

# SMASHWORKS DANCE

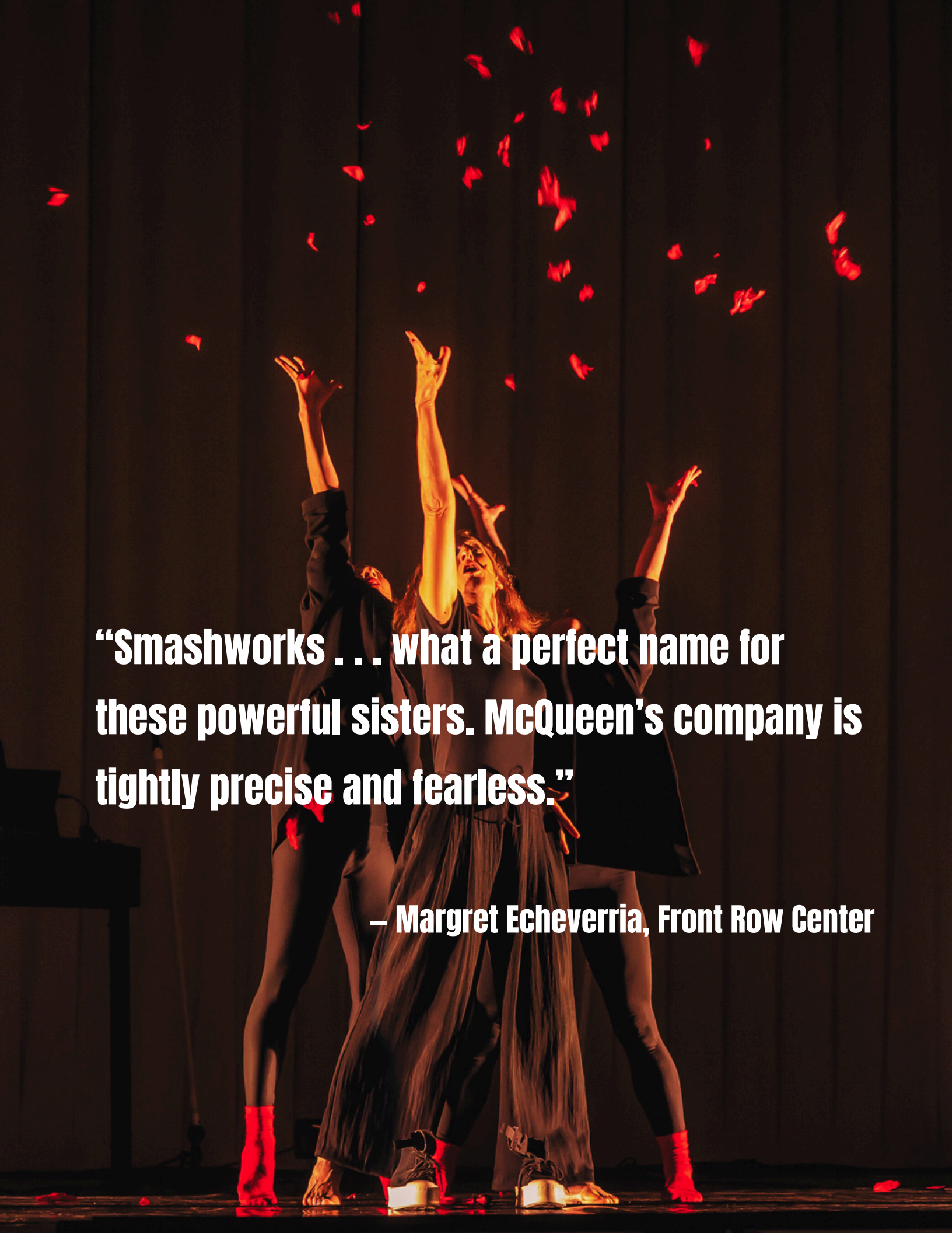
**ASHLEY MCQUEEN, ARTISTIC DIRECTOR**

[smashworksdance.org](http://smashworksdance.org)



# 2026 SEASON

SMASH  
WORKS



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

**– Margret Echeverria, Front Row Center**

# OUR MISSION



**Smashworks Dance is a New York-based group of movers dedicated to accessible dance performance and confidence-building education.**

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.

