

# LUNA DANCE INSTITUTE

creativity • community • change

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## **CHOREOFUND Winner Announced**

Despite heavy traffic and frosty weather, an audience of determined and devoted “micro” funders made their way to Luna Dance Institute Thursday night to cast their votes for the first ever CHOREOFUND winner. Each bearing two \$20 bills as their contributions to the fund, they cozied up on couches and cushions to an evening of performed-live project pitches by seven local choreographers. They were treated to a diverse evening of dance in an intimate and casual game-like setting, with choreographers competing for the \$1200 fund. Proposals for site-specific, participatory pieces to new collaborations to experimental Skype dances to finely polished contemporary works showed the wide spectrum of what is possible in choreography today. For 8 minutes, artists could perform and make their pleas for the pot, followed by 2 minutes for the audience to ask questions. “It was entertainment, but also education for me,” reflected one audience-funder, “I found out so much more about what goes into making a dance.”

This season’s winner of the \$1200 CHOREOFUND - and 12 hours of rehearsal time in Luna Dance’s Berkeley studio - is renowned teacher, performer and choreographer Nol Simonse. In process of creating his new work, Nol is exploring what he calls an “odd train of thoughts that starts with business people in suits dancing to pop music, and then touches on secret societies, life and death, a big party, artistic doubt and insecurity, and ends with a single young dancer.” This funding - just \$40 from each audience member - allows Nol to continue making his piece and then bring it to the stage. “We’ve just been able to have a few rehearsals, and one of them was in a hallway!” Nol shared. Now he is given the space & support that his choreography deserves. Plus he, along with all of Thursday’s artists, now has a room full of newly invested audience members to see his finished work, with potential performance dates in April or June.

Stay tuned for future CHOREOFUND opportunities for artists and audience funders! After this first successful evening, Luna Dance Institute is certain to host more!

### **About Luna Dance Institute**

The central tenet of Luna’s mission and philosophy is to nurture the choreographer in every child. Our studio program syllabus guides students through a progression to learn to explore, improvise, compose, shape and craft solo and group works at a level that is often not experienced until graduate school. CHOREOFUND is a bridge between Luna’s composition-based curriculum and the talent of local choreographers. Visit [lunadanceinstitute.org](http://lunadanceinstitute.org) for more details.

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*Nol Simonse*



*Rosemary Hannon*



*LV Dance Collective*

*\*Photos by Patricia Reedy*