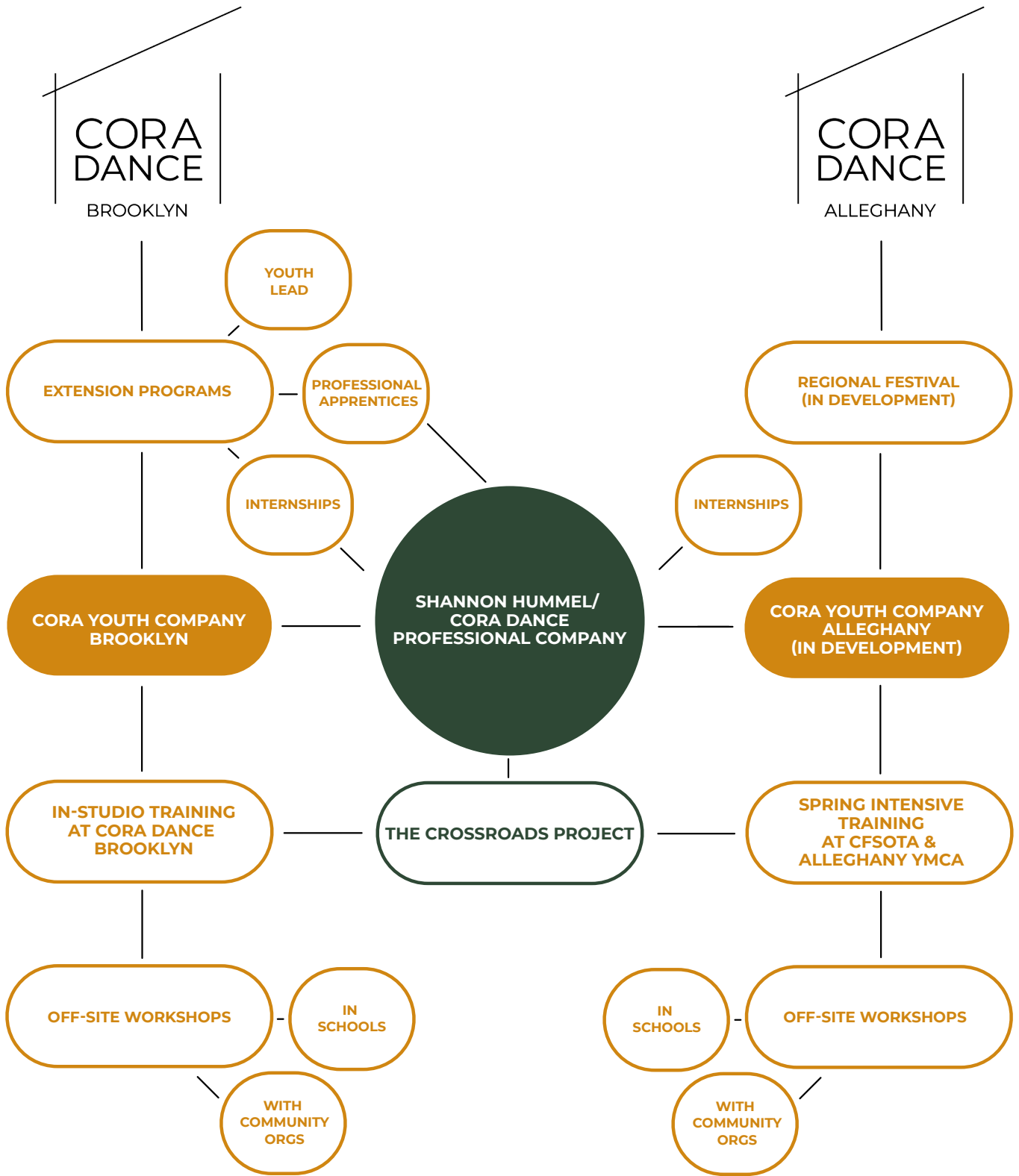




Cora Dance



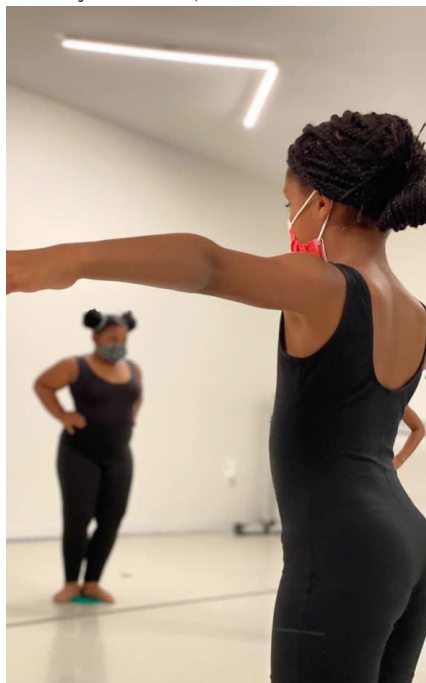
The Organization

Cora Dance creates transformative dance experiences while addressing barriers that restrict individuals from accessing the art form.

Cora programs foster diverse people finding common ground, allowing all involved—artists, students, audiences, and community members—to authentically connect through art.



Photos by Steve Pisano, Heather White



CONTACT

Website: www.coradance.org
Email: info@coradance.org
Phone: (718) 858-2520

Artistic Statement

I create choreography and artistic practices that open possibilities for intimacy, vulnerability, human connection, and personal and communal revelation. In my work, this happens through detailed physical conversations between myself and the dancers. My happy place is with them. I find my deepest pleasure in seeing their individual voices and intentions radiate through movement until the work no longer feels like it is mine, but instead belongs to the dancers and the audience. In this collaborative 'giving away' of dance, I get to tell a story and receive one at the same time. I love lingering inside a story, being pulled along through expectation and surprise toward a resolution which, for me, means finding the alignment of seemingly disparate ideas in movingly cohesive universals. While dance is often focused on perfection, I am most interested in the moments where we fall short, misunderstand, overshoot, underestimate, and yet, through effort, love, or the sheer grit it takes to keep existing together for some undefined reason, we go on.

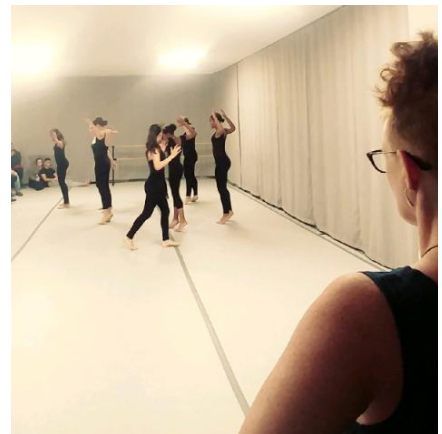
