

ANNUAL **DANCE**  
ASPEN  
REVIEW



2023

# TO OUR SUPPORTERS

Dear DanceAspen Supporters,

I am thrilled to present to you our new Director of Operations for DanceAspen, Kaya Wolsey.

Having been with the organization since its inception, first as the founding company manager, marketing director and artist, Kaya has been an integral part of DanceAspen's continued growth and progress toward our mission. I am excited to have Kaya continue with DanceAspen in this new role and to re-introduce her with this compilation of our year in review.



**Laurel Winton**  
Executive Director  
DanceAspen  
laurel@danceaspen.org

In preparing this booklet that outlines our accomplishments of the past year, I have been reminded of the dedication, passion, and talent that define DanceAspen. From captivating performances to innovative outreach initiatives, each milestone represents a testament to our commitment to excellence in the arts. Our collective efforts have propelled DanceAspen to new heights, and it is truly inspiring to witness the impact the company has had on the community and beyond.

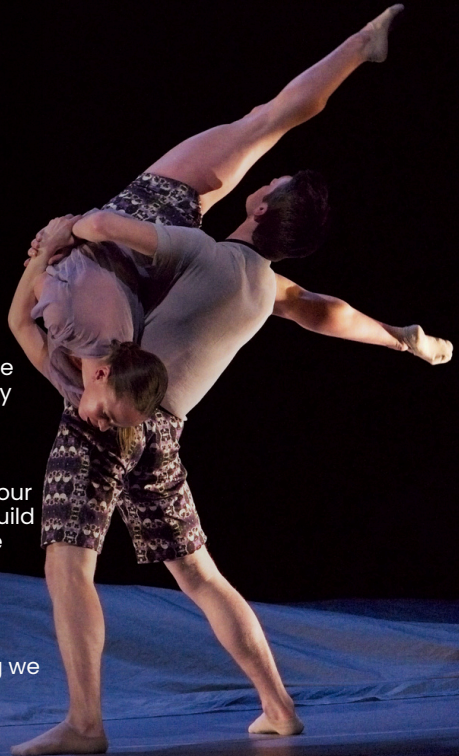
Looking ahead, I am filled with optimism and excitement for the future of DanceAspen. With your continued support, I am confident that we will build upon our successes and continue to elevate the arts in Aspen for years to come.

Thank you for your unwavering dedication to DanceAspen. Your generosity and belief in our mission are the driving forces behind everything we do, and we are immensely grateful for your partnership.

Warm regards,



**Kaya Wolsey**  
Director of Operations  
DanceAspen  
kaya@danceaspen.org





# 2023

AT A GLANCE



**23 PERFORMANCES**

In Aspen and on tour throughout Colorado



**11k PATRONS REACHED**

Through performances and outreach initiatives



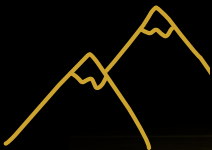
**15 NEW WORKS**

Performed by the company by local & guest choreographers



**50 CLASSES TAUGHT**

Through our new adult classes and outreach initiatives



**10 COLLABORATIONS**

With local businesses and organizations



# ASPEN MAIN STAGE PRODUCTIONS

DanceAspen elevated its main stage productions from four in 2022 to **six stellar performances** at the Historic Wheeler Opera House, drawing full audiences. These were complemented by **twelve dynamic performances** in unconventional and creative settings throughout Aspen, underscoring the organization's steadfast commitment to bringing the joy of dance to every corner of the community.

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## WINTER PROGRAM | March 17 & 18, 2023

DanceAspen's 4th main stage performance featured a new creation by world-renowned choreographer, Yin Yue, alongside acclaimed works by Penny Saunders and Sebastian Kloberg. The performance also included new pieces by in-house choreographers Matthew Gilmore, Blake Krapels, and a film by Madeleine Scott.



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## SOLSTICE | August 25 & 26, 2023

DanceAspen's first summer presentation at the Wheeler Opera House brought a brand new work by award-winning choreographer, Matthew Neenan, to the stage. DanceAspen was also honored to be the first American company to premiere two works by cutting-edge creator Cayetano Soto.

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## SNOWY SOIREE | 2 Shows December 23, 2023

This family-friendly production at the Wheeler Opera House was an expansion of the Holiday Pop-Up Series the company created in 2022. This event was a festive celebration featuring a versatile performance from DanceAspen, followed by a meet and greet with refreshments and photo opportunities with the dancers. With tickets selling out almost instantly, this event is poised to become a cherished Aspen Holiday tradition.





# DANCEASPEN ON TOUR

## 5 TOUR PERFORMANCES

In 2023, DanceAspen extended its reach and brought its artistry and passion to audiences across Colorado. Beyond performing in Down Valley locations like Willits and Carbondale, the company traveled to Crested Butte, Lone Tree, and Breckenridge. Additionally, DanceAspen was thrilled to be invited back to the prestigious Vail Dance Festival for the second consecutive year.



