

# WEST FEST 2011

December 8 -11 at Cunningham Studio at Westbeth, NYC

## Artist Bios

**CAROL NOLTE/DANCE COLLECTIVE (Co-Producer)** has created over 50 dances for her award-winning company Dance Collective. She has received choreographic fellowships and awards from the New Jersey State Council on The Arts, The Djerassi Foundation, The Kalani Honua Institute, The Puffin Foundation, The Wurlitzer Foundation, The Yellow Springs Fellowship for the Arts, The Field Independent Artists Challenge Program and White Oak Plantation. Recently, her work has been seen at Merce Cunningham Studio, The Kitchen, Joyce SoHo, The 92nd Street Y Fridays at Noon. She has also co-founded and produced three dance festivals, DanceBLITZ, Taos Dance 2000, and, currently, WestFest.

**KIRSTIN KAPUSTIK (Co-Producer)** likes to make dances. She is a choreographer, dancer, curator, producer and teacher and received an M.F.A. in dance from Florida State University in 2009. Kirstin's dance works have been shown at Dixon Place, at The Citigroup Theater at the Ailvin Ailey Studios, Danspace at St. Mark's Church, and the Ringling International Arts Festival in Sarasota, Florida among others. Her choreography is most influenced by her work with Lynda Davis, Dan Wagoner, Jawole Willa Jo Zollar and summers at American Dance Festival. Kirstin currently works as the Event and Studio Manager at Center for Performance Research in Brooklyn, NY where she began a presenting series.

**GINA GIBNEY (Guest Artist)** has created a repertory of dance works that have been presented and commissioned by prestigious venues in the US and abroad. Described as a "poet of modern dance" by the New York Times, Gibney is also dedicated to bringing the power of dance – both in performance and in practice – where it would not otherwise exist. She is the founder of Gibney Dance Center, a seven-studio facility at 890 Broadway that serves the dance field with classes, space and unique programming.  
[www.gibneydance.org](http://www.gibneydance.org)

**JAWOLE WILLA JO ZOLLAR, FOUNDING ARTISTIC DIRECTOR, URBAN BUSH WOMEN (Guest Artist)** Born and raised in Kansas City, Missouri, Jawole trained with Joseph Stevenson, a student of the legendary Katherine Dunham. After earning her B.A. in dance from the University of Missouri at Kansas City, she moved to New York City in 1980 to study with Dianne McIntyre at Sounds in Motion. She founded Urban Bush Women (UBW) in 1984 as a performance ensemble dedicated to exploring the use of cultural expression as a catalyst for social change. In addition to 34 works created for the company, Jawole's work is in the repertory of Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater / Philadanco / Dayton Contemporary Dance Company / Ballet Arizona / University of Maryland / Virginia Commonwealth University / Towson University and others. A Guggenheim fellow, she received her M.F.A in dance from Florida State University and is the Nancy Smith Fichter Professor of Dance and Robert O. Lawton Distinguished Professor at FSU.

**TAKEHIRO "Take" UYEYAMA (Guest Artist)** was born and raised in Tokyo, Japan and moved to the United States in 1991 to study at the Juilliard School in New York. After after eight years with the Paul Taylor Dance Company, Takehiro Ueyama founded **TAKE Dance**. TAKE Dance has performed at venues across the country including, Jacob's Pillow, Dance Theater Workshop, PS/21 in Chatham, University at Albany, SaratogaArtsFest, The Lewis Center at Princeton University, in Italy at the 29<sup>th</sup> Internationale Dance Festival in Cagliari, Sardinia and at San Francisco's Cowell Theater. The Company will perform *SALARYMAN* in its entirety at Baruch Performing Arts Center in NYC, February 8-12. For more information: [takedance.org](http://takedance.org).

**THE BANG GROUP's (Guest Artist)** *Nut/Cracked* is in its ninth consecutive season having received its premiere in Genoa, Italy in November 2003. It will be presented at New York Live Arts December 21-23, 2011. The Bang Group continues to tour and perform David Parker's choreographic reimagining of *Annie Get Your Gun*, called *ShowDown*, and will perform *Misters and Sisters*, a song-and-dance love story for two men, at Oberon in Cambridge, MA in January.