Clearly defining movement intention—whether a volatile sweep of a leg or the tentative touch of fingertips to a cheek—is my tool for dissecting the detailed emotions within. Creating choreography in which dancers experience emotion authentically as they perform rather than depict or portray it is the thrill and challenge that keeps me committed to the process. Probing each moment and unpacking its emotional value is what I offer to dance and what dance offers to me. Dance keeps me honest and brings me clarity. There, I find dignity, belief in humanity, and heart.

In choreography, education, and community engagement, I seek to manifest a belief in dignity, heart, and shared humanity, creating space for practices that allow us to trust, connect, reveal ourselves, and embrace one another, in our dancing and in the world.

Shannon Hummel, Artistic Director



The Organization



The Company

**“POIGNANT, FUNNY
AND REMARKABLY
ASSURED AND
PERCEPTIVE.”
THE NEW YORK
TIMES**



Photo by Steve Pisano

HISTORY

The professional company Shannon Hummel/Cora Dance performs the detailed, intimate, emotionally sophisticated work of Founder and Artistic Director Shannon Hummel. SH/CD strives to bring compelling dance to all people and use choreography as a catalyst for connection. The company has been active since 1998, and its work is seen as much in backyards, living rooms, cars, public parks, and community spaces as on some of the country's finest stages. Cora has presented a substantial body of work at such venues as 92nd Street Y, BAM/Brooklyn Academy of Music, Brooklyn Museum of Art, Dance Theater Workshop/NYLA, Joe's Pub at The Public Theater, among many others. SH/CD has been presented or commissioned by countless universities across the country. Cora has been repeatedly acclaimed by *The New York Times*, including being a "Top 10 Critics Picks for Dance". Since 2008, SH/CD has anchored its work in Red Hook, Brooklyn, NYC, employing its art-making as a catalyst for equity and social change within the community, and expanded in 2022 to establish dual residency in the Historic Masonic Theatre and Amphitheatre in Clifton Forge, VA.

