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joBdance presents *(dis)connect*

An immersive multimedia experience incorporating dance, video, and installation, exploring the tensions created by technology between the individual and community

May 6 & 7 / 7:30PM
Yaw Theater / 6520 5th Ave S
\$10 admission*

**A major portion of the donation-based ticket sales will be gifted to Coyote Creativity, a Seattle-based organization that works to challenge young adolescents of every race and socio-economic background to build skills, creative thinking, self-awareness, and social awareness through hands-on projects with professionals in creative fields.*

SEATTLE—This May, Yaw Theater will host the premiere work of **joBdance**, a brand new Seattle dance company founded by Seattle dance artist Joseph “jo” Blake. This ambitious inaugural work will center on a duet between Seattle dance favorites Sean O’Bryan and Alicia Pugh, and will feature an immersive 4-channel video installations by local dance/media artist Devin Muñoz. Based on the past year that Blake spent traveling around the world with a Bonderman Travel Fellowship from the University of Washington, *(dis)connect* explores the tensions between the individual and their community, and the role technology plays in both forging and complicating our connections with each other.

“Blake’s skill made the difficult task of repeating each motion exactly as before—at the same level in space, with the same energy—look effortless.” –Charlotte Hart, *Seattle Dances*, 2016

West Coast audiences may know Jo Blake best for his work over the past ten years as a star dancer with the Salt Lake City company Ririe-Woodbury, where he danced for over ten years to the delight of audiences in Salt Lake and beyond. Since coming to the University of Washington in 2015 for his masters in dance, Blake has quickly become one to watch in Seattle’s next generation of choreographers. Following his critically acclaimed solo at *Men in Dance* last year, *(dis)connect* marks Blake’s most ambitious project to date: the audience will sit in an enclosed, inward-facing square, surrounded on all sides with a 4-channel video installation that mixes footage of the city of Seattle with live-feeds of the performance itself. At the same time, audience members who can’t attend may tune in online to watch the performance unfold in real time. At the center of this multi-channel extravaganza are O’Bryan and Pugh: two people, two bodies, attempting to build a relationship in the here and now, surrounded by a whirlwind of screens that traverse space and time.

“ ‘only he might know?’ by Joseph ‘jo’ Blake...was a very personal, very moving commentary on the dilemma of men who are trapped in the macho universe of physical performance.” –*Seattle Gay News*, 2018

This contrast between the focused, nuanced duet between Pugh and O'Bryan and the large, looming projections reflects the dilemma faced by Seattle and much of the world today: in a city laden with technological innovation and a culture that is so relentlessly interconnected, there are resounding questions and anxieties about our ability to meet and connect with other people. *(dis)connect* places the audience at the center of that conflict, in an effort to connect artist and audience in the same struggle of reconciling these impossible tensions of the modern age.

**Note: Both performances will be followed by an open conversation between the artists and the audience, in a chance to engage each other face-to-face, and to commune about the difficulties surrounding (dis)connection in the contemporary world.*

Performance Dates + Times:

Mon May 6 / 8PM

Tues May 7 / 8PM

Location: Yaw Theater / 6520 5th Ave S Seattle, WA 98108

Tickets: \$10 minimum donation

Open Rehearsal: Sun April 21 7-9PM

[Event Page](#)

[Facebook Event Page](#)

ARTIST BIOS

Joseph “jo” Blake | Choreographer – jo earned his M.F.A. from the University of Washington (2017) and B.F.A. from the University of Utah ('03). As a member of the Salt Lake City-based Ririe-Woodbury Dance Company, he taught and performed internationally for ten years dancing in works by such artists as Alwin Nikolais, Doug Varone, Wayne McGregor, Carolyn Carlson, Bill T Jones, Susan Marshall, Charlotte Boye-Christensen, as well as many other influential dance makers. His interest in educational theory, community-based engagement, and social justice have led him to work with community outreach projects such as Yoga Behind Bars and Mark Morris's Dance for Parkinson's Disease. Last year, jo spent eight-months on a UW Bonderman Travel Fellowship visiting Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, Chile, Australia, Nepal, Thailand, and Bali, re-kindling his appreciation and passion for community and culture. Currently, jo is a part-time lecturer with the University of Washington's Department of Dance, guest artist with NOW-ID Interdisciplinary Dance, certified movement instructor for Minding Motion for Graceful Aging, and choreographer of new works for future national festivals.

