



**For Immediate Release:**  
**push/FOLD Stakes its Claim with *Illum*,**  
**a World Premiere & Showcase of Original Work**

*“filled with vulnerability and humanity... full of nuances and beauty”*  
— Oregon ArtsWatch



**December 20, 2022; Portland, OR:** For only the second time in its organizational history, push/FOLD steps forward with an **intrepid showcase of original work, including the World Premiere of *Illum*** (the highly anticipated follow-up to Hobbs’ acclaimed breakout work *Early*), clearly positioning this ambitious dance company as a major player in the Pacific Northwest cultural scene.

**This rare, self-produced performance features a beautifully diverse and complimentary selection of some of push/FOLD’s most exciting recent material, highlighting the breadth and variety of their work.** The shining star of the program is the World Premiere of *Illum*, an ethereal and moody piece that explores themes of home, acceptance, and belonging through high-impact and sweeping movement, floorwork, and dynamic partnering. Also on the program is *Wolf*, a mesmerizing duet set to heartfelt vocals expressing a loneliness and perseverance that evolves into tranquility and empowerment. Performed in pure unison with line-driven athleticism, slow sweeping movements, and angular articulations, *Wolf* is a power piece. Rounding all this out is the comedic noir, *Dark Wings*, an ode to jazz that tells the story of an isolated creature that transcends its life, guided and carried away by three friendly spirits. Playfully moving within 70’s era chic, the arc of this work centers concepts of death and rebirth, and celebrates the yin-yang of life and grief. The central prop — an oversized heart attached magnetically to the soloist — becomes a vehicle for the absurdity of life. Effortlessly juxtaposing fast-paced percussive and syncopated ensemble movement and solos, the musical score for *Dark Wings* plays with a combination of shuffle beats, orchestral horns, laughter, and a secret monologue of love and acceptance in a fabricated language.



Having developed a reputation as a generous, galvanizing force for other dance projects by way of its community-building Union PDX Festival, push/FOLD shines in its own right through a signature choreographic approach that focuses on athleticism and power by way of abstract storylines that resonate with audiences. Multidisciplinary Artistic Director Samuel Hobbs has paved an extraordinary path for their dancers with [Visceral Movement Theory™](#) (VMT) - a technique that incorporates elements of visceral biomechanics and Osteopathic therapy in order to support the health and wellbeing of dancers' bodies while uniquely highlighting their strength and possibility. The result is a **truly original choreographic language** that is rising in Portland through push/FOLD's consistent dedication and excellence. Adding to the unique nature of push/FOLD's work are the moody soundscapes crafted by Hobbs, also a talented composer, which contribute to a total fusion of elements and cohesive audience experience. As described by *Oregon ArtsWatch*, Hobbs finds, "a sweet spot between the musical composition and the movement concepts... the result of this one-minded creation was a precisely refined work featuring elements that did not compete with one another."

**WHAT:** push/FOLD presents *Illum*

**WHEN:** February 24 & 25 at 7:30pm  
February 26 at 4pm

*Show length: Approx. 95 minutes with intermission  
Artist-Talks and Q&A follow each performance*

**WHERE:** Patricia Reser Center for the Arts  
12625 SW Crescent St., Beaverton, OR 97005

Also available via multi-camera live-stream

**WHO:** push/FOLD Dance Company  
Samuel Hobbs: Artistic Director, Composer-Choreographer

**DANCERS:** Samuel Hobbs | Powerful - Articulate - Fluid  
Briley Jozwiak | Captivating - Classically trained - Detailed  
Bryaunna Kostelnik | Striking - Grounded - Intentional  
Ashley Morton | Classically trained - Strong - Expressive  
Molly Rea | Flexible - Emotional - Driven  
Holly Shaw | Potent - Committed - Compelling

**TICKETS:** \$5 - 55; [pushfold.org/illum](https://pushfold.org/illum)

**PRESS READY PHOTOS & ASSETS:**

<https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fo/dl5neuyhsh7n54zwwvq32/h?dl=0&rlkey=czn7auoerxgvyxydfll6or374>





**About push/FOLD (Dance Company):**

*“floated between two realms of existence—our lives inside the everyday technology-driven world and another that **outlines every tone of what it means to be alive inside a human body.** The effect came from **their mastery of dance technique and that mysterious quality known as ‘stage presence...**’ The open-ended connection to the work as a whole was re-affirming... suggesting that not everything within a person’s life must fit together at the edges to be relevant.”*

- Oregon ArtsWatch on push/FOLD’s breakout work *Early*

push/FOLD is the vision of multi-disciplinary artist and composer-choreographer Samuel Hobbs, founded in 2016 as a performance-focused arts organization. Athletic dance performance, abstract storytelling, and immersive moodscapes 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). push/FOLD made their international debut last Summer at The Dancing on the Edge Festival in Vancouver, CA and at the FIDCDMX festival in Mexico City, Mexico. push/FOLD is a 501c3 tax-exempt non-profit arts organization based in Portland, Oregon.

[pushfold.org](http://pushfold.org) | Instagram: @push.fold  
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push/FOLD’s season is generously supported by:



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

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