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**“Ferocious!”**

– The New York Times

**“A dark, epic journey...  
bound for perfection.”**

– Media Mind Candy

**“Instinctual, untamed,  
and edgy.”**

– Infinite Body

**“Macabre, zany, theatrical.”**

– Arts & Culture Magazine

# About the Company

Founded in 2000 by artistic director Stefanie Nelson, Stefanie Nelson Dancegroup is a New York City-based contemporary performance ensemble producing original work in close creative partnership with performers, visual artists and composers. The company’s work is driven by a distinctly conceptual impetus and characterized by a visceral and strikingly visual approach.

Stefanie Nelson Dancegroup has established its presence in the United States and internationally, having developed a repertory of intensely collaborative multidisciplinary works. To date, the company has produced six evening-length works along with an array of shorter pieces, presented at some of the foremost contemporary performance venues in the United States, including Aaron Davis Hall, La Mama, Lincoln Center, and Jacob’s Pillow; and internationally in Canada, Mexico and Italy (including the Fabbrica Europa Festival and Florence Winter Dance Festival at the historic Teatro Goldoni)

Selected residencies include SPAM! rete per l’arti contemporanee (Capannori, IT), Teatro della Pietra (Bergolo, IT), the Baryshnikov Arts Center (NYC), the Bessie Schoenberg Choreographer’s Residency at The Yard, The Field’s Artist Residency, and the Harkness Dance Program. Nelson currently maintains ongoing collaborations in Italy with SPAM! rete per le arti contemporanee (Capannori), Arte e Danza Arabesque & Fuoricentro (Lucca) and Exorto Danza (Agropoli).

Stefanie Nelson Dancegroup values the fair and respectful treatment of all people, diversity, inclusiveness and the dignity and humanity of each individual in its policies, practices, and programs.

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Risa Kantor, Jill Inbar, Aimee Householder,  
Jess Feingold, Stefanie Nelson

# About Stefanie Nelson

Stefanie Nelson's work as a director/choreographer has been described as "instinctual, untamed, and edgy" (Infinite Body). Her intuitive approach distills deeply personal ideas into highly kinetic, expressive and provocative works that are rooted in cross-media collaboration with artists working in music, video and visual arts.

Nelson studied dance with many distinguished educators, including Alice Teirstein and JuMay Chu, and entered the dance field as a performer, notably as a soloist with Anna Sokolow's Player's Project (1994-2002) and Wendy Osserman Dance Company (1999-2002), having also danced with many local New York City choreographers as a freelance performer.

She cites Merce Cunningham and Viola Farber techniques as her influences. Dividing her time between New York City and Europe, she is an accomplished teacher as well as the founder and artistic director of DANCE ITALIA ([www.danceitalia.com](http://www.danceitalia.com)), an annual summer dance intensive in Lucca, Italy, where Nelson has spent time as an artist in residence. She has been a guest teacher at many studios and educational institutions worldwide.

Nelson's independent choreographic projects include NYC Fashion Week, Flying Tiger's inaugural NYC store opening, and the feature film Plan-B, starring Diane Keaton. Besides choreographing, directing, offering residencies, and teaching with the company, Stefanie Nelson has recently been working as a curator 'How high is the ceiling in my glass castle? (and other perceived limitations)' @ Triskelion Arts, and as a mentor and grant panelist for the New York Foundation for the Arts. Nelson holds a double major in English and Psychology.

## ARTIST STATEMENT

"As an artist, I am compelled to unveil a primal, dark aspect of the human psyche, sculpting physical forms to embody emotions and relationships that have been cyclically re-lived by individuals throughout history. I believe we share profound experiences on a deep, archetypal level that is best evoked in an intensely collaborative environment. I'm drawn to stark contrasts and tension between opposites that intensify what is perceived and stored by the collective unconsciousness. I endeavor to transcend the conventional use of language and intellect, to present my ideas with immediacy and depth, striving for unadulterated expression that touches audiences on visceral level while provoking further intellectual investigation."

