

# DANCEWORKS

## For Immediate Release

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### **Santa Barbara DANCEworks will take a final bow after Doug Varone and Dancers Residency**

- Founder and Executive Director, Dianne Vapnek will retire
- Doug Varone & Dancers 2019 Residency is in progress at the Lobero Theatre
  - Two more Friday Club donor events to be held Fridays Aug 23 & 30
- DANCEworks' Final Performances September 6 & 7 at the Lobero Theatre featuring the premiere of *Somewhere* and *Lux*

**Santa Barbara, CA, August 21, 2019** – After nearly 22 years of groundbreaking residencies and the creation of dozens of critical new works of contemporary dance, Santa Barbara [DANCEworks](#) will be taking its final curtain call after the conclusion of this year's residency with Doug Varone and Dancers, when founder and Executive Director, Dianne Vapnek retires.

**“Doug was the very first choreographer invited to SUMMERDANCE. He was the best choice I could have made to launch the festival. Now, he is helping me wrap up and complete our history. I am grateful for his generous support.”** – Dianne Vapnek, DANCEworks founder and Executive Director

SUMMERDANCE Santa Barbara began welcoming choreographers to create new work and interact with the community in 1997. It existed as a dance festival for 10 years. DANCEworks evolved from the SUMMERDANCE experience of providing choreographers, during their festival residence, with time and space to create new work. SUMMERDANCE built enduring relationships with the contemporary choreographers it presented from 1997-2006 including Doug Varone, Doug Elkins, Larry Keigwin, Mark Dendy, Tere O'Connor, Tamango, Aszure Barton and Brian Brooks. The combined feedback from these artists expressed great value for their SUMMERDANCE residencies to their professional careers and ignited the idea to provide a month-long creative residency with few demands on their time. And thus, DANCEworks, and its extended residency format at the Lobero Theatre, was born.

DANCEworks is an innovative collaboration between SUMMERDANCE Santa Barbara and the [Lobero Theatre Foundation](#) designed to offer notable choreographers a month-long residency in which to create, rehearse and premiere a brand new work on the Lobero stage. DANCEworks enjoys broad recognition within the world of contemporary dance and has contributed to the careers of groundbreaking modern choreographers: [Aszure Barton](#), [Larry Keigwin](#), [Doug Elkins](#), [Brian Brooks](#), [Mark Dendy](#), [Adam Barruch](#), [Shannon Gillen](#), and [Kate Weare](#).

The choreographers that Dianne Vapnek has brought to the Lobero stage have been nothing short of exemplary. It has been a creative endeavor with an intimacy that matches the Lobero Theatre. No two residencies have been the same, posing some wild and memorable challenges for the Lobero staff—from managing two tons of rubber mulch to sourcing 50 pairs of combat boots. David Asbell, Executive Director of the Lobero Theatre Foundation, says, “We’re honored to work with Dianne, and very proud to have added something valuable to the modern dance community.”

**Award-winning choreographer and director Doug Varone and his New York City-based company, [Doug Varone and Dancers](#) are currently in residence at the Lobero Theatre through September 7.** While in residence, Varone will create an original work of contemporary dance set to Leonard Bernstein’s iconic musical score of *West Side Story*. Varone will strip the orchestral score of its narrative connotations and reimagine the movements purely on the choreographic energy generated by its sounds and musical structure designed to create strikingly unique physical and visual environment. *Lux*, a sumptuous work created during an earlier SUMMERDANCE residency will be on the same program.

**Tickets for the DANCEworks 2019 performances featuring Doug Varone and Dancers on September 6 & 7 are on sale now at [Lobero.org](#).** Tickets are \$40 for Section A, \$25 for Section B, and \$15 for Students. (Students must present valid ID at will call). Limited number of VIP tickets available for \$106 include a post-show cast party onstage after the Saturday evening performance. Children under 18 free with the purchase of a full price ticket, must call the Lobero box office to reserve.

**DANCEworks provides opportunities for the [community to get involved](#) throughout each residency:**

- DANCEworks’ [Friday Club](#) returns for two more sessions this year. Friday Club has been a big hit with fans of contemporary dance in Santa Barbara! This is a rare opportunity to see a New York choreographer create an ambitious new work. A contribution of \$150 or more provides weekly access to rehearsals and discussions about the work before enjoying a reception with Mr. Varone and his company. *Friday Club will be held August 23 and 30 from 5-6:30 PM at the Lobero Theatre.*
- Doug Varone and Dancers will lead an intermediate level masterclass on Saturday August 24 at 11 AM. A technical, movement-based class investigates the line of human movement and how it can affect the broader strokes of our dancing. Through the expansive use of the back and limbs, Doug Varone’s style will be explored through an emphasis on breath, strength, dynamic lyricism and musicality. *Contact Sheila Caldwell at [scaldwell@lobero.org](mailto:scaldwell@lobero.org) to learn more and reserve a space.*

## **ABOUT DOUG VARONE**

Award-winning choreographer and director Doug Varone works in dance, theater, opera, film, and fashion. His New York City-based Doug Varone and Dancers has been commissioned and presented to critical acclaim by leading international venues for over three decades. On tour, the company has performed in more than 125 cities in 45 states across the U.S. and in Europe, Asia, Canada, and

South America. In the concert dance world, Varone has created a body of works globally. Commissions include the Paul Taylor Dance Company, Limón Company, Hubbard Street Dance Chicago, Rambert Dance Company (London), Martha Graham Dance Company, Dancemakers (Canada), Batsheva Dance Company (Israel), Bern Ballet (Switzerland) and An Creative (Japan), among others. Numerous honors and awards include a John Simon Guggenheim Fellowship, an OBIE Award (Lincoln Center's Orpheus and Euridice), the Jerome Robbins Fellowship at the Boglisco Institute in Italy, two individual Bessie Awards, and a Doris Duke Artist Award. In 2015 he was the recipient of the Lifetime Achievement Award from the American Dance Guild. The Company was in residence as part of SUMMERDANCE Santa Barbara in 1997, 1998, 2001 and 2007.

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*DANCEworks is sponsored by The Towbes Family Endowment for Dance, The Towbes Foundation, and the Dianne & Daniel Vapnek Family Foundation. DANCEworks is funded in part by the Events and Festivals Program using funds provided by the City of Santa Barbara in partnership with the Santa Barbara County Office of Arts and Culture, and by the Santa Barbara Independent.*