# LOCAL COLLABORATIONS



## 10 LOCAL COLLABORATIONS

As part of our commitment to enhancing the local arts scene and fostering accessibility to dance for all, DanceAspen forged partnerships with numerous local establishments, including Hotel Jerome, the Aspen Art Museum, Theatre Aspen, Aspen Music Festival, Aspen Public Radio, Fusalp, and more.



# NEW WORKS & CHOREOGRAPHERS



## 15 NEW WORKS

In 2023, DanceAspen captivated audiences with a dazzling array of 15 brand-new, never-before-seen creations, flawlessly integrated into an inspiring repertoire totaling 20 pieces performed in one year. Additionally, DanceAspen ventured into the realm of visual storytelling, crafting and producing two original cinematic dance films, further showcasing their innovative approach to the art form.

[LEARN MORE](#)



## 5 RENOWNED GUEST CHOREOGRAPHERS

In 2023, DanceAspen collaborated with a rich lineup of renowned artists from around the globe. From the vibrant and dynamic choreography of American talents such as Matthew Neenan and Penny Saunders, to the mesmerizing fusion of Chinese and contemporary dance by Yue Yin, and the imaginative realms crafted by European visionaries like Cayetano Soto and Sebastian Kloborg, each creation has added a unique and enriching dimension to the cultural landscape of Aspen.



## 9 IN-HOUSE CREATIONS

DanceAspen is unique for its commitment to fostering creativity within its own members. By empowering our performers to hone their choreographic skills, DanceAspen cultivates a vibrant atmosphere of innovation and collaboration, resulting in unforgettable pieces that resonate with audiences.



In 2023, DanceAspen employed 9 talented company dancers and was able to achieve a remarkable 11% increase in artist weekly compensation. This significant boost in wages profoundly enhances the livelihoods of DanceAspen's artists, empowering them to devote themselves to their craft and lead rich, rewarding lives within the vibrant community of Aspen.

# ARTIST SPOTLIGHT

## A WORD FROM OUR ARTISTS

### JONAH DELGADO

Joined 2023

*"DanceAspen has given me the opportunity to return to the mountains that I love, and dance with past and new colleagues. It's invigorating to return to a community that is so supportive and committed to the proliferation of the arts. I am repeatedly inspired by the organization's engagement to creating world class dance while maintaining a sense of autonomy and individuality. After taking a sojourn from Aspen, it feels amazing to be home."*



### SAMANTHA ALTENAU

Founding Member 2021

*"DanceAspen has given me the opportunity to discover myself as an artist. The location, the people, and the spirit of this company create pillars in my life to elevate my dancing to an exceptional level, and my connection to my colleagues, nature, and the community.*

*Since joining the company, I have been able to count on the support of the DanceAspen community. This support allows me to put energy into developing movement as a form of expression, communication and celebration. The intimacy of our network allows myself and my fellow dancers to understand how our work can affect and transport our audience members. It has given me a new appreciation and fresh perspective of the art form. There is spirit and heart here that keeps us flowing and creating in ways beyond what I was trained for.*

*I'm so grateful to have the world of DanceAspen, it has changed who I am from the inside out."*





# EDUCATION & OUTREACH

## LOCAL OUTREACH

DanceAspen continued to engage with the community through a series of dynamic events. From hosting a free educational presentation at the Aspen Art Museum to bringing the joy of dance to Aspen Public Radio's Lawn Bash, the company captivated audiences of all ages.

Additionally, DanceAspen proudly lent its talents to support local fundraisers and galas, including the Buddy Bash, TACA W Gala, and the Space for Giants Fundraiser.



## ADULT CLASSES

DanceAspen introduced their first-ever public adult classes in 2023, opening our doors to dance enthusiasts of all levels. What began with a short Ballet series soon blossomed into a diverse array of offerings. The response of the community has been overwhelmingly positive with 30 engaging classes held and over 60 enthusiastic participants. As we look ahead, we're excited to expand our program even further, bringing more opportunities for movement and self-expression to our community.

[LEARN MORE](#)

## MASTER CLASSES

Throughout 2023, DanceAspen remained dedicated to cultivating budding talent through interactive master classes. We extended the transformative influence of dance to aspiring artists at Vail Dance School, Crested Butte Community School, and Crested Butte School of Dance. Additionally, as a "featured company" at the esteemed LINK Festival in Salt Lake City, Utah, Director of Operations, Kaya Wolsey, was privileged to craft a new piece and conduct daily master classes for over 150 pre-professional students, nurturing growth and igniting inspiration in the future generation of dancers.

