

STUART PIMSLER DANCE & THEATER (SPDT) has continued to engage populations worldwide through its performance works and community inclusive programs since its founding in New York City in 1979. Artistic Co-Directors Suzanne Costello and Stuart Pimsler and their company of compelling artists continue to garner critical acclaim for their “*theater for the heart & mind*”. SPDT’s interdisciplinary vision weaves movement, spoken text, song, and visual imagery that comments on the personal and political. SPDT’s company artists have been distinguished for their artistic excellence, garnering seven McKnight Fellowships and five Minnesota SAGE Awards for Dance.

Based in Minneapolis since 2000, SPDT has toured to Europe, Israel, Taiwan, Russia, Canada, Bermuda, China, and Mexico, including presentations at Beijing Modern Dance Festival; International Tanzmesse, Dusseldorf; UNAM and American Embassy in Mexico City; and Bermuda Ministry of Culture. In the U.S., SPDT has appeared in more than 35 states at such venues as the The Kennedy Center, the National Civil Rights Museum, Jacob’s Pillow, American Dance Festival, and New York Live Arts. SPDT has been commissioned and presented twice by the Guthrie Theater for the premieres of *The Ends of Love* (2007) and *Tales from the Book of Longing* (2009). The company also tours extensively throughout Minnesota, with major support from the Minnesota State Arts Board.

SPDT has been a leader in Arts & Education programs and at the forefront of the Arts & Health field since introducing its signature program *Caring for the Caregiver*SM in 1992. Additional SPDT programs include *Meaning in Movement*SM for stroke survivors and their care partners, *Transforming the Doctor-Patient Relationship*SM for physicians and medical students, *Tours of Duty*SM for veterans, and *Moving with Cancer*SM for individuals impacted by cancer. SPDT’s *Community Connections* programs have been cited as a “National Model” by The Kennedy Center and recognized for “Best Practices” by the National Endowment for the Arts.

STUART PIMSLER is a choreographer, director, writer, performer, founder and Artistic Co-Director of SPDT. His work has been honored with Choreography Fellowships from the National Endowment for the Arts and McKnight Foundation and a Major Fellowship and six Individual Fellowships from the Ohio Arts Council. Mr. Pimsler has been commissioned by the Guthrie Theater, the Lila Wallace Arts Partners Fund, NPN Creation Fund, the Jerome Foundation, the Wexner Center, University of Minnesota, Walker Art Center, and the Wharton Center at Michigan State University, among others. In 2012, Mr. Pimsler was a guest artist at the Beijing Modern Dance Festival and in 2014 was invited to Australia under the auspices of American Dance Abroad.

Mr. Pimsler holds an AB in English from Franklin & Marshall College and a JD from Catholic University School of Law. He was admitted to the New York State Bar in 1975 and the following year was accepted as an MFA Fellow in Dance at Connecticut College. His mentors include Martha Myers and Daniel Nagrin, whose solos *Spanish Dance* (1948) and *Word Game* (1968) he continues to perform. Mr. Pimsler recently compiled and edited the book, *Don’t Sit Down*, about the life and work of Martha Myers.

Mr. Pimsler has served on the Board of Directors of Dance/USA (1990-97) and the Steering Committee of the National Performance Network (1992-95) and currently serves on the Advisory Board for American Dance Abroad. In 2005, Mr. Pimsler founded The SAGE Awards for Dance, an annual celebration of outstanding dance achievements throughout Minnesota which he co-coordinated with Dana Kassel through 2016.

SUZANNE COSTELLO joined SPDT in New York City in 1979 and became Artistic Co-Director in 1984. During her career with the company, she has been highlighted as performer, choreographer, teacher, and rehearsal director. As Director of Arts & Education and Arts & Health Programs for the company, she coordinates and facilitates the many community-inclusive projects SPDT is known for

nationally and internationally. Most recently she was commissioned by Gilda's Club Twin Cities to create and direct LISTEN/ *Stories of Cancer told through Movement, Music, & Voice*. This performance work, which featured 22 participants from Gilda's Club and the SPDT company, was presented at The Lab Theater and is the focus of a new documentary produced by Twin Cities PBS, recently released on air and online: tpt.org/listen. This Fall the documentary was nominated for an Emmy.

Ms. Costello has been honored with Individual Artist Fellowships from the Ohio Arts Council and has been commissioned by national dance companies and artists. She directed and choreographed *CATS* for Broadway at Iroquois, Louisville; *Go, Dog, Go!* for Metro Theater Company, St. Louis, and Stage One, Louisville; and choreographed *Grimm Tales* for Children's Theatre Company, Minneapolis. She has twice been a Cowles Guest Artist at the University of Minnesota and was Affiliate Faculty there for six years.

