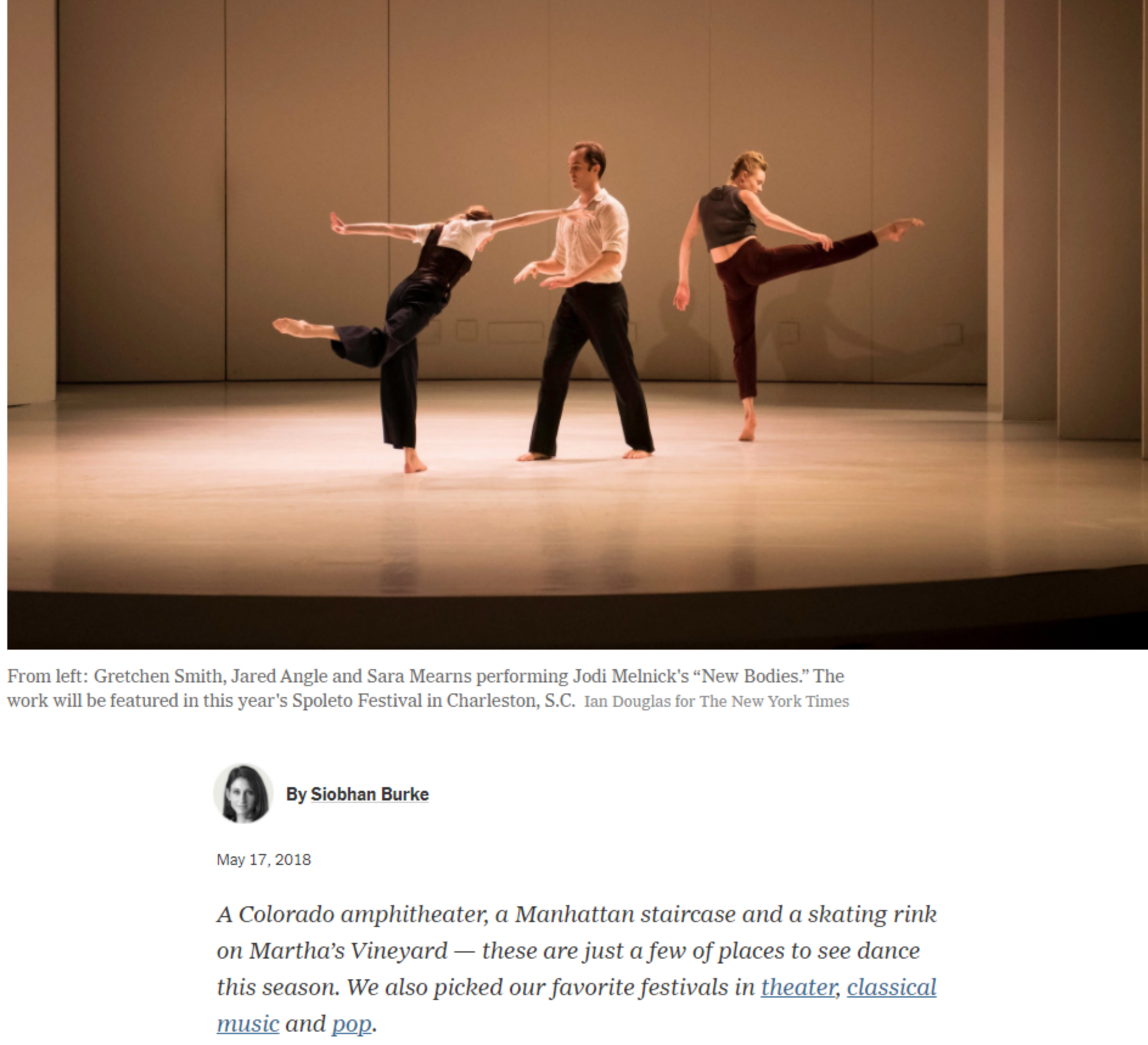


# 15 Summer Dance Festivals, Saratoga to Vail

Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, Email, Print, Link



From left: Gretchen Smith, Jared Angle and Sara Mearns performing Jodi Melnick's "New Bodies." The work will be featured in this year's Spoleto Festival in Charleston, S.C. Ian Douglas for The New York Times

By Sloobhan Burke

May 17, 2018

A Colorado amphitheater, a Manhattan staircase and a skating rink on Martha's Vineyard — these are just a few of places to see dance this season. We also picked our favorite festivals in theater, classical music and pop.

