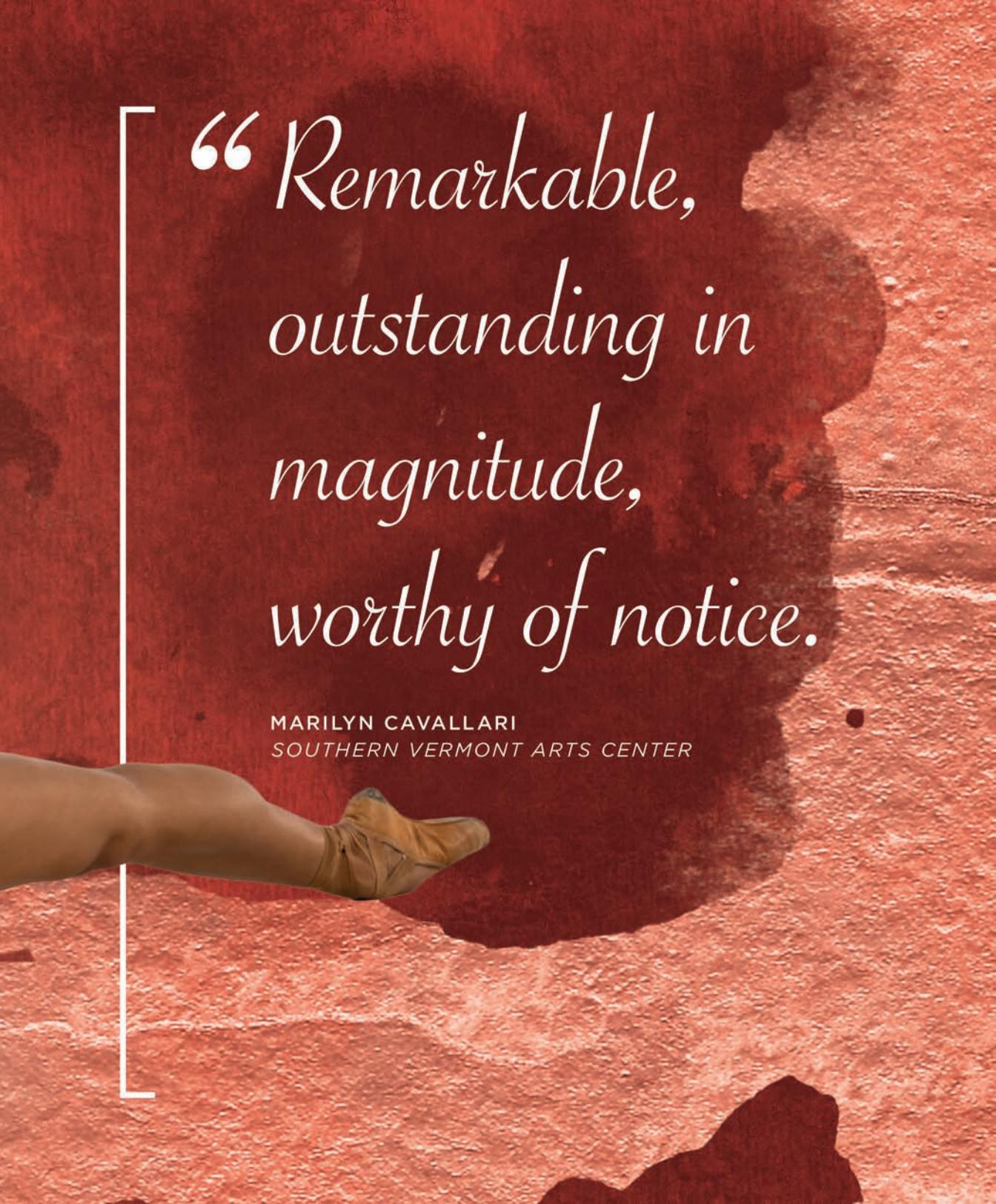




EX
PER
IENCE
COLLAGE
DANCE



A photograph of a person's leg wearing a tan leather boot, stepping onto a red, textured surface. A large, dark red, irregular stain is visible on the surface, partially overlapping the boot. The background is a lighter red, textured wall. A white L-shaped bracket is on the left side of the image.

