



Sydnie L. Mosley Dances.  
Feel human through dance.

# Sydnie L. Mosley Dances

Organizing for gender and racial justice through  
dance-theater performance and education.



# SLMDANCES SNAPSHOT

**"community-engaged,  
joyfully interactive works"**

~ Siobhan Burke, *Dance Magazine*

Sydney L. Mosley Dances (SLMDances) works with communities to organize for gender and racial justice through experiential dance-theater performance and education. We are a catalyzing force for learning and change. In collaboration with organizations and communities, **we provide a space for people to connect with one another, and heal themselves through movement.**

Our work is informed by the work and legacy of artists, scholars, and activists Zora Neale Hurston, Pearl Primus, Ntozake Shange, Alice Walker, Jawole Zollar, adrienne maree brown, Sonya Renee Taylor, and others.

We have performed across the U.S. at Lincoln Center, Dance Place, Center for the Performing Arts at Penn State, The Apollo, and beyond.

We are available for performances of all formats, workshop facilitation, in-depth community engagement, speaking engagements, long-term guest teaching or residencies, and more.

**Book SLMDances [info@slmdances.com](mailto:info@slmdances.com)**

Photos, L to R clockwise, by Effy Grey, Damel Dieng, ShocPhoto, Jules Slütsky, Whitney Browne, courtesy of Dance/NYC and the Harlem Arts Alliance.





## ▶ ABOUT SLMDANCES

SLMDances works reflect real life experiences central to our identities, and pulls focus to the stories of women and Black folks.

**SLMDances engages audiences in the artistic process.** Our dances provoke a visceral reaction to the physicality on stage and incite conversation toward community action. The movement vocabulary fluidly integrates modern dance techniques and movement of the African Diaspora, while dancers frequently use their voice with spoken text and audible breath. SLMDances performances, workshops, and community engagement programs appeal to a sense of humanity. Through this work artists, audiences, and attendees **feel more empathy and compassion, connect with ourselves and each other, and activate the practice of imagining.**

SLMDances works nationally, with deep relationships in Harlem, New York City, and Baltimore. They have presented work across the U.S., including The Apollo, Brooklyn Museum, Brooklyn Arts Exchange, Bronx Academy of Arts and Dance, Bowdoin College, Center for the Performing Arts at Penn State University, Cornell University, Dance Brigade (San Francisco), Dance Place (Washington DC), Duke University, Joyce Soho, Harlem Stage, Lincoln Center, Movement Research at Judson Church, Spelman College, Triskelion Arts, Utah Tech, among many others.

# ► SYDNE L. MOSLEY



"I believe that the theater and performance spaces are one of the most fertile spaces to have conversation, to move people to action, to raise consciousness, to bring people together, and to build community."

~ Sydnie L. Mosley, interviewed for Stance on Dance

Sydnie L. Mosley is an **award-winning artist-activist, choreographer, director, producer and writer, renowned for socially aware creative work.** Sydnie founded SLMDances in 2010, which has grown into a values-centered collective. Her repertoire of choreographic works, including critically-acclaimed evening length dances *PURPLE: A Ritual In Nine Spells*, *The Window Sex Project*, and *BodyBusiness*—as well as their creative processes and performance experiences—are a model for dance-activism. She was named one of *Dance Magazine's* "25 to Watch" in 2024 and recognized by NYC Mayor de Blasio in 2017 for using dance to fuel social change.

A respected arts leader, speaker, and educator, Sydnie is often invited to share her wisdom on **leadership, equity in the performing arts field, dance education, and arts activism.** She has been an adjunct and visiting lecturer at Barnard College, Bowdoin College, Harvard University, and Marymount Manhattan College, in addition to teaching dance to people of all ages, from toddlers to elders, non-dancers and professionals. Her writing has appeared in *ESSENCE*, *Dance Magazine*, *The Brooklyn Rail*, and *The Washington Post*.

Sydnie was part of the 2017 Bessie Award-winning cast of the *skeleton architecture, the future of our worlds*, curated by Eva Yaa Asantewaa. In addition to her own work—which she has performed from Lincoln Center to the legendary Apollo Theater—she has performed with Christal Brown's *INSPIRIT* (2010-2013) and Brooklyn Ballet (2009-2019). She graduated from Barnard College in Dance and Africana Studies and earned an MFA in Dance Choreography from the University of Iowa.





## **PURPLE**



*PURPLE* is a universe of artistic projects across genres that illuminate the power of deep sisterhood for social change through storytelling and movement. *PURPLE* is spirit, it is magic, it is true love.

Each project is its own work unto itself. *PURPLE* projects are multigenerational, iterative, based in oral and embodied herstories, centered in sacred rituals of the African Diaspora, and are inspired by the work and processes of beloved ancestor Ntozake Shange. *PURPLE* is a catalyzing force for organizations, groups, and institutions to deepen community and audience relationships.