## DanceAfrica

**BROOKLYN, MAY 25-28** You know that summer is on its way when DanceAfrica takes over the Brooklyn Academy of Music and its surrounding streets. This year's edition focuses on South African culture and history, honoring the centennial of Nelson Mandela's birth. The main event features the Ingoma Kwazulu Natal Dance Company — a conglomerate of four South African troupes joining forces especially for the occasion — alongside the Durban-based group Siwela Sonke Dance Theatre and Brooklyn's own electrifying BAM/Restoration Dance Youth Ensemble. Through an array of traditional and contemporary styles, the program traces links between South Africa's anti-apartheid and America's civil rights movements, not neglecting the present. [bam.org](#)

## Spoleto Festival

**CHARLESTON, S.C., MAY 25-JUNE 10** The New York City Ballet principal Sara Mearns and the choreographer Jodi Melnick may come from different worlds — classical ballet and postmodern dance — but they share a similar dedication to discovery, to uncovering layers of artistry new to their audiences and themselves. That curiosity comes through in "New Bodies," Ms. Melnick's intimate work for Ms. Mearns and her fellow City Ballet dancers Jared Angle and Gretchen Smith. Presented June 7-10, it should be a highlight of this year's Spoleto offerings, which open with Miami City Ballet's "Celebration: The Art of the Pas de Deux," a tribute to Jerome Robbins. [spoletousa.org](#)

## The Yard

**MARTHA'S VINEYARD, MASS., JUNE 1-SEPT. 1** A dip in the ocean is one way to cool down on Martha's Vineyard; another is a trip to the ice skating rink. As part of the Yard's exuberant summer arts programming, the Montreal-based troupe Le Patin Libre offers its new work of contemporary dance on ice, "Threshold," at the Ice Arena, on Aug. 3 and 4. (An open skate party follows the second performance.) Exploring what feet can do on less slippery surfaces will be the artists of Tap the Yard, a mini-festival of rhythm-obsessed dance featuring Caleb Teicher (July 5 and 6), the Bang Group (July 7) and Ephrat Asherie Dance (July 14). [dancetheyard.org](#)



Daniel Ulbricht and members of the New York City Ballet performing "The Four Seasons," by Jerome Robbins. Andrea Mohai/The New York Times

## Saratoga Performing Arts Center

**SARATOGA SPRINGS, N.Y., JUNE 6-JULY 30** It's been a year of upheaval for New York City Ballet, with its leader, Peter Martins, retiring amid allegations of sexual harassment and verbal and physical abuse. But its summer routine of over 50 years — a trip to this upstate amphitheater — carries on. The company returns July 17-21 with four programs, including a vibrant mixed bill of recent works by Justin Peck, Lauren Lovette and Gianna Reisen. A closing-night gala salutes the centennials of Jerome Robbins and Leonard Bernstein. Also coming to this stage: the National Ballet of Cuba in "Giselle" (June 6-8) and the Trinity Irish Dance Company (July 30). [spac.org](#)

## American Dance Festival

**DURHAM, N.C., JUNE 14-JULY 21** Founded in 1934 as Bennington School of the Dance, where modern dance pioneers like Martha Graham and Doris Humphrey spent their summers, the American Dance Festival continues supporting innovators of its time. Its 85th season includes Tere O'Connor's latest evening-length work, "Long Run" (July 10-11); and a premiere by Abby Zbikowski for Dayton Contemporary Dance Company (June 14-16). Also in the lineup is "Wondrous Women," a program of solos created and performed by, among others, the inventive tap artist Michelle Dorrance, the classical Indian dancer Aparna Ramaswamy and the dexterous Camille A. Brown, who is behind the recent Broadway revival of "Once On This Island." Ronald K. Brown brings his signature style of African-based modern dance (June 28-30) and receives this year's Scripps/American Dance Festival Award for lifetime achievement. [americandancefestival.org](#)

