

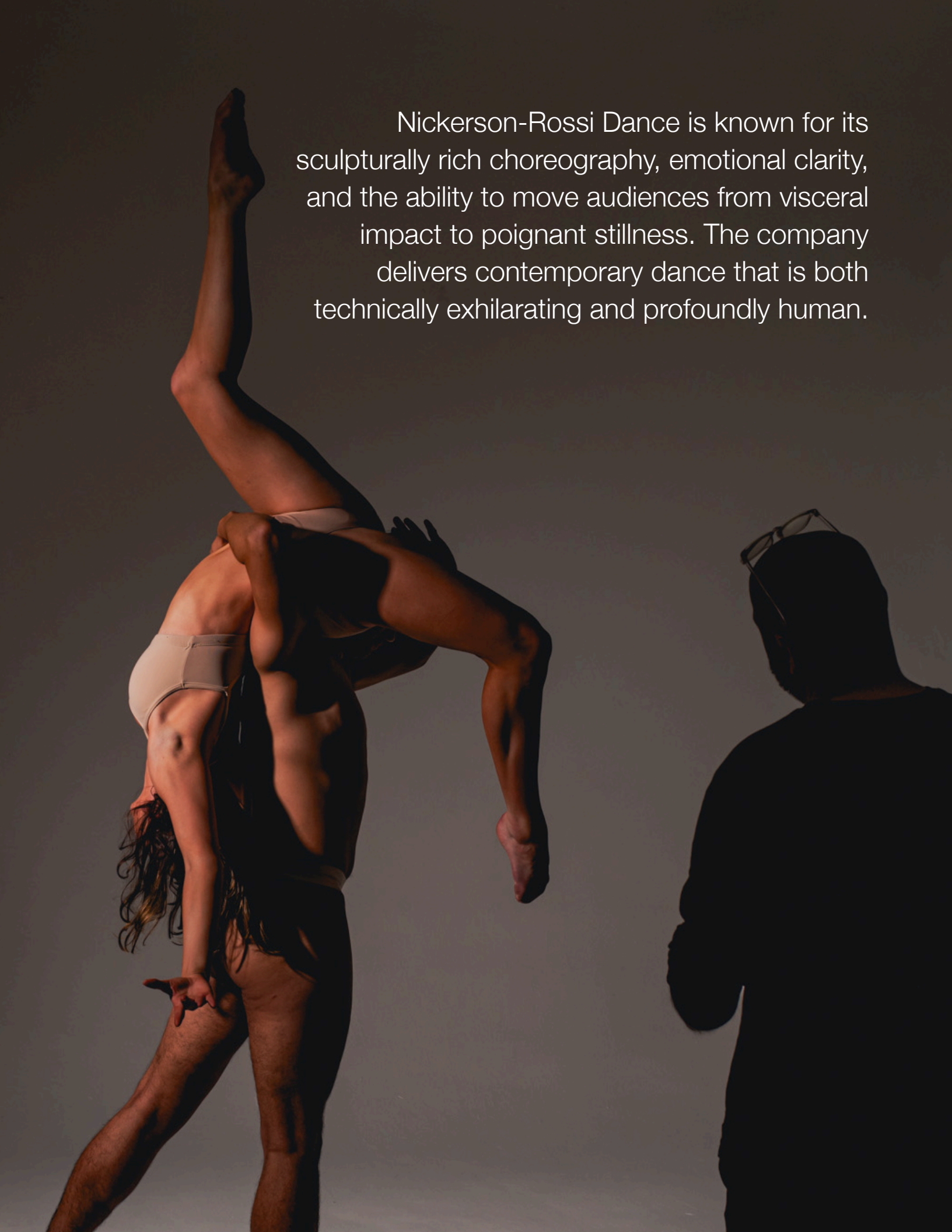


NICKERSON-ROSSI DANCE

— where passion meets movement —

Touring Repertoire · Educational Residencies · Commissions & Collaborations

Season 14
2026.27



Nickerson-Rossi Dance is known for its sculpturally rich choreography, emotional clarity, and the ability to move audiences from visceral impact to poignant stillness. The company delivers contemporary dance that is both technically exhilarating and profoundly human.



WHY PRESENT NICKERSON-ROSSI DANCE?

Nickerson-Rossi Dance offers presenters a rare blend of artistic excellence, audience connection, and community impact. The company's sculptural choreography, emotional performances, and professional polish make NRD a powerful addition to any season.

Proven Artistic Reputation

NRD is trusted by major institutions including:

Art That Resonates

- Distinct Choreographic Aesthetic
- Contemporary Movement and Emotional storytelling that connects with diverse audiences

- Palm Springs Art Museum
- Sunnylands Center & Gardens
- Idyllwild Arts and universities nationwide

High Production Value

- Strong, technically refined ensemble
- Clean, dramatic stagecraft and lighting
- Clear, presenter-friendly technical requirements
- Flexible Programming
- Full-evening concerts
- Mixed-bill repertory
- World-premiere commissions
- Site-specific and museum collaborations

Community Engagement

- Masterclasses
- Workshops and residencies
- Artist talks and school shows

The Value for Your Venue?

