



DANCE TAMPA BAY

**Keep up with upcoming events, workshops and news in the
Tampa Bay Dance Community**

**December
2024**



December 17, 2024

Dear Dance Enthusiast,

As we approach the new year, it is important to reflect on the challenges and successes of 2024. Although hurricanes, Helene and Milton, left many of us with impromptu planning, and leaving destruction for some in the wake, they also gave us the opportunity to show the world how we work together. We have the chance to reassess our needs, act on it and become stronger for it.

This year, Dance Tampa Bay focused on visibility, awareness and advocacy. In receiving the Community Arts Impact Grant (CAIG) from Hillsborough County Board of County Commissioners, we were able to start the production of Dance Rising Tampa Bay, a four part dance film series featuring Tampa Bay dancers with original music by locals, Nick Ewing and Sean Bucheck. Brilliantly produced by Mad Bear Productions, you can see a shortened version of the first film on all 33 downtown, South Tampa and East Tampa informational kiosks. More viewing opportunities are in process. Stay tuned!

In the coming year, we are turning our attention to inclusion, wellness and economic development through the arts. Watch your emails for master classes, community meetings and local dance jams.

Thank you for being a vital member of our dance world. We are pushing the needle every day toward healthy harmonious discussions with Dance as the center of the conversation. A wise person once said, "Don't ask for a seat at the table. Set the Table."

Wishing you all the warmest holidays, and a brilliant new year filled with hope and resilience!

Sincerely yours,
Shana Corrada
Executive Director, Dance Tampa Bay

MEET Michael Sheehan

Award Winning Dance Photographer

www.michaelsheehanphotos.com



Born in Ireland and now rooted in Florida for over three decades, Michael Sheehan masterfully balances his career as a psychiatrist with his passion for photography. His deep understanding of human emotions and form, shaped by his medical background, fuels his art, which explores the beauty and dignity of the human condition.

Sheehan's photographic journey began at age six with a box camera, evolving through darkroom experimentation in his teens to digital artistry in the late 1990s. His work, inspired by the compositions, lighting, and palettes of Classical art, reflects a timeless aesthetic. Over the last 16 years, he has been a key figure in Tampa Bay's photographic community, contributing as a board member of the Tampa Bay Society of Photographic Artists, a docent at the Florida Museum of Photographic Arts, and an organizer of creative and community-driven projects.

Specializing in portraiture, Sheehan creates environmental portraits that exude humanity and harmony. His 2016 Vermeer-inspired series earned critical acclaim, while his collaboration with Nicole Hays on body-painting photography led to his first solo exhibition and book.

Since 2017, his work has been represented by the United Photographic Artists Gallery and showcased in over 90 exhibitions worldwide. A recent highlight is *Tutu Tango* (2024), a groundbreaking collaboration with Barcelona-based photographer Dorothee Elfiring. This ambitious project melded photography, animation, and design into a 30-image exhibition, a large 5-panel Silk mobile, an 80-page photobook, and an award-winning animated film, earning accolades at international film festivals.

Currently, as the still photographer for Tampa City Ballet, Sheehan focuses on dancers in his and their studios, capturing the elegance and dynamic energy of the human form, informed by his lifelong study of anatomy and classical art.

Q: What prompted your passion for dance photography?

My passion for dance photography grew from a six-year journey photographing my daughter's volleyball matches, capturing the action at its most intense and decisive moments. This experience honed my ability to anticipate movement and freeze it at its peak—a skill that naturally carried over to the world of dance. What first drew me to dancers was their unparalleled artistry, athleticism, and professionalism. Their ability to execute precise, minor adjustments while simultaneously expressing deep emotion is nothing short of extraordinary. Dancers are not just performers; they are collaborators in the creative process, bringing their own vision and artistry to each project. I find immense inspiration in their dedication and in the shared effort to create something meaningful and visually compelling. Working with dancers allows me to explore the elegance of movement, the power of form, and the intimate connection between motion and emotion—all while pushing my own artistic boundaries. It's this blend of precision, expression, and collaboration that continues to fuel my love for dance photography.

Q: What are the challenges to a good dance photo shoot?

Dance photography presents a unique set of challenges, from capturing motion at the perfect moment to managing lighting that highlights both power and grace. Conveying the dancer's emotion and story while ensuring technical precision requires skill, as does selecting a setting that complements the performance without distraction. The physical demands of following dynamic movement and balancing collaboration with creative direction further add complexity. Additionally, creating a comfortable atmosphere for the dancer and refining images in post-processing are critical to producing compelling and impactful photos that showcase the artistry and athleticism of dance.

Q: Do you envision a shift in either your work or the field of photography in the future?

I envision integrating technology and storytelling more deeply into my work, using tools like AI to create immersive visual experiences that push the boundaries of traditional photography. In dance photography, for example, these innovations could more vividly portray motion and emotion.

In the broader field, I see a growing fusion of photography, digital art, and film, with photographers collaborating across disciplines to create multimedia projects. As technology makes high-quality photography more accessible, the emphasis will likely shift toward originality and storytelling, redefining what photography can achieve as an art form.

Q: Who are the artists (photographers or other) that inspire you?

