



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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# Velocity's International Seattle Festival of Dance Improvisation 2015 Will Be The World's First Climate-Neutral Dance Festival

[velocitydancecenter.org/sfdi-2015](http://velocitydancecenter.org/sfdi-2015)

(Seattle, WA) — Every summer, leading innovators in new dance and improvisation descend upon Seattle for **the international Seattle Festival of Dance Improvisation (SFDI)**, now celebrating its 22nd year. In 2015, SFDI will be the world's first consciously climate-neutral dance festival. SFDI is committed to offsetting all of its greenhouse gas emissions through Bonneville Environmental Foundation's greenhouse gas offsets. This is also supported by Seattle, one of the few large cities in the world that offsets its' greenhouse gas emissions of its' electric utility.

Velocity and the SFDI community of artists, faculty, and improvisers hope this will inspire artists and arts organizers to take action in slowing down global warming, and spread the word about the importance of changing our habits of burning fossil fuels. Velocity Artistic Director Tonya Lockyer says, "My hope in doing this is to increase awareness as well as reduce our footprint."

This effort is largely inspired by SFDI faculty alum / Kidd Pivot dancer Eric Beauchesne's SFDI 2014 Lightning Talk, "Beyond the Ephemerality of Dance," on Kidd Pivot's commitment to touring carbon-neutral. Watch the footage and read the full transcript [HERE](#).

Velocity is also pleased to work with Roel Hammerschlag, SFDI faculty alum / Climate & Energy Policy Consultant, in realizing this goal:

"I'm proud to be working with Velocity to bring awareness of climate change and the things we can do about it to the arts community. For me, dance is about a spiritual connection to the body, and therefore about connection to nature.

Stewardship of the planet, and taking joy in moving my body, are very nearly one and the same thing.

The impact of travel and touring within the dance community is significant. Every passenger mile a dancer flies in an aircraft causes about the same greenhouse gas emissions as driving a car that same distance. While faster, it is not much better for the environment. A professional touring dancer can cause more than twice the emissions over time of a fellow citizen who works in a local office, and perhaps a dozen times the emissions of a resident of a developing nation.”

- Roel Hammerschlag, Climate & Energy Policy Consultant

The international Seattle Festival of Dance Improvisation (SFDI) is a world-renowned festival that provides the perfect opportunity to learn and share experiences with some of the most highly regarded artists working in the field of dance today. Considered the leading convening of dance improvisers in the U.S., SFDI 2015 features intensives, classes, jams, somatic labs, site-specific workshops, performances and discussions with an exceptional faculty including major American performance makers / Guggenheim Fellows **Ralph Lemon** and **Jennifer Monson**. [Monson](#) extends SFDI’s 2015 theme of environmentalism through a site-specific [six-day intensive](#), investigating dance as a research tool to understand the patterns and systems of the environments we inhabit. Monson will bring her award-winning methodology to the rapidly changing urban ecology of Capitol Hill.

## **SEATTLE FESTIVAL OF DANCE IMPROVISATION (SFDI) 2015 22nd ANNUAL SFDI / JULY 26 – AUG 3**

**INTENSIVES** // Ralph Lemon / Andrew de Lotbinière Harwood / Jennifer Monson / Joy Davis / Jimena Paz / Ronja Ver

**LEARN MORE ABOUT SFDI INTENSIVES + CLASSES + PERFORMANCES + PUBLIC EVENTS >> <http://velocitydancecenter.org/events/sfdi-2015/>**

### **ABOUT VELOCITY**

Mayor’s Arts Award and Genius Award winning Velocity Dance Center is Seattle’s forward-thinking laboratory and essential incubator for dance and emerging ideas. A national nexus for dance, Velocity is recognized as a leader in new dance development in the US. With artist-driven, community-centered artistic and education programs, Velocity is instrumental in making Seattle a destination city with one of the most active dance communities in the nation. With artist-led classes and workshops every day, performances every week, three annual dance festivals, ongoing humanities programs that activate thoughtful conversations, as well as weekly community events from social dances to family-style dinners, Velocity is a portal for those new to dance and an

important community resource. Home to hundreds of independent dance artists and renowned for producing innovative, cutting-edge work, Velocity has featured performances and master classes by art stars Tere O'Connor, Pat Graney, Reggie Watts, Miguel Gutierrez, Anouk van Dijk, Deborah Hay, Faye Driscoll, 33 Fainting Spells, KT Niehoff, Zoe Scofield/Juniper Shuey, Danielle Agami and many more. Velocity is Seattle's only dedicated contemporary dance venue where groundbreaking work and disciplined practice coexist.

## VELOCITY MISSION

Velocity advances contemporary dance and movement-based art by fostering the creative explorations of artists and audiences through an invested commitment to education, creation, performance, inquiry, community participation, and inter/national exchange.

*The 22nd annual Seattle Festival of Dance Improvisation is made possible thanks to NEA Art Works, City of Seattle Office of Arts & Culture, and additional support from Velocity Season Sponsors 4 Culture, Arts Fund, The Seattle Foundation, The Glenn H. Kawasaki Foundation, The Pruzan Foundation, Pacific Continental Bank, media sponsor KUOW 94.9, and the generosity of individual donors.*



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