

# LaneCoArts



Lane Gifford's interest in the intersection of movement, narrative, film, and the visual arts inspired her to find a fresh new dance theater voice and establish LaneCoArts in 2006.

LaneCoArts mission:

- *design* visual and dramatic dance theater works with a multi-arts approach.
- *engage* audiences fully with poignant movement narratives that speak to contemporary subjects.
- *evolve* as a result of strong collaborations with fellow artists, establishing consistent and vital dialogues and a through line to current cultural issues.



LaneCoArts is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization.



# Performances, Residencies and Commissions

92<sup>nd</sup> Street Y

Boston Contemporary Festival

Bryant Park Festival

Dance Place

Dance New Amsterdam/RAW Directions

Dixon Place

Gibney Dance Center

ITE Festival

Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival

Le Poisson Rouge

New York International Fringe Festival

University Settlement Performance

Wave Rising Series/ 92nd St. Y

New York Theater Workshop

REVERB Dance Festival

Triskelion Arts

Redline Gallery / Colorado

Boston Center for the Arts / Mills Gallery

Boston Center for the Arts / Residency

Freight Residency

Joffrey Ballet School

Kaatsbaan Cultural Park for Dance

McKnight Artist Fellowship

Missouri Valley College Residency

Northeast Choreographer Residency

Southern Utah University

University of Kansas

Western Michigan University 2015 (finalist)

Emerson Spring To Dance Festival

iKada Dance Company Commission

APAP Ailey Citigroup Theater

Women in Dance Leadership Conference / Philadelphia

Cove Street Arts / Portland, ME

Battery Dance Festival / NYC

McCallum Theatre Palm Desert Choreography Festival / CA

## Awards include:

Empire State Creates Grantee 2021, Richenthal Foundation Grant 2019 - 2022, New Music USA 2020, Maine Arts Commission 2020 Award with Artist Margaret Lawrence, Mid Atlantic Arts Foundation for Dance Place performances 2016 (Special Presenters Initiative program / National Endowment for the Arts and the DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities), 2014 & 2020 Arts Foundation of Cape Cod Grant, 2012 Foundation for Contemporary Arts Emergency Grant, 2011 Manhattan Community Arts Fund Grant, 2011 BUILD Grant (Building Up Infrastructure Levels for Dance), Harvard University/Project Zero Financial Assistance Award 2004, Outstanding MFA Award - Purchase College 2004

## Recent Events:

- McCallum Theatre / Palm Desert Festival / CA 2022
- Battery Dance Festival / New York, NY 2022
- Cove Street Arts/Portland, ME – Collaboration with Visual Artist, Margaret Lawrence / 2022
- Bryant Park Dance Festival 2019
- Dixon Place Performance 2021
- Nimbus Presents Offline March 2020
- BAM Fisher Theater (canceled due to COVID)
- Jamaica Center for Arts and Learning - Virtual Performance 2021

## Upcoming:

- Spring To Dance Festival / St. Louis, MO
- New Works Series 2023/ Tada Theatre / NYC





# MISSION STATEMENT

LaneCoArts is a unique blend of dance, theater and visual arts. The mission of the company is to create a rich and dynamic dialogue that fuses a distinctive movement aesthetic, deep emotional exploration, and stimulating visual and dramatic narrative components.



Through a process of exchange and collaboration with other artists, artistic director Lane Gifford explores the formation and execution of a meaningful movement vocabulary that grows from the interfacing of dance with such elements as words, sculptural components and rigorous physical investigations.

The landscape that emerges from these thought-provoking artistic alliances is what Ms. Gifford is seeking.

Charged movement conversations, exploring human issues that touch and excite through in-depth physical interchange, are the focus of LaneCoArts works.

LaneCoArts addresses themes such as communication in digital landscape, social polarization, and climate imbalance.

LaneCoArts is a versatile contemporary dance theater company performing in both traditional and non-traditional settings such as galleries, public spaces, schools and outdoor locations with open-air surroundings.





# ARTISTIC DIRECTOR : LANE GIFFORD

Artistic director Lane Gifford was born in Massachusetts where she first studied dance at The Boston Conservatory. She received a BFA in dance performance and an MFA specializing in choreography from The Conservatory of Dance at Purchase College. After receiving a French Cultural Service Award from the French government she lived in Paris, where she performed for José Caseneuve and Jean Marc Torres and taught modern and improvisation at the International School of Paris. Ms. Gifford has taught dance in several institutions including University of Kansas, Missouri Valley College, Southern Utah University, and her own summer creative arts program.