Stefanie  
Nelson  
Dancegroup

Photo by: Paul H. Taylor





# About Dance Italia

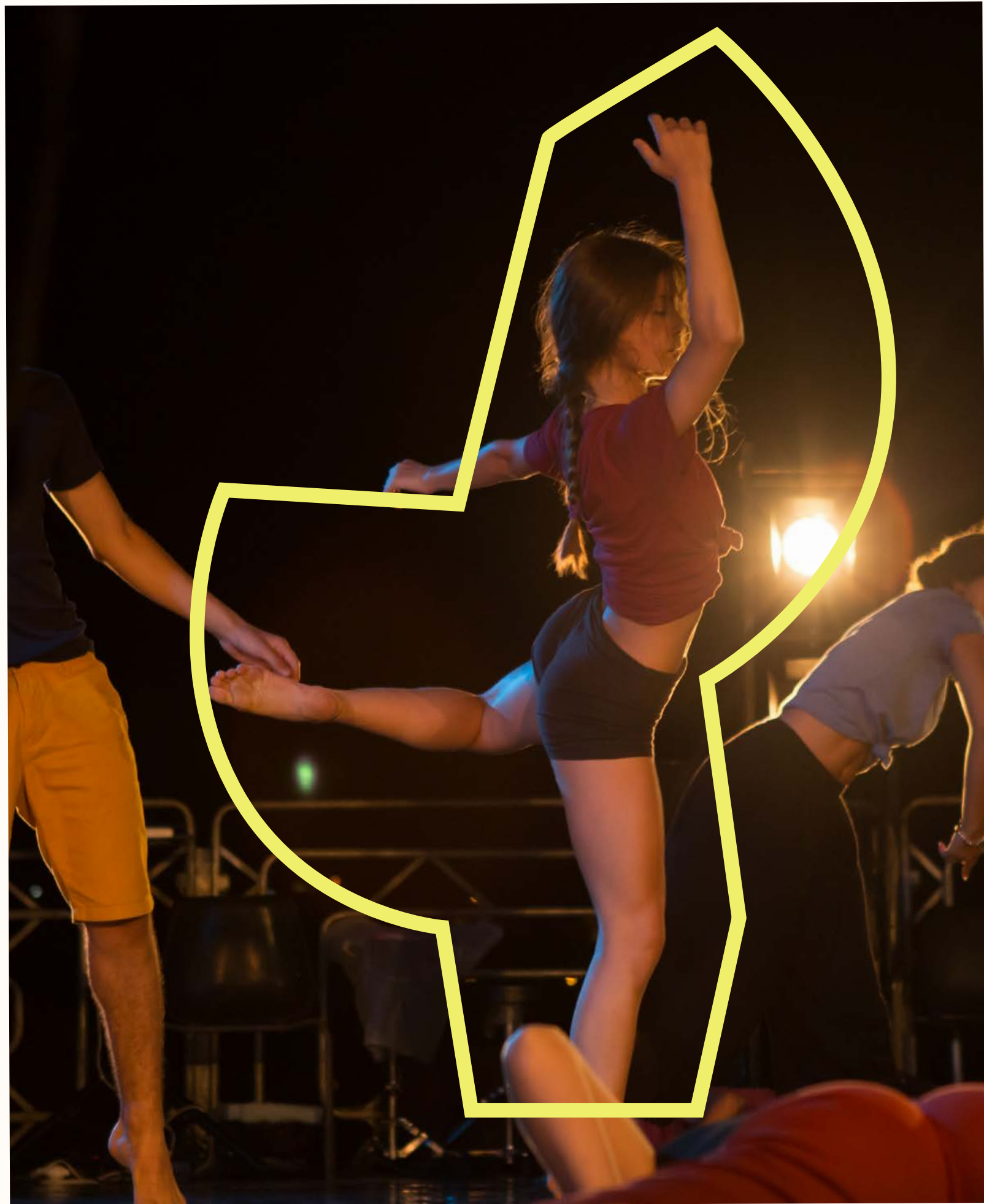
Founded in 2011 by Stefanie Nelson, Dance Italia has established itself as a vibrant community of international students, performers, educators, and choreographers who gather in Lucca, Italy each summer.

The Festival offers a rigorous dance experience in a supportive atmosphere, fostering a creative exchange of ideas and encouraging exploration of diverse approaches to movement arts. Four week- long Master Class workshops accompany a core technique schedule, complemented by discussions, informal showings and performances.