**DIANE CAHILL BEDFORD** serves as Professor of Dance at San Jacinto College in Houston, TX where she teaches all levels of Modern, Ballet, Jazz, and Dance Appreciation. She holds an M.F.A. in Dance Performance and Choreography (2010) and her B.F.A in Dance (2003) from Florida State University. Diane has performed with Jana Hicks Repertory in NYC, Dance Repertory Theatre, and The Tallahassee Ballet. She has also been fortunate to perform the repertory of Jawole Zollar, Gerri Houlihan, Terry Creach, and Lynda Davis. In 2008, Diane was selected to perform a reconstruction of Hanya Holm's *Jocose* at The American Dance Festival. Her choreography has been presented by the Dance Gathering in Houston, Brazos Dance Collective, Fort Wayne Ballet, The Tallahassee Ballet, and The FSU Opera. This past spring, her work *White Lies* was adjudicated at the American College Dance Festival in Las Cruces, NM. Diane has

previously taught dance and directed outreach programming for FSU, Charleston Ballet Theatre, Fort Wayne Ballet, New England Ballet Theatre, and Ithaca Ballet.

**Theodora Boguszewski** is a native of Berkeley, California. She attended the Conservatory of Dance at SUNY Purchase from 2006-2010, graduating with a BFA in Dance, a concentration in composition, and a minor in art history. In the second semester of her senior year, Theo founded The Hoover Dam Collective, a young artist's collective dedicated to making interdisciplinary work and putting on collaborative shows. Since its founding, the Hoover Dam Collective has taken off, doing shows throughout Brooklyn and Manhattan, in Nyack, and at the Desiderata Music Festival. Theo's work has been shown at the Solar One Festival, the Dumbo Dance Festival, The Cool NY Festival, Sunday Brunch at the Rover, The Fridays at Noon Series, and at many Hoover Dam Collective shows. Theo currently dances with Road Work Dance and Vital Dance Company, and continues to create her own work.

**EVE CHAN** performed as a ballerina with the Hong Kong Ballet for nine years. During that period, she toured with the company throughout Europe, America, Canada, and China and worked with numerous well-known artists and choreographers including Krzysztof Pastor, Nils Christie, Rudi van Danzig, Wayne Eagling, and Ronald Hynd. Chan's choreographic career began with the Company's choreography workshops in 2002. In 2007, she was appointed as one of three resident choreographers by Mr. John Meehan who was the Artistic Director at the time. In that same year, she was commissioned to do a new contemporary work, *Night Light*, for the company's main season. In 2008, she was commissioned to create a contemporary duet, *butterfly lovers*, for two principal dancers to perform at the 2008 Gala Internacional de Estrellas in Chile. The ballet was also recently performed at the 2011 Auf der Weltspitze International Ballet Gala in Germany. In 2009, Chan was invited to represent Hong Kong and **choreograph a short piece for 60th anniversary of china, which was held in Beijing**. Currently, Chan receives a full scholarship from the Hong Kong Jockey Club for her MFA studies at Purchase College, where she teaches pointe class in the Conservatory of Dance and ballet technique classes for non-majors through the School of the Arts.

**ALEXIS CONVENTO**, from Philadelphia, PA, is a freelance choreographer and dance artist who received a BFA in Dance from the Ailey/Fordham program in 2008. She has had the pleasure to perform alongside individual talents and companies, some including: Helen Pickett, Vanessa Walters, Adam Hougland, Corey Hayes, and Mylène Farmer (FRANCE). Alexis has the privilege to present her own work at numerous festivals and showcases including: newsteps/Chen Dance Center, the HATCH Presenting Series, The Current Sessions, Your Move (NJ), Peridance Capezio Center, and Hoover Dam Collective, among others. She is interested in melding dance with sensory and texture- her work recognizes both gestural and athletic phrases, fluid transitions, and instinctual qualities through choreography and improvisational score. Alexis is also founder, creative director and producer of the Current Sessions, a new contemporary dance series which showcases works-in-progress from emerging choreographers in their twenties. Info: [www.alexisconvento.com](http://www.alexisconvento.com)

**EVOLVE DANCE INC.** is a contemporary dance company founded in 2006 with the mission to create and connect dancing communities through investigation, reflection, and action. Evolve works for dance in community life local to global, through performances, workshops, residencies and creative interchange programs in every setting from fields and streets to concert halls. Evolve Director/Choreographer, Julie B. Johnson, is a New York-based dance artist whose focus is centered on community interaction through choreography, education, performance, and collaboration. Recent highlights include a 2011 California tour; an International Dance and Cultural Exchange in Accra, Ghana; conducting master classes at Spelman College in Atlanta, Georgia; and co-directing the Y Dance Program, a comprehensive dance-training program for children, teens, and adults. Julie B. Johnson and the dancers of Evolve Dance are thrilled and honored to be part of the WestFest Dance Festival.

