

SMASHWORKS DANCE

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR, ASHLEY MCQUEEN

20
24



OUR MISSION

SMASHING BOUNDARIES, SMASHING BORDERS

Smashworks Dance is a New York-based dance company founded and directed by choreographer Ashley McQueen. We dance to advocate for 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.

SEASON



HIGHLIGHTS

“Smashworks . . . what a perfect name for these powerful sisters. McQueen’s company is tightly precise and fearless.”

— Margret Echeverria, Front Row Center





2024 SEASON

NEW COLLABORATIONS + NEW SPACES

@smashworksdance



Smashworks Dance presents

AUSTRINGER

Louisa Pancoast x Dr. Nialah Wilson-Small



Austringer is an immersive contemporary dance piece with a network of multiple drones and dancers and one drone pilot, exploring human-drone physical contact, weight-sharing, and proximity and how it relates to surveillance and intimacy. Does witnessing closeness and touch between humans and drones alter our perception of drones; are they a threat or a comfort?

COMING SPRING 2025



dance flight

smashworks &
dePARTed soles

beer flights & dance
shorts
spring 2024



SMASHWORKS DANCE X L'EQUIPE DE REALISATION

SMASHWORKS DANCE TRAVELS TO SOUTHERN FRANCE TO COLLABORATE WITH ARTISTS DOMINIQUE PRUNIER AND PASCAL ESCLARMONDE FOR A ONE OF A KIND PERFORMANCE EXPERIENCE.



SUMMER '24
@SMASHWORKSDANCE

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.

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OUR PARTNERS

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

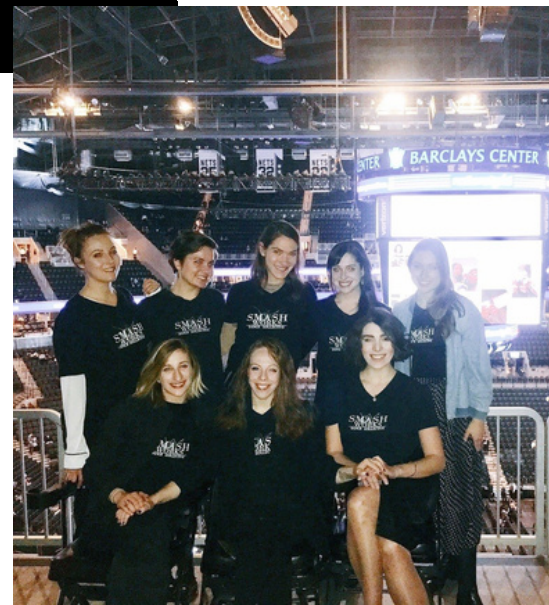


COMPANY HISTORY

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.



WHAT WE'VE ACCOMPLISHED



Rebel Girls Productions Partnership: co-wrote movement activities for their recent chapter book, *Alicia Alonso Takes The Stage*.

Collaboration with visual artist Benny Cruz: partnered with Cruz for multiple performances and artistic collaborations virtually and in New York City.

Girl Scouts of Greater New York Partnership: developed Dance Badge workshops for NY troops and partnered with **Troop 6000**, a program specially designed to serve girls in the New York City Shelter System.

Village Voice "Voice Choices" for City Stories: our first evening length performance at Center for Performance Research in Brooklyn was featured in the Village Voice.

For Which It Stands: performance featured in "Brooklyn's Top 20 Things To Do," "Time Out NY," and the Dance Enthusiast. Also toured to St. Louis, MO.

Michelle Obama's Becoming Tour: invited as a community group to hear Michelle Obama speak at the Barclays Center.

Lake Arts Project and Bright Hill Press Collaboration: created original choreography in collaboration with Feast of Crispian and local students' poetry; sponsored by the National Endowment for the Arts.

Hotel New Works Residency: awarded a 40 hour space grant and showing opportunity with Theater Lab NYC under the direction of Justin Cimino in collaboration with Hope Salas.

LADYFEST at The Tank: awarded two evening length performances and presented excerpts from the collaborative work-in-progress FEMPIRE.



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,




girl scouts
of greater new york

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.



WHY SUPPORT US?

IN GIVING TO SMASHWORKS DANCE, YOU ARE DIRECTLY SUPPORTING THE ARTISTS AND COMMUNITIES THAT ARE IMPACTED BY UNIQUELY EMPOWERING DANCE PROGRAMMING. YOUR SUPPORT ENABLES THE CREATION OF ACCESSIBLE AND RELATABLE DANCE THAT CHALLENGES AUDIENCES THROUGH VISCERAL AND IMMERSIVE PERFORMANCES.

WITH A TAX-DEDUCTIBLE DONATION, YOU ARE ALLOWING FOR OUR PERFORMANCES AND DANCE EDUCATION TO BE AVAILABLE TO OUR NEW YORK COMMUNITY AND BEYOND. YOUR FUNDS DIRECTLY SUPPORT DANCER AND TEACHING ARTIST PAY, THEATRE AND SPACE RENTAL, MARKETING AND ADMINISTRATION, AND THE EXPANSION OF OUR EDUCATION OUTREACH PROGRAMMING.



KEEP OUR ORGANIZATION IN MOTION:



**EVERY DONATION IS TAX-DEDUCTIBLE AND KEEPS OUR
ARTISTS PAID AND PROGRAMMING LIVE.**