With support from private donors and university partners, Dance Italia has welcomed over 500 students from 25 countries around the world, and has performed for over 1000 spectators to date. Dance Italia is now offered for college credit in select US universities. For more information, visit [www.danceitalia.com](http://www.danceitalia.com)



Photos by: Stefanie Nelson



Stefanie  
Nelson  
Dancegroup



# Collaborators

Stefanie  
Nelson  
Dancegroup



Photo by: Ian Shand

## COLLABORATING ARTISTS

- Greg Barrett (photographer)
- Nell Breyer (choreographer, media artist)
- Maria Rosaria Busia (costume designer)
- Andrew Dickerson (light design)
- Andrea Ferrara (composer, live electronics)
- Howard Fishman Quartet
- David Leach (photographer)
- Philip Lees (composer)
- Kim Lennox (costume designer)
- Lische (dance company)
- Lisea Lyons (costume design)
- John Price (filmmaker)
- Sahand Rahbar (composer)
- Daniel Bernard Roumain (composer)
- Eric Scott (composer)
- Kevin Scott (light and video designer)
- Ian Shand (photographer)
- Paul H. Taylor (photographer)
- Justin Randolph Thompson (visual artist)
- Bradley Dever Treadaway (videographer)
- Solomon Weisbard (lighting designer)
- Wendy Leigh Wilf (composer)

## CURRENT AND PAST PERFORMERS

Erik Abbott-Main, Nicole von Arx, Benjamin Asriel, Massimiliano Barachini, Julian Barnett, Aszure Barton, Rebeccah Bogue, Christine Bonansea, Nathanael Buckley, Dominique Bulgin, Alex Clair, Ben Cortes, Malinda Crump, Elisa D'Amico, Hallie Dalsimer, Julia Discenza, Cristiano Fabbri, Katie Federowicz, Emily Giovine, Gierre Godley, Isabel Gotzkowsky, Saar Harari, Daniel Holt, Jeff Kent Jacobs, Christophe Jeannot, Karen Johnson, Lesley Kennedy, Becca Loevy, Cara Liguori, Ofelia Loret de Mola, Sarah Matry-Guerre, Cameron McKinney, Mor Mendel, Mckay Montz, Lauren Naslund, Marissa Nigro, Matty Oaks, Sarah Parker, Hunt Parr, Yarden Raz, Amanda Reichert, Rachael Rosen, Eric Russell, Valentina Savelyeva, Ali Schechter, Ariana Seigel, Jennifer Sydor, Emily Tellier, Mark Thrapp, Bergen Wheeler, Benjamin Wolk, Yin Yue, Jon Zimmerman



# A, My Name Is... (2017)

## 50 minutes, 4 dancers

### PREVIEW PERFORMANCES:

Castello Angioino Aragonese (Agropoli, Italy) and  
Piazza San Frediano (Lucca, Italy), July 2016

### ADDITIONAL PREFORMANCES

Aaron Davis Hall (NYC), Spam! Rete per  
l'arti contemporanee (Capannori, IT), Teatro  
della Pietra (Bergolo, IT), Indiana University,  
(Bloomington, IN)

A, My Name Is... is a playful exploration of memory  
and forgetting. Building upon choreographic  
fragments culled from memories of heightened  
moments, the movement vocabulary grows in  
the same way one's language skills develop and  
disintegrate over time using physical themes of  
gravity & repetition.

### Featured in the New York Times' "7 Dance Performances to See in N.Y.C. This Weekend"

- Jan. 17, 2019

"Joyous and  
heartbreaking...  
expansive and  
breathtaking... intimate  
and risky."

- Adrienne Sowers, The Reviews Hub

Photo by: Jessica Brandi Liffand



Stefanie  
Nelson  
Dancegroup

CONCEPT/DIRECTION/  
COSTUMES  
Stefanie Nelson

### PREMIERE PERFORMERS

Christine Bonansea, Julia Discenza,  
Cameron McKinney, Emily Tellier

### ORIGINAL LIGHT DESIGN

Solomon Weisbard

### ORIGINAL MUSIC

Sahand Rahbar, Jonah Kreitner,  
additional track by Serge Gainsbourg

### VIDEO

Elisa D'Amico, Kevin Scott

### PROJECT ADVISOR

David Shenk, bestselling author of  
The Forgetting

Supported by public funds from  
the NYC Dept. of Cultural Affairs in  
partnership w/ the City Council; in  
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Engagement, supported by NY State  
Council on the Arts with the support  
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administered by Lower Manhattan  
Cultural Council; additional support-  
Exorto Danza, Comune di Agropoli,  
Parco Nazionale del Cilento, Albumi e  
Vallo di Diano, BCC Comuni Cilentani,  
Arte e Danza Arabesque.