*“Remarkable,
outstanding in
magnitude,
worthy of notice.”*

MARILYN CAVALLARI
SOUTHERN VERMONT ARTS CENTER



ABOUT THE COMPANY

For nearly 10 years, Collage Dance Collective has worked to inspire the growth of ballet by showcasing a repertoire of relevant choreography and world-class dancers representative of our community.

Founded in New York City and officially incorporated in 2006, Collage Dance Collective received rave reviews for its 2007 national debut at the Lyric Opera House in Kansas City, Missouri. The company relocated to Memphis in 2007 to take part in the city's exciting artistic renaissance and to fulfill its mission of extending the reach of outstanding classical ballet training. Since its move, the professional company has presented eight full-length seasons in Memphis with annual spring, fall and winter concerts. The company has also performed in Vermont, Michigan, New York, Massachusetts, Washington, D.C., Mississippi and Missouri to date.

Collage Dance Collective presents a diverse range of classical and contemporary choreography. In addition to Artistic Director, Kevin Thomas, the company's repertory includes works by Nicolo Fonte, Dwight Rhoden, Kevin Iega Jeff, Darrell Grand Moultrie, Sir Frederick Ashton, Camille A. Brown, Joshua Manculich and Shawn Hounsell.

A photograph of four male dancers in profile, standing in a line on a stage. They are wearing blue and white leotards. The background is a solid blue color. The dancers are looking to the right. The lighting is dramatic, highlighting their muscular physiques. A white L-shaped graphic element is on the left side of the image.

*“Their presence,
power and control
are viscerally
evident.”*

TRESCA WEINSTEIN
ALBANY TIMES UNION



ABOUT THE DIRECTORS

KEVIN THOMAS FOUNDING ARTISTIC DIRECTOR



Kevin began his dance training at the age of 7 with Studio de La Voliere in Montreal, Canada and owes much of his success to Carmen Renaud who introduced and exposed him to ballet. Mr. Thomas went on to study at Ecole Superieure de Danse du Quebec in Montreal, Canada, and has danced with Les Grands Ballets Canadiens as a soloist, Cleveland/San Jose Ballet as a principal and the Dance Theatre of Harlem (DTH) in New York City as a principal dancer. Mr. Thomas' credits include leading roles in *The Prodigal Son*, *Dialogues*, *The Four Temperaments*, *Othello*, *Adrian (Angel on Earth)*, *A Song for Dead Warriors*, *Troy Games*, *Equuis*, *Douglas*, *The Nutcracker (Prince and Cavalier)*, *Tarantella*, *Agon*, *Who Cares*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Don Quixote*, *Consort Lessons*, and *Aureole*. Mr. Thomas has made guest appearances with the Royal Ballet in London, Complexions Contemporary Ballet in New York and Fleming Flindt and Peter Schaufuss in Denmark. He has also appeared on Broadway in *The Phantom of the Opera*. Mr. Thomas has served as Ballet Master for New Ballet Ensemble & School and has choreographed for Opera Memphis, Hattiloo Repertory Theatre, New Ballet Ensemble, Orpheum Theatre, Flint Institute of Music, University of Memphis, University of Utah and Collage Dance Collective. Mr. Thomas has served as a guest ballet teacher for several dance programs around the U.S., including Deeply Rooted Dance Theater, the University of Utah, and the Tennessee Association of Dance. Mr. Thomas sits on the Dance Advisory Board of Middle Tennessee State University and is a 2017-18 National Visiting Fellow at School of American Ballet.

