

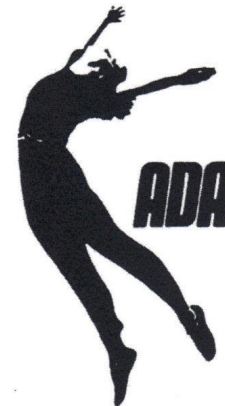
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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American Dance Asylum Inc.

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**American Dance Asylum presents “The Civic Social” to launch new public art project in Corning, NY**

On September 2, 2021 Corning Civic Center Plaza, in the heart of Corning, NY will be reimagined as a social dance hub by NYC-based choreographers Mark Schmidt + Remi Harris. Part performance, part pop-up community dance party, *The Civic Social* will bring together local artists along with their creative team, dance artist Martita Abril and DJ Krunk Pony. The performance begins at 7pm followed by the dance party.

The Civic Social will design and activate the underused Corning Civic Center Plaza through structured improvisation and set material, including a line dance called the Market Street Slide specifically created for Corning. With an ethos of “come as you are”, this dance installation reflects a shared value system of community, local pride, and individual expression. We are beginning an unprecedented transition; we are getting back together after being apart for so long. Let’s rediscover the joy of social dance!

A cast of 15 dancers, from the region and beyond, will perform “The Civic Social”.

[Full program and artists’ bios, \(can you add a link to the program notes?\)](#)

This is a Free family-friendly outdoor event; bring a folding chair and wear your dancing shoes. Rain or Shine.

Originally from Monterey, New York, (a small village north of Corning NY), **Mark Schmidt** is a choreographer, performer and educator who first found solace on the dance floors of New York’s 1990s gay clubs and underground house music scene. He took his first formal dance class at 171 Cedar Arts in 1994 when guest artists from Colombia presented a three-day salsa workshop. (Little did he know his excitement about the workshop at 171 Cedar Arts would later reveal a passion that would turn into a career.) He graduated from Campbell-Savona High School and attended Corning Community College before moving to New York in 1996. He holds a BA with a concentration in Cultural Studies from the New School for Social Research and MFA in Performance and Choreography from SUNY Brockport. As a choreographer, he has presented work at Dixon Place, Triskelion Arts, Sia Gallery, Chen Dance Center and Center for Performance Research in New York, and the Contemporary Art Institute of Detroit, Bol Theater, and ArtLabJ in Detroit. When not performing for other artists or creating his own work, he occasionally assists art director Reynaldo Davis Carter as a production assistant. This has included sets for commercials and fashion publications Italian Vogue, Vs.

American Dance Asylum 259 Pine St. Corning, NY 14830

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Magazine, and L'Officiel. Mark is a cabaret law reform activist and formerly served as the curatorial committee vice chair at Dance Parade Inc. from 2014-2018.

*L: Mark Schmidt R: Remi Harris  
Photo credit: Joanna Futral*

**Remi Harris** is a Barbados-born and Brooklyn-bred multidisciplinary dance artist, performance curator, and arts administrator exploring the intersectionality between dance, new media, and black female representation. Her work manifests in forms of movement improvisation, choreography, site-specific work, movement for video, activations, XR, and art programming. Her projects have been featured at Abrons Art Center, Brooklyn Studios for Dance, Danspace Project, Teatro La Tea, Triskelion Arts, The Mark O'Donnell Theater, The Brick Theater, and Thalian Hall, Spark Dance Film Festival, Triskelion Dance Film Festival, and the Cucalorus Film Festival in Wilmington North Carolina.

She has had the pleasure of dancing with Racoco/Rx, Sydnie L. Mosley, Christal Brown/INSPIRIT, Katie Workum, Keigwin + Company, among others. She was most recently seen in *The Gauntlet*, an immersive, site-specific choral and movement piece co-produced by National Sawdust, and created by composer Sxip Shirey and choreographer Coco Karol, *The Let Go*, an immersive performance and installation by Nick Cave at Park Avenue Armory, and *Sitting on a Man's Head*, a practice and an installation by Okwui Okpokwasili and Peter Born at Danspace Project in March of 2020.

In addition to her movement-based work, Remi has held positions as the Education Coordinator at Ballet Hispanico and the Co-Director of Brooklyn Studios for Dance. Past curatorial work includes the 2019 Dance/NYC Symposium along with Stephanie Acosta. She advocates for dance equity as a member of several art collectives such as the Artists of Color Council under Movement Research and as a creative consultant. She is currently the Programs Manager at CPR-Center for Performance Research and a Hofstra University alum graduating with a BA in Dance where she was on scholarship.

This project is supported by the New York State DanceForce, a NYSCA partner, Corning Pride Council and the Arts of Southern Finger Lakes. Special thanks to Meghan O'Toole Tuazon.



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