



Dawn Springer Dance Projects synthesize contemporary ballet and feminist thought. The performances employ an empathetic mode of watching dance, valuing virtuosity as a form of agency for the dancer, particularly as it relates to gender. The choreography, made in close collaboration with dancers, composers and artists from other mediums, contrasts powerful and explosive vocabulary with distilled moments of physical surrender. Emphasizing the felt experience over spectacle and objectification, DSDP engages multiple movement forms to push the boundaries of how we view dance and the dancer.



CRITICAL ACCLAIM FOR DAWN SPRINGER DANCE PROJECTS

"magic" *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel*

"beautiful" *Milwaukee Magazine*

"I'm painfully aware as I struggle to describe their performance that my words fall far short of the experience. . . Sylph was a stellar example in both music and choreography. . . Ballet doesn't look like this."

"Springer put familiar ballet moves into unique, extreme constructions; every phrase was an event. " *Shepherd Express*

"A dazzling example of ensemble precision (an almost psychic way of initiating phrases) and simple, but beautiful composition. There is a mathematical rigor here, but poignant warmth as well: spirits fly even as bodies remain earthbound." *Milwaukee Magazine*

Sylph, Full Review

Shepherd Express review, [Reality Undisguised in Dawn Springer Dance Projects' 'Sylph'](#), by John Schneider, October 18, 2024

Something Familiar, Full Review

Milwaukee Magazine review, [Something Familiar Brings the Ozark Living Room to an Art Gallery](#) by Lauren Warneck, February 3rd, 2026





Dawn Springer's choreography is celebrated for its ability to blend complex technical skill with deep emotional resonance.

Her performance career has taken her to renowned venues and international festivals, including Lincoln Center, The Kennedy Center, The Venice Biennale Danza, The American Dance Festival, The New York Historical Society and New York Live Arts. She has also performed at the Baryshnikov Arts Center, The Brooklyn Museum of Art, Washington DC's Dance Place, The United States Botanic Garden, and The Banff Centre, among many others. Springer had the privilege to work with award winning choreographers Helen Simoneau, Camille A. Brown (multi-Tony nominee), Sara Hook, Sarah Skaggs, Jeff Slayton, Dahlia Nayar and Aynsley Vandenbroucke, among others.

Upon relocating to Milwaukee, she was invited to be artist-in-residence for two years with Alverno Presents. There, Springer forged a dynamic collaboration with Wisconsin-based composer and percussionist Jon Mueller. Together, their projects have been featured at the Eaux Claires Music and Arts Festival, produced by Grammy-winning artists Justin Vernon (Bon Iver) and Aaron Dessner (The National). She has choreographed for The Collection of Colonies of Bees' in their sold-out performance at the Bradley Center arenas with Bon Iver and for their tour appearances with Grammy-nominated Sylvan Esso.

She has toured nationally as an adjudicator for the American Dance Festival and was Artist-in-Residence in Dance for two years at the Clarice Smith Performing Arts Center at the University of Maryland. Her teaching engagements have taken her to universities across the country, including The Ailey School, University of the Arts, MIT, Dickinson College, Lawrence University, and Beloit College. She has taught with the American College Dance Festival Association, and given lectures at the Congress on Research and Dance, and the Society of Dance History Scholars.

She trained on scholarship at the North Carolina School of the Arts, (UNCSA) where she graduated high school with a concentration in Ballet, and earned her BFA in Contemporary Dance. She earned her MFA in the first inaugural class of the Hollins University/American Dance Festival Program, where she studied choreography intensively with Donna Faye Burchfield (Awarded the Chevalier de L'Ordre des Arts by the French Ministry of Culture) and dance history and theory with Thomas Defrantz (consultant for the Smithsonian Museum of African American Life and Culture).

Currently, Springer is on faculty at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee's Peck School of the Arts, where she teaches both undergraduate and graduate courses. She is also on faculty with The Milwaukee Ballet, working with dancers in MBII and in the Pre-Professional Program. Additionally, Springer's writing is published in the *Perspectives on American Dance Anthology* by the University Press of Florida.

She and her husband split their time between Milwaukee and Lake Geneva. They have two children.







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Technical Riders available upon request





