

NY2DANCE

*Dancing Around  
The World*

- Cities



# *Summary*

“Dancing Around the World,” is a worldwide tour of various cities to explore, both intimately and broadly, the interaction of people, movement and the environment through dance, video and sound beginning in April 2015 extending into May 2016 in order to foster understanding to how environment shapes our expressive lives. We will engage, connect and collaborate with people, centers, sites and the environment through conversation, exploration, improvisation. This will be available to a global audience to follow, engage and participate via a monthly video blog.



# Background story

In 2007 I started creating dances in Public Spaces because I felt that as an artist who was interested in freedom of movement and expression, I needed to make my art available to people from all walks of life and not just people who could afford to go to Theaters and Opera houses. The first experiment happened in Washington, D.C. : For several weeks my dancers and I would go to Dupont Circle and dance and experiment there in front of the public.

The reactions of the people walking by was eye opening. The second week I interviewed people who passed by the performances to get some more insight to their experience. Some of the comments were that by putting the dance in the space I altered the perception of this location. It opened up a space for them to look at Dupont circle from a new perspective and that they would never again look at this place in the same way. And so out of that experience many others developed. We created dances in public spaces in New York, Berlin, Avignon, Istanbul, Tegucigalpa, Krasnoyarsk, Panama City, San Salvador and Lima. From these small projects big questions arose: What is freedom of movement? How do we express ourselves and what connects us as humans? Do we create the environment or does the environment creates us. What is space? What is a place. How are we connected in a given space to people and what moves us. For the first time we want to go on a year long journey visiting and engaging with 25 cities around the world to find some answers and to ask more questions. With this exciting journey we hope to find some insight into our common human journey.





# Objective

The primary objective of the project is to learn about and celebrate each other through movement. We hope to create understanding, elevate humanity and dance through our differences and commonalities of each city we engage with throughout the world.

The projects goals are to:

Reflect upon the identity of a city, what connects us as humans and what we can learn from each other.

Explore the emotional impact of a place and its history and how that influences people's perception and movement.

Acknowledge space, - created, adapted and/or devised by nature and humans - and the part it plays in the individual's and the community's life.

Feature dynamic interactions between individuals, movement and the environment.

Experience and understand the range of human expression around the world.

# What Will Be Gained?

A group of people, including men and women, are standing in a line in a studio or rehearsal space. They are wearing similar, light-colored, possibly military-style coats or uniforms. The background is a dark, textured wall, and the lighting is dramatic, with a strong light source from the right, creating long shadows and highlighting the figures.

The experience of each “event” will likely be a profound one for the community participants, the dancers and the online audience. In other words, the experience itself may prove to have a lasting impact and make progress toward the objectives listed above. However, the body of information learned and documented from this tour could potentially have a great impact on architecture, urban planning, and on future discourse in many areas including world peace and understanding and of course dance, film and sound.

In many respects, the project explores the five themes of geography long discussed in social science literature as well as long realized by observers of societal processes. These include: 1) location, 2) place, 3) human environmental interaction, 4) movement and 5) regions, viewed through the prisms of film and dance. As conceived, location is simply an address – a geographic coordinate like longitude and latitude; place concerns a sense of existing in one area as compared to another (i.e., its uniqueness from the view of the occupier/observer); human environmental interaction identifies how the environment is influenced by humans as well as how humans are influenced by the environment; movement concerns how humans move through space; and, regions identify the overarching unity that exists across distinct locales. By highlighting interactions between the diverse elements, we are left with a better understanding of each as well as how they relate to one another in combination.

Dance allows us to more intuitively express human emotions in a manner that is again visual and dynamic but, given its use of the human form, it does so in more way that is at once more personal and less abstract because of its physicality

# *How will we do this?*



We will visit each city for one or two weeks.

In each city we will collaborate with one local dance company and one local cultural partner to create the content for the city. The local dance company and Cultural Partner or Museum will be featured on the webpage visible around the world. We will also create a link to the partners webpages on ny2dance.

In the mornings in each location we will teach dance workshops to dancers of the local community to create content for the site specific dance inspired by the city.

In the selected afternoons we will go to the streets, get inspired, observe, ask questions and interview people about the city and it's movement which we use as inspiration for our dance.

At the end of the residency we will put everything we learned, observed and were inspired by together into a site specific or studio performance as well as create a short video showcasing the movement of the city.

