



***2015 Dance Omi Events Throughout August***  
International Dance Artists Converge for Three Weeks  
of Artistic & Cultural Exchange at Omi International Arts Center

Fri. August 14, 7-8:30 PM at Omi Studio Barns | *Dance Omi Choreographer's Talks*

Sat. August 15, 5-6:30 PM at Omi Studio Barns | *Dance Omi Salon*

Sat. August 22, 2-4 PM at PS21, Chatham, NY | *So You Think You Don't Understand (Modern) Dance?*

Sat. August 29, 2-4 PM at The Fields at Omi | *Dance Omi Showing in The Fields*

**For Immediate Release**

**Ghent, New York** - The 2015 Dance Omi program welcomes eight international dance artists, representing nine different countries, to its artistic oasis in upstate New York this August for the organization's annual residency, now in its eleventh year. The program fosters artistic and cultural exchange in the relaxed and rural setting of Omi International Arts Center in Ghent, New York. Under the direction of Dance Omi Director Christopher K. Morgan, and this year's Guest Mentor, Benjamin Van Buren (a 2013 Alumnus of Dance Omi and a dancer and choreographer based in New York City), these highly diverse dance artists will gather to experiment and collaborate from August 12-31.

The year's residents are a talented group, including choreographers and dance artists from all geographical and cultural backgrounds. The artistic perspectives of the residents is also varied, and include modern and contemporary dance, belly dancing, hip-hop, improvisation, movement research and the intersection between dance and architecture.

As the residency begins Morgan says, "I love how the first couple of days serve as a microcosm for the entire 3-week process. In the first day of workshops alone the residents have to navigate leading, following, putting forth ideas, listening to those of others, creating and waiting - just a few of the elements of the collaborative process they are embarking on. It's amazing to watch things grow from idea to seedling to full bloom." Those connections

are one of the things that make Dance Omi so unique. Introducing dancer/choreographers to one another, who would otherwise likely not meet, let alone collaborate, is to sow the seeds at Omi for future collaborations.

Four public events in three different venues offer audiences an exciting opportunity to see these collaborations form, and to be exposed to dance from diverse cultures, backgrounds, and styles. All events are free and open to the public, with no RSVP needed.

**This Friday, August 14 at 7 PM at the Omi Studio Barns, The Choreographer's Talks** are an opportunity for four of the incoming residents of Dance Omi to share excerpts of their individual work with an intimate, public audience. This talk will feature live performance by Salvatore Cataldo (Italy/Germany), Lindsey Renee Derry (USA), Shanna Lim (USA) and a video presentation by Chavi Bansal (India/USA).

**The following day on Saturday, August 15 at 5 PM at the Omi Studio Barns, the Dance Omi Salon** is a forum for the other four of the residents to share their individual work in the form of live performances with the public before exhibiting their collaborative projects later in the month. This event will feature live performances by José Ramón Corral (Mexico), Neus Gil-Cortes (Spain/UK), Flora Veres (Hungary) and a video by Alina Ruiz Folini (Argentina).

The long-lasting collaborations and connections between Dance Omi residents continues to grow this year as we bring back three Dance Omi alumni to participate in **So You Think You Don't Understand (Modern) Dance? held at PS21 on Saturday, August 22 at 2 PM.** Morgan will facilitate an exchange between three artists – alumni Vincent E. Thomas, Shandoah Goldman and Nicole Wolcott – and the audience. The dialogue is a wonderful way for audiences and artists alike to build their understanding of dance.

Lastly, in one of the most visually stunning events at Omi, the **Dance Omi Showing in The Fields** takes place on Saturday August 23, 2 PM. The Showing allows the residents to share their collaborations with the public. Each year's iteration varies based on the interests of the residents, but generally involves site specific performance events which lead visitors throughout Omi's beautiful sculptures and grounds.

Full bios for the 2015 Dance Omi residents and more information about the program are available at [www.omiartscenter.org/dance](http://www.omiartscenter.org/dance).

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### **About Omi International Arts Center**

Omi International Arts Center seeks to foster an environment of creative exploration and exchange, professional opportunity and exposure, and a stylistically and culturally diverse community for creative artists from around the world. Through our programs and resulting public events - including our Residency Programs, The Fields Sculpture Park, Architecture Omi, and Education Omi - Omi contributes to a vibrant arts culture locally, regionally, and internationally. For more information visit: [www.omiartscenter.org](http://www.omiartscenter.org)

Image Credits: (left) Alumni Nicole Wolcott who will participate in the *So You Think You Don't Understand (Modern) Dance?* event, photo by Whitney Browne. (right) 2014 Dance Omi Showing in The Fields, photo by Akemi Hiatt.