CONTACT

If you are interested in booking the company, please visit coradance.org, email info@coradance.org, or call (718) 858-2520.

Press

“I WAS STARTLED, THE FIRST TIME I SAW THE CHOREOGRAPHY OF SHANNON HUMMEL, BY HOW COMPLETELY THE DANCERS IN HER COMPANY CORA DANCE SEEMED TO OWN THE PIECES THAT THEY PERFORMED. AND WHAT THEY PERFORMED WAS OFTEN LIKE A VIVID, TRUE SHORT STORY, A MIX, PERHAPS, OF EUDORA WELTY AND ELIZABETH BOWEN. HER PIECES, WHETHER SOLOS OR GROUP DANCES, EVOKE WHOLE SMALL UNIVERSES OF EMOTIONS AND RELATIONSHIPS, BOTH SIMPLE AND COMPLEX. MS. HUMMEL’S DANCES ARE LIKE VIVIDLY DETAILED YET ELLIPTICAL SHORT STORIES, ECONOMICAL AND ELOQUENT.”
THE NEW YORK TIMES

“MS. HUMMEL HAS ONCE AGAIN ACHIEVED THE POTENT FORM OF DANCE NARRATIVE THAT SEEMS UNIQUELY HERS. YOU CAN FEEL THE QUIET TEARING OF A HEART THAT MIGHT BE YOUR OWN.”
THE NEW YORK TIMES

“HUMMEL’S STRONGEST ASSET IS HER ABILITY TO CREATE A NEW WORLD... COMMUNICATING FEELINGS THROUGH A SET GESTURAL LANGUAGE. THE EVOCATIVE NATURE OF THE STAGE PICTURE AND THE GRACIOUSNESS OF THE DANCERS WAS PALPABLE THROUGH EVERY SECOND. A TRULY MAGICAL NIGHT OF DANCE.”
EYE ON THE ARTS NYC

“ENORMOUSLY SOPHISTICATED. THE CHOREOGRAPHY QUIVERS WITH SUBTLE EMOTIONS, LIKE THE WRITING OF VIRGINIA WOOLF.”
THE VILLAGE VOICE

“REMIND(S) ME OF MAURICE SENDAK’S *WHERE THE WILD THINGS ARE... (GIFTS)* CONTAINS BOTH THE WONDER OF CHILDHOOD AND THE ESCAPE OF THE MIND.”
DANCE ENTHUSIAST

“HELPLESSLY COMPELLING.”
THE NEW YORK TIMES

“ELASTIC LITTLE DANCES OF ATTACHMENT AND REJECTION. TENDER, AMUSING AND TIGHTLY CONSTRUCTED.”
THE NEW YORK TIMES

The Artists of Cora



SHANNON HUMMEL FOUNDER & ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

Shannon Hummel is a choreographer, teacher, and champion of equity

in the field of dance. Hummel grew up in a small rural community in Virginia and has remained committed to working in rural places as well as urban centers throughout her career. Hummel founded Cora Dance in 1998 as an NYC-based professional dance company. Her work garnered praise from critics and publications, including repeated attention from *The New York Times*, where she has been a “Top 10 Critics Pick for Dance” and has had her choreography described as “finely wrought dances... poignant, funny, and remarkably assured and perceptive... as vivid and true as a Eudora Welty story...a rare gem”. Hummel’s work has been presented in over 30 colleges and universities and in countless NYC venues but has become best known for presenting in non-traditional “everyday” spaces, prioritizing bringing dance to communities often overlooked by professional performing artists. In 2009, Hummel and Cora founded a studio in Red Hook, Brooklyn. Building on her successful choreographic pursuits and 25 years as a passionate educator of young dancers, Cora’s studio was established as a home for Hummel’s company, as a sliding scale training facility for young artists, and as a living laboratory to investigate, develop, and document practices that bridge gaps in access and outcomes in the dance field. She was honored by the 2020 New York Dance & Performance Awards “The Bessies” for *Service to the Field of Dance* and enjoyed other awards and recognition for her work addressing inequity in the field. She has been a faculty member for countless institutions, including Queensborough Community College and her alma mater James Madison University where she was named a School of Theater and Dance Distinguished Alumni in 2000. She has been a guest artist, educational advisor, and/or lectured for many universities, American Dance Festival NY-Intensive, Mid-Atlantic American College Dance Association, and New York Live Arts, among others. Since 2020, she splits time equally between NYC and Clifton Forge, VA, where she and Cora have recently established a rural hub—Cora Dance Alleghany—to mirror the Red

Hook center’s arts and access initiatives, expand exchange opportunities between rural and urban youth, and increase the role of professional dance in the Alleghany Highlands region.