MARCELLUS HARPER

FOUNDING EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Marcellus has an expansive background in project management and event production. He has worked as a Program Analyst for the Department of Homeland Security's Transportation Security Administration (TSA). He was among the first seven employees of the TSA Taskforce mandated by Congress to create and develop the agency and federalize our nation's transportation security infrastructures. Prior to his work with the TSA, Mr. Harper worked as a Project Coordinator for Marriott International's corporate marketing department, where he was directly responsible for the development and implementation of several industry events for the National Football League, the National Basketball Association, Major League Baseball and the National Hockey League. Mr. Harper has worked for St. Jude Children's Research Hospital and Harvard University coordinating special projects to assist research and treatment work for HIV/AIDS patients in Africa. Mr. Harper was a Meyerhoff Scholar at the University of Maryland Baltimore County (UMBC) where he studied biology and theatre and was a double national medalist in the NAACP's ACT-SO Program in biology and oratory. Marcellus is the 2011 recipient of the Memphis Urban League Young Professionals' Change Artist Award in recognition of his achievements towards "positive community influence and unwavering commitment to the arts". Marcellus holds a Bachelor's degree in non-profit administration and performing arts and serves on the boards of Tennessee Association of Dance and the Historic Broad Avenue Arts Alliance.





The Repertory

Collage Dance Collective presents a wide range of neo-classical and contemporary choreography. The company's current repertory includes works by a diverse group of acclaimed and emerging choreographers from Sir Frederick Ashton to Princess Grace award-winner, Joshua Manculich.

The company presents thought provoking and accessible programs specifically curated to resonate with both avid dance lovers and newcomers alike. Below are some of the most popular works in the company's current repertory:

Left Unsaid

Choreographer: Nicolo Fonte

6 dancers

Run time: 20 mins

Music: J.S. Bach

Left Unsaid is Nicolo Fonte at his best, featuring three couples and three chairs interacting in shifting moods and dynamics. The choreography is inventive, creating expressive original shapes built on an undercurrent of implicit human relationships. The astute placing of dancers to background the main action, and entering or leaving the space, holds the tension, while the chairs add their own social comment. Notable is Fonte's skillful rounding off of each section."

Maggie Foyer / Dance Europe

Amazing Grace

Choreographer: Dwight Rhoden

2 dancers

Run time: 5 mins

Music: "Amazing Grace," Traditional

Amazing Grace is an excerpt of the full-length ballet Testament, which uses an array of traditional Negro spirituals exploring the human spirit in relation to faith and devotion. The work explores a contemporary movement style that is steeped in the power of its rhythm and emotion.

Lineage

Choreographer: Darrell Grand Moultrie

8 dancers

Run time: 14 mins

Music: Kenji Bunch

Lineage is a pure dance work honoring those who have come before us. Moultrie has created a space for the dancers to present themselves and move from a genuine place of gratitude - always remembering that we are standing on the shoulders of many.

Sweet

Choreographer: Shawn Hounsell

4 dancers

Run time: 16 mins

Music: Njo Kong Kie

Sweet explores the cerebral activity involved in any decision-making process and the cause and effect involved in kinesthetic activity. The piece is a study in the relationship between impulse/movement and the exchange of information. The dancers illustrate and create a system of communication, which measures the value of space around physical actions and the sharing of energetic initiations. It is through this system that experience and memory serve as a derivative of and catalyst for shared action.

Wash

Choreographer: Joshua Manculich

5 dancers

Run time: 10 mins

Music: Mark Isham and Ezio Bosoo

Memphis has a rich history and a pivotal location being on the Mississippi river. This work brings many physical and emotional elements of the "river" to the stage.

Ella Suite Ella

Choreographer: Arturo Fernandez

3 dancers

Run time: 9 mins

Music: Ella Fitzgerald

Ella Suite Ella celebrates Ella Fitzgerald and the 100th anniversary since her birth.

Beyond The Veil

Choreographer: Darrell Grand Moultrie

1 dancer

Run time: 5 mins

Music: Sammie Davis Jr.

