



FROM THE DIRECTOR

As we present our latest production, 'Illum', I am overwhelmed with gratitude for our incredible community of artists and supporters. The growth of push/FOLD in the past year is tremendous, with new collaborations, residencies, and performances that have enriched our body of work and expanded our artistic reach.

This production is a significant milestone for our company, a testament to the dedication of our team and the depth and breadth of our artistry. It is a true reflection of the strength, power, and community that we hold dear. Thank you to our talented and dedicated group of artists whose passion, hard work, and commitment to excellence have brought these works to life.

To our supporters and donors who have helped make this production possible, *thank you*. Your contributions have allowed us to continue to create and share our art with the world. We are deeply grateful for your support and your belief in our work.

Lastly, I want to express my deep appreciation to our community who have been with us every step of the way, and for those who are now joining us. Your enthusiasm and camaraderie is a source of inspiration and encouragement as we push forward as people and as artists. Our mantra, "Strength and Power," is a reminder of the two facets within which we stand and create.

We are thrilled to share this program with you, build on this momentum, and continue to create and share our art together. Thank you for being here and for being a part of the push/FOLD family.

-Samuel Hobbs-



THE COMPANY

Based in Portland, Oregon, performing nationally and internationally, push/FOLD is the vision of the multidisciplinary artist and composer-choreographer Samuel Hobbs. Known for its signature style of athletic dance performance coupled with abstract storytelling, immersive moodscapes, and original sound compositions, push/FOLD's body of work explores deeply rooted sensations of identity, relationships, and the natural world; seeking transcendence through communion with artists and audiences.

push/FOLD's signature movement-partnering style is grounded in Visceral Movement Theory $^{\text{TM}}$ (VMT). VMT fuses elements of athletics and dance with visceral biomechanics to enhance the physical expression of power in all forms of movement and performance.

Working with professional artists, athletes, training programs, and schools, push/FOLD's programs and productions package education with performance. The company's mission—to develop community power through arts and movement education, support, and advocacy—seeks to address systemic issues around equity, access, and opportunity through education, mentorship, dialogue, and leadership. To further its mission, in 2019, push/FOLD launched the annual Union PDX - Festival of Contemporary Dance, commissioning artists world-wide from any style to teach and perform in Oregon. The Union PDX festival provides a unique platform within the Pacific Northwest to elevate professional artists by decreasing barriers to access and opportunity, provide resources and education specific to mid-career artists, and expand the available artistic voices in the community.

push/FOLD has been presented by On the Boards (Seattle), (a)Merging (Portland), Pacific Dance Makers (Portland), Ten Tiny Dances (Beaverton), Seattle International Dance Festival (Seattle), and the renowned Dancing on the Edge Festival (Vancouver, BC) and FIDCDMX (Mexico City, Mexico). push/FOLD's programming includes masterclasses, workshops, presentations, student outreach and engagement, dance-for-films, virtual and evening-length dance productions, and artist-talks, serving over 1600 audience members, students, and artists annually.

As a 501c3 tax-exempt non-profit arts organization based in Portland, Oregon, push/FOLD collaborates with foundations, presenters, arts organizations, artists, and teachers to create innovative performances and educational programs that inspire and transform audiences.









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PROGRAM | PART I

Wolf (2019)

In a visceral expression of loneliness and perseverance, 'Wolf' calls from a place about finding personal tranquility and power.

'Wolf' has made several unofficial premieres since 2019 and has become a staple work in non-traditional settings including a virtual performance at the Alberta Rose Theater in Portland, Oregon. In that filming the camera moved with the dancers as a third body in a single take. It was the first official dance-on-film created by push/FOLD.

Dancers:

Briley Jozwiak, Holly Shaw

Composer-Choreographer:

Samuel Hobbs

Length:

16-minutes

- PAUSF -

Dark Wings (2020)

An ode to love and grief, 'Dark Wings' is a comedic-noir centered around concepts of rebirth and the absurdity of life.

'Dark Wings' premiered in March 2020 in Portland, Oregon at the first annual Junction co-production with Portland companies TEMPOS Contemporay Circus and AWOL Dance Collective. That production was the last in-person performance for many artists until the Fall of 2021.

Dancers:

Maile Crowder, Briley Jozwiak, Bryaunna Kostelnik, Molly Rea

Composer-Choreographer:

Samuel Hobbs

Script:

Samuel Hobbs

Length: 22-minutes

- INTERMISSION -

Illum (World Premiere)

'Illum' (meaning 'It' or 'Thing') grows from the natural processes of life and the experiences of transition.

'Illum' is two-thirds of a triptych: 'Moon', 'Illum', and 'Part II'. The final section of this trio of works, 'Part II' premieres in June 2023 as a commissioned work by Oregon Ballet Theatre. The first section, 'Moon', premiered as an excerpt at our annual Union PDX - Festival of Contemporary Dance at the Hampton Opera Center in 2022 and opens this larger work, 'Illum'.