AMMARA SHAFQAT PROFESSIONAL COMPANY DANCER & PROGRAMS MANAGER

Ammara Shafqat is a dance educator and dance artist from Harrisonburg,

VA. She is a graduate of James Madison University, earning her BA in Dance in May 2021. During her time at James Madison University, Ammara was a member of JMU’s pre-professional dance company, the Virginia Repertory Dance Company, as well as the Co-Director of JMU’s Associate Dance Ensemble, a dance ensemble for first-year Dance Major students. In addition to her teaching work, Ammara has had the privilege of working with globally-recognized artists including Abraham. In.Motion, Kiki Lucas, Rubén Graciani, and Matt Pardo and has attended The Movement Invention Project and Christopher K. Morgan & Artists Summer Intensives. Ammara has served as the Youth Advancement Programs Manager, Cora Youth Company Director, and taught classes in modern this past season at Cora Dance Brooklyn. This is her second year as a dancer with Shannon Hummel/ Cora Dance. Ammara is excited to share and create with Cora Dance for her first season of Cora Dance Alleghany from 2022–2023.



ANAÏS DALLETT CORA YOUTH COMPANY CO-DIRECTOR, APPRENTICE DANCER

Anaïs is 18 years old and was born and raised in NYC.

She lived in Red Hook, Brooklyn until the age of seven after which she never stayed in the same neighborhood for long but always sustained a connection to Red Hook. In middle school, she started taking classes at Cora Dance and taught herself to paint and draw. She was admitted into the visual arts program at Frank Sinatra High School of the Arts. She danced in the Cora Youth Company, Apprentice Company, taught Youth Lead workshops, and choreographed

two pieces for the Cora Youth Companies as a guest artist. Anaïs is now the Co-Director of the Cora Youth Companies and a professional Apprentice dancer.



HANS BILGER COMPOSER

Hans Bilger is a bassist, songwriter, and composer from Brooklyn. He spent childhood playing folk and country gospel in a

family band, which colored his later studies of improvised, classical, and experimental music. His mentors include bassists Greg Cohen (Ornette Coleman, Laurie Anderson, Tom Waits), Samuel Suggs (Concert Artists Guild), Paul Kowert (Punch Brothers), J.A. Granelli (Mr. Lucky), Axel Scherka (Staatskapelle Berlin), Kurt Muroki (Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center), and others. Bilger moved to Austin, TX in 2016, where he became a sought-after sideman and session bassist. Recent projects include recordings with Eli Greenhoe, Odell Fox, R.O. Shapiro, Jenner Fox, Micah Motenko, and Will Taylor. *Meridian*, Bilger’s debut solo album, was released in September by Good Child Music. He has composed three original scores for Shannon Hummel/ Cora Dance. Bilger is also fascinated by the natural world. While studying evolutionary biology at Yale University, he co-authored a study on musical structure in birdsong with the ornithologist Richard Prum and wrote *Aviary*, a piece using songbird songs as raw material for improvisatory and through-composed movements. Last fall, he joined the labs of Julia Clarke and Michael Ryan at UT Austin to start a PhD on the evolution of vocal communication in birds, bats and frogs. His scientific work is supported by fellowships from the National Science Foundation, the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD), and UT Austin. Bilger lived in Berlin, Germany for the past four years where he split time between writing, performing, and CT-scanning bat larynges at the Museum für Naturkunde. Prior to the pandemic, Hans split his time by residing in both Austin, TX and Berlin, Germany.



JUNIE MARSH
PROFESSIONAL
COMPANY
DANCER &
COLLABORATOR
 Junie is a Caribbean born, California raised, dancer, teaching

artist, wife and mother. She holds a BFA in dance choreography from Arizona State University. She has taught technique classes for the past 14 years in NYC including ballet, movement therapy, Ballroom, and Breathwork. She is the business owner of Enhance Your Dance, instructing private lessons in partner dancing. Her career as a performer has allowed her to work and perform with companies such as Delfos Danza Contemporanea of Mazatlan, Pilobolus Dance Theater, Kennedy Dancers, Kathleen Dyer with KDNY, and tour abroad with Vissi Dance Theater. Junie has been an educator at Cora Dance since 2016. She was a Co-Director of CYC/Cora Youth Company Programs Tier 1 in 2017–2018 and Tier 2 in 2018–2019. This year she continues her fourth season with the professional company Shannon Hummel/Cora Dance.



