

2003



MOSAIC

Dance Theater Company

2023

2023 Annual Report



Photo by Gary Heller

A New Decade Begins

A twenty-year anniversary is a wonderful occasion to stand up and cheer. Not only because we beat the odds of survival as a non-profit organization, but also because Mosaic Dance Theater Company's mission has remained evergreen. Of course, it provides continual inspiration for the Company's artistic vision. The works and themes that are created as a result come from our heart and soul, and in turn, resonate with those who watch. In twenty years we have seen the repertory grow, as has our reach, most especially in the last four years. The reliably tried-and-true must be updated and tweaked. Making new connections, exchanging ideas, discussing problems, and finding solutions are all part of checking out and "keeping up with Joneses." So far, so good.

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,
President & Founder
Robert Greenwald,
Secretary/Treasurer
Dr. Andrea Varricchio

Staff

Morgiana Celeste Varricchio, Producing Artistic Director
Samara Adell, Artistic Director for Dance
Robert Greenwald, Technical Director & Operations Manager
Adriana Rosa, Education & Outreach Coordinator

Where We Were

In the Schools



No butterflies for us -- MDTC was thrilled to head back to school! School assembly programs are an important component of the Company's DNA, so when NJ schools were welcoming visiting artists back, we were ready! One school was excited to host *Caravan to Cairo* as their first post-pandemic assembly; another had a school-wide Arab Heritage celebration, and MDTC was the highlight of the day. Click on the image at left for a short recap.

On Campus

For a special co-production with the Shea Center for the Performing Arts at William Paterson University in Wayne, NJ, MDTC developed a special program for Women's History Month -- *Through Her Eyes: Women of the Near East Through the Ages*. From Ancient Mesopotamia and Ancient Egypt, to 19th century Orientalist art, to traditional folklore, *Through Her Eyes* noted women's contributions to world culture. Click on the image at right to travel through history.



A World Premiere

In the works since 2020, from an original story idea by Trisha Cangiano presented to MDTC during the early days of COVID, *Alhayat Raksa (Life Is a Dance)* premiered in November 2023. 2021-22 saw the creation of the specially commissioned original score by Maurice Chedid, made possible by a grant from NewMusic USA. In 2022, MDTC received partial funding for production costs through an Essex County Local Arts Program grant, and in 2023 rehearsals began, under the direction of Morgiana Celeste Varricchio. The story centers around an Arab woman, who, on her deathbed, resolves her conflicting emotions and resentments of having had to follow the traditional path for a woman of marriage and a family, instead of pursuing a career as a dancer. Told as a flashback of the woman's life to tell its poignant story, *Alhayat Raksa* uses different styles of Middle Eastern dance, masterfully choreographed by Samara Adell. The themes resonated strongly with audiences at both NJ and NYC performances. Click on the video on the right to hear audience reactions, and click on the video on the left for some highlights of the NJ world premiere.



News Briefs



Bob Greenwald has added duties as treasurer in his new role as Secretary/Treasurer for MDTC's Board of Trustees, replacing long-time Treasurer Karen Sposato who stepped down from her board responsibilities. MDTC is pleased to welcome Dr. Andrea Varricchio to the Board. Andrea, Professor Emerita of Spanish Languages and Linguistics of West Chester University

(WCU) of Pennsylvania is an ardent fan and promoter of the Company. During her tenure at WCU, she arranged for MDTC to perform for several WCU heritage celebrations. In addition, she generously underwrote a performance of *Caravan to Cairo* for an underserved school in Paterson, NJ, whose students were primarily of Spanish descent. Her love of the Mediterranean languages and cultures, especially Spanish and Italian, made her a perfect choice for MDTC's Board.



GuideStar is the world's largest source of information on nonprofit organizations, used to verify and research potential grantees. We are pleased to announce that MDTC has earned a Silver Transparency Seal for 2024.