In New York City, Costello performed with several companies, including David Gordon Pick Up Co. and Billy Siegenfeld & Dancers. Ms. Costello began her study of dance under Annelise Mertz at Washington University in St. Louis, where she graduated Magna Cum Laude with a BA in Dance.

KATHERINE GRIFFIS, in her fourth season, has been dancing since the age of three after proving her inability to sit still during violin lessons. Her natural drive to move was nurtured as a studio dancer in Woodbury, MN, where she trained for fifteen years and is now an instructor. Katherine graduated Magna Cum Laude from St. Olaf College with departmental distinction in Dance in 2015. She is honored to be a part of SPDT working with incredibly talented and thoughtful artists.

HEATHER KLOPCHIN, in her ninth season, is an Associate Professor of Dance and Department Chair at St. Olaf College where she teaches Ballet, Modern, and Dance History, and choreographs for the student company, Companydance. Originally from Goshen, NY, Heather has worked with many choreographers and companies in the Twin Cities and nationally. She holds a BS degree from the State University of New York (SUNY) at Geneseo and an MFA in Dance Choreography and Performance from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Heather is grateful for the support from her husband, family, and friends.

JESSE NEUMANN-PETERSON, in his seventh season, is a choreographer, performer, and visual artist. He started his dance training as a teenager with the Duluth Ballet under Artistic Director Nancy Gibson and has studied dance at the University of Minnesota and the University of Minnesota-Duluth. Jesse has recently performed with Flying Foot Forum, Vanessa Voskuil, Sharon Picasso, and Rosy Simas. Jesse is a recipient of the 2014 Sage Award for *Outstanding Performer*.

STEPHEN PATTERSON, in his first season, is a choreographer, performer, writer, and part-time gardener. He holds a BFA in Dance & Choreography from California Institute of the Arts. He has performed and shown work informally in Los Angeles and Minneapolis. Stephen is thrilled to be with SPDT. He takes pride in his family and loves to laugh.

JENNIFER PRAY, in her second season, is originally from central Iowa and earned a BA in Dance & International Studies, Summa Cum Laude, from the University of Iowa in 2012. In the Twin Cities, Jenn has worked with Threads Dance Project, Live Action Set, Ballet Minnesota, and Penny Freeh. She has presented her choreography in festivals and galleries around the midwest, Munich, and Amsterdam. She shares her passion for movement and mindfulness as a yoga and dance teacher and is thrilled to be working with SPDT.

ANDREW WELKEN (*Filmmaker/Video Editor*) is a cinematographer/editor with more than twenty years of experience. He is a lifelong cineaste with degrees in Film and English from the University of

Iowa. Andrew has freelanced on Indies and Documentaries, taught film/video courses, and shot commercial photography for national clients. His work has been televised and screened in numerous film festivals. Andrew was thrilled to collaborate with SPDT on MATINEE.

KARIN OLSON (*Lighting Design/Production Manager*) has been SPDT's principal lighting designer since 2006 and was the lighting designer for SPDT's SAGE Award winning *Ways to Be Hold*. She designs dance locally for several companies, and her theater designs can be seen at the Guthrie, Oregon Shakespeare Festival, Syracuse Stage, Mixed Blood, the Ordway, Frank Theatre, Theater Mu, Tigerlion Arts, and Walking Shadow. Karin was awarded Broadway World's Best Lighting Design 2016 for Stages Theater Company's Disney's *Little Mermaid Jr*.

JARED LECLAIRE (*Video Projection Designer*) has worked for Cirque du Soleil (Las Vegas, NV), Austin Opera (Austin, TX), and the Alliance Theatre (Atlanta, GA). He received his BA in Theatre from University of West Georgia and his MFA from the University of Texas at Austin with a focus in Integrated Media for the Performing Arts. He is also a faculty member at the Stagecraft Institute of Las Vegas.

MARYBETH GAGNER (*Costume Designer*) has been an Adjunct Professor in the Theatre Department and Supervisor of the Costume Shop at Hamline University since 2005. She has an extensive background as a local Costume Designer and her work has been seen at The Ordway, Park Square Theater, Illusion Theater, James Sewell Ballet, and Skylark Opera, among others.

ROBIN BROOKS (*Director of Development*) holds a BA from Smith College and has been with SPDT since 1993. She is responsible for development writing, foundation research, and company bookkeeping.

KATHLEEN PENDER (*Company Manager*) graduated from St. Olaf College with a BA in Dance and has been with SPDT since the fall of 2013. She has performed for Minneapolis-based choreographers including Taja Will and Erinn Liebhard, and teaches dance for the Northfield Arts Guild and Young Dance.

SHAINA ANDRES (*Company Administrator*) graduated Cum Laude from St. Olaf College in 2017 with a BA in Dance and Concentration in Women's & Gender Studies. Shaina joined SPDT in January 2018.