KATIE DEAN
PROFESSIONAL
COMPANY
DANCER &
COLLABORATOR
 Katie Dean is a performer and graphic designer. Dean has

performed in work spanning from physical theater to durational work for museums, for visual artists and choreographers including Phoebe Berglund, Kim Brandt, Xavier Cha, Jessica Cook, Ayano Elson, Jennifer Harge, Megan Chu, Ivy Baldwin Dance, Julie Mayo, Melanie McLain, Phoebe Osborne, Shannon Hummel/Cora Dance, Nadia Tykulsker, Hannah Walsh, and Rebekah Windmiller, in collaborative work with Heather Robinson, in music videos, and in video work by Mia Lidofsky and Celia Rowlson-Hall. She has performed in spaces including MOMA PS1, the Brooklyn Academy of Music, the Guggenheim Museum, the New Museum, the Jam Handy, the Queens Museum, a storage unit, and a dinner table. She has performed with Shannon Hummel/Cora Dance since 2010. She currently shares time between NYC and Sperryville, VA.



KELSEY KRAMER
PROFESSIONAL
COMPANY
DANCER &
COLLABORATOR
 Originally from Virginia, Kelsey Kramer is a Brooklyn-based

performance artist and administrator. Since moving to New York, Kelsey has worked with choreographers and artists LuisaInnesFree Dance, Emily Kohl Mattingley, KIT District, Eric Gotshall, and Shannon Hummel/Cora Dance. Kelsey is half of JACKS—a moving, making duo with collaborator Lexie Thrash. JACKS' performance and film work has been presented at venues and non-traditional performance spaces in New York City, Washington, D.C., Berkshire County, MA, Montreal and Spain. Kelsey's own work has been presented at SITUATIONS Gallery, Abrons Arts Center, Cora Studio Theater, Dogtown Dance Theater in Virginia, and internationally in China as part of the Sichuan Dance Project. Currently, she is Program Manager in the Belfer Center for Innovation & Social Impact at the 92nd Street Y in New York City and Operations Coordinator of Dance/NYC's Junior Committee (JComm). This is her fifth year as a dancer with Shannon Hummel/Cora Dance and second year serving on Cora's Board of Directors.



KEON WASHINGTON
ASSOCIATE
ARTISTIC
DIRECTOR &
PROFESSIONAL
COMPANY
DANCER
 Keon Washington

is a New York City native, who has been dancing and performing for twelve years. Once he gained an interest in dance, he began training in Hip Hop and other styles with some of the best teachers in New York City, such as Robert Cecil Brooks III, Amanda Pope, and the late Maurice C. Dean. Throughout high school and post-graduation Keon began realizing his love of training dancers as well as performing. To further cultivate his skill set as a teacher, dancer and choreographer, he began working alongside his mentor Amanda Pope as a teaching assistant at Lower Manhattan Arts Academy, Harlem School of the Arts, Amanda Pope Dance Company and Chimera

Concept dance team. Keon has taught at the Harlem School of the Arts, Aubrey Lynch-Extra Essential Arts (AL-EEArts), among others. He has been a dancer with Shannon Hummel/Cora Dance and also a teaching artist at Cora since 2016.



Z'YANAH GONZALEZ
APPRENTICE
DANCER

Z'Yanah is a 16-year-old sister, daughter, dancer, and entrepreneur who has been a student and artist at Cora for 11 years. Z'Yanah was a member of the CYC/Cora Youth Company for 5 years before becoming an Apprentice with the Professional Company, Shannon Hummel/Cora Dance. Z'Yanah was the 2018–2019 Scholarship Recipient to the Paul Taylor School in Manhattan. She is currently a Junior Dance Major at Brooklyn High School of the Arts and has been accepted into and attended such prestigious NYC dance programs as the Frank Sinatra High School Summer Arts Institute, MoveNYC Young Professional Program, and Ballet Hispanico. In addition to dancing, in 2020 Z'Yanah started a business, Cora Mickelle: an all-natural body shop selling soaps, body butters, body scrubs, body oils, and milk baths. In the future, Z'Yanah hopes to become a professional dancer and to have a full line of products.

