

2003



MOSAIC
Dance Theater Company

2022

2022 Annual Report



Photo by Gary Heller

We're Back!

How the world has changed since March 2020. And how we have all changed! Not only us, but “things.” One of the “things” we at Mosaic Dance Theater Company were concerned about was getting back to the business of in-person performances. It wasn’t just “show up and dance” any more. There were lots of who, what, when, where and hows to worry about. (We already knew the why: this is what we do, and two years of not doing it was two years too long!) 2022 was a year of adjustment to a new way of doing things. We learned as we went along — coming up with new ways that solved problems, gleaned ideas and best practices from colleagues in the field, and realizing how fortunate we are to be able to continue.

Best regards,

Morgiana Celeste Varricchio
Producing Artistic Director

Mosaic Dance Theater Company is dedicated to developing and presenting original dance, theater and educational programs celebrating the rich diversity of cultures and folkloric traditions of the Mediterranean region of North Africa, the Middle East, and Southern Europe.

Board of Trustees

Morgiana Celeste Varricchio,
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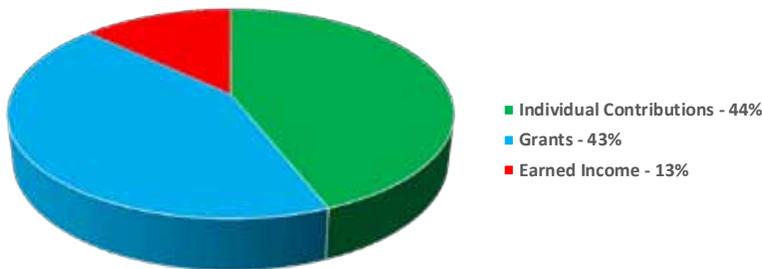
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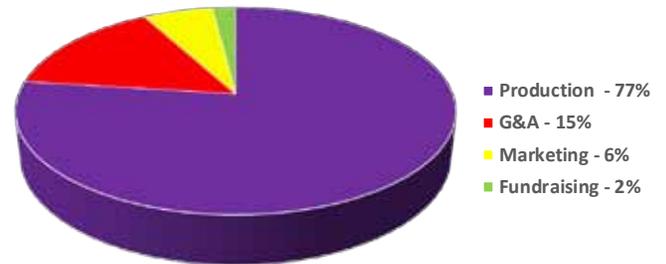
Money In; Money Out

Income and Expense Results for YE 12-31-22

Income 2022 - \$27,920.07



Expense 2022 - \$35,949.30



We're all familiar with Mr. Micawber's oft-quoted principle of economics: "Annual income twenty pounds, annual expenditure nineteen pounds nineteen and six, result happiness. Annual income twenty pounds, annual expenditure twenty pounds ought and six, result misery." (*David Copperfield* by Charles Dickens.)

In today's business terms — "operating deficit." From March 2020 through December 2021, MDTC operated on a virtual basis. G&A expenses showed increases in rising costs in insurance and postage which continued into 2022. However, we were able to build reserves by not needing to pay rehearsal studio rent — everything was shut down. 2021 also saw a grant award from NewMusic USA, with the main portion of the monies earmarked for payout in 2022. To put things in perspective: 2021 showed an operating surplus of \$7,327.36, while 2022 showed an operating deficit of \$8,029.23. Saved by the reserves! What is not shown on the above pie charts is the non-compensated time and talent provided by artists, technicians, and administrators (valued at approximately \$50,000) not only for special projects, but also for day-to-day business operations.

Returning to in-person performances following the pandemic shutdown brought its own problems. Attendance at in-person events was drastically lower than pre-pandemic levels, thereby lowering box office receipts that normally offset the big production expenses of theater rental and artist compensation. Schools for the 2021-22 year were pretty much closed to outside visitors, translating to no bookings for school assembly programs for MDTC, with only one engagement in the college, university, and performing arts center market. Make no mistake, 2022 was a very difficult year. We're ready for 2023, and hoping a good year.

