

# Rebecca Stenn Company

Artistic Director: **Rebecca Stenn**

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“**Rebecca Stenn Company** is a collective force... keenly pleasurable. They are smart, adult dancers and to watch them thinking through deft spatial patterns and often tricky partnering sequences is a treat.”

**Claudia La Rocca, The New York Times**



Rebecca Stenn Company

# Quotes

“Memorable choreography...best are stop-motion images of the dancers, which have a ghostly effect, as if the walls were movie screens for spotty memories of the dance...shifting, sculptural...strong.”

**Brian Seibert, The New York Times**

“There was something redemptive about (the) piece... it felt as if by the end, you acknowledged that despite everything, we are all part of a flow –life’s journey.”

**Christine Jowers, The Dance Enthusiast**

“Wit, concision and gutsy passion...a vibrant company”

**Jennifer Dunning, New York Times**

“In the rising choreographer’s striking new evening length work... the organic, expressive movement is poetic in its own right.”

**The New Yorker**

“Rebecca Stenn is one of the most gifted and innovative young dancer/choreographers in modern dance.”

**St. Louis Post Dispatch**

“Stenn’s performance was a splendid meshing of tender vulnerability and physical presence.”

**Dancemagazine**

“Stenn, in *Drinking the Sky*, captured my attention and held it rapt from her very first assured, masterful movement to the dimming of the lights. The impressively muscle-bound yet amazingly graceful Stenn is totally in control of her body, articulating her hands, arms, feet, legs, ribs and neck separately in sometimes round and fluid, sometimes sharp and direct motions.

To me, Stenn’s performance was astounding.”

**The Edinburgh Skinny Shimmy**

“Rebecca Stenn is a thrilling, hypnotic contemporary dancer and choreographer.

Half-lit and shrouded in black, she moves tentatively like a shadow, governed by instinct, seemingly alert and cat-like as though ready to pounce. Fluid and ethereal, Stenn’s movement echoes the half-world between sleep and consciousness.”