Beyond The Veil was inspired by the countless young men and women who feel stifled and hopeless due to the challenges and obstacles they face growing up in urban environments. The work was created to inspire them to extend their vision beyond hardship and see the many doors of possibility for them. Moultrie wants them to always ask, "if happy little bluebirds fly beyond the rainbow, why oh why can't I?"

Wasteland

Choreographer: Christopher Huggins

9 dancers

Run time: 10 mins

Music: Jónsi & Alex and Savanaj Rooms

Inspired by the Dakota Access Pipeline protests, this work celebrates the enduring strength of the human spirit and honors those who have resisted injustice. "Like a dry stone with no sound of running water; like a dead tree that gives no shelter.....the idea of existence is being questioned as if life itself is an illusion" – Christopher Huggins.

Rise

Choreographer: Kevin Thomas

9 dancers +

10 - 50 local student dancers (optional)

Run time: 30 mins

Music: Jonathan Kirkscey and Kirk Smith; **Text:** Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Dr. Martin Luther King's Mountaintop speech is the backdrop for this full-length neo classical ballet. Artistic Director Kevin Thomas was inspired by his many visits to the Lorraine Motel in Memphis, the site of Dr. King's assassination. As we celebrate 50 years since his passing, the work is both a reflection of what we have overcome and envisions where we go from here.

New Second Line

Choreographer: Camille A. Brown

8 dancers

Run time: 8 mins

Music: Rebirth Brass Band

Inspired by the events of Hurricane Katrina in 2005, this work is a celebration of the spirit and culture of the people of New Orleans. Second Line is a traditional brass band parade for weddings, social events, and most notably, funerals. The people who follow the parade dancing with high energy and spirit are known as the 'second line'.

The Rate in Which I Am

Choreographer: Joshua Manculich

6 dancers

Run time: 10 mins

Music: Mike Wall, Dustin O'Halloran

The Rate in Which I Am explores the rate in which we live our lives. Manculich believes that our life's speed determines the quality of our relationships and overall experience.





*“It’s ballet made
utterly, gorgeously
human.”*

TRESCA WEINSTEIN
ALBANY TIMES UNION

DANCERS

Collage employs a dynamic group of talented, classically-trained dance artists from French Guiana, Brazil, Montreal, Dominican Republic and the United States. The company typically travels with 10 dancers.



DAPHNE LEE
RAHWAY, NJ

DANIEL COOKE
LAS VEGAS, NV

LUISA CARDOSA
SALVADOR, BRAZIL

BERNARD DUBOIS II
MONTRÉAL, CANADA

KIMBERLEY HO-TSAI
FRENCH GUIANA



RICKEY FLAGG II
WINDSOR, CT



KARLA ESPAILLAT
DOMINICAN REPUBLIC



FÁBIO MARIANO
RIO DE JANEIRO, BRAZIL



MIYESHA MCGRIFF
KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI

RESIDENCIES AND OUTREACH

From advanced master classes in classical ballet and the Horton technique to movement workshops for non-dancers, Collage can design an arts education program to accommodate any group.

The company can also host lecture demonstrations for area schools, where students learn the history of ballet, witness how a dancer prepares for the stage and experience excerpts from company repertory.

Our RISE program provides opportunities for students ages 7 - 18 to learn choreography through a week-long residency and perform with the professional company in a culminating performance.

Collage specializes in working with special needs and under-served populations.





A photograph of two ballerinas in purple dresses performing on a rooftop stage. They are in a graceful, balanced pose with one leg extended horizontally and arms raised. The background is a lush green forest. The text is overlaid in a white, elegant script font.

*“To watch the company
is to see hope take
human form and
dreams come to life in
real time.”*

ELLE PERRY
HIGH GROUND NEWS

COLLAGE DANCE



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Collage Dance Collective is a professional contemporary ballet company and conservatory in Memphis, TN. The company works to inspire the growth of ballet through a repertoire of relevant choreography and world-class dancers.



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