Talcott
Music: Ruth B.

moved

Words by: Sarah Leversee
Movement by: Emma Scher

That's Life

Dancer/Choreographer: Laurie Wood
Music: Frank Sinatra

This dance is dedicated to Paul Hughes, Betsye Kay Finch, and Joel Strack, three very important theatre, dance, and theme park colleagues, teachers, and friends who passed away this year in Central Florida, who all had big, bold performing artist careers against all odds.

musical interlude: As Far As You Can See

Written and Performed by: David Potter

post-surgery wander (convalescence part 7)

Words by wayne a. gilbert
Photos by Brian McElwain

weightless | connection | unbound | fancy

Dancers: Carol Cowley, Margie Dahlin, Amy Dressel-Martin and Jan Leversee
Choreography: Sarah Leversee
Music: Moby and Overcoats

perpetual (e)motion

Dancers: Lisa Johnston, Sarah Leversee and Laurie Wood
Choreography: Sarah Leversee with dancers
Music: Robyn

intermission

join us in the lobby for complimentary drinks & snacks and browse our silent auction featuring artwork, jewelry, craft beer and more.

act two

Articulate Elegance

Director: Jan Leversee
Created by the Dancers
Dancers: Margie Dahlin, Amy Dressel-Martin, Lisa Johnston, Jan Leversee, Sarah Leversee and Laurie Wood
Choreography: Sarah Leversee
Music: Stars of the Lid and Alabama Shakes

Why Walk when you can Fly?

Dancers: Carol Cowley and Emma Scher
Choreography: Carol Cowley, with assistance from Emma
Music: Mary Chapin Carpenter

Iris

Written and Performed by Jan Leversee

a body in motion is difficult to dissect

Dancer/Choreographer: Sarah Leversee
Music: Brittany Howard

interlude: Remember your Spirit

Music Written and Performed by: David Potter
Improvisation: Emma Scher

1955 Nash Rambler Station Wagon Blues

Words by wayne a. gilbert
Music: David Potter

video interlude: the next generation of MOVEr

Making her AaA debut: Lucy Maria Meyer Leversee, age 2

our MOVEment

Dancers: Art as Action Dance Company
Choreography: Sarah Leversee
Music: Michael Franti and Spearhead

join us in the lobby after the show to congratulate the performers, enjoy more refreshments and finalize your silent auction bids

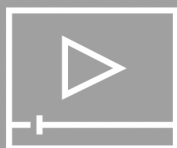
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CAROL BANDURA COWLEY HOMETOWN: Stanford, CA
DAY JOB: Chronic Pain Counselor/NP and Pain Resource Navigator
DREAM JOB: Research Oceanographer (Job Requirements: Ability to float for hours face down with snorkel observing coral reefs in warm Caribbean waters.)
FIRST TIME ONSTAGE: Age 4, "pre-ballet" recital (accompanied by piano, with tears)
HISTORY WITH ART AS ACTION: 3rd Show; 4th year of (re)discovering and sustaining my Dancer Body and Soul via Reconnect classes
CREDENTIALS: BA, MSN, NP, Survivor of Chronic Pain and adult-onset Muscular Dystrophy, and a proud Wheelchair Dancer



I dance because there is no better antidote for turning Fear into Curiosity, Despair into Hope, Pain into Comfort, and Isolation into Connection.



MARGIE DAHLIN HOMETOWN: Edwardsville, IL (on Route 66)
DAY JOB: staying one step ahead of PD with my own version of the Moving Project: exercise, boxing, LOUD, art, and Dance, Dance, Dance!
DREAM JOB: "G-Ma" (love you Taylor, Hannah and Zach)
FIRST TIME ONSTAGE: 2016, thought everyone was fixated on my missteps (because I certainly was) And now when I see the video, I see "fanciness" in my movements
HISTORY WITH ART AS ACTION: dancing with this incredible tribe since 2014
CREDENTIALS: Wife of 50 years, mother, grandmother, retired RN, and member of the ReConnect dance class and Art as Action Performing Company

I dance because it makes me feel FANCY

AMY DRESSEL-MARTIN HOMETOWN: Wheat Ridge, CO
DAY JOB: Writer DREAM JOB: Writer
FIRST TIME ONSTAGE: 2014, Art as Action presents *both/and*
HISTORY WITH ART AS ACTION: Reconnect dancer for 6 years, board member for 2 years, programs committee member for 4 years.
CREDENTIALS: Human Being



I dance because to dance with someone is to share a moment of time in loveliness.