# 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.

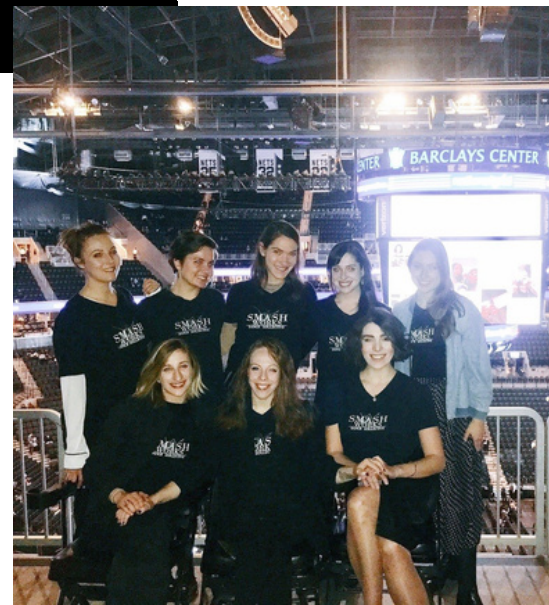


# COMPANY HISTORY

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



**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.

# OUR VALUES AND PRINCIPLES:

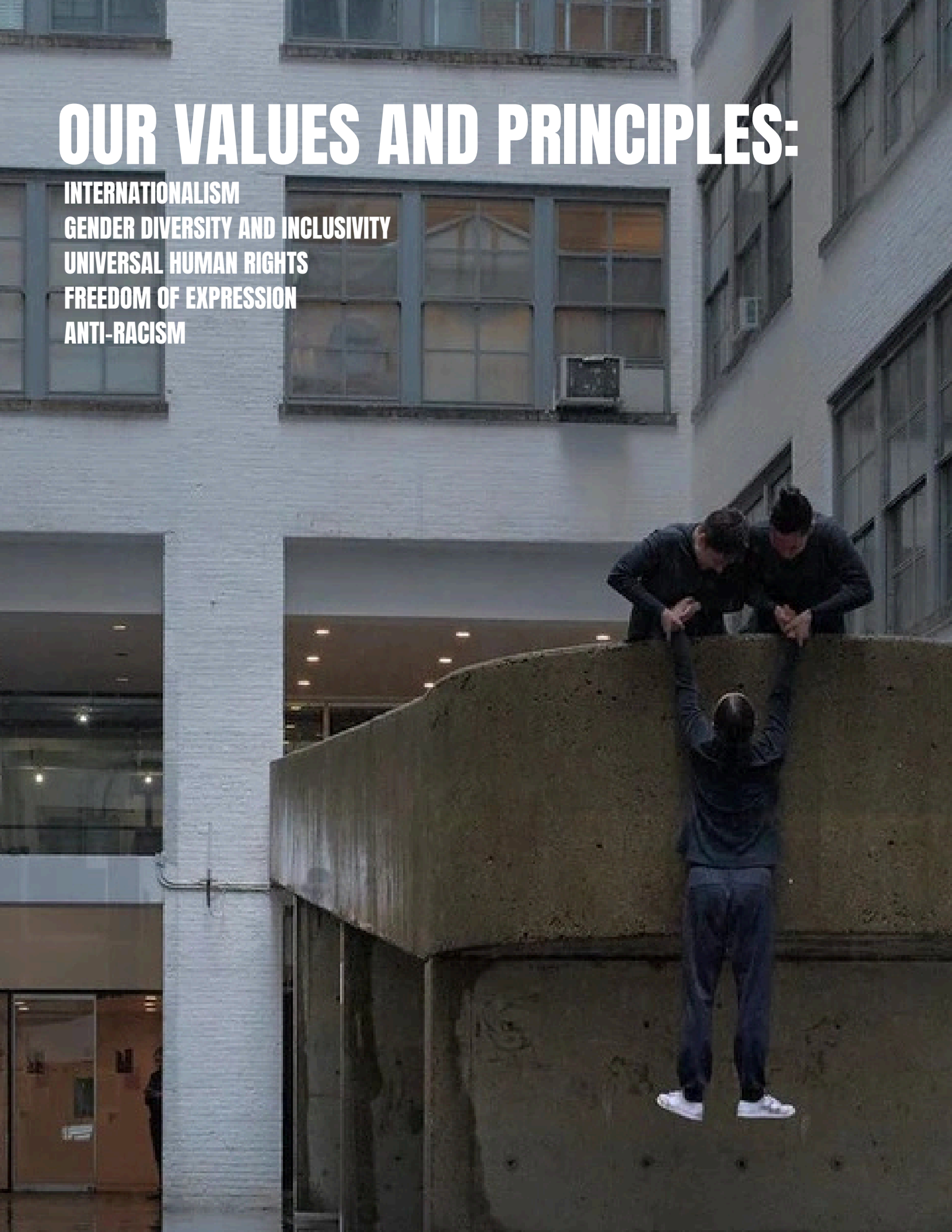
**INTERNATIONALISM**

**GENDER DIVERSITY AND INCLUSIVITY**

**UNIVERSAL HUMAN RIGHTS**

**FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION**

**ANTI-RACISM**





SMASH  
WORKS

2026-27  
SEASON



La Région  
**Occitanie**  
Pyrénées - Méditerranée

SMASH  
WORKS

# SMASHWORKS SOCIAL

April 16, 2026 | 6-8:30pm

Hosted by the Maison de la Région Occitanie



**404**

**INSIDE**

**NEW YORK PREMIERE  
SEPTEMBER 2027**

# 404 INSIDE

SMASHWORKS DANCE (NEW YORK, USA) AND L'ÉQUIPE DE RÉALISATION (TARBES, FRANCE) JOINED FORCES TO EXPLORE MOVEMENT, SPOKEN WORD, LIVE MUSIC, AND LED LIGHT INSTALLATION — CULMINATING IN A NEW WORK THAT TOURED THROUGHOUT THE HAUTES-PYRÉNÉES REGION FALL 2025.