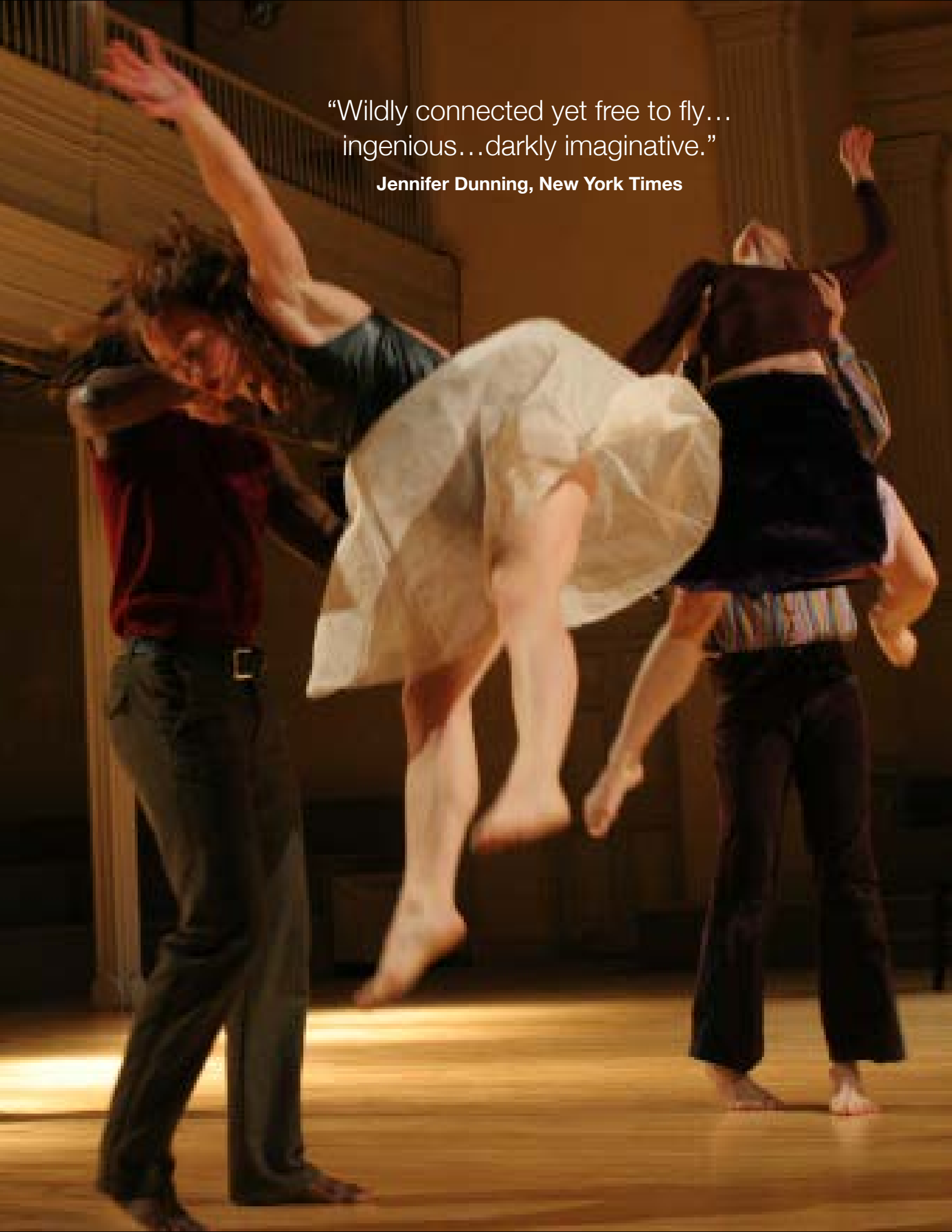
**Edinburgh Skinny Shimmy**

“Stenn moves like a gazelle, and out of her muscle bound stance, she exudes a melodic beauty, whether wafting through the air in “Zimzun” or clomping onstage in Li’l Abner boots as a fiery seductress in “The Carmen Suites”. Her choreographic imagination showed boundless versatility... she exerts an electrifying presence.”

**Backstage**

“Wildly connected yet free to fly...  
ingenious...darkly imaginative.”

