

AT THE CORE OF MY WORK IS A PASSION FOR MOVEMENT
THAT SPRINGS FROM AN UNPREDICTABLE AND LIMITLESS
ALIVENESS IN THE BODY. TO ME, BEING IN THE BODY MEANS
EXPERIENCING IT IN A BLOODFUL, BREATHING WAY THAT IS
TRANSFORMATIVE AND IMPROVISATIONAL. I LOVE DIVING
INTO THE DEEP WATERS OF THE BODY AND ALL ITS
WILD POSSIBILITY.



Paula Josa-Jones

performance works



ABOUT

PAULA JOSA-JONES, MA, CMA, RSMT

is a dancer, choreographer, director and equestrian known for her visually rich, emotionally charged dance theater. Her work includes choreography for humans, inter-species work with horses and dancers, dancers, film and video. Josa-Jones has been called “one of the country’s leading choreographic conceptualists” by the *Boston Globe* and the *Village Voice* describes her work as “powerful, eccentric, and surreal.” Her dances have been produced in Russia, Europe, Mexico and throughout the United States. She has taught in the dance programs at Tufts University, Boston University and at universities, colleges and dance festivals nationally and internationally. She is a Certified Laban Movement Analyst and a Registered Somatic Movement Therapist (RSMT) accredited by the International Somatic Movement Education and Therapy Association (ISMETA.) She is also a Guild-Certified TTEAM (Tellington Touch Equine Awareness Method) practitioner. Her writings on movement and dance have been published in *Contact Quarterly*. She is currently writing a book on her work with horses called *The Common Body: horses and humans sharing the language of movement in an interspecies world*. Paula writes a daily blog called **RIDE DANCE WRITE**.

As the Artistic Director of **Paula Josa-Jones/Performance Works**, Paula has received two consecutive two-year Choreography Fellowships (1992–96) from the National Endowment for the Arts, and an Artist’s Grant from the Massachusetts Cultural Council. Her work in Mexico was supported by an NEA US/Mexico Cultural Exchange Fellowship and the US/Mexico Fund for Culture. She is the recipient of two New Forms grants from the New England Foundation for the Arts and an Artists Foundation Fellowship in Interarts for her video dance collaborations with Vin Grabill. The company has received support from the Massachusetts Cultural Council, the New England Foundation for the Arts, the Arts Lottery, Creative Time, the Dakota Foundation, LEF Foundation, the Claneil Foundation, the Polaroid Foundation, and the Trust for Mutual Understanding. She has received commissions from the Walker Art Center, Joyce Theater, Jacob’s Pillow, Dance Umbrella, Lincoln Center Out-of-Doors, and nuArts at Northeastern University, among others.

In 1998, after over a dozen years of creating work for humans, Paula launched an inter-species company with horses, dancers and riders. She is an avid student of dressage, Clicker Training and the Feldenkrais-based equine work of Linda Tellington-Jones. In 2001 she premiered **RIDE**, a groundbreaking work of equestrian dance theater. Her work with dance and horses includes live performance, film, education and humanitarian work with rescued and abused horses. As the creator of **Embodied Horsemanship**, she teaches an intuitive, improvisational approach to the human-horse bond through movement and touch, and enjoys riding and performing with her horses Sanne, Amadeo and Capprichio.



