

Yvonne Montoya

MEDIA KIT



www.yvonnemontoya.co/

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PHOTO BY DOMINIC AZ BONUCCELLI

Yvonne Montoya

Yvonne Montoya is a mother, dancemaker, bi-national artist, thought leader, writer, speaker, and the founding director of Safos. Based in Tucson, AZ and originally from Albuquerque, NM, her work is grounded in and inspired by the landscapes, languages, cultures, and aesthetics of the American Southwest.

Montoya is a process-based dancemaker who creates low-tech, site-specific and site-adaptive pieces for nontraditional dance spaces. Though most well-known in the U.S. Southwest, her choreography has been staged across the United States and in Guatemala, and her dance films screened at Queens University of Charlotte, NC and the University of Exeter (in the U.K.). In addition to being the founding director, Montoya is the lead choreographer for Safos Dance Theatre. Under her direction, the company won the Tucson Pima Arts Council's Lumie Award for Emerging Organization (2015). She is currently working on *Stories from Home*, a series of dances based on her family's oral histories.

From 2017-2018 Montoya was a Post-Graduate Fellow in Dance at Arizona State University, where she founded and organized the inaugural Dance in the Desert: A Gathering of Latinx Dancemakers. Montoya is a 2021 Southwest Folk Alliance Plain View Fellow, a 2019-2020 Kennedy Center Citizen Artist Fellow, a member of the 2019-2020 Dance/USA Fellowships to Artists pilot program, and a recipient of the 2019 National Association of Latino Arts and Cultures (NALAC) POD grant, the 2020 MAP Fund Award, and the first Arizona-based artist to receive the 2020 New England Foundation for the Arts (NEFA) National Dance Project Production Grant. Montoya won the Arizona Creative Excellence Award at the 2021 Arizona Drive-In Dance Film Festival. She continues to work as a thought leader and collaborator on *Dance in the Desert*. www.yvonnemontoya.co



Awards & Honors

Southwest Folk Alliance Plain View Fellow 2021

Arizona Creative Excellence Award, Arizona Drive-In Dance Film Festival 2021

Recipient, AZ Creative Communities Follow-On Grant 2020

Recipient, The MAP Fund 2020

Recipient, National Dance Project Production Grant 2020

Kennedy Center Citizen Artist Fellow 2019

Dance/USA Artist Fellow 2019

Artist-in-Residence, National Hispanic Cultural Center Voices & Manoa Projects 2019

Nominee, Arizona Governor's Arts Award.
Individual Artist Category 2019

The Arizona Republic & azcentral's Who's Next:
Arts list 2018

Post-Graduate Fellow in Dance. Projecting All
Voices Initiative. Arizona State University
2017-2018

Association of Performing Arts Professionals
Artist Institute Fellow 2017

Recipient, Best Art Film for "Reflections: The MPA
Project." Tucson 3 Minute Fringe Festival
2017



Stories from Home



Stories From Home is a series of dances embodying the oral traditions of Latinx communities in the American Southwest. Choreographer Yvonne Montoya and an all-Latinx cast of dancers draw upon personal histories as well as ancestral knowledge, including stories from Montoya's great-grandmother, grandmother, great-aunts, and father. With palpable theatricality, moving spoken word, a movement aesthetic informed by vibrant ancestral and contemporary sources, and universal themes of love, family, and home, *Stories From Home* brings these largely underrepresented experiences to the stage.

The format and presentation of *Stories From Home* is flexible; it can be performed as a full-length dance work for the traditional stage; as single, brief solos; paired with a keynote address for conferences or educational events; and outdoors, on proscenium stages, in blackbox spaces, digitally, or in classrooms.

Montoya, a 23rd-generation Nuevomexicana, began to develop *Stories From Home* after her father's passing in 2015; compelled to continue his storytelling tradition for her own child, she turned to dance.

Stories From Home centers Latinx bodies, aesthetics, and experiences from the U.S. Southwest on concert dance stages, where such themes and aesthetics are rarely seen," comments choreographer Yvonne Montoya.

Stories From Home Offerings:

- Dance performance
- Theatrical performance: an evening of storytelling and dance.
- Keynote performances featuring 2-4 dances and the stories and inspiration behind the work.

Digital Offerings



Stories from Home: COVID-19 Addendum

Stories From Home: COVID-19 Addendum online dance film series evolved in response to COVID-19 and quarantine-based parenthood and work.

Stories From Home was originally scheduled to premiere on stage and in person on Kennedy Center’s Millennium Stage this September and will be rescheduled for the 2022 season. Facing the realities of COVID-19 and its impact on the performing arts industry, along with postponed performances and residencies, Montoya evolved the presentation of the work. She also identified ideological parallels with her 2016 piece *Motherhood and the Performing Arts* — a solo work that explored the joys and challenges of parenthood and a performing arts career — as her work as an artist was suddenly combined with new responsibilities as a homeschool educator. These ideas and circumstances were the catalyst for the online ***Stories From Home: COVID-19 Addendum***.

“***Stories from Home: COVID-19 Addendum*** is potent now in the time of COVID-19 as we are collectively homebound. The focus on experiences and stories from the home opens up spaces and opportunities to share embodied testimonials of family, love, loneliness, uncertainty, and change experienced at home during social distancing. It also opens up many exciting new places to dance in and around the home.”



Stories From Home COVID-19 Addendum Workshop:

Parent/Child movement workshop: Co-taught by Montoya and her son Buddy, this workshop brings children ages 12 and under together with parents/caregivers for an intergenerational movement workshop. Families will work together to create play-based movement phrases inspired by a story, experience, or item that brings them joy.

Community Workshops



Embodied Movement + Storytelling

Workshop: This is a movement and storytelling workshop for adults that explores where our memories are kept and felt in the body.

Luminaria Making + Storytelling Workshop:

Montoya is a 23rd generation Nuevomexicana. One of New Mexico's well-known holiday traditions are luminarias (also known as farolitos in Northern NM). This workshop combines storytelling with the traditional practice of making luminarias/farolitos. Community members share stories of *querencia* (connection to place and people). We will then create luminarias to illuminate memories of these stories. Luminarias/farolitos can be placed together in a public location after the workshop or each participant can take them home for private viewing.



Create Your Own Story from Home Dance Film Workshop: A 3-5 day hands on workshop where participants will create their own 3-5 minute dance film inspired by their own story from home. Following the same methodologies dancers used to create their dance films for Act 2 of the Stories from Home: COVID-19 Addendum dance film series, community artists will work directly with Montoya and Filmmaker Dominic AZ Bonuccelli in this intensive. Ideal for dancers and artists. Can be done live or online prior to an in person engagement. Films can be incorporated into the performance as a pre-show engagement.

Contact



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