Photos by Hunter Carrico and Shannon Hummel

Project: *Grove*

Choreography by Shannon Hummel in collaboration with the dancers
Solo Dancers: Katie Dean, Kelsey Kramer, Junie Marsh, Ammara Shafqat
Supporting Dancers: Anaïs Dallett, Z'Yanah Gonzalez, Sylvia Shannon
Original Score: Hans Bilger
Lighting Design: Severn Clay-Youman

Grove began in the pre-COVID era as a group work investigating impermanence and humankind's misguided certainty of our supremacy in the natural world. Placed on hiatus during the pandemic, the work returned to in-person rehearsals in 2021, now developing as a series of compelling solos amidst a roving cast of dancers who make visible the unseen forces that govern us. Elegantly powerful and quietly devastating, *Grove* illuminates how our refusal to recognize our own fragility and place in the natural world holds enduring consequences.

Preview Dates: November 11–12, 2022
@ Cora Dance Brooklyn, NYC
Premiere Dates: April 20–22, 2023
@ The Underground at The Historic Masonic Theatre & Amphitheatre, Clifton Forge, VA



Photos by Shannon Hummel, Steve Pisano

Project: *gifts*

**“THE DYSTOPIAN
FANTASY THAT IS
GIFTS IS EVEN BETTER
THE SECOND TIME
AROUND.”**

**CARRIE STERN,
*DANCE ENTHUSIAST***

Choreography by Shannon Hummel in
collaboration with performers
Katie Dean and Kelsey Kramer
Original Score: Hans Bilger
Costume Design and Construction:
Maria Kofman
Scenic Consultation: Scott Pfaffman
Lighting Design: Severn Clay-Youman
Scenic Design and Prop Construction:
Shannon Hummel

gifts juxtaposes the limitlessness of
our imaginations against the extremes
of confinement. Sequestering
dancers and audience in an intensely
isolated location, *gifts* paints a harsh
world where value is defined by
circumstance.

gifts is a stark reflection on the self-
imposed anxiety we create when we
isolate ourselves from people and
experiences we do not understand in
the name of our safety. In a stark white
world (that is also blue), stripped of
fear, free from danger, with all needs
met, *gifts* asks what we need to make
us secure when what we already have
is enough.

gifts premiered January 2019 in storage
unit #2989 of Treasure Island Storage
in Brooklyn, NYC and
was restaged in Unit #5106 in
November 2019.



Photos by Steve Pisano

Project: *COMMON DANCES*

Choreography by Shannon Hummel in collaboration with performers

Original Performers:

Cora Dance Company Members:

Kelly Bartnik, Sarah Burke, Katie Dean,

Solomon Goodwin, Nadia Tykulsker

Supporting Cast: Megan Chu,

Yancy Greene, Angelic Ortiz,

Karen Ross, AJ Sharp,

Isabel Umali

Guest Performers:

Stephanie Batchelder,

Cynthia Thompson, Carolyn Hall, and

members of the Cora Youth Company:

Mykie Laidlow, Dontae McCoy,

Phoebe Pfaffman, Claire Sifton,

Mateo Vidals

COMMON DANCES premiered in September 2015 featuring 18 short works no longer than 7 minutes, repeatedly performed in over 30 locations throughout Red Hook, Brooklyn for over 100 short performances over a 4-hour period. Featuring a multi-generational cast of 20 performers ages 9–62 with varying degrees of experience, *COMMON DANCES* is a true community celebration of the power of everyday moments and movements to draw us closer.

Inspired by the ordinary, beautiful moments of loss, love, struggle, surprise, forgiveness, and resolution that we all share, *COMMON DANCES* takes place on living room couches, park benches, at dining room tables, in church pews, bars, restaurant booths, hallways, and even inside of cars. Each short gem is an invitation to get to know all parts of the community on a broad, yet personal scale. From the hallways of public housing to bars, parks, cars, and the breathtaking waterfront of Red Hook, *COMMON DANCES* challenges audiences to explore the entire Red Hook community, through its people and their stories.



