

MASS MoCA

ROOF PIECE



TRISHA BROWN DANCE COMPANY

Saturday, May 24, 2025, 2 & 4:30pm

Roof Piece

(1971)

CHOREOGRAPHY & VISUAL DESIGN

Trisha Brown

DANCERS

Cecily Campbell
Catherine Kirk
Savannah Gaillard
Rochelle Jamila
Burr Johnson
Ashley Merker
Patrick Needham
Jennifer Payán
Spencer Weidie

DANCER BIOGRAPHIES



Roof Piece is a dance initiated by a single dancer on a rooftop and transmitted to other dancers.

After 20 minutes the dance stops and reverses direction for another 20 minutes.

One of the most acclaimed and influential choreographers and dancers of her time, Trisha Brown's (1936–2017) groundbreaking work forever changed the landscape of art. A student of Anna Halprin, Brown participated in the choreographic composition workshops taught by Robert Dunn — from which Judson Dance Theater was born — greatly contributing to the fervent interdisciplinary creativity that defined 1960s New York.


“Distance in an interior space is stopped or held by the walls of the room or curtains of the stage unless through illusion the boundaries of the given area are transcended. The Roof Piece occupies real distance and the boundaries transcended are those of the viewer’s eye. It is understood, though not seen in its entirety, that the dance started some other place, passed by the audience and ended up in still some other place.”

— Trisha Brown



The audience is invited to explore the work at their own pace.

KEY

-  Dancer
-  Buildings
-  Bridges
-  Path temporarily closed during performance



**FOUNDING ARTISTIC DIRECTOR
& CHOREOGRAPHER**

Trisha Brown

ASSOCIATE ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

Carolyn Lucas

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Kirstin Kapustik

**PROGRAMMING
DIRECTOR**

Jamie Scott

REHEARSAL DIRECTOR

Cecily Campbell

**PRODUCTION/
STAGE MANAGER**

Jessie Ksanznak

COMPANY MANAGER

Mike Steele

MARKETING MANAGER

Amanda Kmett-Pendry

ARCHIVIST

Benjamin Houtman

ABOUT THE COMPANY Trisha Brown Dance Company (TBDC) is a post-modern dance company dedicated to the performance and preservation of the work of Trisha Brown and projects related to her legacy. Established in 1970, TBDC has toured throughout the world presenting work, teaching, and building relationships with audiences and artists alike.

With the founding of the Trisha Brown Dance Company in 1970, Brown set off on her own distinctive path of artistic investigation and ceaseless experimentation, which extended for forty years. The creator of over 100 choreographies, six operas, and a graphic artist, whose drawings have earned recognition in numerous museum exhibitions and collections, Brown's earliest works took impetus from the cityscape of downtown SoHo, where she was a pioneering settler.

In the 1970s, as Brown strove to invent an original abstract movement language — one of her singular achievements — it was art galleries, museums and international exhibitions that provided her work its most important presentation context. A major turning point in Brown's career occurred in 1979, when she transitioned from working in non-traditional and art world settings to assume the role of a choreographer working within the institutional framework associated with dancing — the proscenium stage.

In her lifetime Trisha Brown was the recipient of nearly every award available to contemporary choreographers. The first woman to receive the coveted MacArthur 'Genius' Grant (in 1991),

Brown was honored by five fellowships from the National Endowment for the Arts; two John Simon Guggenheim Fellowships; and Brandeis University's Creative Arts Medal in Dance (1982). In 1988, she was named Chevalier dans l'Ordre des Arts et Lettres by the government of France. In 1999, she received the New York State Governor's Arts Award and, in 2003, was honored with the National Medal of Arts. She has received numerous honorary doctorates, is an Honorary Member of the American Academy of Arts and Letters, and was awarded the 2011 New York Dance and Performance 'Bessie' Lifetime Achievement Award. In 2011, Brown received the prestigious Dorothy and Lillian Gish Prize for making an "outstanding contribution to the beauty of the world and to mankind's enjoyment and understanding of life."

Today the Trisha Brown Dance Company continues to perpetuate Brown's legacy through company programming, educational activities, professional licensing, and engagement of the archive. The dance company continues the process of reconstructing and remounting major works that Brown created for the proscenium stage between 1979 and 2011 and the "In Plain Site," initiative which draws on Brown's model for reinvigorating her choreography through its re-siting in relation to new contexts. In 2023 TBDC expanded its activity to include new choreographic commissions giving the 50+ year-old company an opportunity to engage with contemporary artistic voices that have a connection to Brown's work, while reaffirming its primary role of preserving Brown's legacy.