

## Sean Dorsey Dance back for 22nd home season – Company stands tall amid anti-trans backlash

by [David-Elijah Nahmod](#) | Monday, April 13, 2026



Nol Simonse, Sean Dorsey, Brandon Graham and David Le in Sean Dorsey Dance (photo: Kegan Marling)

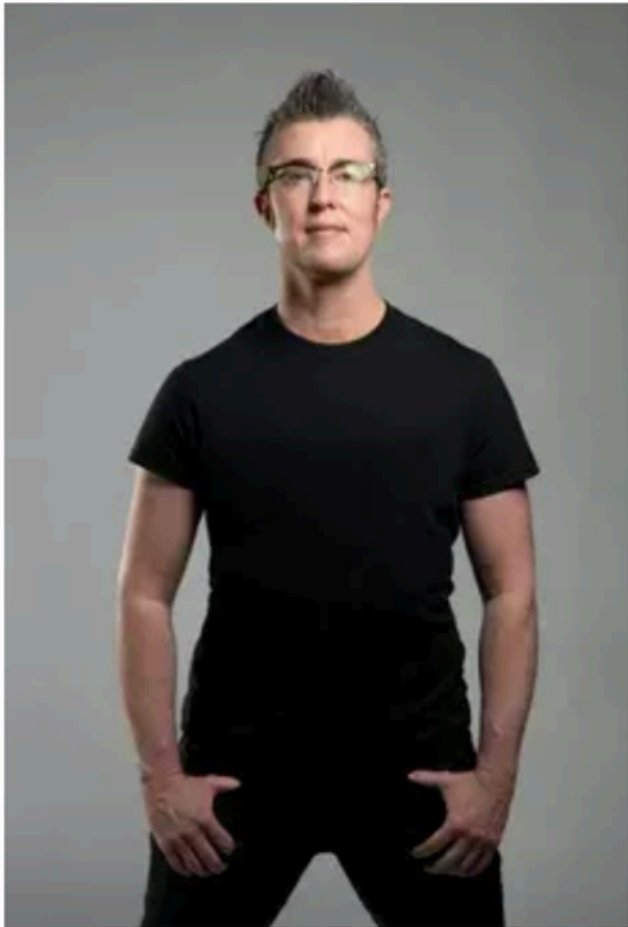
Sean Dorsey has been dancing for more than two decades. Over the years, his dance moves have become his voice. Dorsey is an out, proud transgender man, the guiding force behind Sean Dorsey Dance, a company which has raised the profile of trans and queer communities since its inception.

During the weekend of April 24-26, the San Francisco-based company will perform their 22nd home season at Dance Mission Theater, where they will offer audiences a sneak preview of their new show-in-development “We Choose Each Other.” Dorsey described this show as a balm for this moment in America.

As mostly everyone in the LGBT community knows, it's not an easy time to be trans. The community is under attack, with hundreds of anti-trans laws being introduced in red states for the express purpose of erasing trans people from public life. The attacks have been relentless, with the administration making the erasure of trans people one of its top priorities.

None of which has put a damper on the energy and the joy that Sean Dorsey Dance brings to the stage. In addition to Dorsey, the 22nd home season will be performed by Brandon Graham, Hector Jaime, David Le, and Nol Simonse. In addition to "We Choose Each Other," the company will also restage pieces from their award winning two-decade history.

In an interview with the Bay Area Reporter, Dorsey spoke about how the trans community is holding up amid the backlash, and about what audiences can expect when they come to see his company perform.



Sean Dorsey (photo: Lydia Daniller)

**David-Elijah Nahmod: First, please tell me how the community is doing.**

Sean Dorsey: Thank you for asking about this. This is a brutally hard time for so many people. Every trans person I know is experiencing anxiety, fear, anger, grief, and in many cases, terror. The attacks on us are relentless, as are the lies, the scapegoating, the harm. What is beautiful in the face of these attacks is how supportive and loving trans folks are being toward each other. We've always shown up for each other, we've been each other's chosen family. Our trancestors showed us the way through these times.

**What can trans people do for self-care?**

Come see our show! Really, I do mean that. This show is heart medicine. We created it as a balm for this terrifying time. Come, be in community, experience powerful trans/queer art. This is an incredibly important time to come together.

**Why is your new piece called “We Choose Each Other?” What is the meaning behind the name?**

This home season we’re excited to perform a sneak peak of our new show. It’s a very first look at a part of the new show, the full show will premiere in 2027. The new show is called, “We Choose Each Other,” because that is what we do in times of violence, attacks and harm. We choose to hold each other up, we choose to hold each other more tightly. That is what these dances are about, coming together out of deep care and love for each other.

**How will this theme be presented on stage? Describe the piece a bit.**

There is deep care, deep tenderness, and deeply human expression in these dances. This is not abstract modern dance with dancers onstage with blank stares. We are full humans onstage, and we connect through gorgeous queer partnering and full-bodied luscious movement. My company of dancers are brilliant, they are exquisite, extraordinary dancers and performers. They are a joy to watch and a joy to collaborate with. The evening takes audiences on a journey, deep into grief, and then into connection and heart.

**What are some of the pieces you’ll be performing from your two-decade repertoire?**

As part of the home season, I’m especially thrilled to be restaging the opening sections of my 2015 work, “The Mission Generation.” I choreographed that show after recording 75 hours of oral history interviews with longtime survivors of the early part of the AIDS epidemic. Our culture has turned our backs on this intense period in our communities’ history, it’s hardly talked about or taught now.



Nol Simonse and Héctor Jaime in a dance by Sean Dorsey  
(photo: Lindsay Gauthier)

And by extension, we've also turned our backs on longtime survivors. That show is about showing up to witness and hold survivors and this history with love and care. The work is incredibly special to me, and it means so much to be offering it at this time, another period in history when our own government is persecuting and harming us. We have much to learn from our elders and ancestors: how to act up, how to show up and how to create change.

**Do you primarily reach a trans/queer audience, or is your audience more mixed?**

Most of our audiences are trans and queer, and we also attract a ton of dance lovers and theater lovers. I love the mix of folks who follow Sean Dorsey Dance; all ages, all communities. I am so moved and honored by that. It's really powerful to experience.

**What do you hope audiences will take from the show?**

I hope audiences will experience the show as medicine, heart medicine. I want audiences to come as their full, authentic selves, and to be able to bring their grief, their heartache, their fears and their rage about this moment in the US. We're also offering exquisite, technical, juicy, full-bodied dance, and offering up trans and queer beauty is also an act of love and resistance. I hope audiences will feel fed, more connected, will feel healing, and will feel more hope.

**Sean Dorsey Dance: 22nd Annual Home Season, April 24 & 25, 8pm, April 26, 4pm (with ASL interpretation). Dance Mission Theater, 3316 24th St., \$5.00-\$50.00**

**All gender restrooms, KN95 masks required and provided.**

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