



# MorDance 2024 Prospectus

## A Bold Move In Yonkers

MorDance, a trailblazing and women-led dance company and nonprofit, is excited to announce its relocation from New York City to Yonkers and the expansion of programming into Westchester County. For the past decade, MorDance has been at the forefront of redefining ballet as a catalyst for social change, breaking away from its historically homogenous structures. The organization has successfully created groundbreaking original works, championed underrepresented artists and audiences, and conducted youth outreach initiatives benefiting thousands of students in under-resourced communities across NYC. MorDance's mission is rooted in fostering a more dynamic and inclusive future for the performing arts by enhancing accessibility and creating empowered environments for creative expression.

# Unveiling a Season of Artistry and Community Engagement

Activities from January - July 2024

Welcome to MorDance's vibrant 2024 season, where dance becomes a catalyst for transformation, empowerment, and community connection. As we embark on an exciting journey, we invite you to join us for a series of captivating events that celebrate creativity, inclusivity, and the joy of movement and art.



## Open Rehearsals: Peek Behind the Curtain

Dates: January 31, March 19, April 5

Step into the world of MorDance with our open rehearsals, offering an exclusive glimpse into our creative process. Witness the magic as our talented dancers bring art to life and experience the energy that fuels our groundbreaking performances.

## Free Public Performances: Dance in the Heart of the Community

March 1 at Hudson River Museum | July & August in Yonkers City Parks

Immerse yourself in the beauty of dance at our free public performances. From the enchanting setting of the Hudson River Museum to the lively atmosphere of Yonkers City Parks in July, MorDance brings the joy of movement directly to the heart of the community.



## Public Ticketed Performances: Unforgettable Evenings of Dance

Yonkers: May 2-4 | NYC: May 9-11

Reserve your seat for MorDance's spellbinding evening performances in Yonkers and NYC, open to all. Witness the power of movement to captivate, inspire, and evoke our deepest emotions.

# Unique Events: Connecting Viewers to Art

Dates: Throughout the Season

In addition to our dynamic performances and educational initiatives, MorDance is proud to present unique events that invite viewers into the heart of our artistic process, fostering accessibility and community engagement. From insightful panel discussions to artistic exploration with MorDance's Teaching Artist in Residency at the Hudson River Museum our 2024 season will be filled with unique dance events.



## Free Student Matinees: Inspiring the Next Generation

Yonkers: April 30-May 1 | NYC: May 7-8

Ignite the passion for art in young hearts with our free student matinees. This Spring, we extend a warm invitation to students in Yonkers and NYC to experience the enchantment of live performance, fostering a lifelong love for the arts.



## In School and After School Student Outreach: Nurturing Creativity and Connection

MorDance is committed to fostering creativity and connection through In-school student outreach. Every month from January to June, we bring the magic of dance directly to students, creating meaningful experiences that transcend the traditional boundaries of the stage.



As MorDance relocates to Yonkers in 2024, we are thrilled to expand our programming to Westchester County, enriching the cultural landscape and creating lasting connections with our audiences. Join us on this extraordinary journey as we continue to redefine ballet, inspire change, and foster a more dynamic and inclusive future for the performing arts.

# Critical Acclaim: MorDance in the Spotlight - Press Quotes that Illuminate Our Artistic Journey



Its New York season, scheduled for two nights last week at Symphony Space on the Upper West Side, was, to put it mildly, a knockout."

If "Emily" isn't a masterpiece, at least one appropriate to my description of the company... it's pretty close: it's the finest McEwen-choreographed dance that I've seen to date."

"...every facet of the dances comes together brilliantly."

"McEwen presents imagery of the albatross compellingly, perhaps the finest example of bird or flight simulation that I've seen, visually as well as choreographically."

"Based on those pieces I've seen, McEwen doesn't choreograph to music for the sake of choreographing to music. While her dances may, and usually do, amplify whatever score is being used, they're more than efforts to visualize it. Her choreography usually has an apparent purpose beyond that, one that she often makes quite clear even before the dance begins."

