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**Notes from editor (not for publication):**



HEADLINE ELEMENTS:

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1 Brattleboro School of Dance celebrates 50 years with  
2 spring show

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4 TEXT BODY:

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5 Friends of the Brattleboro School of Dance (BSD) proudly  
6 present BSD's 2026 Spring Show, "Continuum: Celebrating 50  
7 Years of Dance," a milestone performance honoring five decades  
8 of artistry, education, and community.

9 Organizers say this year's production is "both a  
10 celebration of the school's rich history and a vision for its  
11 evolving future."

12 BSD's annual Spring Show brings together dancers of all  
13 ages in a dynamic, multigenerational performance that highlights  
14 the breadth of the school's programming. The 2026 production,  
15 under the artistic direction of Louisa-Marie, is especially  
16 significant, marking not only BSD's 50th anniversary but also a  
17 major organizational transition — from a privately owned  
18 business to new nonprofit management.

19 Established in November 2025 by a small group of  
20 alumni, Friends of BSD is working to purchase the school and  
21 ensure its long-term sustainability as a community-centered  
22 nonprofit arts organization.

23 “Dance teaches us to be in our bodies with confidence  
24 and courage, to be resilient and to take up space,” said Friends of  
25 BSD Board President Marcia LoMonaco in a news release. “For  
26 50 years, the Brattleboro School of Dance has offered dance  
27 education in our community. I grew up at BSD — developing as  
28 a dancer and a person while building lifelong connections.  
29 Friends of BSD was founded because we believe that art is not a  
30 luxury. It is a necessity. It is how we communicate our humanity.  
31 We intend to honor that belief and strive to keep BSD open to all  
32 for generations to come.”

33 Founded in 1976 by Kathleen Keller, BSD was created to  
34 meet a local need for inclusive, high-quality dance education for  
35 both children and adults. After 36 years of leadership, Keller  
36 passed the school to Jennifer Moyse (2012–2017), followed by  
37 current director Bridget Struthers, a BSD alumna who has led the  
38 school since 2018.

39 In honor of the school's 50-year legacy, “Continuum”  
40 presents a retrospective, revisiting works from throughout BSD's  
41 history. The program features many beloved repertory pieces  
42 alongside four newly choreographed works representing the  
43 school's next chapter, including new choreography by graduating  
44 high school seniors Olive Fleming and Diana Webb —  
45 highlighting emerging creative voices.

46 The BSD Spring Show also serves as an opportunity to  
47 celebrate its graduating high school seniors and honor the years  
48 of dedication they have given to their dance training. The school  
49 reports its 2026 graduates are Diana Webb, Olive Fleming,  
50 Mariam Abena Diallo, and Isabella May, who is not performing  
51 this year but is recognized for her contributions to the BSD  
52 community.

53 Among the featured repertory is *Senecus McDonaldus*, a  
54 beloved children’s dance originally choreographed by Jane  
55 LoMonaco in 1993 and now staged for the fourth time under the  
56 direction of mother-daughter duo Louisa-Marie and Nan Mann.  
57 This barnyard dance brings a chorus of animals to life through  
58 movement and music.

59 Originally created in collaboration with the Brattleboro  
60 Music Center Children’s Choir, the work “reflects the power of  
61 partnership between dance and music in the community,” said  
62 organizers.

63 Continuing that tradition, this year’s performance will  
64 again feature the choir, now directed by Stefan Amidon.

65 The program includes work by a diverse group of  
66 choreographers spanning BSD faculty, alumni, students, and  
67 guest artists, including Mucuy Bolles, Olive Fleming, Rachel  
68 Hebert, Holly Johnson, Kathleen Keller, Jane LoMonaco, Alison  
69 Mott, Jennifer Moyse, Toni Nagy, Bridget Struthers, Diana Webb,  
70 Patricia Wilson, and Crows Feet Collective.

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BIO/COATTAIL:

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71 Performances of “Continuum” take place at New  
72 England Youth Theatre, 100 Flat St., Friday, May 15, at 7 p.m.;  
73 Saturday, May 16, at 2 and 7 p.m; and Sunday, May 17, at 2 p.m.  
74 Tickets are \$20 for adults, \$15 for seniors & children under 12.  
75 For more information and tickets, visit [friendsofbsd.org/tickets](https://friendsofbsd.org/tickets).

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