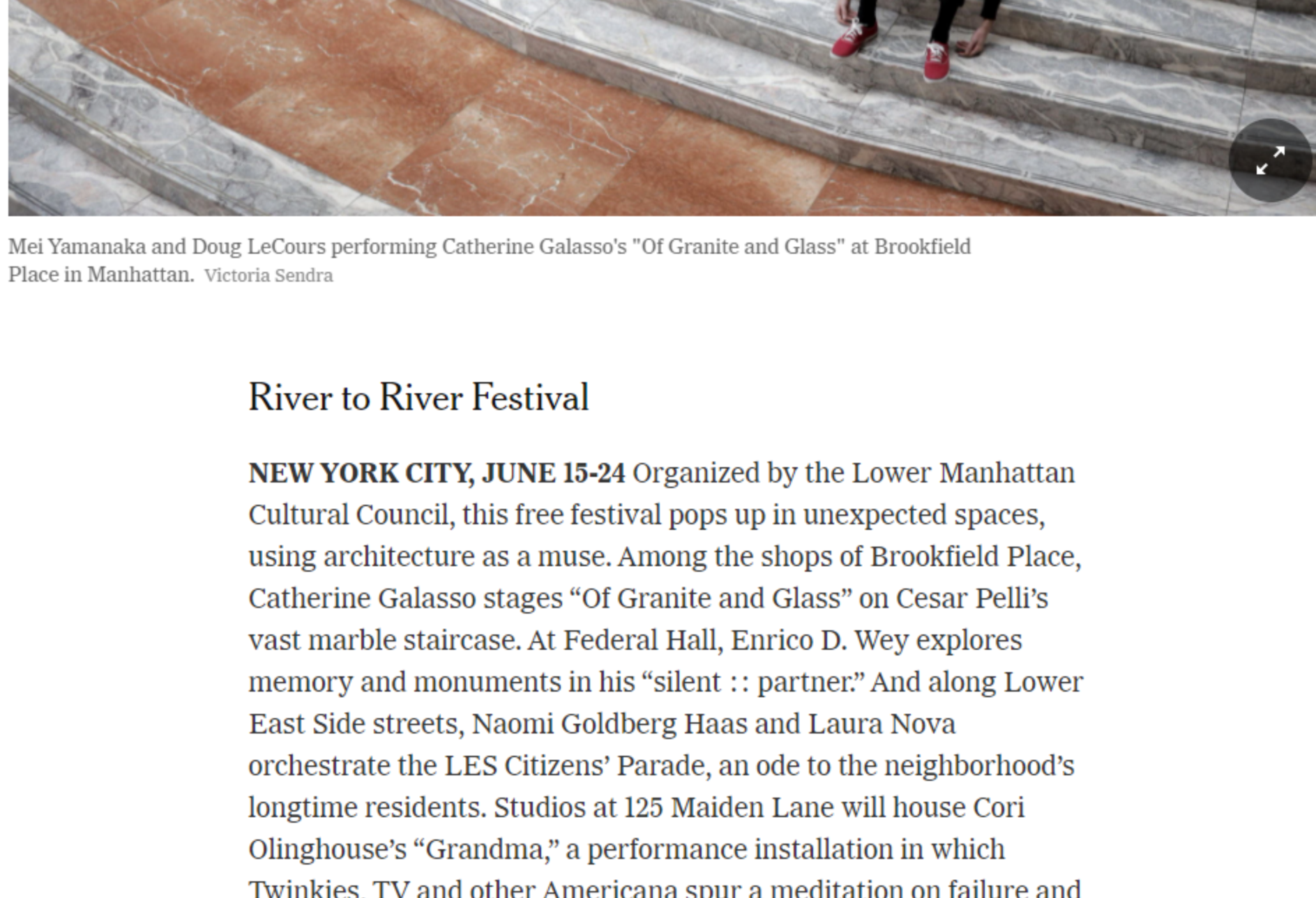
### Editors' Picks

See Fencer People, Take Fencer Showers.