Music, Maestro, Please



For a dance company, there's nothing quite like the opportunity to work with original music. A 2021 grant from NewMusic USA enabled MDTC to commission an original score for a big, new project. And, in 2022, the music was completed. Maurice Chedid, long-time collaborator with Company directors, Morgiana Celeste Varricchio and Samara Adell, on MDTC projects as well as individual projects, composed a full-length score of Arabic music for our Fall 2023 world premiere of *Alhayat Raksa (Life Is a Dance)*. The music-making process (from July 2021 through June 2022) was documented in a 30-minute video, *Making New Music with Maurice Chedid*. ([Click here](#), or on the image, for an active link to YouTube. You'll meet the musicians, but wait until the end for a sampler of this exciting new music.

Our Year in Review

Getting back to “business as usual” as 2022 began, came with its own sets of concerns. The COVID holiday surge was abating, but it was still winter, and everything would be happening indoors. So, with health and safety protocols in place, we opened the studio door and forged ahead, keeping our fingers crossed. Scheduled for March was a performance at Villanova University, sponsored by the Department of Global Interdisciplinary Studies and the Center for Arab and Islamic Studies. Then, a virtual return engagement for Arab Heritage Month in April for the Harrisburg (PA) Area Community Colleges group. All the while, we were deeply immersed in the Trojan War.



Backstage at Villanova University
(Click on image to watch the video)



Bringing the Trojan Horse to the Stage
(Click on the image to read the blog and watch the video)

Developed in the last half of 2021, *Troy: Women & War* was MDTC’s first in-person production since December 2019, funded in part by a generous grant award from the Essex County Division of Cultural Affairs. The production premiered in May 2022 in Montclair, NJ. We were able to include our “Library Tour” to a few local Essex County libraries, a pro bono lecture/demo program full of background information on the production (including our very own Trojan Horse) and historical Troy. This program *Sailing to Ilium: Exploring the World of the Trojan War* was then expanded as a special edition of MDTC’s popular 2021 series, *Mosaic: A World in Motion*, and presented virtually in November. We presented *Troy* for a New York City audience in June. Audiences on both sides of the Hudson raved! View the exit poll comments by clicking on the image below.



Troy: Women & War (excerpts)
(Click on image to watch the video)



Audience Comments on Troy: Women & War
(Click on image to watch the video)

The two years the world spent on Zoom forever changed how we view dance. The simple one-camera master shot wasn’t enough anymore. The NYC performance of *Troy* was videoed with four different camera angles, and masterfully edited with the viewer in mind. You can view some excerpts by clicking on the image above left. After a summer hiatus, MDTC performed a 25-minute excerpt from *Troy* in the curated DanceBloc Festival presented by Dixon Place in NYC in November. As the year ended, rehearsals were under way for projects for year 2023 — the 20th anniversary of our first production.

Wall of Champions

Champions come from many different walks of life and from many different locations. The individuals listed below, by their generous support for Mosaic Dance Theater Company, acknowledge that art matters. They invest in MDTC's mission and vision. They keep the mosaic intact. To each one of them, our heartfelt and grateful thanks. They are the champions.

Diamond (\$1,000+)

Robert Greenwald

Beth Olmstead

Morgiana Celeste Varricchio

Emerald (\$500 - \$999)

Jim & Michelle Duane

Andrea Varricchio

Ruby (\$250 - \$499)

Ray & Estelle Adell

Claudia Campbell

Megan Furman

Marylou Romano

Roberta Trowbridge

Sapphire (\$100 - \$249)

Betsy Adams

Patricia Beadling

Sandy Bigatel

Elisa Dunn

Carylmead Eggleston

Amy Furman

Laura Greenwald

Barbara Hammer

Alison Hudak

Naji & Amy Jabbour

Lois Karlsberger

Judy & Wayne Kling

Dara Murray

Katia Nordgren

Tina O'Neill

Merrill Peress

Marisela Ross

Joe & Mary Katherine Theis

Michele Varricchio

Amythyst (\$1 - \$99)

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Margaret Caruso

Cheryle Robinson Coder

Delores Frazier

Margo Goody

Fary Heller

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JoAnn Sengle

Betty Slevin

Domenico & Donna Tancredi

Paula Thomson

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Katie Valgenti

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Nai-Ni Chen Dance Company

New Jersey State Council on the Arts/Essex County Division of Cultural Affairs