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A Note from Laura, Our Artistic Director



In which I come back from Maternity Leave in the midst of a global pandemic...

Two weeks ago, Monday was my first day back to work from maternity leave.

That Monday, it was the first day all of our staff began working remotely.

That Monday, the office was empty except for me. It's attached to my home, so there I was.

That Monday, I did many things that a mother going back to work would do. I got dressed. I kissed my baby. I wrote out feeding instructions. I waved "bye bye."

That Monday, I stepped back into a world so completely transformed, a landscape so utterly shifted. This is not how I thought it would be.

I set up my desk, stared at an inbox full of emails, briefly considered the many cancellations I knew were already rolling in... classes, programs, performances, fundraisers...

And I wrote this down:

**“How can we -- as artists, a company and a community -- help?
How can we be of service?”**

That question was the first thing I could wrap my mind around. If I had started with cash flows, cancellations and crisis, I would have spiralled. Instead of survival, I focused on service. I believe that being of service to one another is ultimately how we will survive.

I have since gone down more logistical rabbit holes - as Artistic Director, I am working in close collaboration with our Executive Director David Mack, our staff, and our board of directors. These people are a marvel.

I keep coming back to this idea of community and connection that is at the heart of Invertigo's values. These are the three things that came to me, in answer to my questions:

- **Combat isolation**
- **Cultivate hope**
- **Provide moments to recharge**

They percolated up into my fingertips and through the pen. I have dreams and schemes for how to go about this. We'll be sharing more soon.

For my artist friends, it is ok to mourn the cancellations, the losses, the would-have-beens. I am too. I have also been deeply inspired by the outpouring of love, support, online offerings, and opportunities for connection that you're all cultivating. Within a couple of weeks, we have seen artists - whose entire livelihoods have been called into question - doing what we best know how to do. We are putting classes online, performing in living rooms, teaching through new platforms, reaching out to more vulnerable communities, sewing masks for hospitals out of old costumes, providing entertainment and deeper questioning and perspectives, holding each other together.

In a new world, we need artists to help us re-imagine who we are and become who we must be in order both to survive and to be of service.

This Monday is my third week back to work from maternity leave.

This Monday, I am breathing through fear and uncertainty, and nurturing hope.

This Monday, I am clarifying how to be a leader and an artist.

I hope to share what I find with you.

Be well, my friends, and take care of one another.

- Laura

From our Executive Director, David Mack



Artistic Director Laura Karlin and Executive Director David Mack, Photo by Ginger Sole Photography

During this time of questions - when so many people are questioning so many things - I take comfort in the things I don't have to question: **What are we doing here?** We're supporting our community and each other through the values that brought our team together: the values of **cultural equity**, the values of **uplifting the voices of those whose voices have too often gone unheard**, and the values of **treating each other with a spirit of generosity and mutual respect**.

I'm reminded of a moment during a Q&A after our student matinee of FORMULAE & FAIRY TALES at the Broad Stage in Santa Monica, in which a student asked, "*Why did you make this?*" to which Laura responded, "*so you could see it!*" This is why we're here at Invertigo, **because this amazing**

community needs to be seen... We wish everyone health and safety during these viral times, and keep dancing!

Update on Invertigo's Classes

While our **Dancing Through Parkinson's** and **Dancing Through Life** classes **remain closed through Sunday, May 31**, our team is working to create new online programs that will allow us to stay engaged with our Parkinson's participants and other important members of our community. During this time of isolation, it is so important that we find ways to stay connected. If you'd like to support this exciting new initiative, please donate [here](#).

[Donate](#)

Dancing Through Life, Inglewood



DTL Teacher in training Jessica Moneà Evans

Meet the newest addition to our DTP/DTL team! Jessica Moneà Evans has been a teacher in training at our Dancing Through Life program at Magic Circle Adult Day Health Center in Inglewood. Read her inspiring blog post about her experience [here](#). Thank you Jessica for bringing us positivity in this time of uncertainty and reminding us how dance can truly change lives.

[Read more](#)



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