Seeking ways to examine different artistic languages and expand her compositional skills, Lane Gifford has worked in the television industry for such companies as Sony Music, where she designed promotions for artists including Wynton Marsalis, Marc Anthony, Shawn Colvin and John Mellencamp. This experience contributed to artistic director Lane Gifford's interarts inquiry into movement and theater and her exploration into the vital area where dance meets the visual arts, drama, design, and music.

The education extension Ms. Gifford provides through LaneCoArts includes technique and creative process classes for children and adults. She has worked as a teaching artist at schools in New York, Massachusetts, and New Jersey with a mission to reveal the vital connection between dance and different art forms in an engaging multi-arts dialogue about articulation and communication of individual expression.

The overall goals for the LaneCoArts educational program :

- introduce "successive rebound," the company movement practice that stresses organic mechanics of the body in motion.
- explore dimensional approaches to possibilities in dance composition.
- craft movement ideas with clarity, vision, and imagination.
- reflect the current landscape in meaningful physical expression.



# REPERTORY

## « Then There are None »

The Constitution of The United States is the basis of this work translating its meaning to a larger abstract physical platform which reflects our divided climate. "Then There Are None" explores elements from The Constitution and "E Pluribus Unum", the original motto of this country as designed by the Founding Fathers in 1782.

Video link:

<https://vimeo.com/734405928>



## « land•scape (n.) »

"land•scape (n.)" is a reflection on the individual in a complex urban setting. It shares with the audience the unconscious mind as it absorbs contemporary surroundings, sensory overload, self-image, accumulation, consumption, and convolution in an animated setting through a dance narrative.

Video link: <https://vimeo.com/409916872>

## « Off White »

"Off White" presents a conversation between three people caught in a transforming circumstance. The work develops from an individual looking outward and responding to the dynamic actions of a duet in transition.

Video link: <https://vimeo.com/375510987>





# REPERTORY

## « *The Sky's Floor* »

"The Sky's Floor" is a site-specific production with artist Margaret Lawrence, composer Yin-Han Zoe Yang, and the media center Cove Street Arts in Portland, Maine. It examines "chaos theory" in nature and human relations.

Video link: <https://vimeo.com/765829014>



## « *Askew* »

"Askew" looks at the colliding beliefs that are shaping our culture through five performers who embody specific examples of alienation in areas such as business, technology, the literary domains - polarized and askew.

Video link:

<https://vimeo.com/312763012>

## « *Swerve* »

"Swerve" looks at the concept of society deviating, swerving away from the foundational principles of nature. Society in conflict is manifested first in social upheaval followed by environmental imbalance.

Video link:

<https://vimeo.com/384795310>



# REPERTORY

## Dance Films

### « Nowhere »

“Nowhere” was created in response to the COVID 19 pandemic. It explores a perspective of community today, off course and disconnected, seeking resolution.

Video link:

<https://vimeo.com/659039722>



### « One Up »

This work represents an interest in expanding dance to the realm of film and the multidisciplinary potential that exists with this art form. “One Up” was originally scheduled to premiere in March 2020 for at BAM Fisher Theater Space with Nimbus Dance. Due to COVID-19 this was cancelled. Thus “One Up” evolved to become a dance film.

Video link:

<https://vimeo.com/462443131>

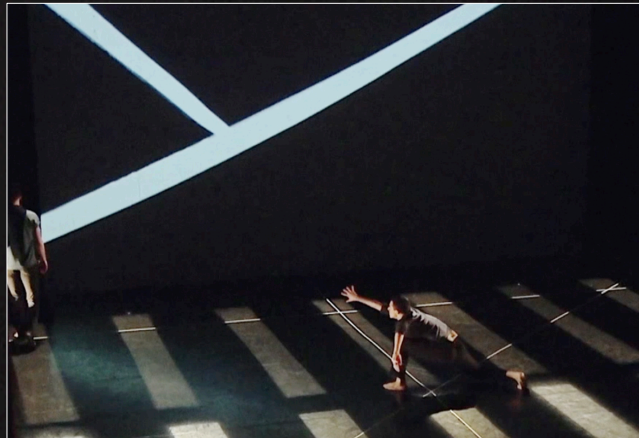


# REPERTORY

## « Dash »

Through a lens of movement, video projections, and spoken word, “Dash” examines the physical manifestation of communication in a fractured contemporary landscape. This collaboration which began with sculptor Mark Mennin, is a dance exhibit that reveals the meaning of “dash” a word referring to the hyphen – the mark that connects and separates words, ideas and in this case, people.