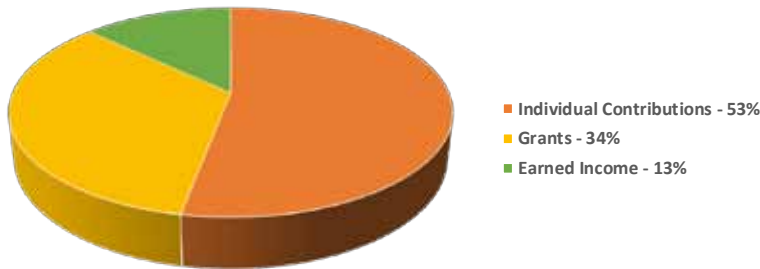
MDTC's 20-Year Impact

Since the first performances in 2003, MDTC has provided artistic and performance services for over 200 in-person engagements and 50-plus virtual engagements, to more than 40,000 individuals at performing arts centers, theaters, non-traditional venues used as performance spaces, schools, universities, museums, libraries, women's clubs, senior residences and nursing homes, public parks, restaurants, catering halls, and one supermarket.

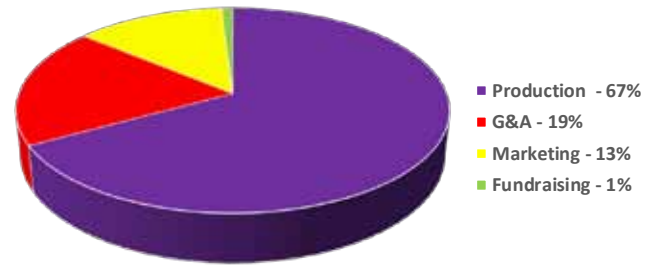
2023 Results

Income and Expense for YE 12-31-23

Income 2023 - \$27,910.07



Expense 2023 - \$32,743.49



While 2023 was a better year financially than 2022, MDTC is still not where we want to be nor where we should be. In addition to higher expenses in the cost of doing business (insurance premiums, trade show expenses, printing, postage to give just a few examples), earned income at the box office suffers as well. Potential attendees are faced with the same rising costs, and may not enjoy the discretionary spending they once had. Grants have become more competitive. And more applicants seeking the same funds means more forks in the pie, and smaller awards all around.

Individual giving has remained more or less constant, with more donors choosing to give online. Local community engagement has resulted in new opportunities through new "small" programs, such as *Costuming Mosaic*, a lecture-demo on MDTC's costume whys and wherefores. And despite the post-pandemic "O! Woe!" chorus, MDTC makes the most of the resources at hand. Special note should be made of the non-compensated time provided by the artists, technicians, and administrators who have generously given their talent and skill, the essential the "in-kind" contributions without which MDTC would not have been able to reach our 20th anniversary. Those services for 2023 alone have a value of at least \$75,000.

The Crown Jewels

M DTC is proud to put the jewels of our crown on display. They are many-faceted arts lovers, who understand what it takes to mine and polish ideas that take their final shapes on the stage. They know the impact their generosity has. Because they give, MDTC can create and in turn give back. Thanks to their support a 20-year milestone was reached. They are unmatched. They are you.

Diamond (\$1,000+)

Robert Greenwald
Andrea Varricchio

Beth Olmstead
Morgiana Celeste Varricchio

Emerald (\$500 - \$999)

Jim & Michelle Duane

Ruby (\$250 - \$499)

Betsy Adams

Tina O'Neill

Marylou Romano

Sapphire (\$100 - \$249)

Patricia Beadling
Dianne Glennon
Monica Theis Huber
Bill Luckey
Suzy Moyer
Marisela Ross

Elisa Dunn
Carolyn Goldstein
Alison Hudak
Patricia McCarthy
Dara Murray
Barbara Castellana Stasiak
Roberta Trowbridge

Amy Furman
Laura Greenwald
Judy & Wayne Kling
Neva Mikula
Merrill Peress
Joe & Mary Katherine Theis

Amythyst (\$1 - \$99)

Jean Asti
Anita Dushac
Pat Greenwald
Val Kostenko
Marisa Pierson

Sandy Bigatel
Celia Esplugas
Gary Heller
Eleanor Maillard
Reema Richie

Karen Carp
Carlos Fittante
Geremia Helou
Jean Musacchio
Ann Marie Rogalcheck-Frissell

Rayhana Caruso
Margo Goody
Naji & Amy Jabbour
Eva O'Brien
Jo Ann Sengle

Audrey Simmons

Betty Slevin

Dom & Donna Tancredi

Roxana Tourigny

Katie Valgenti

Marisa Vargas

Lou & Marilyn Varricchio

Grantors

New Jersey State Council on the Arts/Essex County Division of Cultural Affairs
Citizens Philanthropic Foundation Investors Foundation