The One Book Stacey Abrams Would Require the President to Read

When Growth-Ups Have Imaginary Friends

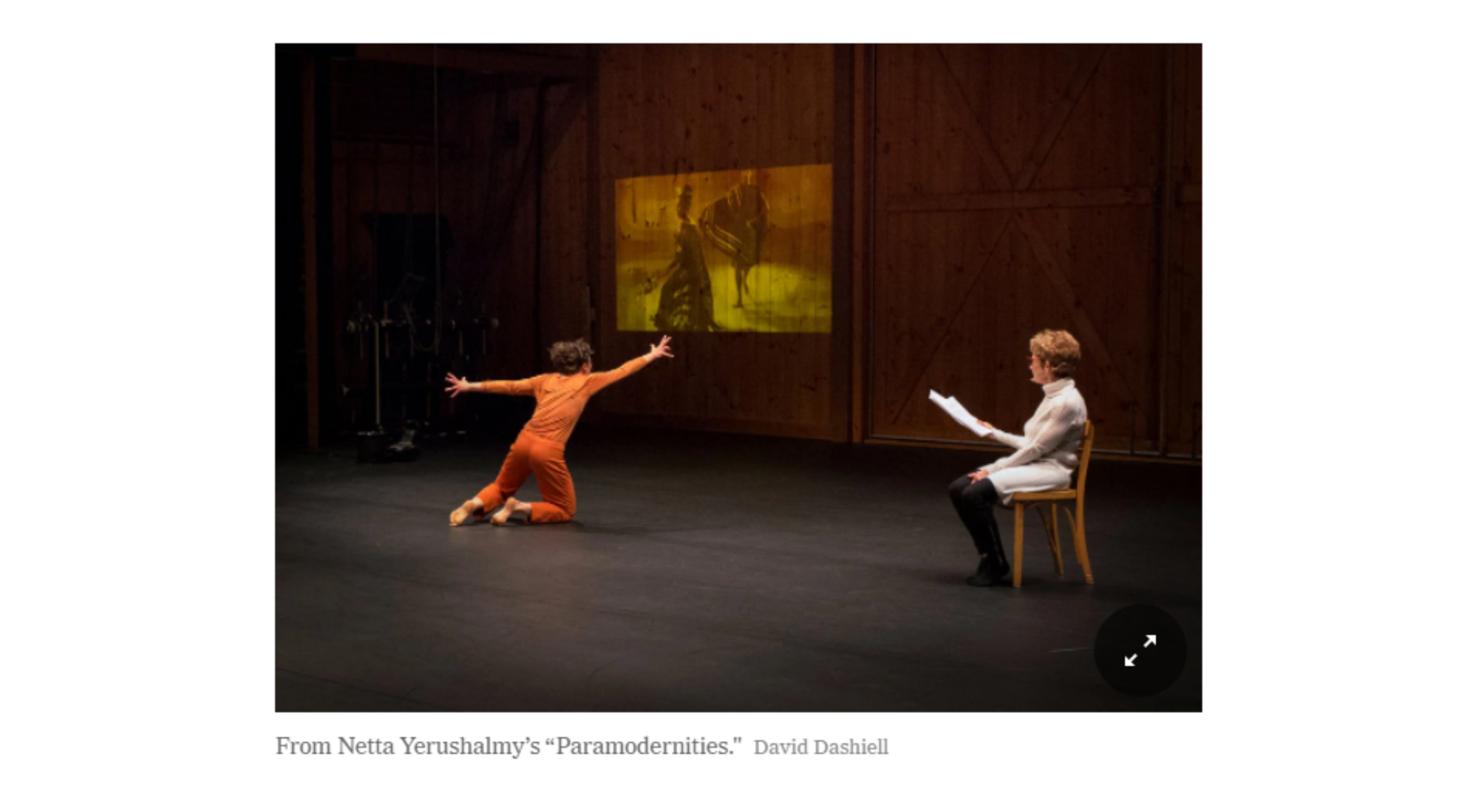
RED POPS! Jammed A Luxury Shoe Made in Italy, for Americans



