

Today we spend a bit of time with Q+A with founding MDTN member + Artistic Director of [Catey Ott Dance Collective](#)

What propelled you to form MDTN?

I spent 14 years in NYC but stayed in close contact with MKE's dance/movement theatre community throughout. In returning to MKE, I saw that the MKE Dance/Movement Theatre Community seemed like it might benefit from opportunities to sync up in regards to scheduling events, having important conversations, building community, growing young artists, and broadening the audiences.

You have a unique perspective on Milwaukee's art community, as you've moved in and out of NYC and the midwest for several years. Do you notice positive shifts in our movement/performance community?

Yes! A lot has changed for the good! The companies have remained strong (and gotten stronger) while independent artists have made a place here for their voices to be heard. It is exciting to see the talent grow and know that there are many reasons to call MKE an artistic home.

What is your hope for your collective/our community, post pandemic?

CODC is in creation mode every summer, and this time (as the pandemic lightens,) we are in a very inspired place. The works created in the summer are then performed and shared both as a full-length concert and as well as individual pieces throughout the year in MKE, NYC, and now online. We also do the ON DISPLAY GLOBAL community project for disabled and abled folks with Heidi Latsky Dance each year. My goal is for the work that happens post pandemic (both for CODC and MKE Dance/Movement Theatre community) is grounded, real, accessible, brave, diverse, honest, innovative, and authentic.

Favorite Milwaukee summer activity?

I LOVE summer! Walks in the woods by the river and trips to the beach to play in the waves are my favorite summer activities in MKE!

[CATEY OTT DANCE COLLECTIVE](#) (CODC) is a MKE/NYC based professional company that embodies modern/contemporary technique, intriguing qualitative movement, and vulnerable yet fierce emotions. The choreography features realness in relationships and clear intention, all inside of an imaginative dimension. The company dancers often collaborate in the investigation of movement. CODC also embraces interactive relationships with composers and visual artists/set designers.