Photos by Steve Pisano

Project: *Add Water, Make Dance*

Conceived and facilitated by Artistic Director, Shannon Hummel, *Add Water, Make Dance* began out of the need to create and connect during the COVID-19 pandemic. With restrictions placed on indoor rehearsals and the consistency required to create evening-length work an impossibility, the company embraced the “seize the moment” spirit of the phrase “add water, make dance”, creating a process for generating short works and performing them for the community, all in one day.

Working in outdoor public spaces, *AWMD* begins with a simple, seated gestural phrase and a lovely piece of music. The phrase and song are shared with a Cora Dance company member who spontaneously choreographs a full-bodied variation for professional company dancers and invited guests. Simultaneously, community members of all ages and abilities gather in a circle to learn the seated version, combining with the professional dancers by day’s end when everyone performs live.

Originally mounted as part of NYC Open Streets with support from RHI/ Red Hook Initiative, *AWMD* has been replicated 20+ times, bringing live performance to over 10,000 people in a single year, including professional dancers, senior citizens, Parkinson’s patients, and children. Support for *AWMD* was made possible in part by the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of the Office of the Governor and the NYC Department of Cultural Affairs.



Photos by Steve Pisano

Education and Community Work

Cora Dance Brooklyn



IN-STUDIO PROGRAM

Cora Dance Brooklyn's In-Studio Program provides professionally led pay-what-you-can classes to young dancers. Rooted in strong Modern and Hip Hop training with supporting offerings in Ballet and African Diasporic forms, Cora provides SEA/Supporting Equal Access Services, including after-school pick-up, snacks, dancewear, shoes, parent workshops, and audition opportunities through CYC/Cora Youth Company programs to provide access to families of various means. Students perform twice annually through Open Class Performances to share their progress with their families, friends, and community.

CORA YOUTH COMPANIES

Chosen by audition, CYC/Cora Youth Company Programs provide CDB's most committed In-Studio Program dancers in grades 4–12 a repertory company experience, performing works by professional choreographers. CYC dancers perform locally year-round and receive wraparound services, including individualized education and career “path-planning” tailored to each dancer. Dancers with 2+ seasons in CYC may apply for placement and receive training, compensation, and community service credit through these CYC Extension Programs:

Administrative and Production Internships: Dancers learn lighting design; stage, production, project management; and/or administration skills mentored by Cora staff.

Faculty Assistants and “Youth Lead” Programs: Mentored by Cora faculty, dancers assist CDB In-Studio Program instructors during classes and/or develop and teach their own multi-week workshops through “Youth Lead.”

Shannon Hummel/Cora Dance Apprentice Program: Elite young dancers demonstrating the artistry and maturity required for work within the professional company, understudying and/or performing in new and archived work locally and on tour.

Satellite Partner Scholarships: Cora offers scholarship placement to dancers via partnerships with institutions across NYC, most recently, Paul Taylor American Modern Dance and Gibney Dance.



Photos by Casey Fodge, Steve Pisano



Cora Dance Alleghany



Cora Dance entered its 25th Season in 2022–2023 by launching an ambitious expansion of its groundbreaking model for integrating professional dance and community engagement, establishing a dedicated space in the Historic Masonic Theatre and Amphitheatre in Clifton Forge, Virginia as its new rural hub: **Cora Dance Alleghany (CDA)**. CDA works in partnership with local non-profits and community leaders to broaden access to professional performance, dance education, and community-based programming in the Alleghany Highlands region via the following programs:

COMMUNITY WORKSHOPS & PERFORMANCES

Artists from **Cora Dance's Alleghany and Brooklyn hubs** present FREE performances and workshops monthly May–November throughout the region in conjunction with local happenings. Workshops/performances take place throughout the summer and fall at the Alleghany Highlands Arts & Crafts Center's *Clifton Forge Arts Community Celebration/Fall Festival*; Alleghany Highlands YMCA's *Healthy Kids Days* and *Spooktacular*; and *Fun Fridays*, *Mayfaire*, and *KriskindImrkt* at Clifton Forge School of the Arts, *Diversity Day* at Mountain Gateway Community College, among others.



Photos by Shannon Hummel, Steve Pisano

DANCE EDUCATION PROGRAMS

January–April, CDA's Spring Youth Intensive brings weekly pay-what-you-can dance education program to youth aged 8–18 of all abilities and experience levels. Modern Dance, Improvisation, and Hip Hop-based training takes place weekly at the Clifton Forge School of the Arts and Alleghany Highlands YMCA with orientation and culminating performances at the Historic Masonic Theatre and Amphitheatre.



