

Saturday and Sunday: Sean Dorsey Dance: *The Lost Art of Dreaming* at Dance Place



Sean Dorsey Dance presents *The Lost Art of Dreaming*; Credit: Kegan Marling

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Last weekend I attended my 4-year-old cousin's dance recital. About a third of the dances were modern; picture flowy dresses, chaotic energy, and lots of crawling. Each seemed to end with the dancers face down on the stage. Each piece had strange, beautiful moments. But their oddity—especially amid the toddler-tutu dances and sassy jazz numbers—reminded me that modern dance isn't easy for nonexperts to interpret. ("Another one," my aunt groaned.) This disconnect is part of **Sean Dorsey's** inspiration for *The Lost Art of Dreaming*, a multi-format dance experience coming to Dance Place this weekend. "I really wanted to carve out and create a space that was brimming with joy and possibility and expansive and pleasure and connection," Dorsey tells *City Paper*. The San Francisco-based Dorsey, the founder of Sean Dorsey Dance, is considered the country's first acclaimed transgender modern dance choreographer. The centerpiece of *The Lost Art of Dreaming* is an evening-length dance performed onstage by an ensemble of trans, queer, and gender-nonconforming dancers to original scores. ("We dance our butts off," says Dorsey.) After the show, audiences can pick up one of the specially commissioned postcards "with space for a loving message from the future" (also [available online](#)). People who can't attend one of the dance company's 10 tour stops can engage with the [online accompaniment](#): dance films, the postcards, an interactive dictionary, a personal pledge to live with hope and joy. "The more points of access that we provide to a dance-based project, the better," Dorsey explains. "I think often, especially, modern dance is considered by so many people to be cryptic and inaccessible or irrelevant to their actual lived experience." By creating this experience, the choreographer and Sean Dorsey Dance are helping audiences build that bridge. *Sean Dorsey Dance presents The Lost Art of Dreaming at 7 p.m. on May 13 (with ASL interpretation) and 4 p.m. on May 14 at Dance Place, 3225 8th St. NE. danceplace.org.*