[LEARN MORE](#)



WEB TRAFFIC

15K

VISITORS

30K

PAGE VIEWS

+79%

YR/YR GROWTH



SOCIAL MEDIA

4.5K

FOLLOWERS

8.2K

INTERACTIONS

124.7K

IMPRESSIONS

35

FEATURED NEWS ARTICLES

IN THE MEDIA

## NEWS COVERAGE HIGHLIGHTS

Aspen Daily News



DANCEASPEN TAKES CREATIVE STRIDES TOWARD ITS WINTER PROGRAM

THE ASPEN TIMES



DANCEASPEN ANTICIPATES BIG SECOND GALA, THE COMPANY'S MAIN FUNDRAISER

the Sopris Sun



DANCEASPEN DEBUTS 'SOLSTICE' SHOWCASE

# FINANCIAL MILESTONES

## CONTRIBUTIONS

2022

\$663,728

51.6% INCREASE

2023

\$1,006,077

## PROGRAM SERVICE EXPENSES

2022

\$455,125

2023

\$516,446

+13.7%

INCREASE IN DANCER COMPENSATION

# THANK YOU

## FOR AN INCREDIBLE YEAR!

Your unwavering support has enabled us to achieve remarkable milestones and push the boundaries of artistic excellence.

We are looking forward to another year of growth, community building and transforming lives through the power of dance.

**MORE INFO AND  
UPCOMING EVENTS**



# SPONSORS & PARTNERSHIPS



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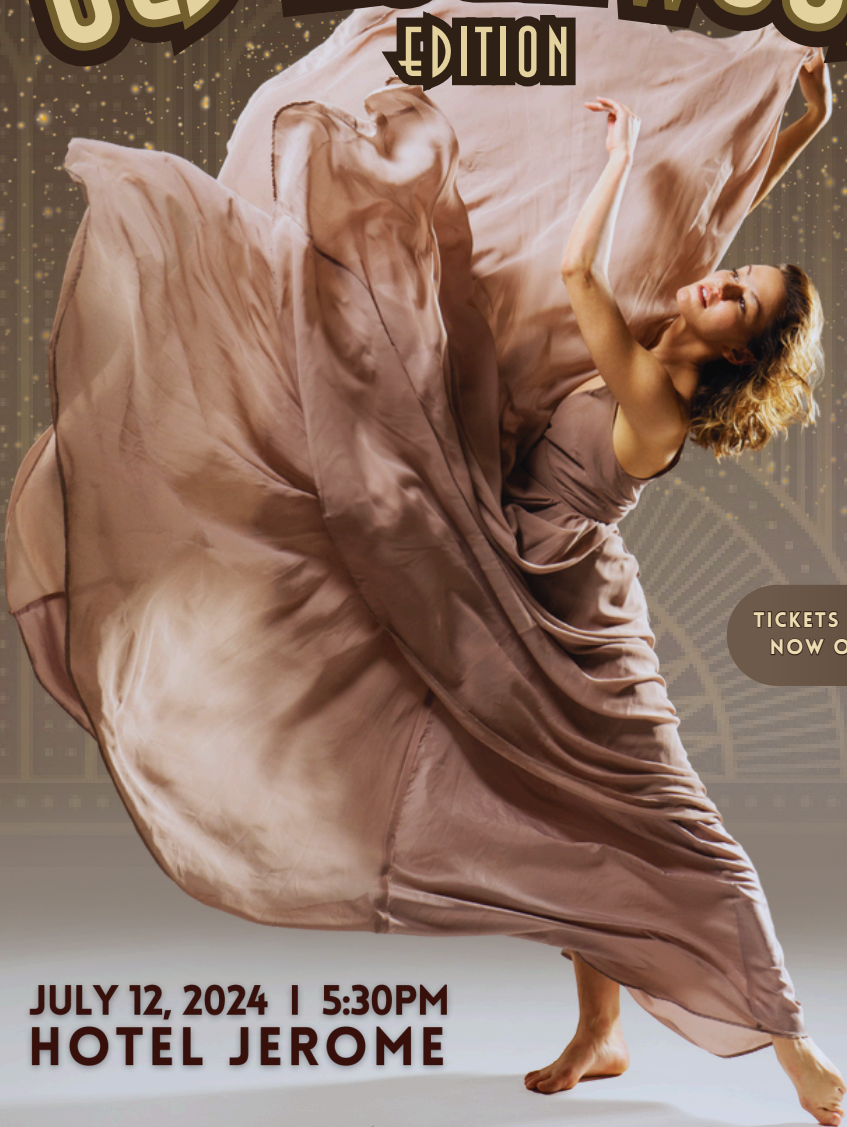


PIATTELLI  
VINEYARDS

DR. JENN DRAKE  
HOLISTIC CHIROPRACTOR

DANCE ASPEN'S 3<sup>RD</sup> ANNUAL GALA

# OLD HOLLYWOOD EDITION



TICKETS & TABLES  
NOW ON SALE!

JULY 12, 2024 | 5:30PM  
HOTEL JEROME

*Honoring Gail & Boogie Weinglass*

DANCE  
ASPEN

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Artist: Madeleine Scott | Photo: Wendy Wetmore

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