

# SOULSKIN Dance

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Press Contact: Craig Sabbatino, [craig.sabbatino@gmail.com](mailto:craig.sabbatino@gmail.com)



*Photo by Alia Rafiq*

## **SOULSKIN DANCE Presents the World Premiere of *BEAUTY***

**A dance about challenging societal norms around self-image.**

**Performances at Mark Morris Dance Center,**

**September 27 and 28.**

**Tickets:** <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/beauty-tickets-850458944597?aff=oddtcreator>

August 20, 2024 - BROOKLYN, NY - **SOULSKIN DANCE** today announced its **World Premiere of *BEAUTY***, a dance about challenging societal norms around self-image. Performances are 8pm EDT at Mark Morris Dance Center, Friday, September 27 and Saturday, September 28. Ticket prices range from \$25 to \$35. For tickets and information, visit their [Eventbrite](#) page.

SOULSKIN presents the world premiere of the new dance, *BEAUTY*, created by SOULSKIN Dance Artistic Director and Choreographer Adrianna Thompson. *BEAUTY* is a psychological ballet in six movements, illustrating how humanity needs to move past the forces at play in the world to restore their own divine power and concept of true beauty.

# SOULSKIN Dance

“With the current state our country is in, it is more important than ever to challenge the status quo. We cannot accept society’s perspective as more important than our own, and need to evolve past seeking validation based on constantly changing standards. Social media plays a big part in this, magnifying our thirst for validation and compelling us to post curated images for fear of being judged,” says Thompson. “*BEAUTY* reveals our need for human connection and how we need to be our own compass in a world full of noise and chaos.”

Thompson explains that as we approach a heated election period, “We cannot succumb to the pressures of the media and allow them to dictate what we think and how we behave. It is crucial that we all work to find the perfect union of spirituality, harmony and balance that reveals inner beauty.”

Thompson points to her collaborators as key in bringing this piece to light. Iwalani Kaluhiokalani, a Boston based multidisciplinary artist, is using projection mapping to create a three-dimensional art installation; Los Angeles based costume designer for Dance & Film, Cathy Cooper, is designing signature unpredictable and magical costumes for *BEAUTY*; Roxy Roller is composing music (his fifth collaboration with Adrianna Thompson); and Mike Inwood is lighting the piece to illuminate beauty in all its forms.

These performances feature dance artists Andrea Dusel-Foil, Alexandra FitzGibbon, Federico Garcia, Erika Hassan, Barbara Koch, Kannyth Montes De Oca, Leslie Plummer, Sophia Rumasuglia, Robert M. Valdez, Jr., Dianna Warren, and Oren Yaari.

## ABOUT ADRIANNA THOMPSON

Adrianna danced professionally in New York City with Battery Dance Co, Carolyn Dorfman Dance Co, Mark DeGarmo & Dancers, and worked with Bella Lewitzky, Milton Myers, Jonathan Wolken, Brenda Daniels, Risa Steinberg, and Mary Jane Eisenberg. In NYC her choreography was presented at Joyce SoHo, the Cunningham Studio, The Riverside Theatre, Mulberry Street Theater, the Downtown Arts Festival, Trisha Brown Studios, Movement Research, Theater for the New City and Dance Space.. She was on faculty for Aspen Santa Fe Ballet for ten years, and guest faculty for Alonzo King LINES Ballet BFA training program. She received a BFA in Dance from Cal State Long Beach and was awarded Performance of the Year by the *Boston Globe*.

In 2011 Adrianna became the Director of Dance for the Aspen Fringe Festival and was commissioned by the Aspen Art Museum to create a site-specific work as part of the museum’s Alan Shields exhibit, as well as a dance outreach program for children in 2017. She is a GYROTONIC® & GYROKINESIS® Specialized Master Teacher and has been practicing the method for 30 years.

## ABOUT SOULSKIN DANCE

SOULSKIN Dance was founded by Adrianna Thompson in San Francisco in 2013 as a dance company devoted to investigating political and social influences that shape our society.

SOULSKIN Dance has produced 8 seasons in San Francisco including *A Pop Culture Journey* (Joe Goode Annex 2014), *Pop Culture Journey II: from Funk to Punk* (Joe Goode Annex 2015), *Denim and Diamonds* (Dance Mission Theatre 2016), *Satin & Swing* (Dance Mission 2017), *To Command* (Dance Mission Theatre 2018), *Hero* (Dance Mission Theatre 2018),

# SOULSKIN Dance

*Parallel Dialogues & Golden Mean* (Dance Mission Theatre 2019), *Closer & The Awakening* (Dance Mission Theatre 2021).

SOULSKIN Dance has premiered works at Dance Mission Theater, PUSHFest, SJDANCEco, Mark Foehringer Dance Project and Santa Barbara HH11 Dance Festival. In April 2019 SOULSKIN Dance premiered *Parallel Dialogues* at the Boulder Dairy Arts Center and a new ballet entitled *Golden Mean* to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the Bauhaus Art Movement. In 2018 SOULSKIN Dance hosted an incubator program to inspire women to choreograph called *The Lab Series*, and in 2019 we launched a youth educational outreach program with Glide Memorial in San Francisco's Tenderloin District.

In 2016 Soulskin Dance became the Resident Dance Company of Aspen Fringe Festival and presented *A Pop Culture Journey I & II* (2016), *Satin & Swing* (2017), *Phoenix Rising* (2021), *Blue Eclipse* (2023) and the dance films *Shelter in Place* (2020), and *CLOSER* (2021). In 2023 Soulskin presented *Blue Eclipse & Moment to Moment* at New York Live Arts. In 2023 Adrianna was also commissioned for a dance residency in Joshua Tree to choreograph the dance film *Chasing the Light* with filmmaker Jaco Strydom and Alchemy Arts Collective, which premiered at Joshua Tree Retreat Center and Diamond Star Ranch in 2024, and at Aspen Fringe Festival's JuneFest 2024.

## **SOULSKIN DANCE MISSION**

To present inspiring performances that empower individuals and communities to come together. We aim to create a safe space for all people regardless of gender, ethnicity, or class. Using the language of dance, SOULSKIN Dance seeks to encourage discovery, empathy and tolerance in our complex and often divided world. Through thought provoking works we encourage dialogue and believe deeply in the power of artistic collaboration to create a rich cultural tapestry that comes to life through dance.

**COMPANY WEBSITE:** <https://www.soulskindance.org/>

# SOULSKIN Dance

**CALENDAR LISTING**  
*Dance, Theater, Music, Performing Arts*

**WHAT:**

**SOULSKIN DANCE**  
**Presents the World Premiere of**  
***BEAUTY*, a dance about challenging societal norms around self-image.**

**WHEN:** Friday, September 27 at 8pm EST  
Saturday, September 28 at 8pm EST

**WHERE:** **Mark Morris Dance Center**  
James and Martha Duffy Performance Space  
3 Lafayette Ave, Brooklyn, NY 11217

**TICKETS:** EventBrite  
<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/beauty-tickets-850457801177?aff=oddtcreator>

**PRICE:** \$25 - \$35

**MORE:** <https://www.soulskindance.org/>

#####

Press Contact: Craig Sabbatino, [craig.sabbatino@gmail.com](mailto:craig.sabbatino@gmail.com)