WAYNE A. GILBERT HOMETOWN: 1955 nash Rambler station wagon
DAY JOB: full-time poet/performer DREAM JOB: full-time poet/performer
FIRST TIME ONSTAGE: Pierre in "The Boy Friend" high school musical
HISTORY WITH ART AS ACTION: every show from the year before the beginning; former board member; co-founder Reconnect with Your Body.
CREDENTIALS: 2018 Governor's Creative Leadership Award. Countless performances in all kinds of wild crazy places and a few respectable ones. Decades teaching english and educational psychology.

I write/perform because i don't know how to know anything especially about myself until i write to discover it. then i just love the stage/microphone more than my anxiety and all the reasons to stay home.



LISA JOHNSTON HOMETOWN: Washington DC
 DAY JOBS: Nonprofit administration, Marketing consultant, Program Director 3rd Law's Dance for Parkinson's, Gyrokinesis apprentice
 DREAM JOB: Production Assistant for Higher Ground Productions (the Obama's film company)
 FIRST TIME ON STAGE: I moved a rock in an Easter play at my step-father's church.
 HISTORY WITH ART AS ACTION: I saw the show last year and loved it.

CREDENTIALS: BA in Theater, Liberal Arts of Business program at the University of MD; co-created and performed in a duo trapeze act that debuted in a Puerto Rican circus between the boxing kangaroo and exploding car acts, and finished after eight years performing in Varieté Theaters throughout Germany.

I dance because it makes me happy and I love to learn. Dance fulfills a deep desire to move through life with grace, passion, integrity, connection, beauty and joy.

JAN LEVERSEE HOMETOWN: Lakewood, CO
 DAY JOB: Lucy's Grandma DREAM JOB: Lucy's Grandma
 FIRST TIME ONSTAGE: In junior high, I was the ghost of Christmas Past
 HISTORY WITH ART AS ACTION: I evolved from usher (first show) to performer to creator of poems and stories to dancer to director of group pieces.
 CREDENTIALS: Curiosity, commitment, even courage.



I dance because it connects me to my whole self, my whole family and a whole community of amazing people.



SARAH LEVERSEE HOMETOWN: Edgewater, CO
 DAY JOB: Artistic Director of Art as Action, Reconnect Teaching Artist & Finance/HR Manager for September High School
 DREAM JOB: Full Time Artistic Director of Art as Action & Reconnect Teaching Artist
 FIRST TIME ONSTAGE: Age 5 for Miss Vicki's Dance & Gymnastics. There was definitely sequins involved.
 HISTORY WITH ART AS ACTION: every little step since we decided "as" was the

correct preposition in 2002.
 CREDENTIALS: Sarah first explored her Artivism as a dancer during childhood and added the director/producer layer at age 16 with her original production of OUTLET – a collaborative performance celebrating female artists. 20+ years later, the addiction to living a creative life shows no sign of letting up.

I dance because it makes me feel free.

EMMA SCHER HOMETOWN: Golden, CO
 DAY JOB(S): Teaching Artist (Colorado Ballet) / Tea Slinger (Celestial Seasonings)
 DREAM JOB: Dance Therapist/ Botanist/ Children's Book Illustrator
 FIRST TIME ON STAGE: My brother and I used to put on our own variety shows in the laundry room as kids.
 HISTORY WITH ART AS ACTION: I have danced in two shows with Art as Action and am humbled to stay involved any way I can.
 CREDENTIALS: I have a BA in Dance, a whimsical sense of reality, and am fascinated with the human condition.



I dance because it adds texture to my experience while simultaneously pulling me away from myself and towards a greater understanding of what it is to feel full.