Sean O'Bryan | Dancer - Sean O'Bryan is a Seattle based dance artist, where he obtained a double degree in public health and dance from the University of Washington. He started dancing his sophomore year of college and has worked with a variety of artists, which include Hannah Wiley, Jennifer Salk, David Dorfman, Mark Dendy, Molly Scott, Ryan Corrison, Rachael Lincoln, Erin Cardinal, Stephanie Liapis, and Wilson Mendietta. He has performed for the American Dance Guild festival in NY, Men in Dance, Contemporary Ballet Spotlight, Seattle International Dance Festival, Chamber Dance Company at the UW for three seasons, Stephanie Liapis Dance, The Solo(s) Project by Molly Scott, Khambatta Dance Company, and has recently performed a work outside of the Tadao Ando Art Centre at Chateau La Coste in France for Jennifer Salk. During his time at the UW, Sean was awarded the Evelyn H. Green Endowed Scholarship for Artistic Promise in his junior year and received the Bates Dance Festival Merit Scholarship for its summer intensive his senior year.

Alicia Pugh | Dancer - Alicia's formal dance education started at the age of 6, when her mom and dad decided it was time to put all that energy twirling around the kitchen, into a dance studio. Pursuing this

training took her all over the country: Pacific Northwest Ballet School, Boston Ballet School, Ballet Chicago Studio Company, San Francisco Ballet School, and Alonzo King Lines Ballet Training Program. Since then, Alicia has been working with choreographers and dance companies based in Seattle. She is thrilled to have collaborated with Daniel Costa Dance, Stephanie Liapis, Cameo Lethem, Beth Terwilleger, and Jo Blake!

Becca Blackwell | Production Manager - Becca Blackwell has been freelancing across Seattle for 9 years. She is currently the Production Stage Manager for Whim W'him, and is in her 3rd season with the company. She has recently acted as Technical Director for Lavinia Vago's NOESIS X, szalt's moon&, Kim Lusk's a Dance for Dark Horses and AJnC's Young Manic: I Wanted to be on Broadway. She was also the Producer/Stage Manager for Alice Gosti's MDICAC. Becca is currently dancing her heart out with Michele Miller/Catapult Dance, where she acts as both company member and Production Manager. Becca also freelances as a stage manager, lighting designer and concept artist. Her work has been witnessed at On the Boards, Velocity Dance Center, Broadway Performance Hall, Base, The Erickson Theatre and Washington Hall. She brings the artists concepts to fruition by facilitating the environment, space and visual landscape.

Devin Munoz | Videographer - Seattle based dancer Devin Muñoz received her early dance training in Seattle where she graduated from the Pacific Northwest Ballet school student division. In May 2017, Devin graduated Magna Cum Laude from Cornish College of the Arts with a BFA in Dance. She has performed in pieces such as The Bridge Project 2019 by Beth Terwilleger, Tint Dance Festival 2019 with Alicia Mullikin and PRICEArts, as well as guest performances with AU Collective. When Devin isn't dancing she spends her time creating dance films and collaborating with local dancers through photo series.

Sam Wagner | Photographer – While growing up on Whidbey Island, Sam discovered photography when playing with his parents old film cameras, which eventually led to his work in DSLR. For the last eight years, he has been shooting nature and night photography. This is his first endeavor-capturing dance on film. Sam found that jo has a compelling vision for his work and wanted to help him bring the multidisciplinary concept to life.

Jim Coleman | Video Consultant -

Trevor Price | Composer - Trevor Price is an accomplished singer/songwriter whose music has been featured in documentaries and independent films. He has produced and engineered multiple #1 billboard charting albums and has performed music worldwide. He is the owner of The Lounge Recording Studio in Salt Lake City, UT.

Michael Hart | Live- Feed Web Designer – Michael is in his third year as a student at the UW studying computer science and dance. He met jo through taking a jazz dance class taught by him late last year. Michael loves working on new projects and has been excited to help jo fulfill the technical goals of the performance.

Jana Kincl | Stage Manager - Jana Kincl has danced her whole life and enjoys every type of dance. Seattle has been her home for a lot of years now. She has worked with a variety of fantastic choreographers and companies, including Veronica Mendonca/VAM, Catapult/Michele Miller, Catherine Cabeen/ Hyphen, Alana O Rogers Company, Lily Verlaine and Jasper McCann, Jason Ohlberg, Zoe Scofield and ARC Dance Productions.

ABOUT joBdance

joBdance. | a conceptual experience is a project-based dance company creating conceptual experience based on inter-/intra- personal connections through multidisciplinary collaborations.

LINKS

Jo Blake

Instagram: [@jobdanceco](#)

Website: joblakedance.com