Video link : <https://vimeo.com/786061849>



## « Flux »

Performed at the McCallum Theatre’s Palm Desert Choreography Festival, this work looks at constant and varying qualities in physicality, with a focus on conversation though gesture, confrontation, and group interruption.

Video link: <https://vimeo.com/786178105>



# REPERTORY



## « Ana Deo »

“Ana Deo” was performed originally as part of Bryant Park Dance Festival in New York City. This work grew out of a fascination with small wooden sculptures from 19th century Indonesia representing male and female couples seated naked side by side. These human images (ana deo) were thought to reference ancestors and supernatural beings and be associated with ancestral shrines.

Bryant Park Festival / NYC

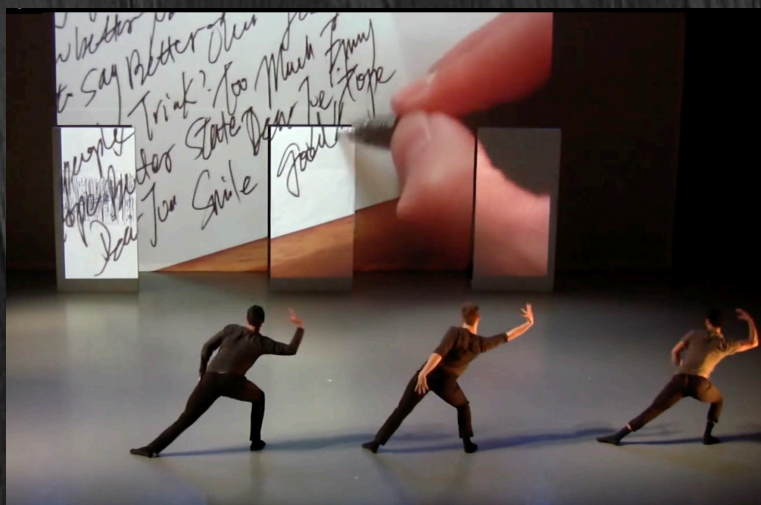
Video link: <https://vimeo.com/179051167>

## « Searching for a Phase Change »

A phase change describes a transformative action in nature, one which allows changes in states of composition and chemical make-up, such as the conversion of liquid, solid or gas. The physically oriented phase of writing as it intermixes with motion, is our area of focus.

Kaatsbaan Cultural Park

Video Link: <https://vimeo.com/594716463>





# REPERTORY



## « Almost Awake »

Taking as an inspiration the labyrinth found on the floors of medieval cathedrals and used by church goers seeking guidance to enlightenment, "Almost Awake" is one person's journey through architectural, visual, psychological, and physical environments.

Using the labyrinth as a dramatic and visual metaphor, the performers are confronted with a moving obstacle course.

Video link :

<https://vimeo.com/408897384>

Props: ten free-standing panels referred to as "books" and "walls" with word-based designs on one side and pure white on the other. The mind in motion is the goal.





# REPERTORY

## « As We Are »

"As We Are" is a dance, drama, music, and visual art narrative based on the concept of a chess game and a series of episodes in an urban setting. The work presents a collage of dissecting events that trigger a dynamic moving canvas. Sculptures by artist, Mark Mennin.

Video link: <https://vimeo.com/786359767>



## « The Garden »

"The Garden" is a contemporary view of the Garden of Eden. Using the ancient biblical tale and the concept of "knowledge" as a multi-layered complexity, we present a story divided into six sections with narrative and visual components to support this movement interpretation.

Video link :  
<https://vimeo.com/97275704>





# WHAT LaneCoArts CAN OFFER YOU

## *Performances*

- Public presentations / full-length, evening productions.
- Residencies geared specifically to venue and/or school.
- Open rehearsals and master classes.
- Commissions of new or existing repertory.



## *Education For Children and Adults*

- Workshops tied directly to the performance offerings.
- Integrated arts education classes based on LaneCoArts multi-arts mission.
- New York City based summer programs for students seeking professional experiences.
- Internship opportunities for visiting dance students.