Nickerson-Rossi Dance delivers memorable performances, professional reliability, and meaningful community reach. A complete artistic experience that strengthens your season and audience engagement.

TOURING REPERTORY

All works choreographic by Michael Nickerson-Rossi *unless stated

FULL-LENGTH & SIGNATURE ENSEMBLE WORKS

DNA (2013) — Ensemble · ~ 20 min

A foundational and emotionally rich work exploring lineage, identity, and inherited stories. Architectural, dramatic, and deeply resonant.

Cause & Effect (2011) — Ensemble · ~ 8 min

NRD's earliest repertory work: a kinetic study of momentum, consequence, and emotional unraveling. Every "cause" has a corresponding "effect."

Remembering the Unremembered (2011) — Ensemble · ~ 18 min

A powerful, haunting exploration of memory, loss, and healing. Visually striking and emotionally immersive.

FEATURED ENSEMBLE & MIXED-BILL WORKS

(Equal)ity (2019) — Trio · ~ 10 min

A socially reflective piece questioning what "equal" truly means. Visually clean and emotionally charged.

Within the Faultline (2020) — 6 dancers · ~ 8 min

**(Guest Work by Kim T. Davis – Director of Dance at Modesto Junior College)*

A test of physical strength featuring over 100 integrated lifts, with movement that rapidly intensifies over time.

Unearthed (2021) — 8 - 12 dancers · ~ 9 min

**(Guest Work by Dante Puleio – Artistic Director of the Limon Dance Company)*

Figures lift from the soil in search of light, only to drift back into the earth—a continual cycle of longing and renewal rendered through dramatic, interwoven phrasework.

Veni Vedi Vici (2022) — 6 dancers · ~ 6 min

A commanding ensemble work of resilience, ambition, and sculptural precision.

Rapture (2025) — 5 dancers · 6 min

A driving, high-intensity contemporary work that builds toward emotional and physical release through expansive phrasing and surging momentum.

DUETS & SOLO WORKS

With (2013) — Duet · ~ 7 min

A tense, intimate work centered on partnership: "Are you with me, or against me?" Multiple gender casting included.

Deeply Rooted (2014) — Duet · ~ 7 min

A passionate, trust-driven duet about love, responsibility, and emotional vulnerability.

Second Skin (2016) — Duet · ~ 8 min

A sensitive and poetic male duet examining identity, duality, and emotional memory.

Intricate or Complex (2025) — Solo · ~ 5 min

A complex, high-velocity contemporary pointe solo that highlights athleticism, precision, and intricately woven gestures punctuated by explosive shifts of energy.

SITE-SPECIFIC & MUSEUM / UNIVERSITY COLLABORATION

Sunnylands Garden Installations — 6–10 dancers · Flexible run time

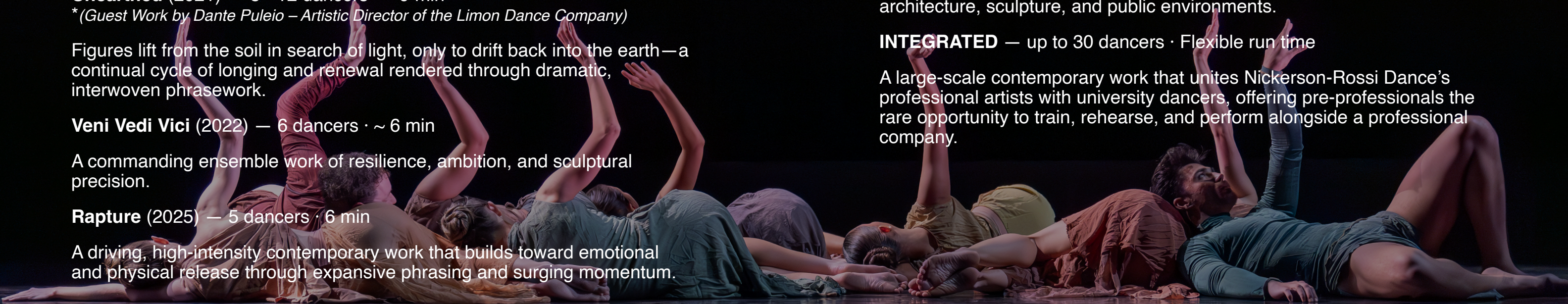
Immersive outdoor performances crafted for landscape architecture; fluid, nature-responsive movement.

PSAM Atrium & Gallery Works — 4–8 dancers · 10–20 min

Highly adaptable works designed for museum spaces, activating architecture, sculpture, and public environments.

INTEGRATED — up to 30 dancers · Flexible run time

A large-scale contemporary work that unites Nickerson-Rossi Dance's professional artists with university dancers, offering pre-professionals the rare opportunity to train, rehearse, and perform alongside a professional company.



EDUCATION & OUTREACH MENU

Programs for Universities, Schools, Museums & Community Partners

Nickerson-Rossi Dance offers a comprehensive suite of educational and community-engagement experiences designed to support learning, artistic development, and meaningful connection. Each offering can be tailored to your institution's needs, age range, and curriculum goals.