**404 INSIDE** DELVES INTO THE UNIVERSAL QUESTIONS WE ALL CONFRONT. THROUGH A DELICATE INTERPLAY OF BODIES, SOUND, LANGUAGE, AND LIGHT, THE WORK MIRRORS THE COMPLEXITY OF HUMAN THOUGHT—CONSTANTLY NAVIGATING THE TENSION BETWEEN WHAT SHOULD BE, WHAT COULD BE, AND, ULTIMATELY, WHAT IS. 404 INSIDE CHANNELS THE CHAOS AND BEAUTY OF THE MIND IN MOTION; A VISCERAL SEARCH FOR GROUNDING IN A NOISY WORLD.



# CREATIVE PROCESS

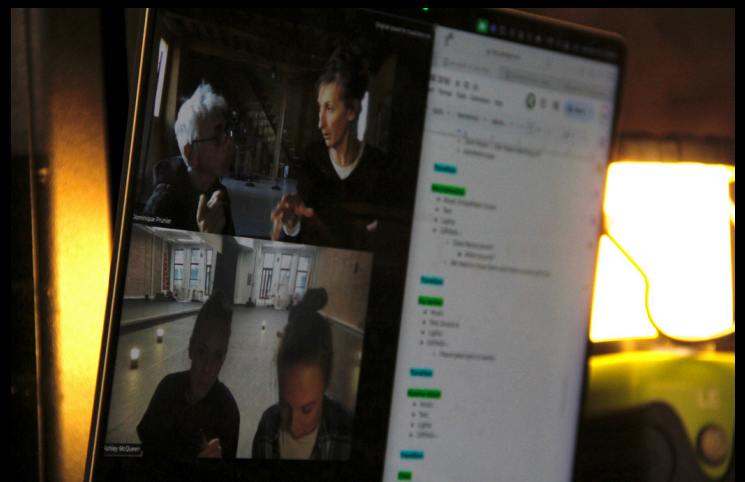
THE CREATIVE PROCESS FOR 404 INSIDE BEGAN IN DECEMBER 2023, WHEN COMPANY DANCER AND COLLABORATOR MANON HALLAY RETURNED TO HER HOMETOWN OF TARBES, FRANCE. SHE JOINED FORCES WITH DOMINIQUE PRUNIER AND PASCAL ESCLARMONDE TO DEVELOP THE INITIAL STAGES OF 404 INSIDE—SPARKING NEW IDEAS OF A COLLABORATION OF DANCE, TEXT, LIGHT, AND SOUND.

SHE AND ARTISTIC DIRECTOR ASHLEY MCQUEEN CONTINUED WORKING COLLABORATIVELY—SHARING MOVEMENT, TEXT, AND VISUAL IDEAS VIRTUALLY WITH THE ARTISTS OF L'ÉQUIPE DE RÉALISATION FOR A FEW MONTHS BEFORE RETURNING TOGETHER IN PERSON.



IN JUNE 2024, ALL FOUR CREATIVES MET IN TARBES TO DEEPEN THE CREATIVE EXCHANGE AND CONTINUE BUILDING THE PIECE IN PERSON.