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In memory of my husband's uncle, Dick Swindler, who was the second person in the United States to receive deep brain stimulation for PD while in its experimental stages.

In honor of my friend, William Bradley, who has Parkinson's and is also blind. I could have looked the other way, but then I would not have his sweet friendship and know his brilliant mind.

And, a huge thank you to the Reconnect Dancers. I joined the class to help them, but they helped me more than they will ever know when I had surgery on my achilles. They are forever in my heart.

Linda Coons



KAREN TALCOTT HOMETOWN: Santa Monica, CA then Denver, CO
 DAY JOB: Retired 6 yrs ago to take care of myself. DREAM JOB: Having my husband retire!!
 FIRST TIME ONSTAGE: 7 yrs old, I was a flower in the Rustic Canyon Park Maypole dance
 HISTORY WITH ART AS ACTION: I found Sarah and my Reconnect family in 2016. I not only get to learn from one of the best teachers and perform again but I have one of the best support systems in each class member.

CREDENTIALS: Ballet, any and all folk dances as part of a performing co called Avaz. Ballroom dancing with Arthur Murray for the last 11yrs.

PERSONAL ASIDES: This year has been a hard one for me but I'm bound and determined to dance in this show. I will never let my Artists down!

I dance because I found my soul again dancing with my friends in Reconnect and Art as Action. The joy I get from dancing with them is the best high this lady has ever experienced!

LAURIE WOOD HOMETOWN: Lakeland, FL
 DAY JOB: Pilates & Massage Practitioner, Dance Instructor
 DREAM JOB: Radio City Rockette, Author, Speaker, Travel/Food Blogger
 FIRST TIME ONSTAGE: Elementary school play, had 2 lines.
 HISTORY WITH ART AS ACTION: I stage managed for a show and now I'm in one.
 CREDENTIALS: BA in Modern Dance, BS in Business Admin., BA in Metaphysical Science, LMT, Pilates Post-Rehab Certified, Reiki Master, spiritual traveler, life-long dancer/choreographer, nature lover.



I dance because it makes me feel alive, courageous, authentic, and connected to something greater than myself. Dance is "home" for me.

g u e s t a r t i s t s



ANNABELLE DENMARK HOMETOWN: Montigny en Cambresis, France
 DAY JOB: Portrait Photographer DREAM JOB: Portrait Photographer
 FIRST TIME ONSTAGE: My first dress rehearsal which was for AaA's 10th anniversary
 HISTORY WITH ART AS ACTION: I have photographed Art as Action's promos and dress rehearsals for the past 7 years

CREDENTIALS: I am a double major, mother of two, french transplant and photographer since 2011
 PERSONAL ASIDES: I believe that authenticity and vulnerability open the doors to real connections between people.

I'm an Artist because I work every day to support and empower people who want to share their gifts with the world.

BRIAN MCELWAIN HOMETOWN: Tucson, AZ
 DAY JOB: retired psychologist DREAM JOB: retired photographer
 HISTORY WITH ART AS ACTION: Noob. CREDENTIALS: I passed a black-and-white photography and darkroom class as an undergraduate at a time when mullets and Aquanet-enhanced hair were de rigeur and hair metal bands ruled.



I dance because my lenses and I dance amidst the constant flux of photons to create, explore, and share unseen perspectives in order to open up new possibilities for all who dare to "look closer" and risk being changed in the process.



DAVID POTTER has been playing the guitar and banjo since the age of 9. He started performing talent shows at the age of 12. After receiving a minor in classical guitar and voice from Georgia College, he has gone on to live his dream by being a full time working musician, playing everything from weddings and resorts to headline entertainment. More recently, he has had the thrill to work with some well known people like Mike Nile (Spirit), Neale Heywood (Fleetwood Mac), and John Ware (Emmylou Harris' Hot Band) in performance and in the studio, creating original work for a project called "Wild Mountain" here in Denver. He is thrilled to be performing for the first time with AaA.

gratitude - from the artistic director

thank YOU for witnessing our performance & supporting our small & mighty Movement.