**Jennifer Dunning, New York Times**



BIOGRAPHY

# Company

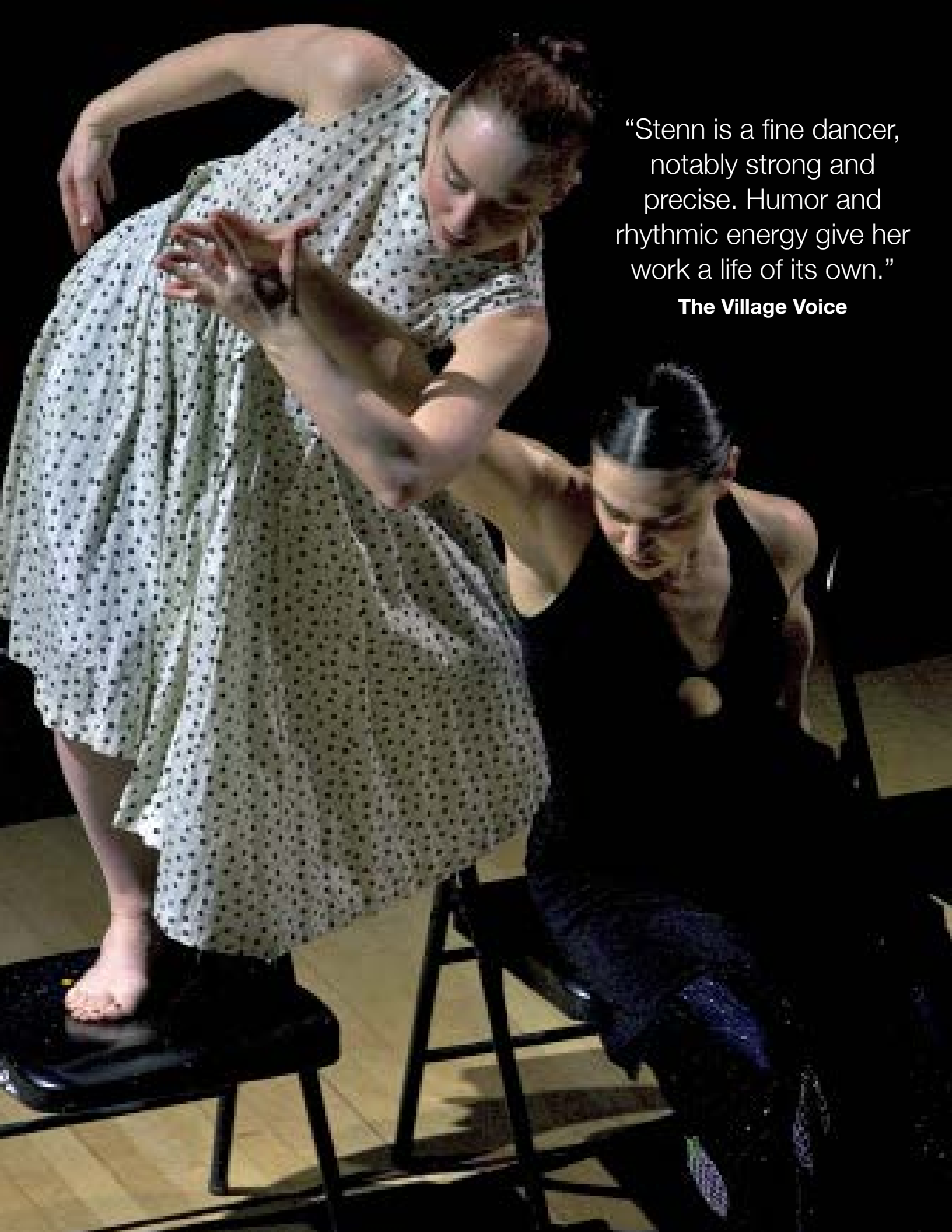
Known throughout the country for the unpredictable and beautiful way the dancers and musicians flawlessly and often humorously interact in performance, **Rebecca Stenn Company** was founded in 1996. The company has since performed to critical acclaim and sold out houses in over 50 cities in the US and internationally in venues such as The Joyce Theater, The Kitchen, Danspace Project, Dance New Amsterdam, Dance Theater Workshop, Symphony Space, Joyce SoHo, La MaMa Annex Theater, The Winter Garden at The World Financial Center in New York City and The Copenhagen Festival, The Edinburgh Festival, Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival, The Annenberg Center in Philadelphia, The Waterfront Festival in Virginia Beach, The Center for Contemporary Arts in St. Louis, New Orleans Performing Arts Center, The Peter Britt Festival in Oregon, Summerfest in San Francisco, The City of El Paso Arts Center in Texas, The New Moves Festival in New Haven and the Wortham Theater in Houston, TX among many other venues. The company has held residencies at Southern Methodist University, Keene State College, University of Western Ontario in Canada, University of California at Santa Barbara, University of Southern Oregon, University of Nevada at Reno and Dickinson College in Pennsylvania among others.

Rebecca Stenn Company has received support from The National Endowment for the Arts, The New York State Council for the Arts, The Joyce Theater Foundation, Mary Cary Flager Charitable Trust Live Music for Dance Fund, The American Music Center and The Pennsylvania Council for the Arts. The diverse repertoire includes over 30 works, which range from illusionary pieces using inventive props and mysterious lighting to abstract pieces that are entirely pure, kinetic dance.