## PURPLE: A RITUAL IN NINE SPELLS, PERFORMANCE

An evening-length interactive performance experience that embodies the power of Black femme communities. **Through this community we thrive: we invest in one another, we honor and celebrate each other's brilliance, and we hold ourselves accountable to experiencing radical joy.** Inspired by playwright, poet, and feminist Ntozake Shange (best known for her Obie Award-winning play *For Colored Girls Who Have Considered Suicide*), PURPLE amplifies and exalts the voices of women and nonbinary people.

**This singular artistic experience is part exhibition, part dance-theater performance, part community gathering.** Every presentation is bespoke and responsive to the performance site and local communities (geographic and otherwise).

As a PURPLE attendee you will explore a lobby installation activating the stories of your local community elders and exhibiting colorful textiles and quilts, films, and other media. You will interact with performers, observe sacred rituals of the African Diaspora, and you will experience vibrant dance-theater—a multigenerational choreopoem of movement, music, and spoken word. You will have the option of moving your own body along with the performers and your fellow attendees.

**You will depart feeling more connected to others and to yourself.**

90-120 minutes, for a multi-generational, femme ensemble of 12. *PURPLE: A Ritual in Nine Spells* has a flexible performance model and can be iterated for large and small black box spaces, as well as proscenium stages.

*PURPLE* has been presented at Lincoln Center, DancePlace, and the Center for the Performing Arts at Penn State University.

## PURPLE STUDENT WORK

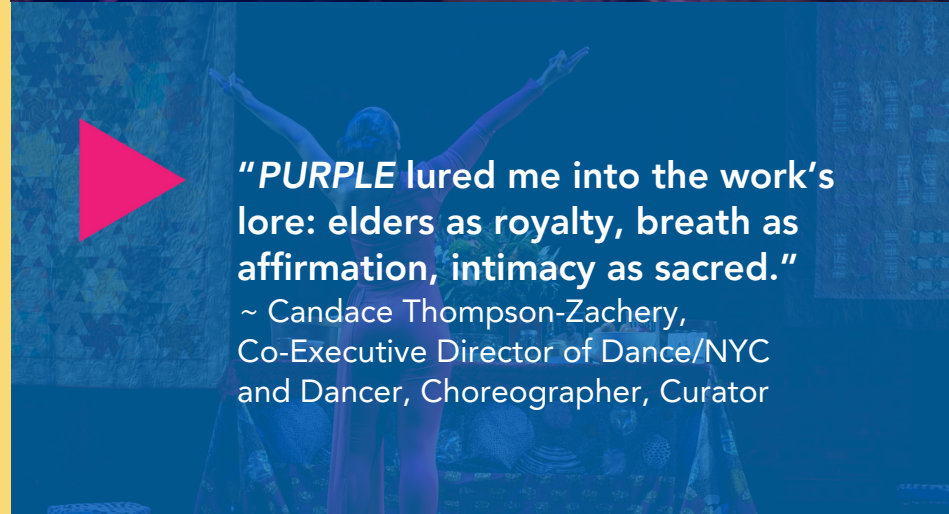
SLMDances facilitates student residencies at high schools and universities.

The facilitation of each residency models and activates the elements of *PURPLE* praxis (multigenerational, iterative, based in oral & embodied herstories, center sacred ritual(s), honor feedback loops, honor collective decision-making) and includes a mix of discussion, movement prompts, writing, reflection, meditation, and play. Choreography by Sydnie L. Mosley, for student performance, is also available.

Students may also engage with the primary texts: *The Color Purple* by Alice Walker, *Sassafrass*, *Cypress and Indigo* by Ntozake Shange, and *Spell #7* by Ntozake Shange.

SLMDances has facilitated *PURPLE* student residencies at Bowdoin College, Greenwich Academy, Roland Park Country School, and Spelman College. SLMDances educational residencies range from two weeks to a full semester.

Photos by Effy Grey.



**"PURPLE lured me into the work's lore: elders as royalty, breath as affirmation, intimacy as sacred."**

~ Candace Thompson-Zachery,  
Co-Executive Director of Dance/NYC  
and Dancer, Choreographer, Curator



## PURPLE COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

PURPLE's community engagements capture the radical joy in a place.

**"PURPLE asks what kind of beauty can be made by embodying people's stories of living on, in the face of structural violence."**

~ Janet Jakobsen, Professor of Women's Gender and Sexuality Studies at Barnard College, Columbia University

SLMDances nurtures relationships with older adults, women, and Black folks, facilitates the collection of their stories, and ultimately makes their stories visible through a multimedia art installation titled *What Does PURPLE Sound Like?* as a part of the PURPLE performance experience. The lives of ordinary folks are often overlooked—PURPLE amplifies their untold stories.

