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Welcoming our Interim Artistic Director: Rachel Whiting



Photo by Joelle Martinec - Ginger Sole Photography

A Note From Artistic Director Laura Karlin

It's been quite a full year - *Formulae & Fairy Tales* made its debut on The Broad Stage in September, and in November, my partner Isak and I will be welcoming a baby into our family. As Isak put it, "Two world premieres in one season!"

And so, a new adventure! I will be taking parental leave from Invertigo for four months, stepping away for the first time in 12 years. Stepping in as Interim Artistic Director is Rachel Whiting. Many of you know Rachel as an integral, inventive part of our Dancing Through Parkinson's team, and she is an extraordinary artist and teacher in her own right. Rachel will bring a beautiful, thoughtful voice and a clarity of vision to the company, and I'm so very pleased and grateful that she will be further elevating Invertigo with her presence.

Along with our brilliant staff, our diligent board members, and our phenomenal team of artists and crew, Rachel will have her hands full. Invertigo is launching a re-branding, going on our national tour stop to the University of Florida in February, expanding Dancing Through Parkinson's locations, and continuing to be a vibrant part of the arts eco-system, in Los Angeles and beyond, in so many ways.

This is a time for transformation, personally and professionally, for me and for Invertigo. I look forward to returning from leave, changed and also ready to face new challenges and opportunities for growth. In the meantime, I am so grateful for the incredible team that we have built, which will ensure a continuity in Invertigo's leadership, programming, and community.

- Laura Karlin



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A Note From Rachel Whiting

My introduction to Invertigo Dance Theatre came by way of their Dancing Through Parkinson's classes. I sought to teach for this program because I wanted to share a passion that has brought so much joy and meaning to my life. It did not take long before I was enveloped into a community where the exploration of dance was greeted with creativity and gratitude. As a teaching artist, I am fortunate to witness the moment when bodies and movement meet to transform. The effect of this is reaffirmed each week in the Dancing Through Parkinson's classes.

To my great pleasure, I discovered these elements are a pulsing energy in the veins of the Invertigo family. My first experience watching the professional company was in the 2015 Reeling performance at the Moss Theater. I sat in the audience completely captured by the humor, thoughtful story telling, and exquisite physicality of the dancers. "Wow", I thought, "This is Invertigo?" I felt fortunate to have walked into this gem of an organization.

The future looks bright. The professional company continues to expand to new territories, from the Broad Stage performances this fall, to a 2020 tour to the University of Florida. In close step, The Dancing Through Parkinson's program is also reaching new audiences, from the World Parkinson's Congress in Kyoto Japan this summer, to a developing online presence through the Pina Bausch Nelken Line Dance project and the Living on One documentary.

This is an exciting time of growth in the Invertigo community. I am honored to step in as Interim Artistic Director as Laura takes the treasured time to discover the joys and challenges of motherhood. I look forward to working with the incredible office staff, and the expanding Invertigo family to help nurture an abundant 2020.

Sincerely,

Rachel Whiting



Rachel Whiting teaching Dancing Through Parkinson's, Photo by Joelle Martinec - Ginger Sole

Photography

A Note From Executive Director David Mack

I've had an amazing time with the Invertigo team so far this year, and I'm thrilled that we're able to support Laura as a company during her leave while she embarks on this exciting new journey in her life. Moreover, we're psyched to be working with Rachel in this new way, deepening our relationship with the company while advancing our artistic goals and community impact going into 2020. On behalf of the entire Invertigo office team - Mike, K., Traci, Olivia, Kelsey and Rachel - we wish Laura a wonderful leave and look forward to continuing the adventure when she returns next spring.

- David Mack, Executive Director

Learn More About Rachel

Rachel Whiting is an accomplished dancer, choreographer, educator, and practitioner of healing arts. She brings rich and diverse experiences that have informed and supported her professional efforts and achievements.

Ms. Whiting began her study of classical dance at the age of seven, training and performing with numerous domestic companies. She pursued higher education in New York at the Julliard School before embarking on a professional career. Rachel recently completed her Bachelor's degree of The Performing Arts graduating Cum Laude at St. Mary's College of California.

As a dancer in New York, Rachel was asked to join the faculty of the renowned Merce Cunningham Dance Company and dance as a member of the Cunningham Repertory Understudy Group. Thereafter, she took a position as Director of Dance at Oure Idraesthojoskole (Denmark), and taught and performed extensively in the Nordic territories, including the prestigious Skanes Dansteater (Sweden). In 2008 Rachel performed in the Booking's Beijing Olympic cultural exchange program sharing the stage with top American and Chinese dance companies.

Upon her return to the States, Rachel became Artist in Residence for Denver School of the Arts, and contributed to the launch of Colorado's first International Baccalaureate dance program. In California, Rachel taught at Oberlin Dance Collective/SF, as well as inner city schools. Other noteworthy credits as educator are as master teacher of the Cunningham Technique at the College of

Performing Arts in Hollywood, as well as teaching artist for Invertigo Dance Theater's Dancing Through Parkinson's.

As Choreographer, Ms. Whiting's works have been commissioned by professional companies and schools throughout the U.S. and Europe, including: David Taylor Dance Theatre, Denver School of the Arts (Colorado), The Kitchen (New York), Contemporary Dance (Wyoming), Ny Musik Odense (Denmark), and currently in Los Angeles at the College of Performing Arts.

As Practitioner, Ms. Whiting employs a unique approach using the movement practices of Pilates® and Gyrotonic™. Certified in both disciplines, she has spent years developing techniques to treat a grateful and loyal private clientele with unique physical challenges. Her experience recovering from two major hip surgeries has informed Rachel's knowledge of anatomy, physiology, body mechanics and injury prevention, serving to surpass the results of conventional exercise and dance conditioning.

Rachel's life long love of movement compels her to help others experiment with creativity, resolve pain and learn the discipline of a movement practice.



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