thank you performers. You are the heart of Art as Action. I am honored to share the arena with such brave, kind & talented human beings. We made a show! My one word for each of you: Wayne - *wisdom*. Mom - *homebase*. Amy - *steadfast*. Margie - *heart*. Karen - *resilience*. Laurie - *power*. Emma - *light*. Carol - *storyteller*. Lisa - *grace*. David - *generosity*.

thank you Artist Leadership Team. The ideas we generate, the concerns we unpack, the fun we have along the way - Art as Action is what it is today because of you.

thank you Boardavists. Your vision, persistence & compassion keep the organization afloat.

thank you Colorado Conservatory of Dance for giving us a warm & welcoming home.

thank you Scientific Cultural Facilities District for welcoming us into your prestigious ranks. We are so proud to be worthy of your support.

thank you Reconnect participants. Our dance class adventures are some of the best parts of my week. You inspire me.

thank you Annabelle Denmark. Your stunning vision & endless imagination inspire & challenge us to escalate our own creativity.

thank you Families & Friends of the Artists (including mine!) Your support & encouragement makes our creative collaborations & our community possible.



OUR MISSION: Art as Action brings people together at the intersection of dance, (dis)ability and creative potential.

Founder & Artistic Director: Sarah Leversee

Photos: Annabelle Denmark | Promotional Design: Sarah Leversee

Lighting Design: Jenna Gragg | Sound: Karen Horan

Boardavists (aka our Board of Directors)

Chloe DiVita, Meghan Camp, Amy Dressel-Martin, Katie Edmiston, Ellen Rollins

Artist Leadership Team

Amy Dressel-Martin, Wayne A. Gilbert, Jan Leversee, Leann Roberts

Art as Action is based at the Colorado Conservatory of Dance



FIERCE
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Annabelle Denmark

PHOTOGRAPHER

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Gabrielle Gould
Heather Perdue
Angela Bacca
Ira Bishop
Billie Coulter Pawlikowski
Jan DeVille
Marianne Friedman
Charlotte Long
Brenda Rogers
Mary Snyders
Cathleen Meadows



see your name on this list next year

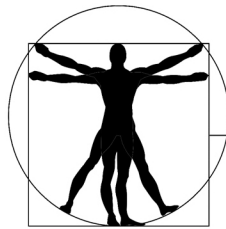
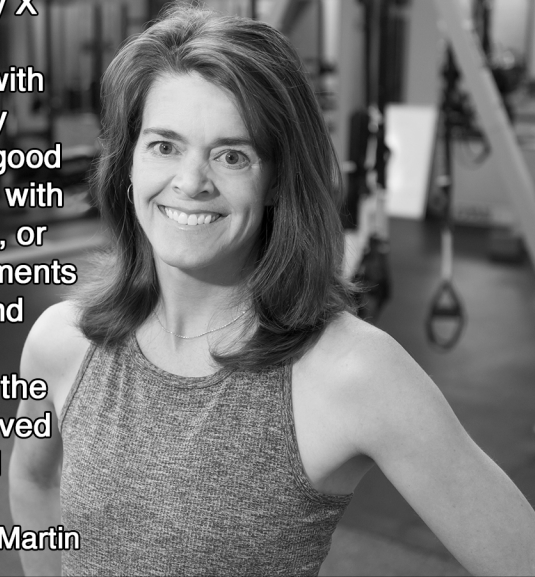
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"I look forward to Recovery X class every week! My experience, as a Person with Parkinson's, has been very positive, and I believe it's good for 'everyBODY,' someone with Parkinson's, another issue, or no issue at all. The movements are natural, comfortable and easy. After a class, I feel rejuvenated and I can feel the benefits in my body (improved balance and flexibility) and brain (neurons firing)."

- Amy Dressel-Martin



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~ Christie Schwalbe, MS, CCC-SLP

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Our company members are ambassadors of dance for every body: enthusiastic performers/advocates for our Community Engagement in both the Parkinson's and dance communities; vital collaborators/performers in the annual Artist Process/Performance and active attendees of Reconnect classes. Art as Action is the only physically integrative dance company in the Northern Denver Metro area.

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www.coloradogives.org/ArtasAction