Engagement activities are longitudinal and collaborative (typically planned over the course of 3-6 months, and take place 6 months to 1 year prior to planned performances) and include: shared meals, participation in community activities, movement classes, cultural field trips, private performances, and creative movement and storytelling workshops. **Organizations often engage with SLMDances as a catalyzing force to further existing institutional goals and deepen community relationships.** Ultimately, the stories of the local community will be reflected in the artwork shared in that place.

SLMDances has worked in partnership with Lincoln Square Neighborhood Center and Amsterdam Houses with support from Lincoln Center Education Community Artist in Residence Program, CHANGING THE NARRATIVE, Barnard Center for Research on Women, and Hi-ARTS Sky Lab Residency.

**Contact us to discuss customizing PURPLE for your organization [info@slmdances.com](mailto:info@slmdances.com)**





## THE WINDOW SEX PROJECT: Addressing Gender-Based Street Harassment Through Movement



*The Window Sex Project* tackles the perpetual experience of being “window shopped,” aka forced to bear unsolicited sexual harassment in public space.

*The Window Sex Project* can be presented as a performance with an audience talk back and/or as a community workshop. This work restores agency to those who experience gender-based street harassment by allowing them to voice their concerns, find agency, celebrate their bodies, and take action. Few workshops give individuals the opportunity to process these experiences through – and reclaim – their bodies. SLMDances offers this invaluable space.

Want to shift policy and culture around gender-based sexual harassment in your community? *The Window Sex Project* is also available for college campuses or community theaters to license and produce.



## THE WINDOW SEX PROJECT, PERFORMANCE

**This dance-theater work asks audiences to contend with the objectification of femme and queer bodies in contemporary society.** Investigating how sexuality is perceived based on physical attributes, the performance celebrates all unique bodies which may not fit into generic models of womanhood or gender. Original Sound Score by Ebonie Smith.

60 minutes, with 5 performers. Also available in excerpts of 12-15 minutes, with 3 performers. The full-length work fits best in a black box theater space; excerpts can be presented in a proscenium space or outdoors.

Performance work developed with the support of Barnard Center for Research on Women, Africana Studies program, and Dance Department. TWSP has been presented at anti-street harassment rallies annually since 2012, at The Laundromat Project, Penn State University, Cornell University, and in Harlem, NY, with a development residency at the National Center for Choreography-Akron.

Note: Performances are meant for mature audiences.

**Book or license TWSP [info@slmdances.com](mailto:info@slmdances.com)**

## THE WINDOW SEX PROJECT, COMMUNITY WORKSHOPS

Women and genderqueer folks ages 18-40s are invited to participate in a workshop rooted in movement, storytelling, discussion, and wellness.

We use our time together to:

- Celebrate our bodies.
- Use our voice and movement to respond to street harassment.
- Fellowship with community.
- Discuss ways to take action against street harassment.

Movement sessions encompass yoga, dance, and/or creative movement. No dance experience necessary to participate! This workshop is customizable; it can be offered as a full-day experience or as a 3-hour workshop.

***You will depart with a deeper understanding of the impacts of sexual harassment and tools to shift a culture of gender based violence.***

Since 2011, SLMDances has facilitated workshops in partnership with Right To Be (formerly known as Hollaback!), Stop Street Harassment, Girls for Gender Equity, and Barnard Center for Research on Women, and have conducted workshops at Harlem School of the Arts, Grosvenor YMCA, Barnard College, Brooklyn YWCA, Black Girl Project Sisterhood Summit, Center for Anti Violence Education and more.

Age Guidance:

These workshops are intended for adults ages 18-40s. We recognize that some children begin to experience gender-based harassment as pre-teens or even earlier. A youth version of this workshop is available for youth ages 12-17.



# ADDITIONAL WORKS

## I WISHED ON THE MOON

An audience favorite, this structured improvisation engages the audience to dance with performers. The choreography embodies trust and partnership, and builds an overall sense of community in the performance space.

Music by Billie Holiday.

7 minutes, 1-4 performers.

## CAKE

This ensemble work interrogates sexuality, shame and respectability politics for Black women. CAKE points to the booty shaking childhood games we played while our mothers and grandmothers taught us what it is to be "lady-like." We consider how doing away with that shame can activate us to create new, free realities.

Sound Score by Sydnie L. Mosley, edited by Ebonie Smith.

Vocal direction by Autumn Scoggan. 15 minutes, 4 Black women performers.

## A SIDE OF THE WORLD FOR A CANVAS (available in 2026)

Inspired by Zora Neale Hurston's Harlem Renaissance classic *Their Eyes Were Watching God*, this work focuses on women embodying agency and possibility through storytelling. Music performed live by jazz vocalists and a pianist.