# Dancing Cities

<p>April 1-10, 2015 Chicago, USA OldTown School of Music</p>	<p>April 12- 18th, 2015 Bogota, Colombia German Embassy Danza V.I.D.A.</p>	<p>April 18- May 10, 2015 Medellin, Colombia Danza Concierto</p>	<p>May 10 -24, 2015 Lima, Peru D.A.N.Z.A Vida</p>	<p>May 25- June 15, 2015 Santiago, Chile University of Chile</p>
<p>June 15- July 3, 2015 San Salvador, El Salvador Festival Internacional de Teatro</p>	<p>July 3- 16, 2015 Tegucigalpa, Honduras Mujeres en las Artes</p>	<p>July 17-31th, 2015 Pyhäjärvi, Finland Full Moon Festival</p>	<p>August 2-15, 2015 Berlin, Germany Dock I I</p>	<p>August 15-30, 2015 Istanbul, Turkey American Embassy</p>
<p>August 30 - September 14, 2015 Bologna, Italy Festival de Danza Urbana</p>	<p>September 14- October 4, 2015 Paris, France Institute de Jazz Dance Rick Odums</p>	<p>October 4 - 20, 2015 Tunis, Tunisia Cultural Tourism Bureau and Goethe Institute</p>	<p>October 21 -November 4, 2015 Nairobi, Kenya German Embassy</p>	<p>November 4 - 20, 2015 Antananarivo, Madagascar American Embassy</p>
<p>December 1-30 2015 Free</p>	<p>January 1-15, 2016 Hyderabad, India Earth on The Feet Dance School</p>	<p>January 16-30, 2016 Kochi City with the Museum of Contemporary Art</p>	<p>February 1-15, 2016 Tapei, Taiwan Ting Ting Dance University of Taiwan</p>	<p>February 16th- March 6th Hong Kong, China</p>
<p>March 7th-19th, 2016 Quezon City, Philippines University of Philippines</p>	<p>March 20-April 1, 2016 Sydney, Australia Bangarra Dance Theater</p>	<p>April 4th-14th, 2016 Mazatlan, Mexico Delfos Dance Institute</p>	<p>April 14-23, 2016 San Jose, Costa Rica University of Costa Rica</p>	<p>April 23 -May 5, 2016 Washington, DC Dance Place</p>

# Samples of previous Dancing Around The World videos



[Dancing Around The World - Medellin](#)



[Dancing Around The World - Tegucigalpa](#)



[Dancing Around The World - Bogota](#)



[Dancing Around The World - San Salvador](#)



# Who is NY2Dance?



NY2Dance is the producing company for Nejla Yasemin Yarkin Dance, which is a project based virtuosic dance theatre company of engagingly individual dancers from around the world exploring the abstract telling of humanities story. The company explores topics of identity, transformation, migration and multiculturalism in movement through a dynamic mix of multimedia and diverse theater techniques. In addition to our concert offerings, we offer workshops, special events, site specific dances and residencies tailor made for the community or company that we are engaged with. Since its inception in 2001, NY2Dance and Nejla Yarkin has been named as a “Top 25 to Watch” by Dance Magazine (2005), has won the DC Mayor’s Arts Award for Outstanding Emerging Artist (2004) and 6 Metro DC Dance Awards for their production. NY2Dance performs regularly at both national and international festivals and venues, bringing its “Indelible Imagery” (Dancer Magazine) and “Fierce Dancing” (New York Times) performances to audiences around the world.

See [NY2Dance Trailer](#)

# Bios of Traveling Artist



Director/Choreographer/Dancer **Nejla Y. Yatkin** is a 2012 3Arts Awards recipient, a 2012 Forth fund recipient, 2011 National Performance Network Creation Fund recipient, a 2009 Princess Grace Special Project recipient and a 2008 Princess Grace Choreography fellow. In her dance projects, she explores the beauty as well as complexity of memory, migration, transformation, identity and multiculturalism through movement. She was named by Dance Magazine as one of "Top 25 to Watch in 2005" and "Outstanding Emerging Artist" by the D.C. Mayor's Arts Award Committee for 2006. This award-winning and internationally acclaimed choreographer is originally from Berlin, Germany with Turkish roots. Ms. Yatkin has performed her solo work in over 30 countries. She has been awarded numerous grants to create and perform from Arts International, the National Performance Network, Kennedy Center and the D.C. Commission on the Arts and Humanities as well as the Turkish Cultural Foundation. Recently, she choreographed for Dallas Black Dance Theatre and Washington Ballet, the Darpana Performing Group in India as well as the Cleo Parker Robinson Dance Ensemble. For 7 years, Ms. Yatkin was a Professor of Dance at the University of Maryland. In July 2008, she started a new position as Artist in Residence for the Film, TV and Theatre Department at the University of Notre Dame. Besides her creative work in the Contemporary Arts world, Ms. Yatkin has choreographed for Isaac Mizrahi Fashion in New York, L'Oreal in Paris and Avangarde Fashion Show in Berlin as well as Opel Car in Germany. The New York Times describes her work as "somewhere between narration and abstraction with considerable formal beauty." For further information please visit [www.ny2dance.com](http://www.ny2dance.com).



Enki is a New York based Multimedia Interactive artist experimenting with physical phenomena to discover how humanity views itself in light of our finite human perceptions and how expanding those reflections enhances our self awareness. An interdisciplinarian since college he studied Physics and Philosophy at Boston University while pursuing his art . Initially inspired by “technology” artists such as Eadweard Muybridge, Alfred Stieglitz, Chuck Close, and United Visual Artists; Enki began working as a photographer in 2000 then in 2010 started exploring video, time based photographic progressions and interactive media arts. His art pieces have been exhibited at New York Fgment, Nuit Blanche New York (NBNY) and showcased in collaborative interactive works with Chris Jordan for the Flint Public Art Project (FPAP) and at Monitor Digital Festival. His photography has appeared in the Huffington Post and the Washington City Paper. His art can be viewed at [Syncord.com](http://Syncord.com).



[ny2dance.com](http://ny2dance.com)

