



**JDY** DANCE  
THEATRE

*Jennifer D. Yackel, Artistic Director*

[jenniferyackel.com](http://jenniferyackel.com)

# JENNIFER D. YACKEL

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR / CHOREOGRAPHER



Jennifer D. Yackel is a dance artist whose extensive career has taken her from ballet companies such as Richmond Ballet and Ballet Theatre of Maryland, to contemporary companies such as Jeanne Ruddy Dance and the Ellen Sinopoli Dance Company. Jennifer is currently working with Dancefusion, and she has enjoyed past projects with Mark Dendy, Adam Weinert, Bowen McCauley Dance, Lior Shneior, Megan Flynn Dance Company, Chisena Danza, Stone Depot Dance, Meredith Stapleton, and The Naked Stark. Jennifer has performed in notable venues such as the Kimmel Center, Jacob's Pillow, Kaatsbaan International Dance Center, and the Lincoln Center Plaza.

With a deep love and respect for classical modern dance Jennifer has had the honor of performing Mary Anthony's *Songs* reconstructed by Gwendolyn Bye and Mary Wigman's *Hexantanz* reconstructed by Victoria Hutchinson.

Jennifer is coordinator and member of the NADINE Project, a choreographic collective under the direction of Janet Soares and Libby Nye. She has performed her work as a guest artist for the American College Dance Association Festival and at Salisbury University. Her choreography has been presented in several festivals and venues including Dixon Place, YES Dance Invitational and Suite Summer Festival. She has created new works and dance films for Dancefusion Dance Company and Ballet Theatre of Maryland.

As an educator of dance for almost two decades Jennifer has impacted the lives of many students many of whom have gone on to dance professionally in companies such as Ballet Met, Philadelphia Ballet, Suzanne Farrell Ballet, Sarasota Ballet, Ballet Arkansas, Charlottesville Ballet, and DragonFly Dance Experiment. For ten years she was involved in The Rock School for Dance Education's outreach program serving children in Philadelphia's public and charter schools.

***"Jennifer Yackel was wary and angular, a graceful warrior."***  
**-Tresca Weinstein, Times Union**

***"She has a naturalistic, exotic quality. With her arms spread wide and poised on one leg, she appears as a bird in flight."*** - Wendy Liberatore, Daily Gazette





JDY Dance Theatre is a project-based contemporary dance company that was established as a creative outlet for Jennifer Yackel to make and perform work. Her strong foundation in classical dance forms, in conjunction with her love of any and all ways of moving, lends itself to choreography that is unique and captivating. She strives to engage audiences with work that is both intriguing and accessible.

***"Choreographer Jennifer Yackel has worked with [Gwendolyn] Bye (who was mentored by revered choreographer Mary Anthony and also worked with Martha Graham) and one feels the passing of the torch to a new generation. ... The tradition is in good hands."***

**- Broad Street Review 202  
(review for Ghost Island Suite)**

***The show opened with Jennifer Yackel's One Small Thing. In a solo that delivered elegant lines and controlled movement, she painted her canvas with glorious extensions, arabesques and smooth sequential gestures. Yackel danced with a precision that showcased her flawless ballet technique.***

**-Gregory King, thINKingDANCE**

# **GHOST ISLAND SUITE**

Choreography: Jennifer Yackel

Music: Kronos Quartet

Premiered October 1, 2021 at the Philadelphia Fringe Festival

*Ghost Island Suite* is the first iteration of what will be a larger work, inspired by once-inhabited islands of the Chesapeake Bay that have now succumbed to their surrounding waters.





# ***THE SPACE WHERE YOU WERE***

Choreography: Jennifer Yackel

Music: Cory Neale

Premiered September 13, 2019 at the Philadelphia Fringe Festival

*The Space Where You Were* explores the physicality of loss. How our bodies remember and continue to accommodate even after someone is gone.



## ***WATERWISE***

Choreography: Jennifer Yackel

Music: Corey Neale (2017), K'naan (2015)

Video Projection: Douglas E. Draper Jr.

Costumes: Jodi Obeid

Full-stage version of this work premiered in 2017 at the Philadelphia Fringe Festival

*Waterwise* is a multimedia site-adaptive ensemble work featuring a community of women connected to the water in a primal and transformative way. With water basins resting on hips and dramatic, hair-flying head movements the work creates the unique atmosphere of a familiar world hidden away.

*Waterwise* was created in Residence with the NADINE Project at the Dragon's Egg in Ledyard, CT.





## **PENCILS N' PENNIES**

Choreography: Jennifer Yackel

Music: Paolo Nutini, Billie Holiday

Full version premiered April 19, 2018 at Salisbury University

*Pencils n' Pennies* is a lighthearted, comedic duo that is full of big jumps and small gestures giving a nod to vaudeville, Broadway, and a little Chaplin.



# **ONE SMALL THING**

Choreography: Jennifer Yackel

Music: Ned Rorem

Full work premiered February 27, 2015 at the Arts Center of the Capital Region in Troy, NY

*One Small Thing* is a stirring solo, poignant in feeling with arms and legs painting unending lines of lyricism through the air.

*One Small Thing* was created in Residence with the NADINE Project at the Dragon's Egg in Ledyard, CT.





# **STREGA**

Choreography: Jennifer Yackel

Premiered October 19, 2012 at the Chi Movement Arts Center for the Inhale Performance Series

*Strega* is a powerful solo that conjures images of sorcery and enchantment connecting the mortal to the divine. With rhythmic footwork there is a constant pull between the earth and sky, between the limits of the body and the untapped power within.

*Strega* was created in Residence with the NADINE Project at the Dragon's Egg in Ledyard, CT.



# **UNSPOKEN**

Choreography: Jennifer Yackel

Music: Bobby McFerrin and Yo-Yo Ma

Premiered February 8, 2013 at the Metting House Theatre for Evening of Duets in Philadelphia, PA

*Unspoken* is a duet inspired by the inexplicit rules and social language of women centuries past.





# **LIMITER**

Choreography: Jennifer Yackel

Music: Arvo Pärt

Premiered July 2009 at the Byrdcliffe Theater for Choreography on the Edge in Woodstock, NY

*Limiter* is a duet that explores the other half of our subconscious, the side that's always lurking within, determined to hold down that which reaches up.





# **RUBY**

Choreography: Jennifer Yackel

Music: Claude Debussy

Videography: Jennifer Yackel

Premiered on DP TV on June 5, 2020

*Ruby* feels like a memory, a person lost. Who is Ruby? A lover? A child? A friend? Has she passed away or is she just lost to you?

Commissioned by Dixon Place





## **TABLE FOR EIGHT?**

Choreography: Jennifer Yackel

Music: Dave Brubeck

Video Editing: Douglas E. Draper, Jr.

Premiered September 10, 2020 at the Philadelphia Fringe Festival

*Table for Eight?* is a dance film shot by eight dancers in eight different spaces. With a chair as their partner the dancers pass the time by shifting, tapping, and circling their bodies to Brubeck's classic *Take Five*.

Commissioned by and created on Dancefusion





## ***NOW, THEN.***

Choreography: Jennifer Yackel

Music: Camille Saint-Saëns, Johann Sebastian Bach

Videography: Douglas E. Draper, Jr.

Video Editing: Jennifer Yackel

Premiered May 15, 2021 at the Dancefusion Annual Fundraiser

*Now, Then.* is a dance film that taps into a childlike playfulness within a lush greenscape of imaginative daydreaming.

Commissioned by and created on Dancefusion







## **JDY DANCE THEATRE**

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