**Chris Ferris & Dancers** has been presenting dance in the New York area for over twenty years. Ferris' work is based on exploration of movement from a sculptural, dynamic and emotional point of view. "Continental Drift" our 2011 season concert was recently presented at CPR-Center for Performance Research. Chris Ferris & Dancers full evening work "Proximity Of Clouds" premiered at Joyce SoHo in NYC in April/May 2010. Ferris' dances have been shown in New York in three season concerts at the Cunningham Studio. Her work has also been presented at Performance Mix, Solar Powered Dance Festival, Rebound Dance Festival, Amalgamate Artist Series, Movement Research at Judson Church, Green Space Blooms, the 92nd Street Y, and a variety of other venues. Ferris was the curator of the SWEAT Modern Dance Series from 2000 to 2007. In 2005 Chris Ferris & Dancers was awarded a Meet The Composer Grant for composer Loren Dempster.

**MEGAN HARROLD** and **CHARLIE RAUH** (Inimoid Dance) have been collaborating since 2007 and have received grants from the Klaustroid Foundation, Fractured Atlas SOF, Untitled Artist Group and Metlife Meet the Composer, and will be artists at the Internationals studios at Denkmalschmiede Hofgen, Germany next year. They have performed at Lincoln Center, Ailey CityGroup, CPR, RoofTop, WAXWork, Judson Church,

White Wave D.U.M.B.O. Festival, NY, AL, MD, GA, IL, TN, VA, WY, Pueblo Mexico and East and Reykjavik Iceland. "Greening" was created using a method where written works are transposed into music and dance through intervals in the alphabet. Therefore the music and dance are expressing abstractly a narrative that is identical in two difference mediums. We'd love to hear from you at [harroldme@gmail.com](mailto:harroldme@gmail.com).

**THE INDELIBLE DANCE COMPANY** was founded in 2009 with four goals:

1. To create work with the awareness that the internet exists and that it is an integral part of experiencing art.
2. To collaborate with other talented artists
3. To be financially self-sustaining
4. To continuously evolve

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

In 2005 **JIWON LEE** moved to NY to explore more diverse styles of dances. She began her training at the Ailey School 2007-2009 and began creating and experimenting with choreography mixing the grace and splendor of Korean Traditional Art with the dynamic freedom of American modern dance. She has performed with Buglisi Dance Theatre, Foot Prints, and Genesis Dance Company. Also, she has presented her works in Ailey-Citigroup Theater, DNA Dance Theater, Cunningham Studio Theater, and Baltimore University. She received the First Prize in Donga Dance Competition, which is renowned in Korea. Currently, Jiwon is a choreographer of Zion Dance Company and a student in the MFA Degree, choreography track at the Purchase College, SUNY. She is glad to have the opportunity to show "Flow" to the public through WestFest Festival.

Originally from Taiwan, **I-Ling Liu** received her BFA from Taipei National University of the Arts in 2005. She has performed with Ku and Dancers, Taipei Crossover Dance Company, Image in Motion Theater Company, Neo-Classic Dance Company and works by Trisha Brown, Lin Hwai-Min, Manfei Lo, Ku Ming-Shen, Yang Ming-Lung. I-Ling moved to New York and joined Bill T. Jones/Arnie Zane Dance Company as the apprentice in 2007, and became the member of the company in 2008.

**AMOS PINHASI** was born in Israel where he performed and choreographed for Tamar Jerusalem Dance Company. In new York he has presented his own work since 1985 and has been produced by DTW, DIA, Joyce Soho, Dancenow, The 40Up Project and Danspace Project among others. He has toured his solo work in Switzerland, Austria, Germany and Israel. He teaches dance improvisation and Yoga internationally.

