



# Yaa Samar!

DANCE THEATRE

## OUR MISSION

Yaa Samar! Dance Theatre (YSDT)'s mission is to create invigorating performance and education programs that expand access to- and promote understanding through - the arts, rooted in the belief that art should be liberating, transformative, and accessible to all.

## OUR HISTORY

Founded in NYC in 2005, and based between NYC and Palestine since 2010, YSDT has taught and performed in eleven countries across four continents, and fostered the careers of over 50 emerging artists. YSDT partners with community organizations to create adaptive curriculum that responds to the needs of underserved populations (Arab-American, immigrant, LGBTQ+ and system-impacted youth), and brings programming to participants in their communities. Past and current partners in NYC include The Ailey School, BOOM!Health, Fort Hamilton High School, Lower East Side Girls Club, Recess Arts, and Staten Island Youth Justice Center, with University partners including Chonbuk University (South Korea), Columbia University, Drew University, Fordham University, Middlebury College and University of Virginia.

## OUR IMPACT

YSDT challenges the status quo by promoting cross-cultural dialogue and social discourse through high-quality arts programming. Inspired by personal histories and world events, our work tells the stories of under-represented communities, and amplifies the voices of marginalized populations. YSDT's performing artists come from refugee camps, inner cities, and rural areas across the US, Arab World, and Asia, and include formally trained and self-taught performers in a variety of dance and theatre disciplines. The result is a unique blend of dance theatre which does not rely on the context or lineage of any one place or practice, but is an ongoing translation of the verbal (English and Arabic) and physical languages of this diverse group. YSDT's works are a hybrid, global form of multimedia dance theatre performances and immersive site-specific events. Our free and low-cost public performances and education initiatives provide communities with new tools for critical thinking and creative problem-solving.

# PERFORMANCES



YSDT offers solo, small group, and ensemble live performances ranging from 15 minutes to evening length; as well as film screenings (from short films to feature length) in languages including: Arabic, English, Japanese and Spanish. These programs are available in person and/or remotely, and accompanied by engagement activities. Our featured works include:

## Last Ward

*Last Ward* follows one man's journey towards death in a hospital room. Written/directed by award-winning playwright/director Amir Nizar Zuabi with choreography/music by Samar Haddad King, *Last Ward* blends dance and theater (in Arabic with English subtitles) in a highly-visual evening-length performance.

**3 x 13**

Created by award-winning Director Eimi Imanishi and Choreographer Samar Haddad King, *3 x 13* explores the singularity of the individual and the universality of the human experience. In 12 interactive short films, 12 artists from around the globe share a journey of transformation that deeply marked their lives.

[CLICK HERE TO WATCH A TRAILER FOR LAST WARD](#)

*"The inextricable connection between life and death is what "Last Ward" understands. The connection between words and dance, too."*

Brian Seibert, The New York Times

[CLICK HERE TO WATCH A TRAILER FOR 3x13](#)

# PROGRAMS

## LECTURES

Yaa Samar! Dance Theatre offers public lectures on their methods developed to create art across physical and political barriers. These multimedia presentations include footage of the creative process, source materials, performance excerpts, and dialogue with international collaborating artists in-person and online. This unique offering spans several departments and areas of interest within the university, and has the potential to touch the wider community.



## MASTER CLASSES

Yaa Samar! Dance Theatre (YSDT) views technique as a means of furthering our bodies as instruments for creative expression. Class starts with an anatomically mindful warm-up, and evolves through guided improvisation scores. Blending contemporary dance and theater to explore themes of repertory works, YSDT classes draw on visualization, improvisation and play to facilitate an experiential, process-driven environment that empowers students and meets them where they are. Our goals as educators are to provide new tools for creative expression, validate individuals through empowered choice-making, honor diverse perspectives and abilities, and center the power of storytelling in pursuit of social justice.

## RESIDENCIES

Yaa Samar! Dance Theatre offers residencies ranging from 5 days to 2 weeks for dance and theater students at the university level. A five day residency includes: setting an original ensemble work; a master class for dance and theater students; a lecture presentation for the general public; classroom visits and artist discussion. Partial and extended packages are available upon request.



A selection of institutions we've worked with over the years:



## Contact Us



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