Rebecca Stenn Company is devoted to education and to reaching as diverse populations as possible, and to this end they perform students shows hold residencies for the very young, the elderly, and the physically challenged. Community-based projects play an important role in the life of the company. Through a generous commission from the Kohler Arts Center in Wisconsin, Rebecca Stenn Company choreographed their second full evening-length work entitled *Finding Home*, in collaboration with over 40 community members. The group also developed a full evening length community work with the New Orleans Ballet Association, performed during a five-week residency in New Orleans. The company premiered a series of children's shows at the Lincoln Center "Meet the Artist" program in New York City, and continue to work with The Lincoln Center Open Stages Program.

Highlights from past seasons include a year-long residency at The Joyce Theater Foundation to create the full-evening length work *Blue Print*, commissioned and performed at Danspace Project – St. Marks Church. The company performed a NYC Season at The Joyce Theater as part of The Altogether Different Festival, and in the last few years, the group has performed NYC Seasons at Dance New Amsterdam, Joyce SoHo and the West End Theater. The company most recently appeared at The Joyce Theater in the Family Matters Series with their new evening length work *Generations*, December 2012 and performed at The Rubin Museum in New York City, March 2013. Recently, Stenn created a new evening length work entitled, *Riparius* (belonging to the river), which is the 2nd part of an eventual Triptych and was premiered at the Gowanus Loft, June 11-20, 2015. She is currently working on the 3rd and final section of the Triptych, which will be premiered in New York City, June, 2017.





“Stenn is a fine dancer,  
notably strong and  
precise. Humor and  
rhythmic energy give her  
work a life of its own.”

**The Village Voice**

## BIOGRAPHY

# Rebecca Stenn

Rebecca Stenn, dancer, choreographer, writer, teacher, formed Rebecca Stenn Company in 1996. The company has since performed to critical and popular acclaim in over 19 states nationally and internationally. Rebecca's love for collaborations with live music comes from her years at the Interlochen Arts Academy and later the Juilliard School, where she earned a BFA in dance. In 2008, Rebecca graduated Summa Cum Laude from the The University of Wisconsin Milwaukee, with her MFA in Dance and Performance. As a member of Momix Dance Theatre from 1989 to 1996, Rebecca performed in over 30 countries, touring extensively throughout Europe, the Far East, South America, the U.S. and Canada and appeared as a featured performer in films for Italian, Spanish and French television. Rebecca assisted in the choreography of and performed in the Emmy Award winning film *Pictures at an Exhibition*, a PBS, Dance in America Special. She is also a featured performer in the 3D IMAX film *Imagine*. She has collaborated with Moses Pendleton in the making of *Passion*, an evening length work to the music of Peter Gabriel, and assisted in the choreography of Lina Wertmuller's *Carmen* at the Munich State Opera, also performing as a principal dancer. Rebecca is a founding member of Pilobolus Too, a duet company formed by Pilobolus Dance Theater. With Pilobolus Too she has toured throughout the world, created numerous works for the repertoire and a piece for the Radio City Rockettes, and has taught Pilobolus residencies at universities, elementary and high schools, and programs for the deaf and blind.

Rebecca has choreographed and performed as solo dancer in Jaron Lanier's PBS special *Musork*. Also with Lanier, she performed a duet show at the Kitchen in NYC entitled *Thinning of the Veil*. Rebecca choreographed the U.S. premiere of the Opera *Leap Over the Shadow* at the Lotte Lehman Theatre in Santa Barbara, CA. Other choreography credits include an evening length solo performed with the Da Capo Chamber Orchestra at Columbia's Miller Theater in New York City, an evening length collaboration with Squonk Opera and Attack Theatre premiered in Pittsburgh, an Off Off Broadway production of *The Wild Party* and three productions with Vision Into Art, at Lincoln Center.

