

“...smart, stirring choreography...a wonder to behold.”

Dance Magazine

“...richly imaginative and witty.”

New York Times



ABOUT THE COMPANY

Founded by Artistic Director Debra Loewen in 1986, Wild Space is celebrating more than three decades in Milwaukee. Known for site-specific works and artistic collaborations, the company has created more than 130 original dance works, which have been performed to critical acclaim throughout Wisconsin, and on tour in Minneapolis, Chicago, New York, Japan and South Korea. These works include productions inspired by the lives and voices of Milwaukee, and site-specific dance events celebrating the community's built and natural environment.

Continuing its 35-year legacy in Milwaukee, this season Wild Space transitions to new artistic leadership, renewing its gifts to the city for many years to come. Events include **“Dances: At the Edge of Understanding,”** a dance triptych embodying the ideas of South African artist William Kentridge (Sept. 15-16, with open rehearsals in Aug., at The Warehouse, 1635 W. St. Paul Ave.); **“History of the Future,”** a showcase of new work by Founding Director Debra Loewen, incoming Artistic Co-Director Dan Schuchart, and special guest artists that looks back as we move forward (Dec. 1-3 at UWM Mitchell Hall Studio 254, 3203 N. Downer Ave.); and **“Everyone Is Welcome,”** a series of free, site-specific performances at Forest Home Cemetery featuring the work of culturally diverse choreographers for our new initiative, InSite: Choreographic Apprenticeship (June 2023 at 2405 W. Forest Home Ave.).

Loewen has garnered critical acclaim and awards, including a 2015 Career Recognition from the Wisconsin Dance Council, a 2011 Milwaukee Arts Board Artist of the Year Award and multiple fellowships from Milwaukee County, the Wisconsin Arts Board and the National Endowment for the Arts. A senior lecturer at UWM, Loewen has taught at Lawrence University, the University of Delaware and Alverno College. She holds a BFA in dance from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and an MFA in dance from UWM.

CONTACT

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Wild Space's mission is to expand the audience for contemporary dance through performance and educational programs in the greater Milwaukee area and throughout southeastern Wisconsin, reaching diverse communities. The company's goals are to create and produce new, original work each season that engages a diverse audience and implement outreach programs that reach under-served students.

ARTISTIC STATEMENT – DEBRA LOEWEN



Critics' Comments

"...a fascinating evening of dance and sound."

Milwaukee Journal Sentinel

"...the show made clear that for 30 years Wild Space has been home to performers of great character."

Shepherd Express

"Let your mind wander into the space with the dancers, and something remarkable happens—moments of drama and connection unfold."

Milwaukee Magazine

"At a performance of such magnitude and complexity as Debra Loewen's *Into the Garden* with Wild Space Dance Company...the once-in-a-lifetime fact of the event is overwhelming."

Shepherd Express

"Loewen was asking what dance is. Her answers were unpretentious reminders of the works of modern art masters she admires..."

Shepherd Express

In the rehearsal process I strive to work with the dancers to incorporate their ideas, actions, and movements into the development of each dance. This collaborative approach to creating dances offers a basic framework for perceiving, understanding, and executing movement and dance activity.

The dances I make are not based on one school of dance technique – instead I look at each dance as an opportunity to invent or create a new movement language. Choreography has always been the most fascinating way for me to learn about the world around me. The dances I create begin as movement investigations of these ideas and issues.

I like dances that challenge the audience members to create individual responses and connections to the movement ideas that unfold before them. Choreography ought to engage the intellect, satisfy the eye, and offer the audience members a reflection of their humanity.

PERFORMANCE

A striking perspective on movement in space, Wild Space's acclaimed **site-specific events** transform Milwaukee landmarks into **"...imagination-stirring, site-specific modern dance performances..."** (*Milwaukee Journal Sentinel*). Recent events include *Into the Garden* at Villa Terrace (16), *Artifacts* at Riverwest's Goat Palace (17), *Acts of Discovery* at a former dairy distributor (18), *Making/Unmaking* at The Warehouse (19), *Off the Page* at Boswell Book Company (20), the *Parking Lot Dance Series* at four lots across the city (20-21), *Flipside/Lakeside* at Milwaukee Art Museum (21), and *InSite: Dances for Washington Park* (22).

Cross-discipline works are also a central focus for Wild Space performances, bringing together actors, musicians and emerging choreographers to create original work inspired by history, the human condition and a generous dose of humor. Recent collaborators include the Milwaukee Art Museum, Milwaukee Opera Theatre and local artist Tom Bamberger.

OUTREACH

Wild Space outreach programs expand students' understanding of dance, visual art, music and wellness. A company-in-residence at Lincoln Center Middle School of the Arts, Wild Space has worked with more than 70 Milwaukee Public Schools and is a cultural partner in the Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra's Project ACE (Arts in Community Education) and The Kennedy Center Turnaround Arts Program. **Over the past four seasons, Wild Space has engaged more than 6,000 young people.** Programs include *Project Dance Makers*, *A-B-C-Dance!*, *Wild Arts Summer Camp*, and after-school residencies.

An affiliate of the United Performing Arts Fund, Wild Space is supported in part by grants from corporations, foundations, individual donors, Milwaukee County CAMPAC, the Milwaukee Arts Board and the Wisconsin Arts Board, with funds from the State of Wisconsin and the National Endowment for the Arts.