



ARTS 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.



404 INSIDE MOVEMENT CLASSES

CULTURAL EXCHANGE

MOVEMENT WORKSHOPS INSPIRED BY THE 404 INSIDE CREATIVE PROCESS



LED BY MANON HALLAY AND ASHLEY MCQUEEN, IN BOTH FRENCH & ENGLISH LANGUAGES AND NON-VERBAL COMMUNICATION.

MASTERCLASS THEMES:

- CONTEMPORARY DANCE FUNDAMENTALS, ACCESSIBLE TO ALL LEVELS
- INTEGRATION OF SPOKEN WORD AND MOVEMENT
- EMPHASIS ON PERSONAL EXPRESSION & PHYSICAL THEATER

WITH A FOCUS ON CONFIDENCE-BUILDING THROUGH MOVEMENT, THIS MOVEMENT EXPERIENCE FEATURES A FUSION OF MODERN DANCE TECHNIQUES, IMPROVISATIONAL MOVEMENT STRUCTURES, SPOKEN WORD, AND THE UNIQUE ATHLETIC AND MUSICAL STYLE OF SMASHWORKS DANCE.

DANCERS BEGIN WITH A TECHNICAL WARM-UP IN THE CENTER, INTERMIXED WITH IMPROVISATIONAL MOMENTS AND MOVEMENT MANTRAS THAT ALLOW STUDENTS TO TEST PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES WHILE FOCUSING ON INTENTION AND DYNAMICS.

FINISHING OFF IN THE CENTER, DANCERS LEARN A PHRASE AND EXPLORE THE POSSIBILITIES WITHIN IT AS MCQUEEN CREATES SPACE FOR VARIATION, IMPROVISATION, AND PHYSICAL CONTACT.

THIS WORKSHOP SHARES A GLIMPSE OF THE 404 INSIDE CREATIVE PROCESS, IN AN ACCESSIBLE AND INTERACTIVE MOVEMENT EXPERIENCE.

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!



CONFIDENCE-BUILDING DANCE WORKSHOPS

CONFIDENT MOVERS, COMMUNITY BUILDERS



Available for all ages (from 5 to 18)

IN PERSON & VIRTUAL WORKSHOPS AVAILABLE

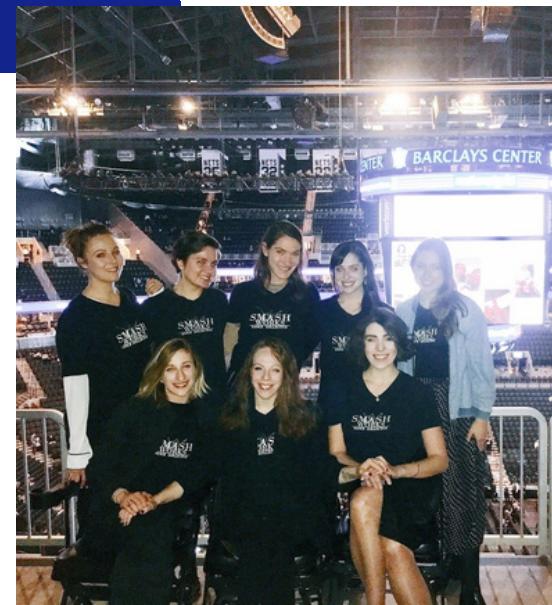
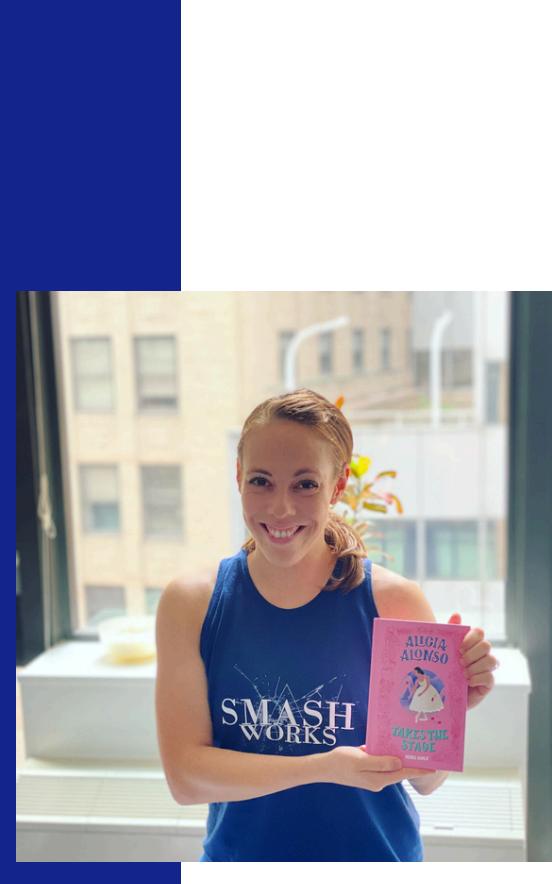
The purpose of this workshop is to build self-confidence and community among students. We will start with a guided warm-up that includes learning basic dance steps from styles such as Ballet, Modern, Jazz, and Hip Hop dance. Students will explore their own unique ways of moving through a process of improvisation, 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!

