



2023 EDUCATION



EDUCATION OUTREACH

SMASHWORKS DANCE IS DEVOTED TO PROVIDING ACCESSIBLE DANCE EDUCATION TO THE NEW YORK COMMUNITY AND BEYOND

ARTS IN ACTION

The arts are a key component of STEAM education, supplementing traditional STEM curricula with the skills kids need to become truly well-rounded. Arts education has been proven to teach creativity, collaboration, cultural awareness, critical thinking,



Smashworks Dance partnered with Girl Scouts of Greater New York to provide dance movement and choreography workshops that focus on building confident leaders. Girl Scouts can earn their Dance Badge by completing our dance workshop, "Confident Movers, Community Builders."



Smashworks Dance partnered with Yap About It to teach virtual dance classes as part of their mission to provide free access to mental wellness resources to young people in need. Yap About It is a 501(c)3 Non-Profit organization Established in 2017.

CITY STORIES: STORY-TELLING MOVEMENT WORKSHOPS

IN-PERSON AND VIRTUAL OPTIONS AVAILABLE



Inspired by our evening length performance in collaboration with Benny Cruz, our newest creative workshop uses movement and writing prompts to practice the art of story-telling.

City Stories Workshop: Tell Your Story Through Movement

- Short performance excerpt from *City Stories* & sharing of our creative process and use of writing to inspire movement
- Dance workshop that uses writing prompts and movement activities as a guide for physical expression and creation
- Themes include confidence building and storytelling through dance



***City Stories* is a multimedia performance inspired by the verve, challenges, and elation of living in New York City. This interdisciplinary collaboration brings together choreography and immersive video projections by Ashley McQueen, and paintings on Metropolitan Transit Authority subway maps by Benny Cruz.**



CONFIDENCE-BUILDING DANCE WORKSHOPS

CONFIDENT MOVERS, COMMUNITY BUILDERS



Available for all ages (from 5 to 18)

IN PERSON & VIRTUAL WORKSHOPS AVAILABLE

The purpose of this workshop is to build self-confidence and community among students. We will start with a guided warm-up that includes learning basic dance steps from styles such as Ballet, Modern, Jazz, and Hip Hop dance. Students will explore their own unique ways of moving through a process of improvisation, and then co-create an ending dance together using spoken word and choreographic tools. We encourage students to hold space without fear, move with confidence, and celebrate their authentic selves!

ALICIA ALONSO TAKES THE STAGE

BALLET CLASS & BOOK EVENT

Smashworks Dance and Rebel Girls have paired up to bring you Alicia Alonso Takes the Stage, the story of the near-blind Cuban ballerina's rise to stardom. Smashworks Dance wrote the educational activities at the end of the book - inspiring young rebel girls to move with confidence and claim their space!



Join Smashworks Dance for Ballet Class & Book Event, inspired by the newest chapter book "Alicia Alonso Takes The Stage." Students are guided through a Ballet class (experience levels may vary), followed by a reading from the book and concluding with creative exercises that inspire students to claim their space!



WHO WE ARE

Founded by Ashley McQueen, Smashworks Dance is a New York-based group of movers advocating for human rights through live dance performance, education outreach, and community partnerships.

OUR MISSION: Smashworks Dance is a New York-based dance company founded and directed by choreographer Ashley McQueen. We dance to advocate for human rights issues and women's empowerment through performing arts, educational programming, and community outreach. We make dance accessible and inspire audiences to take action through our performances both onstage and in site-specific environments. We view artistic expression as power—smashing stereotypes and promoting dance as a unifying and confidence-building practice for all.

SMASHWORKS ADVOCACY

Our mission is to provoke social and political thought and action through dance and movement workshops and performances, and community outreach and partnerships.

Past community events include Smashworks Film Festival, which donated profits to Planned Parenthood; and Girls Move Free, which invited donations to the Global Girls Alliance.

Smashworks developed confidence-building "Dance Badge" workshops for the Girl Scouts of Greater New York City. In addition, company dancers have volunteered with New Sanctuary Coalition each week by leading small dance groups with the child care program. Smashworks at Home (our online education program) donated all proceeds the month of June 2020 to Black Girls Smile, while our virtual premiere of For Which It Stands donated a portion of ticket sales to When We All Vote and Greater Birmingham Ministries.

OUR PARTNERS

- Girl Scouts of New York
 - Troop 6000
- Yap About It
- Rebel Girls Productions
- Dance The Vote
- Dance Rising



COMPANY HISTORY

Originally founded in St. Louis amidst performances presented by ANNONYArts, McQueen relocated Smashworks to New York City in 2015. Since inception, Smashworks Dance has performed throughout the greater New York City metropolitan area and toured in San Antonio, Santa Barbara, Los Angeles, Milwaukee, Kalamazoo, and St. Louis.

Smashworks Dance was named a Village Voice "Voice Choices" for their evening length performance of City Stories at Center for Performance Research, and their evening length political satire For Which It Stands was featured in Time Out New York, Brooklyn Magazine's "Top 20 Cheap Things To Do," and the Dance Enthusiast. As a community group, Smashworks Dance was invited to hear Michelle Obama speak at the Barclays Center in Brooklyn. In 2019, Smashworks and collaborator Hope Salas were awarded the Hotel New Works Residency, a 40 hour space grant and showing opportunity with Theater Lab NYC under the direction of Justin Cimino. Smashworks was also awarded two evening length performances with The Tank for LADYFEST, where they presented excerpts from their newest dance work, FEMPIRE.

During the COVID pandemic, Smashworks Dance adapted their 2020 season to a virtual platform, including an online open rehearsal and video showing presented by Women of Culture. In addition to multiple virtual screenings and online classes, Smashworks Dance was presented by Arts On Site's Arts Alive series, and performed an evening length excerpt of DRENCHED (masked up and socially distant). Their education outreach expanded to collaborate with Yap About It (a nonprofit dedicated to destigmatizing talk therapy through arts therapy) and Troop 6000 (a Girl Scouts program for girls of the New York Shelter System). Smashworks also partnered with Rebel Girls Productions to co-write movement activities for their newest chapter book, Alicia Alonso Takes The Stage.





NEXT STEPS

REACH OUT TO ARTISTIC DIRECTOR ASHLEY MCQUEEN
TO SCHEDULE YOUR WORKSHOP TODAY!

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