



# Benita Bike's DANCEART COMPANY

Enter the world of elegant dance and extraordinary music!

Fall 2024

## SHARING DANCE IN LA AND BEYOND!

Phew! Another year has flown by for our Company! We presented several So Cal dance outreach programs in libraries, colleges, community centers and museums, participated in a Foothills Dancemakers joint show, and trekked out to Seattle to perform twice at the Erickson Theater on the campus of Seattle Central College.

What a great experience we had in Seattle! Some audience comments

*"Joyful movement and a lot of variety" / "Choreography was unique and artful."*

*"I loved the honesty of the work... The dancers were wonderful — strong performers with a clear grasp of the choreographer's intentions. The work is musical, sensitive, and beautifully structured."*

Our 44th Season will be filled with more of the same — high quality concert dance performances on the concert stage and in the neighborhoods of Los Angeles and beyond.



PERFORMANCE OF NEW DANCE  
"OFF THE PATH"

**Nola Gibson, Micay Jean, Lydia McDonald and Skye Schmidt Varga** have left DanceArt and are moving on to other life projects. We thank them for their beautiful dancing and wish them well!

Our new Company members are:



**Sarah Chan** is a Los Angeles based dancer. She began her dance training in classical ballet, pointe, and classical modern under the direction of Gloria Govrin and Libby Nye. She graduated from The Ohio State University with a B.S. in Human Nutrition and a minor in Dance. Upon graduation, Sarah joined Columbus Modern Dance Company and had the pleasure of performing with them for a season before relocating to the Bay Area. Sarah's professional dance experience in the Bay Area includes dancing with ArcTangent Dance and PERSpectives Dance Company. In addition to dance, Sarah is also a Registered Dietitian.



**Dakota Merritt** is Las Vegas born and raised. She grew up training at Bunker Dance Center and at Las Vegas Academy of Arts under artists, Peter Chu, Naomi Stikeman, Jeanene Huggins, and Robert Contreras. After graduation she moved onto the University of Arizona to pursue a BFA in dance and a minor in nutritional sciences. There she performed in works by Autumn Eckman, Christopher Compton, Tammy Dyke-Compton, Jason Horton, Frank Chavez, set by Hayley Meier and Jason Horton, and Paul Taylor,

set by Linda Kent. Dakota has also attended summer intensives and programs to further her education in dance. Currently Dakota resides in Los Angeles as a professional freelance artist and as a personal trainer.



**Dalya Modlin** is a movement artist based in Los Angeles. She graduated from the University of California, Santa Barbara with a BFA in Dance and BS in Psychology. Originally from Southern California, she honed her skills at the Orange County School of the Arts Commercial Dance Conservatory. At UCSB Dalya toured with the Student Company across Europe and apprenticed with Santa Barbara Dance Theater. In August 2023 she became a company member of Santa Barbara Dance Theater. Some of her Performance experience includes work by Helen Simoneau, Rosie Herrera, Brandon Whited, Brian Golden and most recently she has performed with Limón Dance Company.



**Emily Wallace** began her dance training at Summit School of Dance and Alpine Dance Academy in her hometown of Breckenridge, Colorado. She went on to receive her Bachelor of Fine Arts in Dance at Colorado State University. Emily danced professionally with Denver based dance companies Hannah Kahn Dance Company and Life/Art Dance Ensemble before relocating to Los Angeles. She looks forward to her first season with Benita Bike's DanceArt.

## KEEPING IN TOUCH



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



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## UPCOMING SHOWS

For a listing of concerts see:  
[www.danceart.org/performances](http://www.danceart.org/performances)

We are excited to introduce our  
**NEW PROMO VIDEO:**  
[tinyurl.com/danceartpromo](https://tinyurl.com/danceartpromo)

SUPPORTERS 2023-2024

BE A SUPPORTER!  
DanceArt.org/donate

In support of our company, DanceArt receives grants, cash donations, and in-kind donations, all of which are essential to advancing our mission of sharing dance. We would like to thank the following 2023-2024 Season supporters.



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DRESSING ROOM  
IN SEATTLE:  
SKYE, NOLA,  
AND LYDIA



COMPANY AT SEATTLE’S  
SPACE NEEDLE

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and extraordinary music!

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