PROFESSIONAL PERFORMANCES

In April 2023, Shannon Hummel/Cora Dance premieres *Grove*, at The Historic Masonic Theatre, marking the company's first premier outside of NYC in 25 years and the launch of annual professional premiers by Cora in the Theatre. The event marks the launch of new initiatives to create access to professional performance within the community through sliding-scale ticketing, outreach initiatives, and the inclusion of local performers in a developing festival format.

The Red Hook Prom



Begun in 2013 as a community-wide spirit-lifter following Hurricane Sandy's devastation of Red Hook, Brooklyn, THE RED HOOK COMMUNITY PROM has become a beloved annual tradition. Mounted as a retro 70s, 80s, and 90s high-school prom-themed dance party for all ages, this pay-what-you-can event is held annually in the gymnasium of South Brooklyn Community High School and features carnival-like opportunities for attendees to make donations of all sizes as they make song dedications, buy a vintage dress, get prom photos taken, bid on the auction, get their '80s hair done, vie to be Prom Royalty and, of course, dance together in a spirit of fun, frivolity, and community. All proceeds support tuition assistance of CDB's In-Studio and CYC Programs that provide young dancers training year-round.



Photos by MVS Studio, Gaia Squarci, Heather White

Prom has been repeatedly lauded by the press, media, and elected officials as a model of integration and inclusion that welcomes every community member in a joyful night of fly moves, sassy outfits, unity, and love. Unlike a traditional school prom that can only be attended for a year or two, THE RED HOOK COMMUNITY PROM has become a rite of passage for youth growing up in the Red Hook community. A vehicle to highlight the accomplishments of young artists, announce new initiatives, and acknowledge community leaders in a uniquely light-hearted manner, Prom has been attended by NYC Mayors, Council Members, Congressional Representatives, and State Assembly—some even engaging as performers —, bringing together constituents and those who represent them in a shared experience of community.



The Crossroads Project



"Crossroads was built from my love of three things: my rural Virginia roots, New York City, and the transformative power of dance. Recognizing that three such different things elicit the same feeling of home within me led me to create a project that defines home as something we all share and that inside this universal experience is a power to unite that is greater than the geographic and cultural divides that often polarize us."

–Shannon Hummel

The Crossroads Project intersects urban and rural teens, helping them use dance, writing, storytelling, and performance to find common humanity, de-stigmatize local identity, break down stereotypes, and achieve the understanding and unity required for collective change. Examining what it means to feel “at home” as it relates to our bodies, residences, communities, and country, *Crossroads* deepens awareness of the complex beauty and diversity of America’s people and creates a platform for rewriting the narrative that urban and rural people exist in opposition to one another, facilitating a new story of beauty, trust, collaboration, and unity. *The Crossroads Project* includes two distinct phases: *Close to Home* and *Crossing Boundaries*.



Phase 1: *Close to Home* invites youth aged 12–20 from a common geographic area to take part in several weeks of fun, welcoming, open-level movement games, partnering, meditation, and free writing exercises that elicit trust and joy. Building on this trust, participants personally define the feeling of home in written and movement-based material—examining how the feeling manifests in a body, a family, and a dwelling—before collectively navigating the truths of home as they exist within their community. Courageously confronting uncomfortable truths as well the stories of points of pride and harmony, participants collaboratively craft and present a work of spoken word, dance, and theater to the local community, followed by discussions that allow performers and audience members a chance to reflect more broadly on the content of the work.

Photos by Casey Fodge, Shannon Hummel



Phase 2: During *Crossing Boundaries*, groups from local communities who have completed Phase 1 come together, and present their creations to watch, listen, reflect, and deconstruct preconceived assumptions about one another before arriving together for Phase 2. Using a similar structure and means of developing content, groups combine their work into an evening-length piece and collectively tackle the challenging and delicate examination of America as a shared home. The combined work is toured to each participating community, allowing participants to experience one local culture in an informed, substantive, and transformative way.

Contact Us

CONNECT

Founder, Artistic Director
Shannon Hummel
shummel@coradance.org

BOOKING

Artistic Director Shannon Hummel and select company members are available for in-person and virtual master classes, lectures and guest choreographic residencies.

The Professional and Apprentice Companies are also available to perform select works. For more information, please email info@coradance.org or call (718) 858-2520.

CONTACT

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CORA
DANCE