



Dear IMC Community,

I am truly honored and humbled to be taking over as Artistic Director of Island Moving Company this coming fall. The culture of IMC has been part of who I am for as long as I can remember. As many of you know, I was fortunate to train with Miki at Newport Academy of Ballet and grow up dancing with IMC where I learned at a very young age what it means to be part of an environment of creativity, passion, collaboration, and compassion. This experience has had an incredible impact on who I am and how I see the world. It taught me the immeasurable value of art in our existence and the extraordinary effect it can have on people's lives. The work we do is so much greater than just ourselves. It is about representing humankind and providing opportunities for connection, support, unity, and hope.

My life has been shaped by my work with IMC and the values we all live by. Having such a lifelong history with the company has provided me with the very unique opportunity to carry on the remarkable legacy Miki created here. I have been involved in many different aspects of the organization – from dancer to teacher, Junior Company Director to Nutcracker Children's Cast Director, and choreographer to Associate Artistic Director. This range of perspectives has given me great insight into how the company operates, survives, changes with the times, and flourishes. We are at a pivotal moment in IMC's history as we celebrate our 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and continue to forge ahead to build our new home. I am eager to make IMC an even greater presence and force for good in our community, as well as in the dance community at large. As I continue to further IMC's mission and honor the monumental work that has been done up until this moment, I am excited to bring new, diverse voices forward as we strive to reach wider audiences and create new relationships at home and abroad.

IMC is an incredible organization. It is a dynamic contemporary ballet company as well as an invaluable educational resource for so many. As we look forward to the amazing artistic growth, potential, and possibilities that lie ahead, I am committed to preserving the beautiful culture that this company was founded on – a culture of care, support, respect, accessibility, diversity, and inclusivity. It is this culture that is the lifeblood of all we do at IMC. It is what drives us, sustains us and what truly identifies us. In this complicated time in the world, we are reminded how critically important human connection is to our existence. Dance has the universal power to bring people together - helping us celebrate our differences and enabling us to grow stronger as a collective. I am looking forward to working with all of you who make up our community and our family. I am grateful for your support and look forward to our future together!

With appreciation,