# Striped Three (2015)

33 minutes  
3 dancers

## PREMIERE

Castello Aragonese (Agropoli, Italy), August 2015

This work centers around three emblematic power figures of the collective imagination – A King, a Queen, and a Jester – that inhabit every narrative from ancient fairytales to the Hollywood blockbusters. As the Queen hesitates between Jester’s playful sensuality, and the cold composure of the King, the power struggle unfolds, revealing them to be substitutes for any human condition.

Whoever the players might be – famous artists or influential politicians, rich or poor, the powerful and miserable – the game remains the same. For everyone, featured stars and lowly extras alike, taking sides becomes an act of survival.

This work is a companion piece to Oddball Zebra.

“Macabre, zany, and theatrical”

– Arts & Culture Magazine

Photo by: Giulia Ferrando



Stefanie  
Nelson  
Dancegroup

CONCEPT/DIRECTION  
Stefanie Nelson

DANCERS  
Erik Abbott-Main,  
Daniel Holt,  
Nicole von Arx

Presented by Exorto Danza with additional funding from the Comune di Agropoli, Parco Nazionale del Cilento, Alburni e Vallo di Diano, BCC Comuni Cilentani, and Dance Italia.



# Oddball Zebra (2013)

60 minutes  
6 dancers

## PREMIERE

Triskelion Arts (New York), March 2013

Inspired by Michel Pastoreau's book *The Devil's Cloth: A History of Stripes*, *Oddball Zebra* examines the myriad of connotations associated with stripes. The work centers around an archetypal clown, evoking a Middle Ages tradition of zebra-like patterns used to identify outcasts, lunatics, lepers, prostitutes, and entertainers. Juxtaposing the outside and the inside, the background and the foreground, the stripes conjure darkness, danger, and moral ambiguity: a perfect metaphor for continuous change that celebrates failing, falling, and letting go, with pleasure.

**“The dancers are all fantastic movers, eager to please and quick to action.”**

– Rachel Rizzuto, [Bachtrack.com](http://Bachtrack.com)

Photo by: Stephen de las Heras



Stefanie  
Nelson  
Dancegroup

## CONCEPT/DIRECTION

Stefanie Nelson

## DANCERS

Nicole von Arx, Katherine Federowicz, Gierre Godley, Sarah Parker, Hunt Parr and Yin Yue

## ORIGINAL MUSIC

Jonah Kreitner, Juan Pablo Mantilla, and Sahand Rahbar

## ADDITIONAL MUSIC

Naught, Dave Nelson, and Justin Randolph Thompson

## ANIMATIONS

Jeremy Weichsel

## LIGHT DESIGN

Andrew Dickerson

The work has received financial support from the Duke Energy Foundation and the Dance Gallery, with additional support through space grants provided by Fuoricentro Sala e Teatro, the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation administered through Triskelion Arts, and the New 42nd Street studios.



# Prolegomena II (2012)

55 minutes  
7 dancers

## PREMIERE

Joyce SoHo (New York), March 2012

What happens when you are confined in a small place, in absolute darkness, devoid of sensory references? What do you bring in this space with you? What comes to you? Prolegomena II – literally, an introduction or opening remark – is a journey into the subconscious, inspired by Nelson’s ongoing fascination with literal and metaphorical darkness. Originally conceived as a multimedia camera obscura installation, featuring live musicians and on-site painting, this work evolved over the course of a year during which Nelson and her collaborators (visual artist Karolien Soete and composer Alexander Berne) collected stream-of-consciousness accounts from participants they had subjected to isolation in a small, dark space.