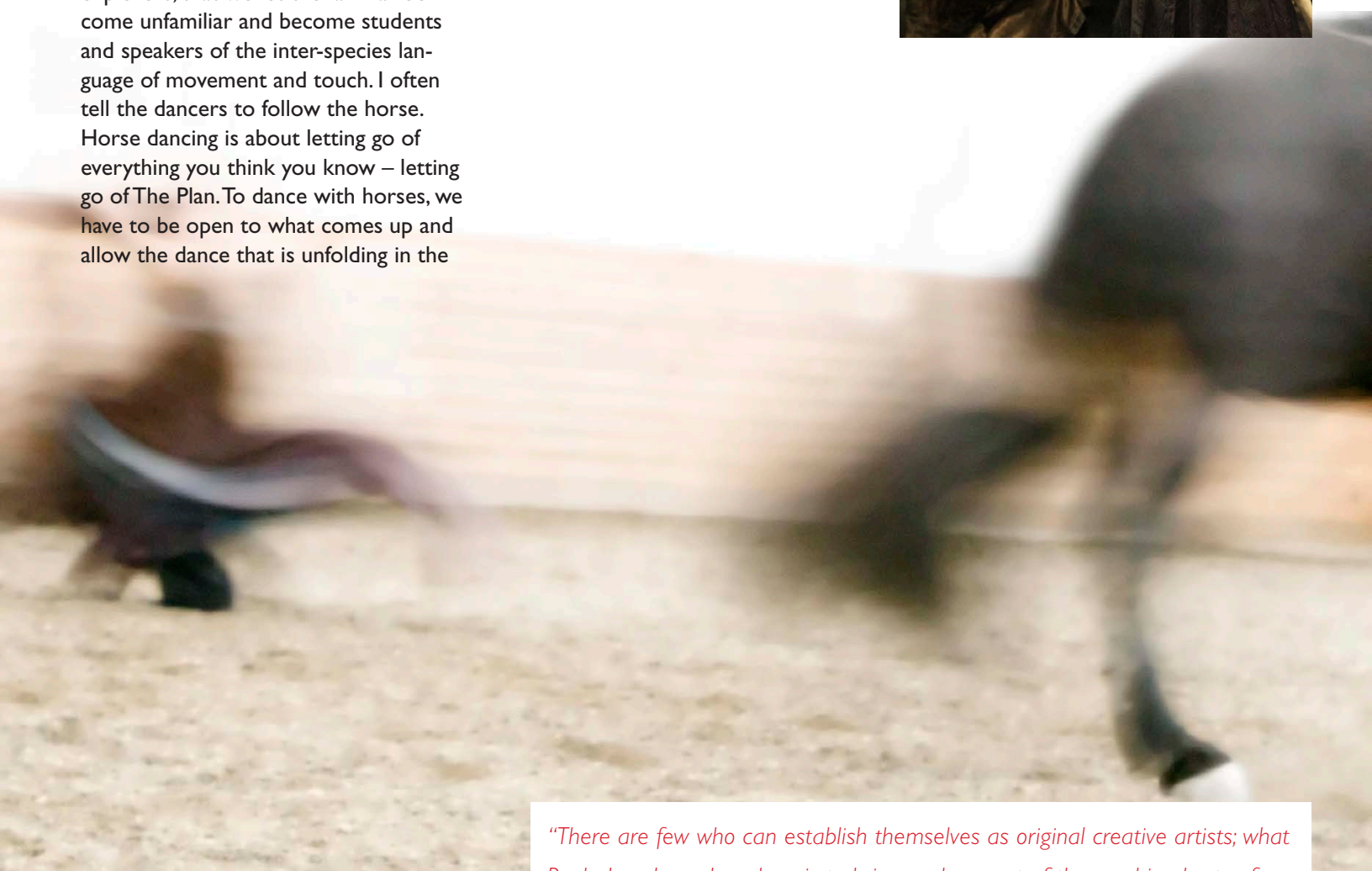
HORSE DANCING

Horse dancing connects my love of horses with my passion for movement of all kinds. The dances we make with horses reflect what they can teach us about the wild and subtle language of the body that we share with them. It also reflects my larger belief that, in the words of the Lakota Sioux, *Mitakuye Oyasin*, or “we are all related.”

Horse dancing requires that we become explorers, that we let the familiar become unfamiliar and become students and speakers of the inter-species language of movement and touch. I often tell the dancers to follow the horse. Horse dancing is about letting go of everything you think you know – letting go of The Plan. To dance with horses, we have to be open to what comes up and allow the dance that is unfolding in the

moment to lead us. Bringing horses and humans together in a performance is a simple and powerful act. Sharing the language of movement creates a common ground understood and spoken by both horses and humans.

My partners in this work are dancers DeAnna Pellecchia and Ingrid Schatz, both of whom have been dancing with me for nearly fifteen years.



“There are few who can establish themselves as original creative artists; what Paula Josa-Jones has done is to bring each aspect of the combined arts of equitation and dance into a new and sublime focus.” – CARLY SIMON

