

## **iMEE Complete Company History: (2009-2017)**

After more than fifteen seasons as principal artists with dance companies in Miami, Florida, Irvine, California, Houston, Texas, and Santa Barbara, California, nationally and internationally acclaimed dancers, Spencer Gavin Hering and Andrea Dawn Shelley co-founded **iMEE (infinite Movement Ever Evolving.)** iMEE debuted and exploded onto the dance scene with their World Premiere performances at the Lobero Theatre, Santa Barbara, California, in June 2009. iMEE is a professional touring dance company dedicated to presenting new works and collaborating with other dance organizations. iMEE offers job opportunities as well as performance opportunities to professional guest artists, established and emerging choreographers, young artists, musicians, vocalists, theatrical artists and visual artists. The company, with its "mix-it-up" collaborative of artistic genres, takes pride in providing programs that are innovative, passionate and energetic.

***"Through the innovative collaboration of artistic mediums, the artists of iMEE (infinite Movement Ever Evolving) remind us that violins can dance, sculptures can breathe, and dancers can speak."*** -Erin Smith, CASA Magazine Santa Barbara, California

iMEE looks to not only enrich communities culturally, but also to establish, inspire and captivate audiences. iMEE is dedicated to continuing to branch out through collaboration with organizations in regions of Texas as well as Southern Florida, Southern California, Rhode Island, Boston and Italy. Within these communities, iMEE offers master classes, dance on film opportunities and collaborative opportunities to visual artists, theatrical artists, musicians and dance artists.

Over the past seven years, iMEE has provided quality art education through multi-disciplinary collaborations and dance programming for audiences at the Barclay Theatre in Irvine, CA, the Lobero Theatre in Santa Barbara, CA, the Duncan Theater in Lake Worth, FL, the Kravis Center for Performing Arts Center, Rinker Theater in West Palm Beach, FL, the Barnevelder Movement / Arts Complex in Houston, TX, the Miller Outdoor Theater in Houston, TX, Wortham Center, Cullen Theater in Houston, TX, the Ailey CitiGroup Theater in New York, NY, the Kaplan Theater in Houston, TX, the Teatro Astra in Turin, Italy, the Plovdiv Drama Theatre in Plovdiv, Bulgaria, the Megley Black Box Theatre in Newport, RI and the Mandelstam Theater in South Miami, Fl.

The company has participated in several Festivals, including: Weekend of Texas Contemporary Dance 2009, 2010, 2011; FestOval of Dance (FL) 2012; Houston Dance Festival 2011; McCallum Theatre's 15th & 17th Annual Choreography Festival (CA) 2012, 2014; Palcoscenico de Danza (Italy) 2013; The Dance Gallery Festival (TX & NY) 2011, 2012; Boston Contemporary Dance Festival 2014; Mass Dance Festival (MASS) 2014; the black box INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL THEATRE & DANCE (Bulgaria) 2015, 2017; Barnstorm Dance Fest (TX) 2016 and Festival Internacional de Danza Contemporanea de la Ciudad de Mexico (Mexico City) 2016. CLICK HERE to learn more about our 2016/17 Season.

iMEE completed its first tri-regional master class tour across the nation in 2010 and has continued the tours throughout 2011-2012, 2012-2013 & 2013-2014. Master classes & workshops have been held at various dance companies, colleges, universities, school of the arts, and privately owned dance schools in California, Texas & Florida. Additionally, iMEE offers further arts education through Open Rehearsals held for the public during each rehearsal process providing an up-close and personal experience with dance. At the end of each performance series, in every city, iMEE also offers a Question and Answer Session in which audience members may speak with the dancers, choreographers, and directors and ask questions about the performance they have just experienced.

iMEE, in collaboration with O Dance (a dance company based in West Palm Beach, Florida,) joined forces with visual artists from South Florida to create new works performed in **February 2010, March 2011 and April 2012.** HopeWerks (a