I draw inspiration from a wide range of artists across disciplines, each contributing to my vision and approach. Classical painters like Johannes Vermeer and Caravaggio influence my use of light, color, and composition. Their ability to create depth and emotional resonance in their work has been a guiding force in my photography.

In the realm of photography, the work of Annie Leibovitz inspires me for her mastery of portraiture and storytelling, while Richard Avedon's ability to capture raw human emotion and Irving Penn's attention to detail and elegance in form deeply resonate with me. I'm also inspired by contemporary dance photographers like Lois Greenfield and fellow physician, Howard Schatz, whose dynamic images convey the fluidity and power of movement.

Beyond visual artists, I find inspiration in collaboration with performers like dancers, whose artistry and ability to express emotions through movement bring unique dimensions to my work. These influences combine to shape my passion for capturing humanity with grace, dignity, and depth.

MEET April Foreman

**Entrepreneur/Owner,
On Your Toes
Dance Boutique**



April Foreman has studied with Frank Rey Dance Studio since 1985. She has appeared in many local events with the studio including holiday parades, Festival of Trees and Guavaween. She has also participated in numerous national events, such as Superbowl XXV and self choreographed solos for church functions and workshops for the Guild of English Handbell Ringers. She performed with the Bay Ballet Theatre in the "Nutcracker". She studied music theatre and interpretive dance using sign language, and is an accomplished vocalist. She now owns and operates Tampa's longest standing dance boutique, On Your Toes!

Q: What was your career path and when did you decide to take over the dance boutique, "On Your Toes"?
I always knew that I wanted to work in the performing arts field. I loved dancing. Teaching was my passion but I was always fascinated with the "behind the scenes." I started working at On Your Toes when I was in high school, as a part time job. Then, I never left! When the original owner started talking about retirement, I knew that our community still needed our services and I wasn't ready for the shop to close. So, 2 years ago, I started focusing on the steps to purchase the shop and then, in October of last year, I officially took over.

Since I have worked at the store for over 25 years, the transition was a fairly easy one. I had a relationship with our customers and community. I've danced and taught for so many years that I know how shoes should fit and work. I knew the products inside and out and what the companies offer. So, it just felt like natural progression.

The biggest challenge I have faced thus far is having to move from our current location. The shop has been in the same location for over 37 years. We were informed in September that we had 2 months to pack up and leave. As anyone knows, 2 months is not enough time to box up 37 years of memories and merchandise, find a new location, prepare the new location and seamlessly re-open. Our new store will not be ready until January. I'm currently holding pop-up shops at local studios, making deliveries and mailing out orders. Not only am I doing everything possible to provide our dancers with what they need for Nutcrackers and end of the year performances, I'm trying to make sure I'm still able to provide my employees a paycheck. The timing of this move couldn't have been at a worse time: right before the holidays.

Q: What challenges have you faced, and how do they effect the future of "On Your Toes"?
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Q: What advice do you have for a young entrepreneur who might just be starting their business?
My advice to a new entrepreneur would be to just keep moving. When someone tells you "no": keep moving. When the obstacles seem to big: keep moving. When your days are good...or bad: keep moving. You don't have to take big actions all at once. The little, every day movement is what "the grind" is all about.

Q: Is there an artist/entrepreneur that inspires you?
I pull inspiration from everyone, everywhere in every moment. There are so many artists and business owners that inspire me on a daily basis. But if you were to ask me who the one person that has had a greatest impact on me, it would be the great Mr. Dick VanDyke. He has overcome so many obstacles in his amazingly, long life and has done it with a humble, grateful heart (and always with a smile.) My favorite movie/musical is Mary Poppins. I have a tattoo on my arm of a tattered kite to remind me, no matter how tattered and tired, no matter the stresses and situations you are dealt, no matter the good or bad days you have weathered, always make time for the stuff you are passionate about and "go fly a kite."

Dance Rising Tampa Bay Premiere



Watch Dance Rising Tampa Bay
Here!

**See our latest Dance Rising
Tampa Bay film played on all
33 kiosks downtown and at
the USF Dance Department!**



DANCE
TAMPA BAY

PRESENTS **DANCE**
Rising

We invite you to experience Dance Rising, the first film in a series, celebrating dance and iconic locations in our beautiful city. Follow the QR code to watch now!

JOIN THE MOVEMENT visit dancetampabay.net

The banner features a collage of images: a dancer in a red top in a historic building, a dancer on a beach, a dancer in a white dress on a beach, a dancer in a white dress on a bridge, a dancer in a white dress on a beach, a dancer in a white dress on a beach, and a dancer in a wheelchair in a modern building.

**A special thank you to the
Tampa Downtown
Partnership, USF College of
Design Arts and
Performance and Mad Bear
Productions!**

Dance Advocacy Video

WATCH HERE



DANCE TAMPA BAY

"IN EVERY COMMUNITY WHERE DANCE FLOURISHES, JOY, RESILIENCE, AND TOGETHERNESS THRIVE."

This Giving Tuesday, let's support the power of dance to inspire, heal, and create joy in our communities.

DANCETAMPABAY.NET



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Donate Today!



**Check out upcoming events
here**

What's Happening!!

<https://dancetampabay.net>