**Artistic Statement**

By: Gabriel Speiller

Dance can open our hearts and minds to new ideas. It connects us to one another through our shared human experiences. As a choreographer, I am inspired by human connection. I desire for my work to be both human and humane. An audience can come to the theater and leave having experienced daily life's ups and downs, loves, and losses. I always aim to present the most authentic version of myself through my work and in my creative process.

My performing background is Modern and Contemporary, and most of my work is produced in these genres. However, dancing for multiple repertoire companies has molded me into a diverse artist. My choreographic approach is anchored in my desire to create work that has a visceral reaction in both the performers and the audience. Connecting to one another through shared experiences leading to a beautiful collision of empathy, acceptance, and understanding. Each dancer has a unique perspective on life and art that only their body can portray. Part of my creative process is to include the dancer's artistic voices and their thoughts on the subject matter. I search for the human connections between the dancers and allow them to manifest in the space. I believe the most successful process is one where a safe inclusive dance space is created. Recognizing and accepting each dancer’s unique giftings invites endless possibilities into the creative process. My love for partnering and ensemble work is evident in my choreography, both come back to the realization that the person next to you is important.

I’m passionate about collaboration between the arts. I have created three dance-for-camera works which have all been selected to be presented at various film festivals and conferences such as the *PNB Dance Film Festival,* the  *Red Rock Screen Dance Film Festival,* the *College Dance Film Festival,* The *Arizona Dance Film Festival,* and the *Dance Studies Association Conference* in Vancouver CA. With technology and dance becoming more prominent since Covid, I see the importance of dance films not only as a way of sharing my artistic voice but also as an inclusive opportunity for my students. They don’t need a $40,000 camera or have to worry about renting studio space. All they need is their iPhone and field to create something that is beautiful, holds meaning, and can be submitted to festivals all over the world giving them a platform for their artistic voices to be seen.

Dance changed the course of my life. Being a teenager in New York City was tough and I found solstice and safety in dance. As a teenager experiencing depression and anger, I remember the peace that washed over me while watching my first dance performance. It was *Shen Wei Dance Arts* at Lincoln Center. I could not ignore the overwhelming emotions the dance evoked in me. As a witness to dance's power, I aim to create meaningful work. Pursuing the investigation of the human experience and finding new ways to portray dance.