

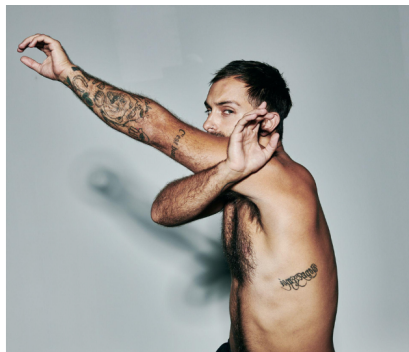


**For Immediate Release:**  
**push/FOLD Celebrates Fifth Anniversary of Union PDX**

Annual Festival of Contemporary Dance, In-Person & Live-Streamed

*“a potluck of dance... brought together to be shared at the same table. Each piece; reminiscent of the hands that kneaded it together and fragrant with the aromas from the places they were crafted.”*

— Oregon ArtsWatch



**September 21, 2023; Portland, OR:** push/FOLD proudly celebrates the fifth anniversary of Union PDX, its annual festival of contemporary dance that brings cutting-edge choreography from around the world to Portland, and shares the work of local dance artists on the global stage. Established as a cultural highlight of the region’s autumnal event patchwork, Union PDX remains mission-driven in its dual approach that combines the presentation of far-reaching talent with countless performance and educational opportunities for local artists. The festival’s unique model is “an antidote to the roadblocks in an artists’ path,” (*Oregon ArtsWatch*) and is especially impactful for mid-career dance professionals, offering platforms for success and inroads for community building.

Open to the public, this year’s Festival:23 features **two World Premieres** and two Portland premieres in addition to other new dance works by local, national, and international contemporary artists in the genres of Street, Bharatanatyam, Contemporary Break, and more. Full festival offerings also include a student outreach performance, six professional-level masterclasses taught by the festival artists, and two professional development workshops. Facilitated Artist Talks follow the performances on November 17th and 18th in which topics of conversation include process, artistic development, work features, and artist experiences navigating their communities and the world today. A closing Festival Soirée takes place post-performance November 19th; mingle with the artists and celebrate the vitality of dance in Portland!



With over 127 choreographer applications this year from around the world, and live-streamed performances that have reached 49 different countries, **Union PDX connects Portlanders and Oregon’s rising artists to the global dance scene.** Creating opportunities for exposure and interchange, push/FOLD and Union PDX raise up the region’s diverse and vibrant talent, “turning Portland into a national hub for dance and bringing the work of Portland choreographers to the world stage.” (*Oregon ArtsWatch*) With its commitment to excellence, inclusion, and access, and support from the National Endowment for the Arts, Union PDX is a galvanizing force for all-encompassing growth within the industry and for individuals.

**WHAT:** push/FOLD presents ‘*Union PDX - Festival:23*’



**WHEN:** Thursday, November 16 - Sunday, November 19

November 16 at 8pm | Student Outreach Performance  
November 17 at 7:30pm | Public Performance + Artist Talk  
November 18 at 7:30pm | Public Performance + Artist Talk  
November 19 at 4pm | Public Performance + Festival Soirée

*Show length: Approx. 90 minutes with intermission*

Masterclass, Workshop, and Educational Opportunity Schedule:  
[pushfold.org/unionpdx/festival-23](https://pushfold.org/unionpdx/festival-23)

**WHO:** **Presenter:** Portland-based dance company, push/FOLD

**Festival:22 Artists:**

- [Compagnia Bellanda](#) | Gorizia, Italy (Contemporary Break)
- [Evelyn Tejada](#) | Dominican Republic & Peterson, NJ (Contemporary fusion: Street, Break, Popping)
- [Open Space Dance](#) | Portland, OR (Contemporary Dance)
- [Outrun the Bear](#) | Los Angeles, CA; established in Israel (Contemporary Dance)
- Sridharini Sridharan | Portland, OR (Bharathanatyam & Natya Theater)
- [push/FOLD](#) | Portland, OR (Athletic Movement & Partnering)

**WHERE:** Hampton Opera Center – Portland Opera, 211 SE Caruthers St, Portland, OR 97214  
Also available via multi-camera live-stream

**TICKETS:** **Ticket Link:** [pushfold.org/unionpdx/festival-23](https://pushfold.org/unionpdx/festival-23)

Supporter: \$55 & Up	Artist, Educator, Student: \$20
General Admission: \$45	Arts-for-All: \$5
Multi-camera Livestream: \$20 & Up	

**PRESS READY PHOTOS, ARTIST BIOGRAPHIES & ADDITIONAL ASSETS:**

<https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fo/3xm32qvejcgpmhyhcb00e/h?rlkey=lym8um7v9y5kt0gq1aowpkmu6&dl=0>



**About Union PDX:** Established in 2019, the Union PDX Festival of Contemporary Dance is a major pillar of push/FOLD’s programming. Devoted to the upward mobility of dance professionals, the festival addresses three main challenges for developing artists: Opportunity, Education, and Resources. It does so by elevating artists to prominent venues, breaking down visibility barriers for boundary-pushing dance artists, expanding the available voices within Portland, providing opportunities for supportive cross-pollination, and offering important artistic and administrative resources through masterclasses and workshops. Simultaneously, the festival brings high-quality modern dance programming from around the world to our city, expanding audiences and encouraging a diverse influence within Portland's dance community. Learn more at [pushfold.org/unionpdx](http://pushfold.org/unionpdx).

**About push/FOLD (Dance Company):** push/FOLD is the vision of multi-disciplinary artist and composer-choreographer Samuel Hobbs (Oregon Arts Commission 2023 Performing Arts Fellow), founded in 2016 as a performance-focused arts organization. Athletic dance performance, abstract storytelling, and immersive moodscaapes set to original sound, set, and lighting design driven by “Hobbs’s keen awareness of how humans exist, both behind closed doors and out in the open,” (*Oregon ArtsWatch*) are the hallmarks of push/FOLD's body of work. The backbone of push/FOLD's athletic style is Samuel's Visceral Movement Theory™ (VMT) technique which fuses elements of athletics and dance with training in Osteopathic manual therapy. VMT reframes the expression of athlete and dancer biomechanics based on current movement research, resulting in increased career longevity and power and efficiency in movement.

As a community-oriented organization with the mission of developing community power through arts and movement education, support, and advocacy, push/FOLD's programs include masterclasses, workshops, presentations, student programming, dance-for-film, virtual and evening-length dance productions, artist-talks, and the Union PDX - Festival of Contemporary Dance, established in 2019. push/FOLD performs through regional festivals and self-produced performances; setting work on various professional artists and companies, including Oregon Ballet Theatre (2023), Oregon Ballet Theatre's OBT2 (2020-21), and Polaris Dance Theatre (2019). International appearances include The Dancing on the Edge Festival in Vancouver, CA and the FIDCDMX festival in Mexico City, Mexico. push/FOLD is a 501c3 tax-exempt non-profit arts organization based in Portland, Oregon. Learn more: [pushfold.org](http://pushfold.org) | Instagram: @push.fold

**push/FOLD’s season and Union PDX - Festival:23 are generously supported by:**

**The Autzen Foundation**

**Herbert A. Templeton Foundation**



**For interview inquiries, additional information, and media materials please contact:**  
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