Masterclasses

High-energy, technique and performance focused classes in contemporary, modern, partnering, and repertory.

Multi-Day Residencies

Intensive engagements that may include daily technique classes, repertory creation, coaching sessions, faculty collaboration, and an informal or formal showing. Ideal for universities and arts high schools.

Lecture / Demonstrations

Interactive sessions combining performance, discussion, and Q&A. Designed to introduce students and audiences to NRD's choreographic style, artistic philosophy, and creative process.

Creative Process Workshops

Hands-on workshops guiding students through phrase-building, improvisation, narrative creation, and ensemble compositional tools used in NRD's repertory. Suitable for dancers and non-dancers.

Student Matinee Programming

Condensed performances tailored for youth audiences with curated excerpts, dancer introductions, and educational context. Excellent for school districts, festivals, and museum partners.

Apprenticeship Pathways

Pre-professional dancers gain real-world experience by training, rehearsing, and performing alongside NRD company members. Opportunities available for exceptional students during residencies and festivals.

Curriculum Integration

NRD partners with educators to connect movement with academic themes—history, literature, visual art, storytelling, and social-emotional learning. Existing partnerships with PSUSD add proven legitimacy and structure.

Tailored Engagement Packages

All offerings can be combined into custom engagement plans—ideal for semester-long partnerships, university commissions, special exhibitions, and community cultural initiatives.





NEW COMMISSION PATHWAYS

Full-Length Work for Stage

A fully realized contemporary dance work designed for proscenium theaters, festival stages, or mainstage programming. Ideal for institutions seeking a premiere centerpiece.

Short Ensemble Composition

A mid-length work for 4–10 dancers, built to complement mixed-bill evenings or anchor a repertory program.

Site-Specific Installation

Custom-built pieces for galleries, atriums, outdoor spaces, sculpture gardens, and architectural environments, designed to activate the unique character of your site.

Music Collaboration / Interdisciplinary Work

Works integrating live music, visual art, design, or multimedia elements, tailored to the artistic strengths and resources of your institution.

TIMELINE & PROCESS

Collaboration → **Creation** →
Residency → **Premiere**

Collaboration:

Initial conversations establish themes, cast size, run time, aesthetic direction, and performance goals.

Creation:

Michael Nickerson-Rossi develops original choreography tailored to your institution's needs.

Residency:

On-site rehearsals, workshops, company class, and student engagement (as requested) ensure dancers are fully prepared.

Premiere:

Your institution presents the world premiere of a custom NRD work, supported by professional production values and artist involvement.



ARTISTIC DIRECTOR MICHAEL NICKERSON-ROSSI

Michael Nickerson-Rossi is an American choreographer known for his sculptural movement vocabulary, emotional vulnerability, and visually arresting contemporary works that resonate with audiences. As Founder and Artistic Director of Nickerson-Rossi Dance, his choreography has been presented nationally and internationally and is recognized for its precision, theatricality, and human depth.

Nickerson-Rossi's work has toured across the United States, Europe, and Latin America, appearing at venues such as the Palm Springs Art Museum, New York Live Arts, Sunnylands Center & Gardens, Suzanne Roberts, Royal Theater in Torino (Italy), the Alex Theatre, Cape Cod Dance Festival, and numerous regional theaters, museums, and cultural centers. His repertory ranges from intimate duets to full-length ensemble works, consistently praised for their emotional impact and architectural design.

He has been commissioned by universities, museums, festivals, and commercial agencies to create original work for both professional dancers and pre-professional artists.

A dedicated educator and mentor, Nickerson-Rossi has taught at universities including the Peabody Institute of Johns Hopkins University, New York University, Loyola Marymount University, and institutions across the U.S such as Princeton Ballet and Greenwich Academy. He regularly leads residencies focused on choreography, performance, and artistic development, offering students direct access to professional practice and creative process.

Philosophically, Nickerson-Rossi approaches choreography as a means of revealing emotion through physical design. His work explores vulnerability, resilience, and the complexities of human experiences, qualities that define his artistic voice and anchor his partnership with dancers, students, and institutions.

Hear it from them!



"I am so moved and find myself bursting into tears every time I see them"

Richard Jay-Alexander

Broadway Producer



"His dancers are so edgy and sexy and beautiful..."

Liz Wolff in the Wicked Local

Former Producer of the Cape Cod Dance Festival



"Superbly demonstrates the haunting power of symbiotic connection."

Beth Megill in LA Dance Review

Dance Critic



"Technically difficult with a plethora of extraordinarily unique lifts, the pieces were each different in tone yet followed a theme throughout."

Valarie Jean-Miller in Broadway World

Writer



"It is a joy to collaborate and work alongside Mr. Nickerson-Rossi. He would be an asset to any program he becomes a part of."

Danah Bella

Chair of the BFA Dance Program at the Peabody Conservatory of Johns Hopkins University

Past Partnerships & Presenting Venues



CONTACT

Commissions, Booking, & Touring Inquiries

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