Rebecca has held residencies and taught at numerous festivals and universities throughout the world, including The Juilliard School and The Sadler's Wells Theater in London. She has been artist in residence at Barnard College, Montclair State University (winner of the NWI prize), Manahattanville College, Stockton College and Keene State College and in 2013, won the New Works award from University of Wisconsin. She has been a contributing editor at Dancemagazine, has published work in the International Journal of Dance and written for the Brooklyn Rail. Rebecca has also enjoyed collaborations with renowned photographers Howard Schatz, Roy Volkman and George Del Barrio and visual artist Terry Rosenberg. Rebecca has been a teaching artist for both The Joyce Theater in New York City and The Open Stages Program at Lincoln Center and is on faculty at The New School. She is currently Artist in Residence and Guest Director of the Dartmouth Dance Ensemble and is a Lecturer at the Lewis Center for the Arts at Princeton University. Rebecca is the proud mother of two children, Jonah and Elie, whose father has been known to play bass for the company.

**Jennifer Dunning of the New York Times**  
writes, "*Rebecca Stenn is larger than life...  
a rubber bodied, take charge creature*"





“In *Zone A*, the collaboration of Rebecca Stenn and composer Konrad Kaczmarek created one of the most satisfying and memorable new danceworks I’ve seen in the past dozen years. Rebecca Stenn moved thru the aural (musical) dreamscape with a kind of weighted lyricism that was fascinating to watch... Rebecca uses her hands with remarkably fluent clarity. Rebecca and Konrad received sustained applause - deservedly - having held the audience enthralled.”

**Philip Gardner, Oberon’s Grove**



# Residency/Workshop/Classes

## Commissioned Residencies

Since its inception, Rebecca Stenn Company has held numerous residencies, workshops and master classes throughout the country. With each program, the company tailors the content to compliment the population at hand. The group has created residencies for at risk youth, senior citizens, community members ranging from the very young to the elderly, high school students, and university dance and music departments. Rebecca Stenn Company has held week-long to month-long residencies at The University of California at Santa Barbara and Irvine; Southern Methodist University in Texas; The University of Western Ontario in Canada; Oregon University; Dickinson College in Pennsylvania; Indiana University of Pennsylvania and The Center for Contemporary Arts in St. Louis. Additionally Rebecca Stenn has been artist in residence at Barnard College, Montclair State University, University of Wisconsin Milwaukee, Keene State College, Stockton College and Manhattanville College. The company has created two full evening length works, *Dream Child Moving* and *Finding Home*, over an intensive five-week residency with 40 members of the community at both The Kohler Arts Center in Wisconsin and The New Orleans Ballet Association. These performances have been met with great enthusiasm from the communities in which they were made.

## Process

Integral to the company's creative process is improvisation. To emphasize the endless creative possibilities between dancer and musician, Rebecca Stenn Company teaches a workshop entitled 'Fundamentals of Collaboration'. The company is flexible in designing a residency that works best for the institution at hand. The group offers single master classes, week long sessions with classes all day to month long stays. The company also has a student performance, which has been performed throughout the country to rave reviews from teachers and students alike. This lecture demonstration can be presented to students ranging in age from 5 to 18 years old. Rebecca Stenn Company has been on the roster of the Young Audience Programs for New Jersey as well as The Open Stages Program at Lincoln Center in New York City.

## Master classes / Lecture Demonstrations

'Fundamentals of Collaboration' is designed for both musicians and dancers of all levels. The class focuses on developing common vocabulary for dancers/choreographers and musicians/composers to encourage collaboration between the two. Rebecca Stenn Company has taught master classes and performed lecture/demonstrations at Wells College in New York; Merrimack College in Massachusetts; Houston High School of Performing Arts and Ballet Met in Texas; Grinnell College in Iowa; Old Dominion University in Virginia; Tulane University, Broward Community College in southern Florida; The Jewish Community Center in Sherman, CT; and Point Park College in Pittsburgh among many others.