25 minutes, 6 Black women performers.

Book SLMDances [info@slmdances.com](mailto:info@slmdances.com)

Photos by Damel Dieng (top), G.L.O. Photos (bottom).





# SLMDANCES CORE VALUES

## DREAMING.

Dreams bring to our consciousness that which is outside of us. Dreaming is the first step to manifesting a better reality. As Zora Neale Hurston reminds us, "The dream is the truth." We live our dreams. Our imaginings are realities. Our actions make our imaginings so.

## ACTIVISM.

Dance is an agent of change. As an activist tool, dance uniquely positions human creativity and physicality as a catalyst for action. Movement of the body fuels cultural movement, one dance at a time. V (formerly Eve Ensler) states: "Dance is dangerous, joyous, sexual, holy, disruptive, and contagious and it breaks the rules. It can happen anywhere, at anytime, with anyone and everyone, and it's free. Dance joins us and pushes us to go further and that is why it's at the center..."

## TRANSPARENCY.

We value honesty in our movement, activism and organizational practices. It is the earnestness of actually falling, and getting back up again that creates the visceral nature of our work. We witness one another in this practice. We embody Aja Monet's understanding that when we witness each other and our mother's movements in this world, "it informs [our] own, their labor to love and live freely, their joy and their pain, their magic and madness."

## HUMANITY.

We honor the truth that every individual brings to the work. Each human has a unique experience to offer that is worthwhile and enriches the fabric of our dance. And to that extent, we believe that artists and other collaborators who contribute to the work should be acknowledged for that value. SLMDances embodies a "difference-celebrating culture," as suggested by Sonya Renee Taylor, and we celebrate you!

## COMMUNITY.

adrienne maree brown teaches us that "Relationships are everything." SLMDances understands itself in relationship to the various communities of which we are a part, or are invited into. We are rooted in, nurture and remain accountable to each of those communities, from our local experience to our national and global reach. Through collaboration, these communities are involved at every level of process. We believe mutually beneficial partnerships can fulfill the needs and wants of all involved.

## LEARNING.

Ntozake Shange writes, "it is possible to start a phrase with a word and end with a gesture/ that's how i've lived my life/ that's how i continue to study/ produce black art." SLMDances devises dances of words and gestures, thoughts and actions, creating opportunities for peer learning, research, critical thinking, discussion, and reflection. SLMDances is not an expert on any topic it tackles, but rather, we deeply listen and share what we discover in every class, rehearsal and performance.

## ► PRESS

Sydney L. Mosley and SLMDances have been featured in *The New York Times*, *Dance Magazine*, *Brooklyn Rail*, *NPR*, *Reboot* and *Joyce Theater* podcasts, and beyond, offering perspective on contemporary dance-theater, performance, arts leadership, equity in the dance and performing arts world, gender-based harassment, and more. Sydney's own writing has appeared in *ESSENCE*, *The Washington Post*, and *Dance Magazine*.

---

The New York Times

DANCE  
magazine

ESSENCE

 **BROOKLYN RAIL**  
CRITICAL PERSPECTIVES ON ARTS, POLITICS, AND CULTURE

The Washington Post



PIX 11



## TESTIMONIALS

**"Mosley has been envisioning a future free from oppression—with dance as one way to get there—at least since 2010...For people just beginning on that journey, she and her collaborators became a guiding light."**

~ Siobhan Burke, *Dance Magazine*

**"Life changing and soul cleansing."**

~ PD for the People Workshop Participant

**"This is really revolutionary stuff, fundamentally revolutionary stuff, and its message is valuable for all women."**

~ Eva Yaa Asantewaa, *Infinitebody*

**"more than just a performance piece--it was a revolutionary way of building and uplifting the dance community"**

~ Jessica Abejar, *Broadway World*

**"It was so impressive to see how succinctly you navigated these topics in ways that were digestible, grounded by your personal experiences, and yet still so expansively applicable. I really appreciated your down-to-earth, candid and thoughtful responses to all the questions in ways that broadened the conversation."**

~ University of Michigan School of Music, Theatre & Dance, Making Community Engaged Art Talk

**"I just wanted to say that that workshop changed my life! Those exercises made me look deeper into myself. Being in that workshop helped me see me."**

~ BodyBusiness Resource Sharing Workshop Participant

**"I have always been struck by the clarity and calm tenacity of her vision:  
[Sydney] sets out to do something, and she finds a way to get it done."**

**~ Siobhan Burke, *Brooklyn Rail***



## **CONTACT**

For bookings or interview inquiries contact:  
**SLMDances | [info@slmdances.com](mailto:info@slmdances.com)**

Fees vary based on the nature, length, and depth of engagement;  
custom engagements are possible.

Photo by Travis Coe.



**Sydnie L. Mosley Dances.**  
*Feel human through dance.*