

DISRUPTING HARM IN DANCE: HOW TO FEEL SAFE, CONNECTED, EMPOWERED

A COURSE OF STRATEGIES AND TOOLS FOR PERFORMANCE ARTS COMMUNITIES

M2ACT
CALL FOR
PROPOSALS
2021

WHO?

Frances Chiaverini, dancer, and Robyn Doty, writer and activist, are Whistle — a platform that educates and activates communities around abuse of power and discrimination in dance. In collaboration with activists and artists, Whistle offers a course that provides strategies and tools for community accountability and against gender-based discrimination for those working in dance.

WHY?

Dance historically has relied on exploitation — especially of femmes and BIPOC. Dance needs education and strategies to build and support healthy workspaces. Teachers/choreographers need to understand, question, and discuss new approaches to working with dancers. Dancers need to define and reinforce their boundaries and practice advocacy for peers. Harm happens — we need tools that support dancers, such as prevention, healing, and accountability.

VISION?

There will be a cultural shift within dance that respects and empowers dancers physically, mentally, and financially. Dancers will be paid a living wage, work environments will be hospitable and free of discrimination, authority figures will be aware of the impact of their power and of abuse, and mental and physical health will be centered and considered. Boundaries and ongoing consent will be easy, openly and neutrally discussed, and a regular part of the creative process. When harm occurs, there will be clear, consistent steps and community work toward accountability and healing.

HOW?

Solidarity is crucial when making tools and strategies appropriate for a wide audience. We will collaborate with 3 – 5 performing arts workers to ensure that our tools are inclusive and considerate of who needs them most. We will define the course content, collaborate on structure and pedagogy, and package it aesthetically to make it easy to use and accessible. We want dance-based workers to feel encouraged and nourished by the course.

M2ACT@GESSNERALLEE
25. SEPT 2021



m2act supports co-creative projects that contribute to fair and sustainable practices in the performing arts — from small experimental set-ups to large projects with audiences. This project idea is supported in the frame of m2act Call for Proposals 2021 and takes part in the «FAIRy Circus» at m2act Campus 2021. m2act.ch

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