Mei Yamanaoka and Doug LeCours performing Catherine Galasso's "Of Granite and Glass" at Brookfield Place in Manhattan. Victoria Sendra

## River to River Festival

**NEW YORK CITY, JUNE 13-24** Organized by the Lower Manhattan Cultural Council, this free festival pops up in unexpected spaces, using architecture as a muse. Among the shops of Brookfield Place, Catherine Galasso stages "Of Granite and Glass" on Cesar Pell's vast marble staircase. At Federal Hall, Enrico D. Wey explores memory and monuments in his "silent :: partner." And along Lower East Side streets, Naomi Goldberg Haas and Laura Nova orchestrate the LES Citizens' Parade, an ode to the neighborhood's longtime residents. Studios at 125 Maiden Lane will house Cori Olinghouse's "Grandma," a performance installation in which Twinkies, TV and other Americana spur a meditation on failure and belonging. [lmcc.net](#)

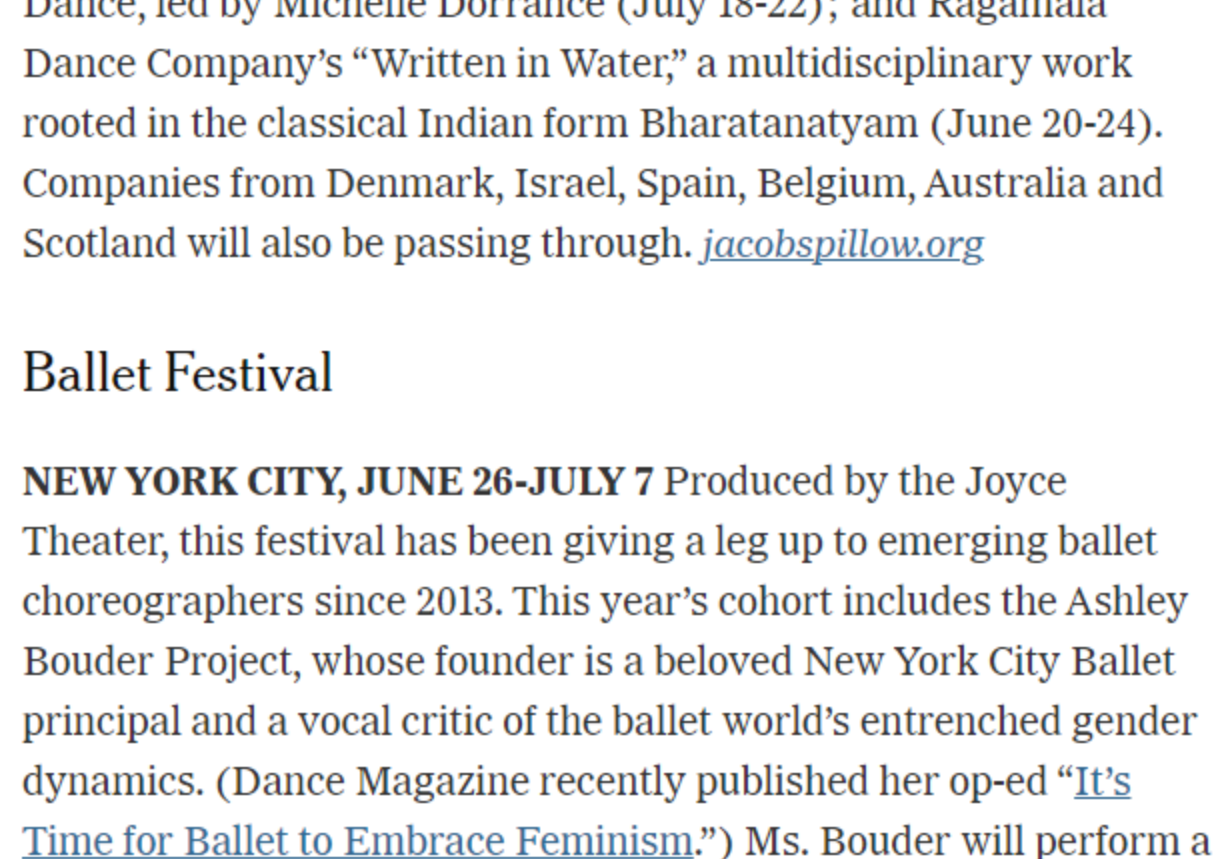


Sun and beach await you

Holidays in the Caribbean!