Created in tandem, the music for 'Moon', 'Illum', and 'Part II', serve as a cohesive arc. Each section intentionally developed to premiere in stages and separately.

Dancers:

Maile Crowder, Samuel Hobbs, Briley Jozwiak, Bryaunna Kostelnik, Ashley Morton, Molly Rea, Holly Shaw

Composer-Choreographer: Samuel Hobbs

Costumes:

Leslie Gilbertson - Fabrication Samuel Hobbs - Design

Length: 46-minutes

PRODUCTION TEAM

Technical Direction: Jeff Forbes

Lighting Design: Samuel Hobbs

Livestream Operator: Kamiah Koch



SAMUEL HOBBS

Artistic Director, Composer-Choreographer

Samuel Hobbs is a mixed-Latinx presenter, educator, and multidisciplinary artist (Dance, Art, Film, Music), and is the founder and Artistic Director of push/FOLD and the Union PDX - Festival of Contemporary Dance. As a choreographer, Samuel's artistic process draws from themes influenced from Dreamtime (meditation and unconscious dreams), and the fascination with negative space and athletic forms. Intermixing the creative impulses as a composer and choreographer due to the experience of synesthesia with sound and momentum (hearing movement and seeing sound), Samuel finds "a sweet spot between the musical composition and the movement concepts" (Oregon ArtsWatch). Samuel's movement practice incorporates their training in athletics and dance (Track, Swimming, Martial Arts, and West African, Street, Contemporary Dance, and Ballet), integrating their background in Osteopathy to create the somatic movement method called Visceral Movement TheoryTM (VMT). VMT is the backbone of push/FOLD's signature movement style and training.

Samuel began composing and choreographing professionally in 2014, having works performed both regionally and internationally in festivals, commissions, and self-produced events. 2021 marked Samuel's international debut for choreography and music at the Dancing on the Edge Festival in Vancouver, BC, and the International Festival of Contemporary Dance in Mexico City, Mexico. Samuel recently received the honor of being named a 2023 Performing Arts Fellow by the Oregon Arts Commission, and also received their latest commission by Oregon Ballet Theatre to premiere in June, 2023 in Portland, Oregon.

As an arts advocate, Samuel collaborates with various stakeholders in the arts to generate abundance-thinking that centers service and reframes leadership as a collective effort. In addition to their mentorship and equity work with organizations and developing artists, Samuel currently serves the Portland arts community as a board member of the Multnomah County Cultural Coalition.

As a performer, Samuel's professional career began in 2005, performing nationally and internationally, and teaching dance and partnering since 2008. Before dance, Samuel was a university track athlete studying Math and Computer Science at the University of Oregon. After attending their first contemporary dance concert in 2004, Samuel switched majors to study Music, Illustration, Sculpture, and Dance, graduating from Western Oregon University in 2007.

Outside of dance, Samuel works with the general public as an Osteopathic Manual Therapist at their private practice in Portland, Oregon; specializing in pelvic health, movement re-education, and visceral, neural, and vascular manipulation.

HOLLY SHAW

Managing Director, Performer

Holly Shaw is a Portland-based dance artist, arts administrator, and movement specialist. She is also a founding member of push/FOLD. Certified in Business of Social Innovation and completing the Regional Arts and Culture Council's Art of Leadership program, Holly is a vital part of the push/FOLD family, providing her skills in arts administration, events coordination, and donor relations as push/FOLD's Managing Director.

Holly began dancing at the age of seven in Sutter Creek, California, training primarily in Ballet through high school and into college. In college, at the University of Utah in Salt Lake City, Holly's professional career began, performing as a guest artist with Aspen Santa Fe Ballet. Holly graduated with a Bachelor in Fine Arts in Ballet with emphasis in Performance and Teaching, later moving to Portland in 2010. In Portland, Holly's career continued with BodyVox, Éowyn Emerald & Dancers, and skinner|kirk DANCE ENSEMBLE, performing nationally and internationally for five seasons. While at BodyVox, Holly worked as an integral part of BodyVox's development team.

In 2014, Holly combined her career as a professional dancer with teaching, becoming an Instructor and Instructor Trainer in STOTT PILATES®. In 2016, Holly launched her company Elevated Movement $^{\text{TM}}$, specializing in training athletes, dancers, older adults and clients with all body types and ability levels. Through Elevated Movement, Holly also provides onsite movement-based programs for assisted living facilities.

BRILEY JOZWIAK

Rehearsal Director, Performer

A native of Vancouver, Washington, Briley Jozwiak started dancing at age four, spending her youth studying Ballet, Tap, Jazz, and Modern dance. She spent summers training at Alonzo King Lines Ballet, Oregon Ballet Theatre, and finally, Atlanta Ballet where she began her professional career in 2010; performing works by Twyla Tharp, Christopher Wheeldon, and Helen Pickett. In 2013, Briley became a company member with Nevada Ballet Theatre before taking the position of Soloist with Ballet Tucson in 2014.