**“Massively multi-layered in poetry, music, animations and the performance of Nelson’s large and excellent ensemble.”**

–Eva Yaa Asantewaa, InfiniteBody

Photo by: Nir Arie



Stefanie  
Nelson  
Dancegroup

CONCEPT/DIRECTION/  
COSTUMES  
Stefanie Nelson

ORIGINAL SCORE  
Alexander Berne

STOP MOTION ANIMATION  
Karolien Soete

DANCERS  
Nicole Von Arx, Gierre Godley, Daniel Holt, Stefanie Nelson, Sarah Parker, Hunt Parr and Yin Yue with Lauren Garson, Joanna Taubeneck, Kierstin Williams, Juliann Witt, and Caroline Yost

LIVE MUSIC  
Alexander Berne, Regina Sadowski

Co-produced by Triskelion Arts, in association with Joyce SoHo and made possible, in part, with public funds from the Manhattan Community Arts Fund, supported by the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs in partnership with the City Council and administered by Lower Manhattan Cultural Council. Additional support from Harbour Productions, World of the Walking Stick, Duke Energy Foundation, and space grants from Dance Italia and the New 42nd Street studios.



# Proximity Spiral (2010)

53 minutes  
8 dancers

## PREMIERE

Joyce SoHo (New York), March 2010

Proximity Spiral unfolds in a sensually charged arena; a sparse, blood-red stage set, starkly defined with sculptural lighting. In a succession of cinematic sequences, the performers confront each other against the backdrop of brooding, mercurial soundscapes. Inspired by the haunting simplicity of Fibonacci sequence, the piece utilizes proportion and symmetry to expose the constant interplay of power and vulnerability in human relationships.

**Untamed and edgy...  
Nelson's inventiveness  
steadily builds and never  
seems gratuitous."**

-Eva Yaa Asantewaa, InfiniteBody

**"Movement, music and  
mood are beautiful  
throughout."**

-Quinn Batson, Offoffoff.com

Photo by: Ian Shand



Stefanie  
Nelson  
Dancegroup

## CONCEPT/DIRECTION

Stefanie Nelson

## DANCERS

Malinda Crump, Katie Federowicz,  
Jeff Kent Jacobs, McKay Montz,  
Matthew Oaks, Ali Schechter, Ariana  
Siegel, and Yin Yue

## COSTUMES

Ashley Gardner

## MUSIC

Sahand Rahbar, Hugh Mann, Borut  
Krzisnik, David Byrne & Brian Eno, Laika

This work was made possible, in part,  
with public funds from the Fund for  
Creative Communities, supported by  
the New York State Council on the  
Arts and administered by the Lower  
Manhattan Cultural Council; The  
Field's Artist Residency program,  
supported by the Tides Foundation;  
Dance New Amsterdam's RAW  
Directions Program 2010; with  
additional support from Full Sail  
University and Production Support  
by the Bill T. Jones/ Arnie Zane Dance  
Company.

Proximity Spiral was rehearsed at  
the New 42nd Street Studios, and  
made possible, in part, by a Harkness  
Space Grant from the 92nd Street Y  
Harkness Dance Center.



# Sonic Gestures (2005)

20 minutes  
2 dancers

## PREMIERE

Fabbrica Europa Festival (Florence, Italy), May 2005

In *Sonic Gestures*, sounds produced by dancers' bodies and captured live by a stage microphone constitute the point of departure for interplay of improvised movement and sound.

Two performers provide the audio material and control the rhythmic flow of music. The constant feedback loop between the movement and its digital representation in sound produces the dance that evolves in peaks and falls – from quick motion, fragmentation, to the cessation of movement and complete stasis.

The first version of this work was commissioned and presented by the Florence Dance Center (Florence, Italy) for the series *Corpo al Corpo*, October 2004 (with dancer Francesca Stampone).



Stefanie  
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Dancegroup

## CHOREOGRAPHY

Stefanie Nelson with  
Massimiliano Barachini

## LIVE ELECTRONICS

Andrea Ferrara

## LIGHTS

Stefanie Nelson

## COSTUMES

Maria Rosaria Busia

## PERFORMERS

Massimiliano Barachini, Stefanie  
Nelson, and Andrea Ferrara

This work was made possible by  
the support of Ongakuaw Studios,  
The Florence Dance Center, and  
Company Blu.



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# Stefanie Nelson Dancegroup

468 Riverside Drive #24  
New York, NY 10027

(347) 831-3384

[www.sndancegroup.org](http://www.sndancegroup.org)

FACEBOOK  
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[@SNDancegroup](https://www.instagram.com/SNDancegroup)

VIMEO  
[/stefanienelson](https://vimeo.com/stefanienelson)

EMAIL  
[info@sndancegroup.org](mailto:info@sndancegroup.org)