"her (Polina Nazaykinskaya) score for "Emily" is a step, or a note, above: it's an intriguing, entertaining, and melodic piece of contemporary classical music"

"The dance grips the viewer immediately and never lets go. There's a pulse and flow to it, a consequence both of the music and choreography, that's reflected in the visual dynamic of every company member. This is true for the other two dances on the program as well"

-Jerry Hochman of "Critical Dance"

# MorDance: Igniting Passion, Inspiring Change, and Enriching Communities through Youth Empowerment

A hallmark of our youth programming is the free full-length performance offered annually to students in under-resourced communities. This special occasion serves as a transformative and memorable experience, opening doors for a new generation of artists and creative citizens to engage with and appreciate the performing arts. MorDance is not merely a dance company; we are a catalyst for change, using artistic excellence to foster civic engagement and inspire a dynamic and inclusive future for the performing arts. Join us in this exciting venture, as MorDance's new home in Yonkers propels us to greater heights of creativity, impact, and community enrichment.

NYC public school students watching MorDance on April 27th at Gerald W Lynch Theater



- **Watching dance performances with storylines like this can bring people together, because people can talk about the message behind the dances.**

-Jacqueline, 4th grader

- **We can use social issues and make art out of it to make people aware about what is happening around us. In the performance they did this with recycling and women's rights.**

-Renesme, 4th grader

- **It was a really great experience and we were so grateful for this opportunity.**

-Melissa Silverberg, 4th grade teacher

- **I felt happy while watching the dance performance, because I knew that I could do something like that when I get older if I work hard at it.**

-Valentina, 4th grader

- **It was nice to see the dance show because I saw people from different countries or races and it was nice to see everyone together working for the same thing.**

-Joseph, 4th grader

# Budget Breakdown and Philanthropic Impact

At MorDance, transparency and responsible stewardship of resources are integral to our mission. We are dedicated to providing a clear understanding of how our budget supports the programs that define our commitment to artistic excellence and accessibility.

## Annual Budget Breakdown: Sustaining Excellence

Our budget allocation ensures the success of our diverse programs, encompassing performances, outreach initiatives, and educational activities. Here's a breakdown of how funds are distributed:

### Artistic Productions (50%):

- Covers production costs, venue rentals, and artistic fees.
- Enables the creation of original balletic works and ensures high-quality performances.

### Community Engagement and Outreach (15%):

- Supports free public performances and open rehearsals
- Fuels our commitment to accessibility, inclusivity, and fostering creative expression in underserved communities.

### Youth Outreach Programs (15%):

- Funds travel expenses, workshop materials, and free performances for students.
- Sustains our ongoing efforts to bring the transformative power of dance to schools and community organizations.

### Operational Costs (20%):

- Covers essential administrative expenses, rent, utilities, ensuring the efficient functioning of MorDance.



## **Philanthropic Support: Igniting Impact**

Philanthropic support is the cornerstone of MorDance's ability to make a lasting impact. Your support empowers us to reach new heights and continue our mission. Here's how your philanthropic contributions will be utilized:

### Program Expansion in Yonkers:

- Facilitates the integration of MorDance into the Yonkers community, expanding our programming and reach.

### Youth Outreach Enhancement:

- Strengthens our youth outreach programs, providing more opportunities for underserved students to engage with the arts.

### Artistic Innovation:

- Fuels the creation of groundbreaking balletic works, pushing the boundaries of the art form and contributing to our legacy of artistic excellence.

### Access and Inclusivity Initiatives:

- Supports initiatives to keep our performances affordable, ensuring that everyone in our community can experience the transformative power of dance.

## **Current Funding Landscape and Gaps: Charting Our Course Forward**

MorDance is grateful for the support of our current funding partners, including foundations, individual donors, and corporate sponsors. However, as we embark on this exciting new chapter in Yonkers, there are opportunities for additional support to bridge funding gaps and elevate our impact.

### Current Funding Sources:

- Grants - National Endowment for the Arts, New York State Council on The Arts, Kaleta A Doolin Foundation, O'Donnell Green Music and Dance Foundation, Dance/NYC,
- Individual donor contributions
- Corporate support from matching grants from IBM, Biogen, JP Morgan Chase

### Funding Gaps:

- Materials to outfit our new home for dance in Yonkers (flooring, mirrors, seating, sound equipment)
- Increased outreach programming in Yonkers
- Scholarships for under-resourced students
- Production costs for new balletic works

Your contribution can make a significant difference in our ability to address these gaps and ensure the continued success of MorDance's transformative programs. Join us on this journey, and together, let's shape a future where the arts thrive and communities are enriched through the power of dance.