program created by Hope Stone Dance company based in Houston, Texas) presented iMEE, during a two-month residency in **August 2010**. iMEE presented three performances of their program, "VERSED", as part of *Hope Stone Dance's Lemonade Stand Festival* at the Barnevelder Movement / Arts Complex in Houston, Texas. iMEE has also presented works at the 15th, 16th & 17th Annual *Weekend of Texas Contemporary Dance* at the Miller Outdoor Theater in Houston, Texas in the **Fall of 2009, 2010 & 2011**. iMEE, in partnership with Houston-based dance companies *Hope Stone Dance* and *NobleMotion Dance*, co-founded the Houston Dance Festival (HDF), a five-week contemporary dance festival. Each of the three companies presented their own weekend of performances in **August & September 2011** at the *Barnevelder Movement / Arts Complex*. The festival, offered young artists the opportunity to participate in a Master Class Workshop Series at the *Houston Ballet Center for Dance* with each participating company as well as renowned artists from the Houston area. iMEE presented three performances of their Program, "Superfluous" and "Grim Eye" which featured two World Premieres, a first-ever collaboration between iMEE Directors, and a work by internationally renowned choreographer, Maurice Causey. iMEE was honored to introduce Causey's work to American audiences. His work, "Grim Eye," received stellar reviews from Houston critics, including some of the highest accolades in Houston, Texas for the season. Working with Causey, iMEE Directors found a like-minded individual and choreographic voice well suited for the continued artistic growth of iMEE. A new relationship took shape resulting in the appointment of Maurice Causey as iMEE's first Resident Choreographer, in **January 2012**.

iMEE's 2011-2012 season proved to be an exciting season of new relationships, collaborations and the solidifying of iMEE quickly becoming a company of national prominence and "a company to watch." iMEE premiered work at *The Dance Gallery Festival* in Huntsville, Texas as well in New York, New York at the Ailey CitiGroup Theater on **October 14 & 15, 2011** receiving rave reviews from New York critics for their first performances in New York City. iMEE was commissioned to present a new work at the JCC's *Triple Focus* in Houston, Texas. iMEE Artistic Director, Spencer Gavin Hering collaborated with Photographer, Simon Gentry & Soprano, Natasha Manley for a new work, "elliptical capture" which premiered at *Triple Focus* at the Kaplan Theater in Houston, Texas on **January 28 & 29, 2012**. iMEE's long-standing relationship with O Dance continued to evolve and O Dance commissioned iMEE to present Andrea Dawn Shelley's, provocative work, "Frozen Angels" as well as "the back of beyond" a multi-media, multi-disciplined World Premiere collaboration between Spencer Gavin Hering and iMEE Theatrical artist & musician, Graham Patzner at *FestOval of Dance 2012*. The two works premiered at the Kravis Performing Arts Center, Rinker Theater in West Palm Beach, Florida on **April 6, 7 & 8, 2012**. As a testament to the success of Hering's new creation, the *Houston Metropolitan Dance Company* invited iMEE to present "the back of beyond" for their Program, *Signature Works* at the Wortham Center, Cullen Theater in Houston, Texas on **April 28, 2012**. The *Houston Metropolitan Dance Company* also invited Associate Artistic Director, Andrea Dawn Shelley to create a new work for their 2013-2014 Season as well as Artistic Director, Spencer Gavin Hering to create his second work for the company's 2014-2015 Season. In May 2012, iMEE served a two-week residency with the company's newly appointed resident choreographer, Maurice Causey in Amsterdam, The Netherlands. Mr. Causey set an 10-minute duet, "Hither Thither" for iMEE Directors, marking his second original work for the company.

iMEE's 2012-2013 season showed much promise for our continued development as a touring company of national and international prominence. In **August 2012**, iMEE hosted the company's inaugural iMEE MOVEMENT WORKSHOP for a select 20 dancers in Houston, Texas. iMEE Directors enjoyed sharing iMEE's philosophy as well as iMEE repertoire with professional and pre-professional young artists. **September 2012**, iMEE Directors traveled to Huntsville, Texas to participate in a weeklong residency at *Sam Houston State University (SHSU)* on **September 17 - 21, 2012**. Hering and Shelley taught ballet class daily to SHSU Dance Department students and set an original work, *ögeretla* on ten, select dancers. The work premiered at SHSU Dance's Fall Spectrum in November 2012. **October 7, 2012** marked iMEE's second Workshop offering. Twenty-one gifted movers had the opportunity to participate and explore modalities during our *Forsythe Improvisational Workshop* with iMEE Resident Choreographer, Maurice Causey. iMEE was selected once