In 2015, Briley returned to the Pacific Northwest to expand her boundaries in dance and performance, continuing her professional career with push/FOLD and The Holding Project. Her life outside of dance includes modeling, acting and teaching STOTT PILATES® with her company Counterpoise Pilates. Briley is a founding member of push/FOLD, recently taking on the roll of Rehearsal Director.

ARTISTS & DANCERS | THE COMPANY

ASHLEY MORTON

Projects Director, Performer

Ashley Morton was born and raised in Chicago, Illinois, studying Ballet at Chicago Ballet Arts and various summer programs throughout the United States. After high school, Ashley expanded her formal dance training, studying on scholarship under the Lou Conte Dance Studio's Scholarship Program, performing professionally in Ruth Paige's Nutcracker and various Chicago projects. In 2015, Ashley was accepted to Alonzo King's LINES's Ballet Training Program in San Francisco, California, where she lived for a year prior to moving to Portland.

Ashley joined push/FOLD as a company member in 2019, and currently teaches dance and performs as an independent artist within Portland, Oregon. Interested in arts direction, Ashley became push/FOLD's Projects Director in 2022, providing her skills and experience in Marketing and Communication.

MOLLY REA

Performer

Molly Rea was born and raised in Columbia, South Carolina, and began training in Classical Ballet with Columbia City Ballet's Columbia Conservatory of Dance at age five. After graduating high school from the South Carolina Governor's School for the Arts and Humanities, Molly later performed with schools and companies to advance her career, notably: Central Pennsylvania Youth Ballet, Ballet West, Cincinnati Ballet, The Limón Company, Ballet Pensacola, and PDX Contemporary Ballet, performing works by Jennifer Archibald, José Limón, George Balanchine and studying the Gaga movement technique developed by Ohad Naharin.

Molly graduated with a Bachelor of Fine Arts from the University of Cincinnati's College Conservatory of Music, studying the cello alongside dance. She currently resides on a 60-acre farm outside of Portland, where she tends honey bees, chickens, and a cut flower garden. Outside of dance, Molly continues her admiration for the human form and life, working as a Licensed Massage Therapist and florist.

This is Molly's second season with push/FOLD.

BRYAUNNA "BREE" KOSTELNIK

Performer

With a small town upbringing in southern Oregon, Bree's journey in the arts has expanded across the globe, working with numerous choreographers including Victor Quijada, Jaci Royal, Wes Veldink, Franco Nieto, and Samuel Hobbs, performing and training in Norway, Austria, and Germany, and cities across the US, including Chicago, New York, Las Vegas, and Seattle.

In June of 2021, Bree became the first woman to graduate from the Oregon State University's Architectural Engineering program. Post-graduation, she transitioned back into the Pacific Northwest dance community, working with push/FOLD and Open Space Company, supplementing her training with interdisciplinary programs including b12 in Berlin and Portland City Boxing. As an independent artist, Bree's recent work includes teaching at studios and colleges across Oregon, hosting weekly creation labs, collaboration workshops, and movement intensives. Bree also curates a multimedia collaborative project between 25 artists within the Willamette Valley called COLLISIONS. This is Bree's first season with push/FOLD.

MAILE CROWDER

Performer

Maile Crowder is an artist and teacher living in Portland, Oregon. She began her Ballet training at age four and has trained with Oregon Ballet Theatre, Lines Contemporary Ballet, and Ballet West. Maile later expanded her dance training to include Contemporary, Modern, Jazz, Hip-Hop and Ballroom dance styles.

In 2019, Maile graduated from California Polytechnic State University with a Bachelor in Science in Biochemistry and a Minor in Dance. While in college, Maile began her professional performance, choreographic, and teaching careers, as well as setting works on dance companies and production direction. Maile has won several awards and scholarships including the Cal Poly Liberal Arts Service to the Arts award. After graduation, Maile performed with Interweave Dance Theater in Boulder, Colorado before moving back to Portland.

Maile currently performs with push/FOLD and the Shaun Keylock Company, and teaches at the Fred Astaire and Hillsboro Dance studios. This is Maile's first season with push/FOLD.



SPECIAL THANK YOU

Holly Shaw • Briley Jozwiak • Ashley Morton Molly Rea • Bryaunna Kostelnik • Maile Crowder • Jeff Forbes Leslie Gilbertson • Ophélia Martin-Weber • Laura Branfield • Hailey Bill Schademan Erin O'Shaughnessy • Amelia Lukas • George Thorn • Sharon & Alan Jones Christina Grooms • Don & Mary Blair • Ronni Lacroute • Dean Richardson Bill & Wendy Whitsell • Carolen Hope & Steve Lyford • Lucas Hobbs William Hobbs • Jingzi Zhao • Minh Tran • Sumi Wu David Herrera • Robert Guitron Toots (aka My Captain)

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