Chamber Dance Company
About The Chamber Dance Company

The Chamber Dance Company’s mission is to identify, produce, and archive modern dance works of artistic and historic significance that have rarely or never been seen by Northwest audiences. Composed of graduate students, CDC is an integral part of the MFA degree in dance at the University of Washington; both were founded in 1990. CDC has performed and recorded over 110 dances choreographed between 1895 and 2011; they are available for viewing and research in the Chamber Dance Company Special Collection created in the 90s and housed in Suzzallo Library. To view a list of choreographers and their works, go to: chamberdancecompanyarchive.com

To access library listings, go to: guides.lib.uw.edu

CDC’s performing and educational reach is extensive. Audience members come from as far south as Portland, as far east as Spokane, and as far north as Vancouver, BC to attend the annual October performances. In 2012, a ten-part series presenting and framing forty modern dance works performed by CDC began airing on UWTV for ten weeks several times each year (available to 1.2 million households in the Seattle area). Founding Artistic Director Hannah Wiley has published twelve documentaries that contextualize specific choreographers and their work; the documentaries can be found in university libraries around the world and are available for purchase at chamberdancecompanyarchive.com

In 1993, the critic for The Seattle Weekly wrote, "This is a vibrant company with terrific repertory . . . sensitive dancers and dynamic repertory make this annual concert one of the best in Seattle, local or otherwise." Such positive response has continued throughout its twenty-seven-year history.

Testimonials

“Thank you for the opportunity to work with your beautiful and dedicated dancers.” —Daniel Nagrin

“The dancers are really exceptional individually and as a group—each so distinctive—yet they blend so beautifully and dance with such a fullness and passion. The pieces look like they were made on those dancers—but the reality is that they made the dances!” —Sarah Stackhouse

“Hannah's artistic integrity, sense of style and keen musicality are truly unique. I trust her artistic direction completely.” —Gemze de Lappe

“You have done a beautiful job with “Orfeo” and it is a special joy for me to see this poetic dance performed with such integrity and honesty.” —Gary Masters

“I can think of no other company in Seattle that I’d rather see—no matter the repertory. The purity of the dance and music is remarkable... You are Seattle’s White Oak and we are lucky to have you. Thank you for the respect you give Seattle audiences by producing such an intelligent, searching event. Bravo!” —Jean Lenihan, Seattle Dance Critic

“The troupe takes meticulous care with costumes, lighting, and of course choreography. The rigor of its art, under the direction of Hannah C. Wiley, translates into pure, buoyant delight for audiences.” —Michael Upchurch, Seattle Times

“...it takes a special kind of obsession to keep looking backward while the rest of the dance world hurtles ahead. Which is part...
of the what makes the project that Hannah Wiley and the University of Washington Chamber Dance Company run so special.”
— Sandra Kurtz, Seattle Weekly

“While the program notes inform us about the thematic ties between Alwin Nikolais and the other choreographers on the bill, as well as their place in the dance firmament, the UW Chamber Dance Company performances was not a dry, academic evening of dance history. Instead, it was a lively, often engrossing, celebration of an artform. From Oskar Shlemmer’s experiments with bodies in space to the small worlds that Nikolais and Lubovitch present us, the evening was a unique opportunity to see some of the best that dance has to offer.” — Marcie Sillman, KUOW

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