**CLAIRE PORTER** [www.cportables.com](http://www.cportables.com), has performed her work in Europe and Asia, and in the US at Joyce Theater, Town Hall, NY Horticulture Society, American Dance Festival, Lucille Ball Festival, Bates Festival, Jacob's Pillow, Florida Dance Festival, Kennedy Center, Woolly Mammoth Theater DC, Southern Theater MN. Porter recently performed in Mikhail Baryshnikov's GALA, set a solo on Kansas City Ballet and is currently performing *Namely, Muscles* at festivals, conferences, medical schools and universities. Porter has received several NEA, NJ and Mid Atlantic Choreography Fellowships, has an MA in Dance from Ohio State, a BA in Mathematics and is a Laban Movement Analyst.

**NICOLE ROERICK** received her MFA in Dance from Florida State University in May 2011 and her BFA from the University of Wisconsin-Madison in May 2008. She has worked with many artists during her academic life including: Li Chiao Ping, Jin-Wen Yu, Monica Bill Barnes, Jawole Willa Jo Zollar, Tania Isaac, Jeremy Nelson, and Luis Lara Malvacias. She recently formed the Nicole Roerick Collective, based in Madison, WI, and is presenting and performing work locally and nationally while also dancing with Li Chiao-Ping Dance. Most recently, she presented and performed work at the DUMBO Dance Festival in Brooklyn, NY in September 2011. While she is not choreographing and performing, she is a certified Yoga instructor and teaches classes in Madison and will be teaching a Dance course at the UW-Madison this spring. She hopes to continue to present her work nationally and present her own show next spring in Madison.

**Karen Schupp's** creative work ranges from revealing self-portraits, to interdisciplinary dances, to conceptual movement-based works for non-dancers. In 2010, Karen was awarded a prestigious Artist Project Grant (funded by the NEA and State of Arizona) to create a new work, *Western Door/Power Trail*. Recent performances include the Guangdong Modern Dance Festival, Harvest Contemporary Chicago Dance Festival, American Dance Guild Festival, Wave Rising, Big Range Dance Festival, and the Attakkalari India Biennial. Karen is an active scholar interested in developing effective pedagogical practices for first-year dance majors and reimagining the purpose and format of technique and composition courses. This research has been published in the *Journal of Dance Education*, and presented at NDEO, CORD and PCA conferences. Karen is on faculty in the School of Dance at Arizona State University, where she received the Herberger College of the Art's Distinguished Teaching Award in 2007. For more information, please visit [www.karenschupp.org](http://www.karenschupp.org).

**Amanda Selwyn** founded Amanda Selwyn Dance Theatre in 2000 and in twelve seasons, has directed over twenty-five productions, developed a network of artists, and created the curriculum for Notes in Motion

Outreach Dance Theatre's arts-in-education programs. Amanda has led workshops at 3 NYC Arts-in-Education Roundtable's *Face to Face* Conferences and presented choreography at NYU's Women and Theater conference. Her work has been presented on Jacob's Pillow Inside/Out Stage, in the DUMBO Dance Festival, the APAP conference, the COOL NY Dance Festival, Movement Research's Performance Series, and as part of Earth Celebrations. Amanda has a 500-hour yoga certification from Laughing Lotus Yoga Center, a Masters from NYU's Tisch School of the Arts in performance studies, and a B.S. from Northwestern University in theatre, women's studies, and dance.

**LYNDSEY VADER** is Artistic Co-Director of Treeline Dance Works—a modern dance performance co-op that honors the creative voices of its multiple collaborators through joint investment in movement research. Vader works as Operations Manager for Andrea Miller's Gallim Dance, and has served as a Development Consultant for Moving on Center School for Participatory Arts & Somatic Research. Her choreography has been set on *Perpetual Motion/ Modern Dance Oklahoma, INC* and presented at the *Ailey Citigroup Theater* (NY), *WHITE WAVE RISING series* (NY), *DUMBO Dance Festival* (NY), *Pushing Progress* (NY), *Rebound Dance Festival* (CT; IL), *Joy of Motion Dance Project* (DC), and *Dance Under Construction* (CA). Teaching credits include, but are not limited to, SUNY Brockport, Ball State University, Franklin & Marshall College, and Dickinson College. Vader holds an MFA in Dance, Choreography & Performance, from The College at Brockport State University of New York. To learn more about TreelineDW visit [www.TreelineDanceWorks.com](http://www.TreelineDanceWorks.com)