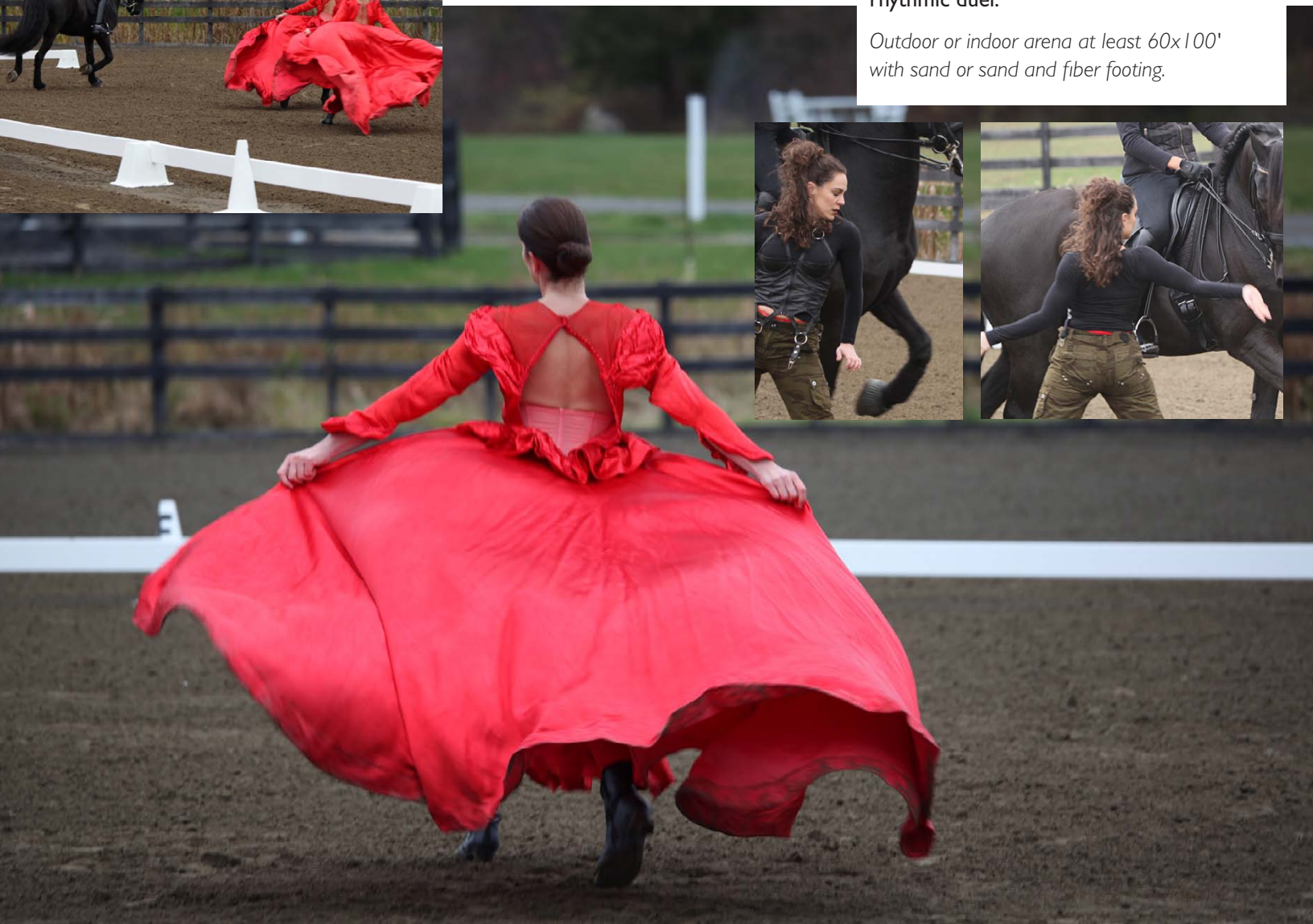
THE HORSE DANCES

SCARLET is a 15-minute work usually performed in conjunction with **KRUMP** and Escorial. In addition to performing this work in festivals and as part of a performance season, we have donated this performance to help equine sanctuaries both increase public awareness and raise funds for their rescue, rehabilitation and education programs.



KRUMP is performed by dancer DeAnna Pellecchia and the Friesian Sanne, ridden and trained by Brandi Rivera. **KRUMP** was inspired by David LaChapelle's documentary film *Rize*. Krumping is almost always freestyle and often involves dance battles. Our dance is rooted in rhythms that are shared by the horse and the human, in which DeAnna challenges Sanne (and his rider) to a rhythmic duel.

Outdoor or indoor arena at least 60x100' with sand or sand and fiber footing.



THE HORSE DANCES

FLIGHT is a 55-minute work that creates a new dimension in inter-species performance with aerial dance. Partnering with aerialist and dancer Paola Styron and Flying by Foy, the premiere theatrical flying company, we explore the metaphor of the creature who flies without wings.

Music performed live by Robert Weinstein, Paul Butler and John Marshall.

TECHNICAL SPECS

Indoor arena at least 80x100' with clearance of at least 30' with sand or sand and fiber footing.

Aerial truss and track from Flying by Foy
Flight director
Flight crew (3)
Stabling for 3–4 horses



PONY DANCES is performed by dancers DeAnna Pellecchia and Ingrid Schatz, with the liberty horse Escorial ("Pony") with trainer and performer Sarah Hollis. Escorial has been dancing with us for nearly seven years and is trained by Ms. Hollis to move from subtle and specific movement cues in both set choreography and improvisation.