FROM JULY 2024-SEPTEMBER 2025, THE TWO COMPANIES SPENT THE YEAR WORKING TOGETHER OVER ZOOM TO BLEND THE VARIOUS CREATIVE ELEMENTS INTO AN EVENING-LENGTH WORK.



404 INSIDE CAME TO LIFE DURING THEIR CREATIVE RESIDENCY AT LE PARI THEATER SEPTEMBER 15-OCTOBER 3, 2025, AND WAS PERFORMED 8 TIMES THROUGHOUT THE HAUTES PYRENEES REGION.

A man with white hair and glasses is seated at a piano, illuminated by a warm red light. To his right, a woman stands in profile, also bathed in the same red light. The background is dark, creating a dramatic and artistic atmosphere. The text is overlaid on the left side of the image.

# CREATIVE RESIDENCY

LE PARI THEATER  
TARBES, FRANCE  
SEPTEMBER 15 - OCTOBER 5, 2025

## PERFORMANCES

OCTOBER 3, 4, 5: LE PARI  
OCTOBER 7: SALLE DES FÊTES ANGOS  
OCTOBER 8: ESPACE ROBERT HOSSEIN LOURDES  
OCTOBER 9: SALLE POLYVALENTE LANNE  
OCTOBER 10: SALLE DES FÊTES GAYAN  
OCTOBER 11: ABBAYE DE L'ESCALADIEU BONNEMAZON

# 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.**



404 INSIDE MOVEMENT CLASSES (FROM TOP):  
GAYAN STUDENTS, LANNE COMMUNITY GROUP, STUDENTS FROM THE  
CONSERVATOIRE HENRI DUPARC (TARBES)

# ARTISTIC DIRECTOR ASHLEY MCQUEEN



Ashley McQueen is a performer, choreographer and teaching artist based in New York.

She holds a BFA in Dance from Webster University and an MFA in Dance from Hollins University. Hailed as "a dancer with the grace of a ballerina, the groundedness of an Isadora sidekick, and the brash musicality of someone who dances because she has to" (Oberon's Grove), McQueen has worked with choreographers such as Amanda Selwyn, Shawn T. Bible, Paris Wilcox, and has performed as a company member with ShawnBibleDanceCo, Common Thread Contemporary Dance, and Arova Contemporary Ballet. Her choreography has been commissioned by organizations such as Peridance Youth Ensemble, Hamilton College, Minnesota Ballet, Big Muddy Dance Company, Arova Contemporary Ballet, Alabama Dance Theater and Southern Danceworks, and presented at festivals such as Dance St. Louis Spring to Dance, Midwest RADFest, NYC Transit Museum, Westfest: All Over Westbeth and American College Dance Festival. She previously taught as an assistant professor of dance at Manhattanville College and choreographed in residence at Hamilton College and Webster University.

She is the founder and artistic director of Smashworks Dance, a non-profit dance organization based in New York, whose collaborative credits include writing the movement activities for Rebel Girls Productions' book chapter, Alicia Alonso Takes The Stage, and the exploration of dance-clown fusion, at the Theaterlab Hotel New Work residency, in collaboration with Hope Salas and Justin Cimino.



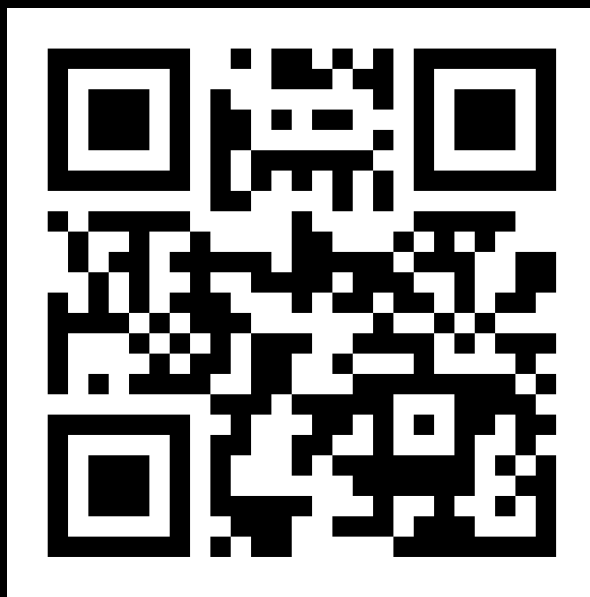
# WHY SUPPORT US?

**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.**

# CONTACT



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