

SHALEIGH DANCE WORKS, INC.

GUEST ARTIST

INDEPENDENT CONTRACTOR

ShaLeigh Dance Works is a dance-theatre company dedicated to creating work for social change. Our mission is to inspire people of all abilities, social backgrounds, cultures, and generations with the transformative power of dance through socially conscious performances, engagement programs, and our healing movement language ShaGa. Under the direction of Founder, Creator and Artistic Director, ShaLeigh Comerford, we aim to provide a concrete example of how dance can transform people's lives and enrich society.

Each year, SDW creates programming at the intersection of art, culture, and social change to uplift and enrich our communities. The company also offers multiple performances each year that bring mixed-ability movers to professional stages and panel discussions on making dance inclusive and welcoming to people with disabilities.

With a focus on artistic excellence, nurturing artists, and designing programs to empower those impacted by marginalization, SDW aims to provide a concrete example of how dance can transform people's lives and enrich society. SDW is based in Durham, NC and honored to be celebrating their fifth season in North Carolina.

SDW embodies and upholds the following ideals:

Honor – *we are considerate, thoughtful, and act with integrity.*

Interconnectedness – *we are supportive and principled.*

Communal Responsibility – *we are responsive and dedicated to sustainable change.*

Collaboration – *we are resourceful, proactive, enterprising, and resilient.*

Equity – *we are inclusive and committed to justice, anti-racism, anti-oppression, and diversity.*

These values are intrinsic to SDW and guide how we work and interact with our core communities.

POSITION SUMMARY

ShaLeigh Dance Works seeks experienced dancers with strong technical, artistic, and creative abilities for a part-time position for our 2022 Season.

SDW supports its 2022 Guest Artists with 22-week contracts, ShaGa and Movement/Mentorship Training, hourly rehearsal pay, and paid performances. Guest Artists embrace a broad spectrum of activities — in the studio, on stage, within the organization, and throughout the community.

The 2022 Season, led by Artistic Director ShaLeigh Comerford and Co-Director Davian Robinson, focuses on an interdisciplinary and immersive project that does not require a viewer's vision. The project was born from a desire to create a dance-theatre performance that would be accessible to both audiences who have their sense of vision and to people who live with a visual impairment. This is a multi-phase project that will bring together, in a collective creative process, a team of collaborators around a single challenge: to tell a story through dance and theatre beyond their visual dimension, by the elaboration of new atmospheres and through a close interaction between the performer and the spectator..

The time commitment required is 7 hours per week depending on the season's programs. Further, all individuals must be fully vaccinated.

SDW Company members and Guest Artists are Artistic Associates who contribute not only as outstanding performing artists but also as activists and cultural entrepreneurs who create and develop projects that serve the community.

QUALIFICATIONS

The model candidate will possess the following experience and qualifications:

- Strong technical, artistic, and creative abilities.
- Interest in the importance of shared experience and access.
- Excellent communication skills and ability to work collaboratively.
- Desire and display of initiative to learn and build skills related to inclusive practices.
- Ability to work within a team environment.
- Strong commitment to and understanding of the mission and values of SDW.
- Understanding of and experience in the performing arts community.

RESPONSIBILITIES

- Attends Regular Rehearsals scheduled January through May 2022, on Saturdays from 2-6pm and Sundays from 6-9pm with scheduled breaks.
- Attends all Technical Rehearsals and Performances scheduled May 30 - June 5th.
- Participates in organization-wide training, gatherings, and events as necessary.
- Proactively learns and builds skills related to ShaGa, a living movement practice of self-discovery, healing, and awakening to our deeper resources.

- Proactively learns and builds skills related to movement/mentorship, the relationship between sighted dancers and movers with visual impairments to break the barriers to dance by engaging in a more accessible environment and methodology.
- Communicates openly, honestly, timely, and respectfully.
- Fosters a safe, inclusive, and welcoming space for all.
- Welcomes and engages with community members and donors at open classes and events.

NONPROFIT INDEPENDENT CONTRACTING CONSIDERATION

SDW is a mission-based nonprofit performing arts organization. Working in this sector can be personally rewarding with intrinsic benefits and distinct opportunities for growth. However, the compensation will never match that of the private sector or more highly resourced art forms. Candidates for employment are advised to carefully consider their decision to work in this field before seeking or accepting employment at SDW.

EQUAL OPPORTUNITY STATEMENT

SDW provides equal opportunities to all contractors and applicants and prohibits discrimination and harassment of any type because of race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, the status of being transgender, age, national origin, marital status, citizenship or veteran status, disability, or any other characteristic protected by law. This policy applies to all terms and conditions of contracting, including recruiting, hiring, placement, promotion, termination, layoff, recall, transfer, leaves of absence, compensation, and training.

SDW is strongly committed to providing reasonable accommodations for disabilities during the application and hiring process. If required, please contact ShaLeigh Comerford at shaleigh@shaleighdanceworks.com.

APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

To be considered for the position, please send a resume, cover letter, and link to a video reel or sample to:

ShaLeigh Comerford
Executive/Artistic Director
shaleigh@shaleighdanceworks.com

Please include your first and last name and "Guest Artist" in the subject line of your email.