again to participate in *The Dance Gallery Festival* in Huntsville, Texas on **October 5 & 6, 2012** and New York City on **October 12, 13 & 14, 2012**. iMEE was also chosen to perform an additional day in New York City in *The Dance Gallery Festival's* new program, *Level UP*. This program presented & commissioned three up and coming companies/choreographers to present a 25- minute body of work. Associate Artistic Director, Andrea Dawn Shelley presented her new commissioned work "Sus Miradas." **March 2013** marked the company's first tour to Europe. The *Rassegna Palcoscenico Danza* presented iMEE in Torino, Italy at the Teatro Astra on **March 28 & 29, 2013**. iMEE presented two, full evenings of dance to sold out houses which featured works by iMEE Directors and iMEE Resident Choreographer, Maurice Causey. Paolo Mohovich, Director of the *Rassegna Palcoscenico Danza* extended his invitation for iMEE to return to Torino, Italy again for their 2015-2016 Season. **April 2013** marked the beginning of a new relationship between iMEE and *Island Moving Company (IMC)*, a nonprofit dance organization, founded by Miki Ohlsen in Newport, Rhode Island. iMEE Artistic Director, Spencer Gavin Hering was appointed to serve as IMC's Associate Artistic Director, Ballet Master & Resident Choreographer for their 2013-2014 Season. IMC therefore invited iMEE to participate in a yearlong residency under their *Great Friends Touring Project* and iMEE resided in Rhode Island between the years of 2013-2016. Hering allocated specific duties/responsibilities to Associate Artistic Director, Andrea Dawn Shelley who served as iMEE's acting Artistic Director for the 2013-2014, 2014-2015 & 2015-2016 seasons.

iMEE's 2013-2014 season facilitated a unique cultural exchange between the two companies and the surrounding communities of Newport. Spencer Gavin Hering settled into his new role at IMC gracefully and brought a renewed energy to the company by offering IMC audiences four World Premiere works including an exciting collaboration with tenor, Youngchul Park and pianist Taeyoung Lee. Hering was also commissioned to create his first, full evening of site-specific dance which premiered September 2014. Hering collaborated with musicians, Lewis Patzner & Sascha Jacobsen to create an original score for Hering's spin on the Legend of Sleepy Hollow, "Brom Bones Tale." **September 2013**, iMEE Artistic Director, Andrea Dawn Shelley worked with IMC Executive Director, Dominique Alfandre and served as the Project Coordinator for IMC's site specific, bi-annual festival, *Open for Dancing/O4D2013*. **January 2014** she was commissioned by IMC to re-stage her award winning work, "Unbeknownst" as well as create a new solo work, "Dante's Beatrice" which premiered at the Rosecliff Mansion, **March 2014** and has since been presented at the Casino Theatre, **May 2014** and the Great Friends Meeting House, **July 2014**. **September 2013** Shelley was also invited to create an original work for Salve Regina University's performing company, *Extensions Dance Company* in Newport, Rhode Island. "Last Minute Poets" premiered **November 2013** at the Casino Theatre. Both, Hering & Shelley were offered Associate Adjunct Positions at Salve Regina University (SRU) in Newport, Rhode Island for the Spring/2014 Semester where they taught their signature iMEE Contemporary Ballet Class. Shelley continued on as Adjunct Dance Faculty teaching Ballet until the conclusion of Fall 2015 Semester. During her time at SRU Shelley additionally assumed the roles of Resident Choreographer and Company Director for the University's junior company. Hering also created a new work for their performing company, *Extensions Dance Company* in **October 2014**. As iMEE took a step back from presenting works performed by the artists of iMEE, the company Directors forged forward artistically as they shared their choreographic work with professional dance companies and their audiences throughout the U.S.

iMEE's 2014-2015 season was full steam ahead while iMEE resided in Newport, RI and presented their work for the first time in the New England area. **August 2014** iMEE participated in the *Boston Contemporary Dance Festival* at the historic *Paramount Theatre* in Boston, MA as well as performed at the *Thousand Oaks Civic Arts Plaza* in Thousand Oaks, CA, offering Artistic Director, Andrea Dawn Shelley's sensual & intriguing works, "Frozen Angels" and "UNTITLED." **September 2014** iMEE presented IVONICE (iMEE Directors signature duet) at the *Mass Dance Festival* at the Bowker Auditorium in Amherst, Massachusetts marking iMEE's second appearance in New England. **November 2014** iMEE returned to the *McCallum Theatre* in Palm Desert, CA for a second time and presented Spencer Gavin Hering's work, "Fibonacci" at the *17th Annual Choreography Festival* at which he won the 2nd place award in the Junior Division. **June 2015** marked iMEE's second European tour. iMEE presented "the sum of four / duets + quartets" at the black box

*INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL THEATRE & DANCE* (the black box IFTD) in Plovdiv, Bulgaria. "the sum of four / duets + quartets" offered a diverse collection of iMEE Co-Director, Andrea Dawn Shelley's choreographic work as well as a new collaborative work, "the secret of life is to fall seven times & get up eight" created by Shelley and iMEE Co-Director, Spencer Gavin Hering. **July 2015** iMEE presented their work to audiences in Newport, Rhode Island for the first time. iMEE participated in the *Great Friends Dance Festival* presented by *Island Moving Company*. iMEE offered excerpts of "the sum of four..." performed on tour while in Plovdiv, Bulgaria. **August 2015** iMEE Co-Director, Shelley was a recipient of a Project Grant from the *Rhode Island State Council on the Arts* for the continued development of her work, the secret of life is to fall seven times & get up eight. **October 2015** iMEE presented "the sum of four / + one" at the *Megley Black Box Theatre, Antone Academic Center for Culture & The Arts at Salve Regina University (SRU)* in Newport, RI. The presentation of "the sum of four..." marked the third installment of a three part series of "the secret to life is to fall seven times & to get up eight times." iMEE also offered master classes for SRU students, discounted ticket rates for all SRU students & staff as well as held a post performance Q & A session with all participating artists. **October 2015** iMEE Co-Founding Director, Spencer Gavin Hering resigned from his position(s) of Associate Artistic Director, Resident Choreographer, Ballet Master and dancer with *Island Moving Company*. Hering had an excellent two seasons with the company and looks back on his time with *IMC* with much fondness. **November 2015** iMEE Co-Directors were in Residence at *Salve Regina University* in Newport, RI as Guest Choreographers & Mentors during the Fall 2015 Semester creating two original works for the Dance Department's Fall & Spring repertory shows as well as two, site specific works presented in early Fall & Winter 2015. **November 2015** iMEE Co-Directors were commissioned to create original works for *Festival Ballet Providence*'s Program, *Apollo & BACH Suites* in Providence, RI. Both World Premiere works were performed in collaboration with musicians from *Community Music Works* in Providence. Hering premiered, "Bach de Soul Times Six" a cleverly conceived work for six dancers and Shelley premiered "For Saskia" a gripping and deeply emotional quartet. **December 2015** iMEE Directors offered their first WINTER WORKSHOP for young artists in California. iMEE's WINTER WORKSHOP was hosted by *California Dance Theatre / Pacific Festival Ballet* in Agoura Hills, CA.

iMEE's 2016-2017 season has proven itself to be an exciting year of transition and growth. **iMEE** was on the move and presenting work to new & familiar audiences in California, Texas and Mexico City! **April 2016** iMEE presented iMEE Co-Director, Andrea D. Shelley's "Dante's Beatrice" at the *Motion Flux Scholarship Benefit Concert* presented by *Moorpark College Music & Dance Department* on April 23, 2016 in Moorpark, CA. All proceeds from the concert benefited the MC Dance Scholarship Fund. We were happy to participate in this event and assist young artists in furthering their dance education. **May 2016** celebrated iMEE's newest endeavor. iMEE Co-Directors were invited and brought on board to develop and direct, *Mandelstam Dance* the official pre-professional dance program of "The Mandelstam School" in South Miami, FL. *Mandelstam Dance & the Mandelstam Theater* will now house iMEE & our upcoming performances on **January 20 & 21, 2017**. Exciting times lie ahead for iMEE in South Florida! **June 2016** iMEE returned to Houston, Texas to participate and present Shelley's "Dante's Beatrice" at the *Barnstorm Dance Fest* presented by *Dance Source Houston*, **June 23 & 25, 2016**. **July 2016** marked iMEE's third international tour! iMEE performed at the first edition of the *Festival Internacional de Danza Contemporanea de la Ciudad de Mexico / FIDCDMX* in Mexico City. iMEE presented iMEE Co-Director, Andrea D. Shelley's acclaimed "the secret of life is to fall seven times & get up eight" on **July 20 & 22, 2016** at the historic *Teatro de la Ciudad, Esperanza Iris* in the heart of Mexico City. "the secret of life's..." message brought audience members to tears. iMEE also had the pleasure of teaching a Master Class to a vivacious group of (over forty) aspiring dancers at *Mexico City Ballet's Summer Intensive*. **August 2016** iMEE Co-Directors began their new positions in South Miami, FL as Directors of *Mandelstam Dance*. Classes launched, August 29th. iMEE Co-Directors now have the opportunity to share their love of ballet and movement with young artists, as well as, implement their vision for training a well rounded young dancer equipped for today's professional dance standards. iMEE Co-Directors additionally offer *Ballet Technique & iMEE Workshop/Repertoire* classes, every Sunday, as part of *Mandelstam Dance's "Open Class Program"*. **September 2016** Shelley traveled to Bellingham, Washington to re-stage her solo work, "Dante's Beatrice" on *Bellingham Repertory Dance* which

