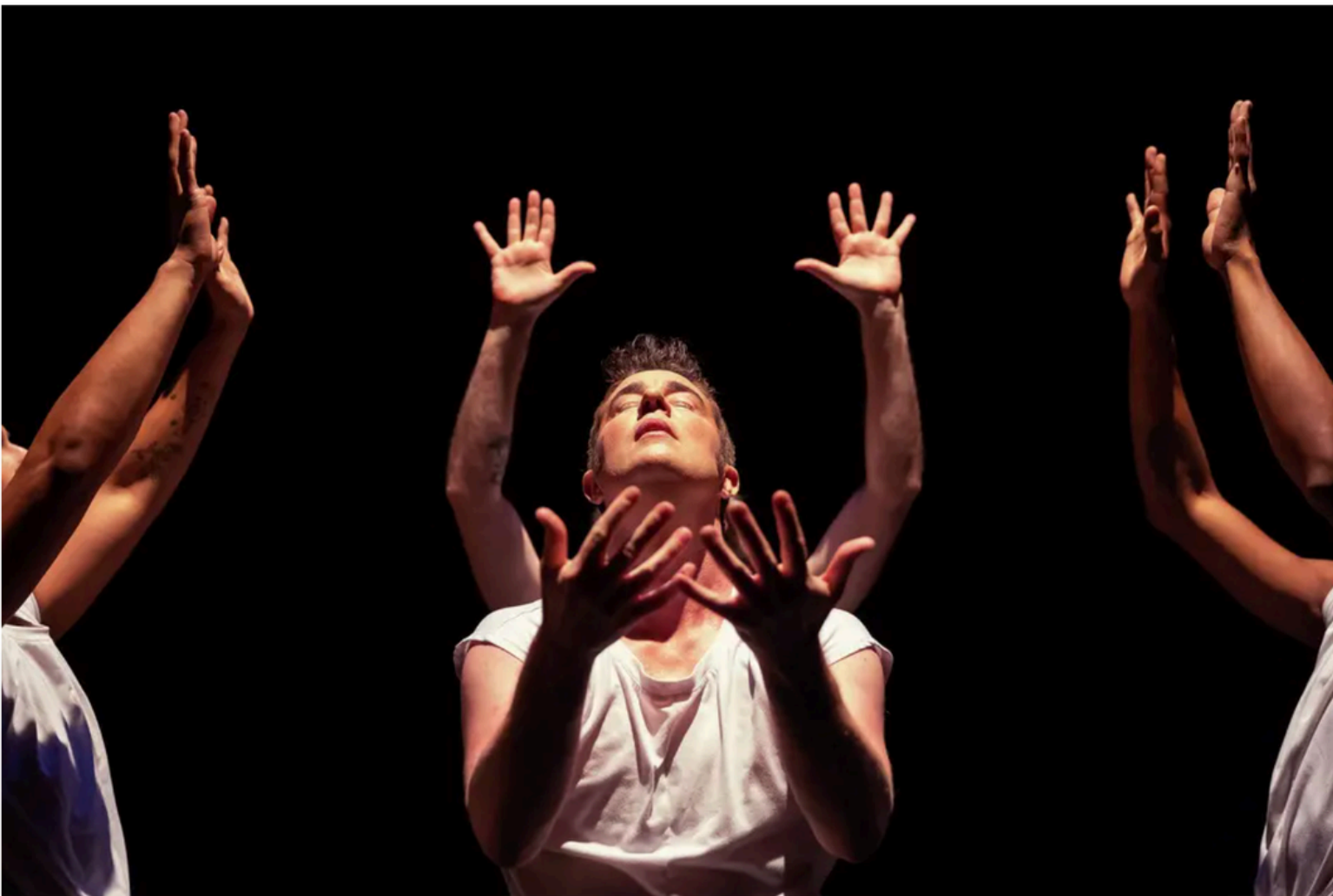


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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT // DANCE

America's first openly transgender choreographer offers preview of new work

By **Rachel Howard**, Contributor
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Sean Dorsey of Sean Dorsey Dance, which kicks off its 22nd home season with "We Choose Each Other."
Courtesy of Kegan Marling

DATEBOOK PICK

As the first openly transgender choreographer in the United States, San Francisco's Sean Dorsey has been a leader among LGBTQ artists for more than two decades. With trans existence now under intense attack, he is building resistance through community.

After touring the country with its last acclaimed production, “The Lost Art of Dreaming,” Sean Dorsey Dance is now developing its next full-evening show. The title is both fierce and tender: “We Choose Each Other.” A sneak peek of excerpts forms the core of the company’s 22nd home season at Dance Mission Theater, supplemented with audience favorites from past repertoire.

Of the new work, Dorsey says, “(W)hen we are being harmed, we choose each other. We choose to hold each other up, we choose to hold each other more tightly.”

If Dorsey’s well-crafted past dances are any indication, dance fans can expect openhearted storytelling, episodes that connect with both pain and humor, and lush movement from an outstanding five-dancer ensemble.

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And why does Dorsey refer to these performances as a “balm”? This one-weekend-only engagement arrives at a critical time—as trans and LGBTQI2S+ communities are “reeling from national and state attacks on our rights, bodies, access to healthcare, freedom of travel, and freedom of expression,” explains Dorsey.

Along with the new work, the company will also restage a piece from the company’s 20-year award-winning repertoire, performing the opening sections of 2015’s award-winning show *The Missing Generation*, which Dorsey created after recording oral history interviews with longtime survivors from the early AIDS epidemic.



In sum, this is a program brimming with Sean Dorsey Dance’s signature fusion of full-throttle dance, luscious queer partnering, intimate storytelling, and theater.

“This Home Season is a powerful opportunity for our communities to gather together, celebrate ourselves, and remember that artists are a foundational part of social change and revolution.” says Dorsey.

Sean Dorsey Dance’s 22nd Annual Home Season is performed by Sean Dorsey, Brandon Graham, Héctor Jaime, David Le, and Nol Simonse.

Dorsey has long blazed a trail as a transgender and queer artist, community leader, and activist. Highly physical, accessible, rooted in story, and danced with precision, guts, and deep humanity, Dorsey’s work has boldly created new space for trans and queer voices, bodies, and stories in contemporary dance. Dorsey previously won an Emmy for his work and this year was awarded the GLBT Historical Society’s History Maker Award.



Dorsey is also the founder and Artistic Director of Fresh Meat Productions, home of the beloved Fresh Meat Festival of trans and queer performance. (Save the date: this June 19–21 is the 25th Anniversary Fresh Meat Festival, which Dorsey promises to be “a massive celebration not to be missed!”)

About the April 24–26 Home Season, Dorsey adds, “Performing this evening of dances is not just about offering audiences beauty and artistry—it’s also about love, community, and resistance.”

Advance tickets are recommended for this one-weekend-only event.