## Mount Tremper Arts

**MOUNT TREMPER, N.Y., JUNE 16-AUG. 25** This remote refuge for performance, located on 150 verdant acres in the Catskills, offers a colorful if sparse dance lineup, courtesy of several guest curators. On June 16, the dancer and choreographer Mina Nishimura presents Spring Springs!, featuring Boom Bat Gesture group, Domestic Performance Agency and Julie Mayo. As part of the collective experiment known as Aunts, artists including Jonathan Gonzalez, NIC Kay and Ash R.T. Yergens come together for "camp2," a residency culminating in a sprawling performance-party on July 21. Also on deck are programs organized by Monstah Black (Aug. 11) and Nicky Paraiso, a curator at the East Village theater La MaMa (Aug. 25). [mounttremperarts.org](#)



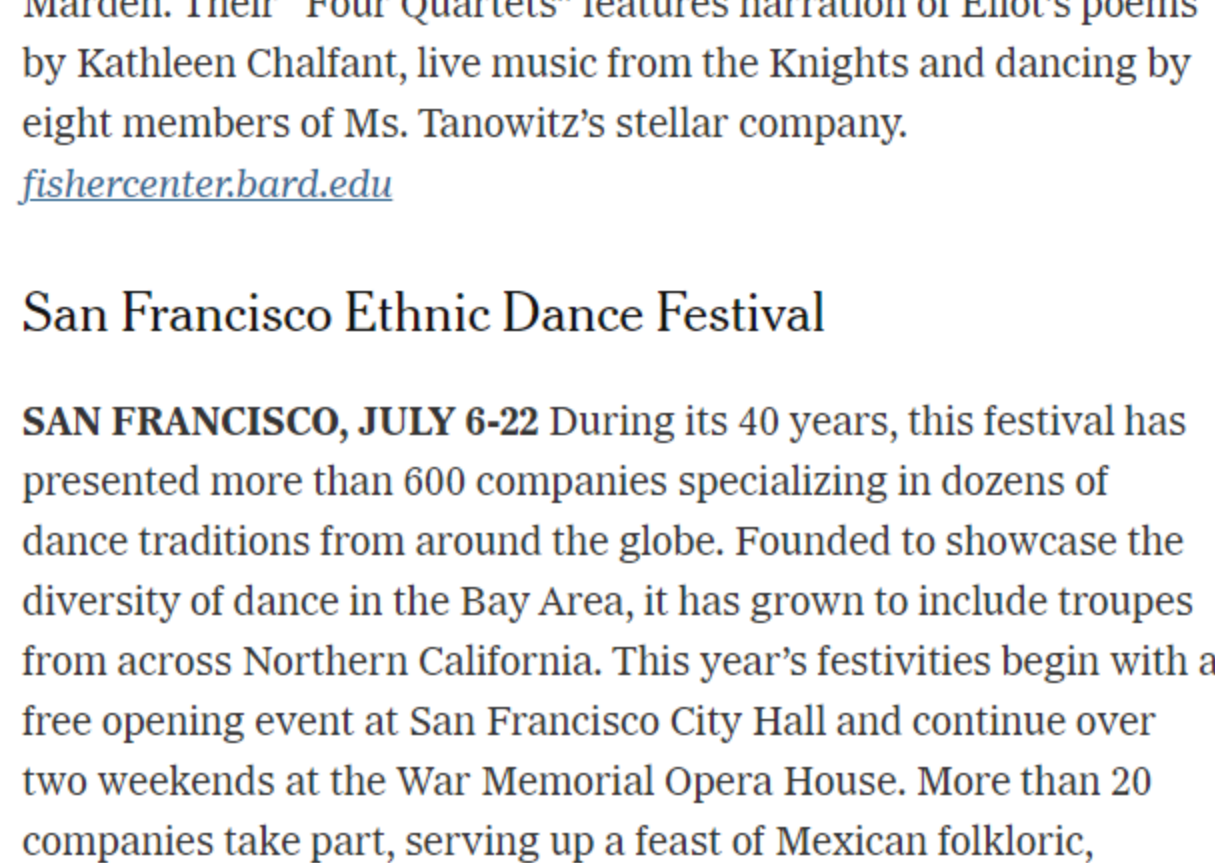
From Netta Yerushalmy's "Paramodernities." David Dashiell

## Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival

**BECKET, MASS., JUNE 20-AUG. 26** Circus arts from France, South Indian dance from Minneapolis, free performances against the backdrop of the Berkshire Hills: These are just a few of the treasures to be found during Jacob's Pillow's bustling 10-week season. Highlights include the world premiere of "Paramodernities," Netta Yerushalmy's ambitious excavation of modern dance masterpieces (Aug. 8-12); the return of Dorrance Dance, led by Michelle Dorrance (July 18-22); and Ragamala Dance Company's "Written in Water," a multidisciplinary work rooted in the classical Indian form Bharatanatyam (June 20-24). Companies from Denmark, Israel, Spain, Belgium, Australia and Scotland will also be passing through. [jacobsillow.org](#)

## Ballet Festival

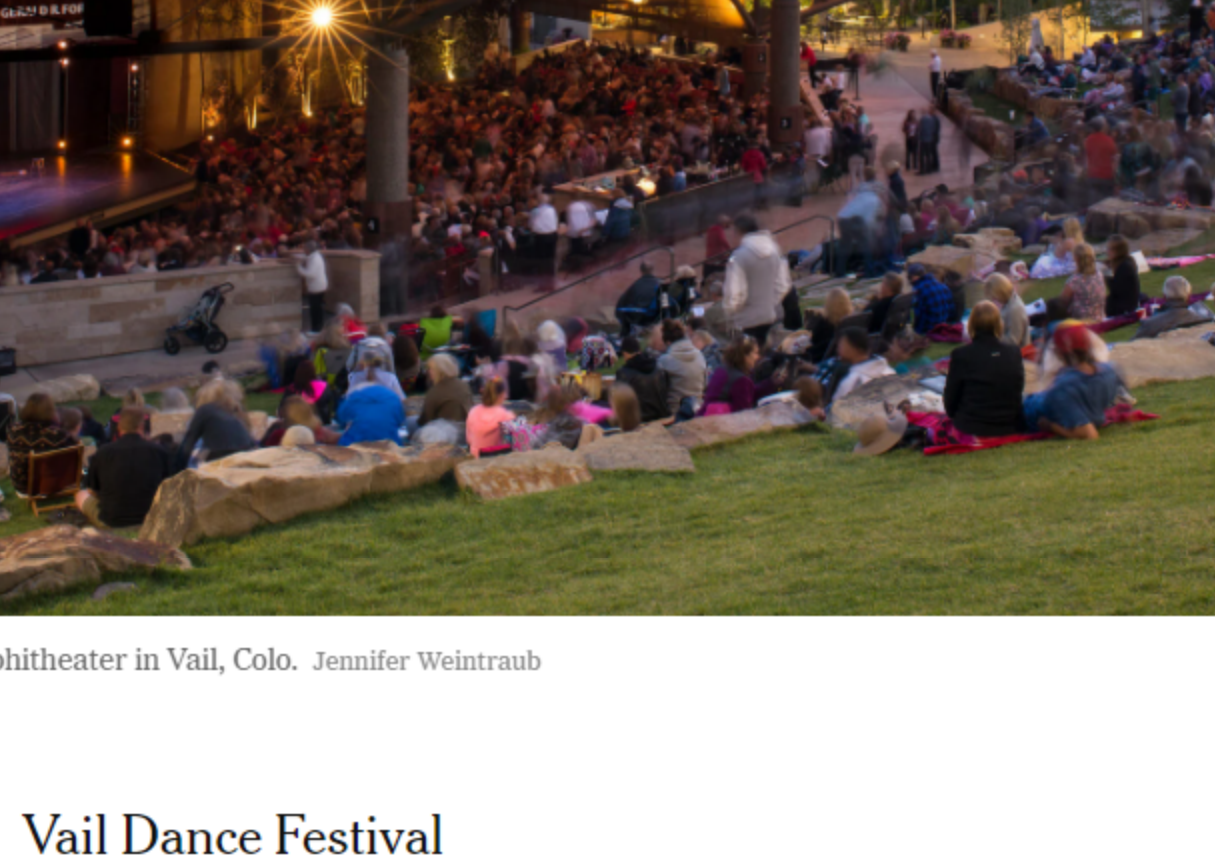
**NEW YORK CITY, JUNE 26-JULY 7** Produced by the Joyce Theater, this festival has been giving a leg up to emerging ballet choreographers since 2013. This year's cohort includes the Ashley Boulder Project, whose founder is a beloved New York City Ballet principal and a vocal critic of the ballet world's entrenched gender dynamics. (Dance Magazine recently published her op-ed "It's Time for Ballet to Embrace Feminism.") Ms. Boulder will perform a new solo choreographed for her by Lauren Lovette (also a City Ballet principal) and bring back her own "In Pursuit of..." created last year. The festival also features Dimensions Dance Theater of Miami and BalletX, among others. [joyce.org](#)