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, Brokelyn 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.

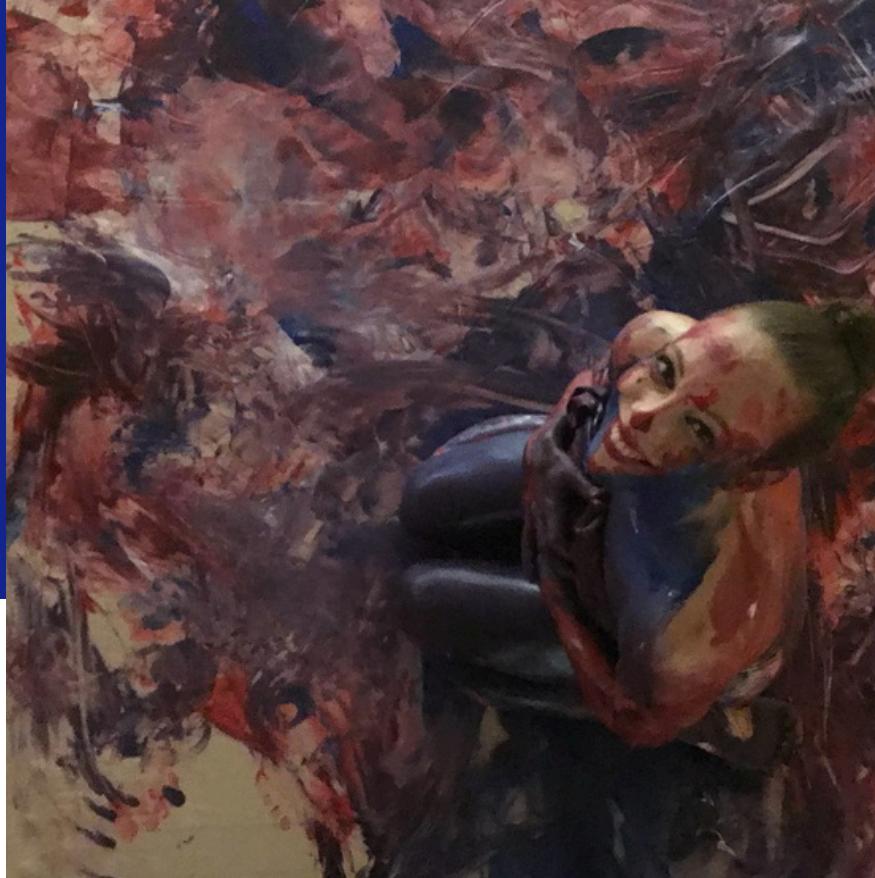
During the COVID pandemic, Smashworks Dance adapted their 2020 season to a virtual platform, including an online open rehearsal and video showing presented by Women of Culture. In addition to multiple virtual screenings and online classes, Smashworks Dance was presented by Arts On Site's Arts Alive series, 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.



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 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.



OUR PARTNERS

- Équipe de Réalisation
- Amanda Selwyn Dance Studio
- Girl Scouts of New York
 - Troop 6000
- Yap About It
- Rebel Girls Productions
- Dance The Vote
- Dance Rising
- Girs Inc.



WHAT WE'VE ACCOMPLISHED



Austringer: performance of dancers and drones, by Artists-in-Residence Dr. Nialah Wilson-Small and Louisa Pancoast. Performed at the IEEE International Conference on Robotics & Automation (Atlanta, GA), and at the Boiler (Brooklyn, NY). With support from Anticipation Ventures & the RadLab.

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.

CONTACT



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