*"Your candescent spirits arrived in our cold, sleepy town and set thirty hearts ablaze. Your passion for creative movement helped us to reach deep inside ourselves and release the playfulness we suppress in our everyday lives. Your quest for beauty in ordinary people and surroundings changed the way our eyes view the world in which we live. Your gentle encouragement touched our souls. Thank you for sharing your world with us. You truly changed me, and you gave Daniel (my son) an experience he will remember forever."*

**Letter from a community cast member for  
*Dream Child Moving*, Sheboygan, WI**





“Stenn moves with incredible softness in her upper body that rests so well against Alice Hwang’s live piano accompaniment of Chopin’s Nocturnes. Her movement with Charlie Chaplin footwork and bird-like wafting arms is animalistic, as Stenn as the first creature of the night plays alone in the quiet. The partnering sequences are particularly memorable, well-produced and executed. I wanted a ball-of-the-foot swivel partnered turn between Stenn and Pollard to go on forever.”

**Laura Di Ori, Dance Informa Magazine**

# Touring Repertoire

## Current Projects

The company currently tours five productions:

### **SOLO**

**concert (*Time I Know*)** This evening length concert consists of a stunning and captivating array of mesmerizing solos performed by Rebecca Stenn strung together into a rich tapestry that makes up a 40 minute evening length performance. *Time I know* has been commissioned by the Gowanus Loft and will be premiered January 2014. Stenn collaborates with photographer George Del Barrio, lighting designer Kathy Kaufmann and composer Jay Weissman. Stenn has long been fascinated by the solo form, and has performed numerous solo concerts over the last 20 years. Her work is varied and vivid, and has often been in conversation with a live musician, in the stage space with her. Musicians have included composer/bassist Jay Weissman, composer/pianist Konrad Kaczmarek, cellist, Dave Eggar and composer Jaron Lanier. Stenn's solos have been commissioned by The Joyce Theater Foundation, The Kitchen, Booking Dance at the Edinburgh Festival, The Copenhagen Festival, The Rubin Museum, Soaking WET, and other venues. [Watch: Video 01](#) | [Video 02](#) | [Video 03](#)

**Signature Works**, an evening of classic pieces that have been in the company's repertoire for up to 14 years. The works include the company signature works *The Carmen Suites*, *Left of Fall*, *Zimzun*, *Seventh Wave*, and *Embrace*. The performance includes four dancers and four musicians, performing live. [Watch: Video](#)

**Blue Print**, a full evening length performance that runs for an hour with no intermission. This work includes five dancers and three musicians performing live original music and often interacting with the dancers, and has a set designed by Jodi Kaplan. [Watch: Video](#)

**Chopped and Screwed** was premiered June 2009 at Joyce SoHo in New York City. The company collaborated with choreographer Ben Munsteri to present an evening of 6 world premieres, all based on choreographers Stenn and Munsteri remixing the other's work. [Watch: Video](#)

**Fantasy, Lies, Hubris and Voyeurism** is the company's most recent evening length work. The piece runs for 50 minutes with no intermission. It includes 4 dancers, one pianist and live video projections that create breath-taking environments by video artist Benton Bainbridge. [Watch: Video](#)

**Triptych**, Rebecca Stenn Company's most recent project, is comprised of 3 evening length works. The *Triptych* can be presented either over a series of evenings, or throughout one day.

Each work is under an hour long. The company could perform the works in residence and can combine any number of workshops classes and residency programs with the performances.

The *Triptych* includes 3 evening length works:

**Time I Know** – solo dance performance with projections and sonic score, 40 minutes.

**Riparius (belonging to the river)** – full company work, 4 dancers, projections, live music, 50 minutes

**Untitled** – 3rd piece in triptych, currently in creation, 7 dancers, live music, audience immersed in performance space, projections on floor and ceiling, 50 minutes



“Stenn is a choreographer of generous vision...the evening offered one gem after another of visual and movement imagination...achingly beautiful...daring and successful.”

**The Philadelphia Inquirer**