Either a 60' round pen or an Indoor arena at least 60x100' with sand or sand and fiber footing.



SITE & EVENT SPECIFIC DANCES

Paula Josa-Jones/Performance Works creates community-based, collaborative, inter-species dance projects that bring together performing artists and members of the equestrian community for an unforgettable experience. Our work in the community with equestrian dance began with **RIDE**, our signature work, which was created in collaboration with local riders and horses on Martha's Vineyard.

In *All the Pretty Horses* we worked with rescued horses who were previously designated as too old, too lame, too dangerous and too wild. "It is the time and proper intervention with these formerly cast-off horses that enables them to perform with such beauty, grace and dignity," says Lynn Cross executive director of Little Brook Farm in Old Chatham, NY.

All the Pretty Horses reveals the depth and heart of the human-horse bond and the beauty and possibility of horses that were thrown away or seen as having no value and sold for slaughter.

We look forward to working with you to develop a memorable and meaningful experience for participants and audience members alike.



"What a fabulous and graceful performance. The youth and freshness in the movement and in the troupe (horses included) were a delight. Paula, you continue to amaze and delight your fans." – **LARRY KUNZ**

"Two of the things I love the most in this world are horses and dance. To combine the two with brilliant choreography and humane training methods in order to create a universal message of understanding of these magnificent creatures is something I am so proud to be involved with and share with others. 'RIDE' demonstrates and explores how communication with horses is best attained if done through mutual respect and kindness." – **SUSAN WAGNER, DIRECTOR, EQUINE ADVOCATES**



THE HUMAN DANCES

SOLOS & GROUP WORKS

In addition to her theatrical ensemble work and inter-species choreography, Paula Josa-Jones is well known for her idiosyncratic and elegant solo work for stage and film created over the past twenty-five years. Her new solo program, *Little Fictions and Ragged Memoirs* can be booked in conjunction with **small group repertory** works and a menu of education and outreach activities.

"As if a hybrid of a Pierrot and a rose, 'Ofrenda' is ultimately as close to perfection as a dance can be." – T.J. MEDREK



"I've consistently been impressed with the subtlety of articulation she achieves, as well as her ability to embody distinct states of being through movement which seems planned but not choreographed, and is neither classically shaped nor task-oriented. It is a matter of summoning personas and being empty enough at the core to let them live."

– HIGH PERFORMANCE

EDUCATION & OUTREACH

The goals of our outreach activities are:

- Connection
- Awareness
- Education
- Collaboration
- Community
- Improvisation

We work with presenters, community members, educators and local dance companies to develop a menu of innovative educational and collaborative outreach activities that fit your community and your venue. Because we are an inter-species company, our presence creates unique opportunities for interdisciplinary cross-pollination. Learning about communication with another species in the shared language of movement creates a lasting and life-changing impact for participants and audiences alike.

Schools and partnering organizations can involve students in all disciplines, including visual arts, photography, writing and performance in a broad range of activities that are inspired by the human-horse connection.

HORSE DANCING and the HERD with Paula Josa-Jones and equine performance trainer Sarah Hollis

Horse dancing isn't just about dance or even horses. It is about listening, relationship and connection. This workshop focuses on building an intuitive and attuned relationship with the horse, using the movement language and consciousness of the herd. The experience of partnering with a horse with both movement and stillness cultivates awareness, clarity of intention, and an open heart.

Other workshops include:

COOKBOOK for the BONEHOUSE takes a playful, strategic and improvisational approach to movement, voice and performance. Over the past twenty-five years, Ms. Josa-Jones has developed a "cookbook" of "recipes" to challenge and focus dancers.

WILD PLAY is for dancers and choreographers interested in deepening and expanding their dance-making practice.



"Paula's teaching style is rare. It's the balance of yin/yang. Paula does not come from ego. She is truly interested in understanding and supporting her students, and passing along her wisdom while being open to what she can learn in the moment. She's amazing. Fabulous experience." – LISA DAIGLE

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"How can I express the majesty of your performance, the concept and the soul-drive choreography? I witnessed a miracle: the connection between horse and woman, the darkened earth beneath hooves and art. I wept when the dancer put her face to Norman's nostrils as if she were whispering to God." – CAROL DINE, AUTHOR OF

PLACES IN THE BONE: A MEMOIR

"This is a fan letter. I think your work is strong, deep, and quite extraordinary. Thank you for such a stirring, puzzling, and restful (all at once!) experience . . ."

– REBECCA BLUNK, DIRECTOR, NEW ENGLAND FOUNDATION FOR THE ARTS

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