Alvaro Gonzalez and Madison Kreekel in a piece by John Bernd, who will be commemorated at Lumberyard this year. Andrea Mohai/The New York Times

## Lumberyard

**HUDSON AND CATSKILL, N.Y., JUNE 29-SEPT. 2** While construction continues on its new home in Catskill — scheduled to open in the fall — this contemporary performing arts center offers its inaugural summer season at nearby sites. Club Helsinki Hudson hosts Urban Bush Women's "Scat!" a dance-poppell musical set in a fictional jazz club, with choreography by Jawole Willa Jo Zollar and original music by Craig Harris (June 29-July 1). At the recently restored Hudson Hall, John Jasperse unveils a new work (Aug. 17-19), and Ishmael Houston-Jones commemorates the choreographer John Bernd in his poignant collaboration with Miguel Gutierrez, Jennifer Monson and Nick Hallett (Aug. 24-26). [lumberyard.org](#)



The Gerald R. Ford Amphitheater in Vail, Colo. Jennifer Weintraub

## Vail Dance Festival

**VAIL, COLO. JULY 28-AUG. 11** Michelle Dorrance is everywhere this summer. Among her company's many engagements is a visit to the mountains of Vail, where she'll bring back her 2013 "The Blues Project," a spirited collaboration with Toshi Reagon & BIGLovesy. (For those closer to New York, the work also comes to Celebrate Brooklyn! in Prospect Park, June 28.) It's a rare evening-length work among this festival's signature one-off samplers, in which luminaries of ballet, hip-hop, tap and contemporary dance share the stage. Full evenings are also devoted to American Ballet Theater and Alonzo King Lines Ballet, making their festival debuts. [vaildance.org](#)

## Insitu Site-Specific Dance Festival

**QUEENS, AUG. 4-5** Few choreographers can pique a passerby's interest like Douglas Dunn, whose choreography sidles into public spaces and melds the eccentric with the everyday. His company is one of 20 taking part in this outdoor extravaganza, which returns to four parks along the Queens waterfront for a second year. Other participants include Renegade Performance Group, House of Ninja and the Ladies of Hip-Hop Festival. [insitudancefestival.com](#)

A version of this article appears in print on May 20, 2018, Section AR, Page 28 of the New York edition with the headline: Dance. Order Reprints | Today's Paper | Subscribe

Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, Email, Print, Link