Objective: inspire dialogue and use the arts as a collective voice.





# REVIEWS

"Lane Gifford packs delicious movement into land•scape n. but breaks things up beautifully with anxious speaking and relaxed running; the combination is breathtakingly good. She also chooses music well, tossing in a spicy throwdown section that drips street energy and amps the landscape. The movers are exceptional; the men move with silky power and the women with solid electricity. Even in this company, David Scarantino stands out for his flow and buttery extension at full speed. The speaking bits are just odd enough to keep us focused, with dancers lining up to deliver stammering expressions of need and yearning to an onstage microphone. Something deeply exciting is happening here." Quinn Batson / Offoffoff.com

"land•scape n. is Lane Gifford's creation. "Here's the thing," the words echo from a microphone downstage. The group commands the audience's attention, sometimes peeling into solos and duets, sometimes folding into an ensemble, all moving together. They line up and speak and stutter into the mic about what they want - from coffee tables to coffee - anything and everything superfluous in life. It's a piece that uses different forms – music, recording, speaking, movement, props – seamlessly." Jennifer Thompson / EYE ON THE ARTS, NY



"Major theatrical magic is created here; Gifford and her troupe, LaneCoArts, deserve a shot at a larger theater and a longer form." (O! Balletto) Elizabeth Zimmer, Metro New York

"Beautiful, regal, humorous.... Passion and rules of behavior collide in a dazzling display of dance, drama and music in O! Balletto." AmericanTheaterWeb Original News & Review

"A thoughtful commentary on social development." (O! Balletto) Irene Backalenick, Backstage

"Lane Gifford really knows how to grab the audience and take them away to a brief moment of paradise." (Off White) iDANZ Critix Corner

"Jake's Dilemma spoken poetry delivered and danced well enough to make us care about his dilemma and recognize our own." Offoffoff.com

"Your work is edgy, clever, technically strong, and simply stunning - thank you for bringing it to the BCA. » (land•scape n. ) Andrea Blesso / Boston Center for the Arts



# COMMENTARY

## Repertory

"Last night, we witnessed a transformative interdisciplinary art experience at Cove Street Arts. LaneCoArts choreographed a dance movement addressing chaos theory while connecting with work by local visual artist Margaret Lawrence. The applause at the end of the performance went on for ten minutes." Dinah Minot, Executive Director / Creative Portland

"The choreography - innovative and striking, the dancers - both technically solid as rock and sinewy ..." Kathryn Boland / Journalist, Dance Informa

"I respect and admire Lane as a choreographer, not only for the integrity and beauty of her work, but also for her tenacity and fearlessness in delivering her artistic vision." Max Stone / Teacher, Choreographer

"The evening of work was beautiful and affecting." Lisa Clair / Curator, University Settlement



"I thoroughly enjoyed your work. It was theatrical, technical, and inventive even with only low-tech lighting to enhance the atmosphere. Your company is fresh, energetic, and committed to intention and nuance." (The Garden) Michael Blake / Former Director, Joffrey Ballet School Contemporary Division

## Education

"So impressive. Regarding your workshop..... wonderful. Important work. You received rave reviews (from the students). I loved the clarity, and the potential for application of the concepts. In the studio, on "the arts" you are so incisive. Please know how much I respect and admire your very professional and articulate work. And thank you for sharing your consummate expertise and artistry with us." Alice Teirstein / Director / Young Dance Makers, Former Director, Dance Department / Fieldston School "

You are very talented and a gift to the NYC community. The children learned a lot, experienced new things, made new friends and got excited about different forms of art." A Parent / SummerSPLASH Program, Founded and Directed by Lane Gifford

"You are so kind to share your time and talent with so many. You have enriched our entire community." Carrie Trenholm / Endowed Chair of Elementary Arts Education/ Southern Utah University



# HOW TO SUPPORT US

*On-line donations:*

[www.lanecoarts.com](http://www.lanecoarts.com)

All donations can be made directly to  
*LaneCoArts Inc.*

and mailed to:

Lane Gifford / LaneCoArts  
225 West End Avenue, #51  
New York, NY 10023

*All contributions are tax-deductible*

to the extent permitted by law. You will receive a tax receipt  
upon submission of your donation.

*We thank you.*

LaneCoArts greatly appreciates your generous support as we plan for future programming.



## CONTACT US

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