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## **IMC BOARD ANNOUNCES DETAILS OF SUCCESSION PLAN NAMES DANIELLE GENEST AS NEXT ARTISTIC DIRECTOR**

(Newport, RI) – The Board of Directors for Island Moving Company (IMC), Newport's contemporary ballet, announced today the appointment of Danielle Genest as the company's next Artistic Director, starting September 1, 2022.

Ms. Genest is IMC's current Associate Artistic Director and will succeed founding Artistic Director, Miki Ohlsen following her retirement at the end of the company's 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Season in August 2022.

IMC's Executive Director, Peter Bramante, said *"Miki Ohlsen has created a world-renowned dance company over these past 40 years and the Board of Directors set out to identify the best possible successor to honor that legacy and further IMC's commitment to delivering transformative dance experiences and a world class dance education program. They found that in Danielle Genest."*

*"Danielle's strong artistic vision, her deep institutional knowledge and passion for IMC, her desire to uphold the collaborative and inclusive culture of IMC, made Danielle stand out as the ideal candidate,"* says IMC Board President, Martha Parker. *"Danielle's loyalty to IMC, her respect for the dancers and the larger IMC community all contribute to her desire to honor the legacy Miki created while moving the company boldly forward."*

Ms. Genest is an accomplished professional dancer and choreographer. Ms. Genest began her dance studies at Newport Academy of Ballet as a young dancer under the direction and mentorship of Miki Ohlsen. She continued her studies at Boston Ballet School, Houston Ballet Academy, and North Carolina School of the Arts. At age 17, Ms. Genest joined Hartford Ballet as a professional dancer and continued dancing professionally with New York Theatre Ballet and Island Moving Company.

Ms. Genest was Co-founder and Associate Artistic Director of Janusphere Dance Company as well as Co- Artistic Director of Part of the Oath. She served on the faculty of Ballet School New York, Providence Ballet, Spindle City Ballet's Dance Academy, and Newport Academy of Ballet.

Ms. Genest's choreographic work has been commissioned by New York Theatre Ballet, Tallahassee Ballet, Festival Ballet Providence, Island Moving Company, as well as several universities including Texas A&M and Salve Regina. Her work has been showcased at Hartford Ballet's Arts Exclusive, the Elan Awards in New York City, and the 10th Internationales Ballet meeting in Austria. She has also twice been the recipient of a Merit Award for the Rhode Island State Council on the Arts Fellowship in Choreography.

Upon learning of the board's decision, Ms. Genest said *"I am thrilled at the honor of becoming Artistic Director of Island Moving Company and carrying on the incredible legacy that Miki has built. The company is at a pivotal moment in its existence as we celebrate our 40th Anniversary and await the advent of our new home, our Center for Dance and Education. I am looking forward to working with our amazing dancers, staff, board, and the entire community to bring IMC into the future."*

Ms. Genest was appointed as Associate Artistic Director of Island Moving Company in 2017. She currently resides in Newport, Rhode Island, with her husband, Petar, and their sons, Niko and Rafael.

Additional information will be provided in future updates to IMC's Website as well as its social media platforms. Follow IMC on FaceBook , Instagram and/or sign up for the company's e-newsletter on the website.

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Now in its 40th season, Island Moving Company (IMC) has produced and presented dance works by a diverse group of the world's leading dance-makers and collaborating artists to make original works that leave audiences exhilarated and transfixed.

Founded 1982, IMC is a non-profit, professional, contemporary ballet company with a long history of enriching the cultural fabric of our communities. The company is comprised of 12 professional dancers, one apprentice, five trainees, ten administrative staff and is governed by a board of 17 community leaders.

In addition to its mainstage and family series productions, IMC is widely known for its unique approach to intimate, immersive, and site-specific performances as well as innovative use of unconventional venues such as Rosecliff Mansion, Belcourt Castle, S/V Oliver Hazard Perry, and other notable sites across Newport County and the world.

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