will premiere, January 2017. **December 2016** she also completed a residency as a guest choreographer and master teacher for the *High School of Performing and Visual Arts (HSPVA)* in Houston, TX and will return to Houston, TX **February 2017** to re-stage her work, *The Broken Column* on *METdance*. Shelley reprises this special work, inspired by the life of Frida Kahlo, on a new generation of *METdance* dancers. **March 2017** Hering will travel across the globe to New South Wales, Australia to create an original work on the phenomenal young artists of *Austinmer Dance Theatre*. Hering will be added to *ADT*'s ever growing list of amazing international choreographers, such as: Iraxte Ansa, Maurice Causey & Sagi Gross. **October 2016** iMEE Co-Director, Shelley was a contributing choreographer for the 2nd annual production of *The Haunted Ballet* at "The Barnacle" historical landmark in Coconut Grove, FL. **November 2016** iMEE was invited back to make their second Guest Appearance of 2016 at Moorpark College in Moorpark, CA. iMEE presented Hering's newest creation, 'apportioners & capers of destiny,' an all female trio inspired by the three spinners of destiny and the Greek Mythological tale of the Moirai, at Moorpark College's, *Speaking Movement Concert* on November 17, 18, 19, 20. iMEE also participated in a Master Class series offered to Moorpark College Dance Department students & guests. **January 2017** iMEE will present full programming to South Florida audiences for the first time. "the sum of 4 / + one," which premiered October 2015 at Megley Black Box Theater in Newport, RI will premiere at the *Mandelstam Theater* in South Miami, FL on **Friday, January 20 & Saturday, January 21, 2017**. "the sum of four..." showcases video landscape & film shorts by Oliver Halkowich (an iMEE project artist and soloist with the Houston Ballet,) as well as, concept & choreography by iMEE Co-Directors, Spencer G. Hering & Andrea D. Shelley. **April 2017** iMEE will present Spencer Gavin Hering's visually pleasing "apportioners & capers of destiny" on **Saturday, April 8, 2017** at the *Duncan Theater* in Lake Worth, Florida as part of *create.DANCE.florida* presented by The Dancers' Space. "apportioners & capers of destiny," which recently premiered November 2016 at *Moorpark Performing Arts Center* in Moorpark, CA. Hering will extend the work for it's South Florida premiere in the Spring. iMEE's first performances at the black box *INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL THEATRE & DANCE 2015* were such a success that the company was invited to return to the Festival for a second time! iMEE will premiere "360°" on **May 31-June 6, 2017** at the *Plovdiv Drama Theater* in Plovdiv, Bulgaria at the black box *INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL THEATER & DANCE 2017*. These performances will include, in our line-up of world class artists for the first time, a young artist. It has been a long time goal of the company to incorporate the talents of a young artist alongside iMEE professional artists. The right time and situation has presented itself and we are proud to introduce Jack Wolff as our first iMEE young artist. Hering & Shelley first began their relationship with Wolff in 2012 when he began attending iMEE Sunday Ballet classes in Houston, Texas. Since that time Hering & Wolff have been working intimately together in Newport, RI, Houston, TX, Redlands, CA, Agoura Hills, CA and South Miami, Fl. Young artist, and *American Ballet Theater JKO* full time student, Jack Wolff will join us for our World Premiere of **360°**. Inspired by the Fibonacci sequence in nature, **360°** revolves around the journey through life from adolescences to adulthood... **360°**, full circle.