

# Don't Forget To Smile

A French dance company with an American alliance



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# O1

## Presentation of the Company

Don't Forget To Smile is a French non-profit dance company created by Pamela Bouthillier, passionately committed to fostering inclusivity and empowerment through the transformative art of dance.

Our mission is to break down barriers and provide individuals with disabilities the opportunity to experience the joy of movement in a supportive and free-spirited environment.

At 'Don't Forget to Smile' we believe in the profound impact of dance as a tool for self-expression and community building.







Pamela, our founder, is a distinguished choreographer, interpreter, and teacher with a stellar background. A graduate of the prestigious National Superior Conservatory of Music and Dance of Paris. Pamela honed her skills under the guidance of renowned artists like Peter Goss, Anne Dreyfus, Murielle Belmondo, and Martine Clary.

At the age of 20, Pamela embarked on a remarkable journey, becoming a choreographer and founding her own dance company 'Artist' in China. When Pamela's daughters were both diagnosed with disabilities, she decided to redirect her passion for dance in a more social dimension and created 'Don't forget to Smile'.

Through captivating performances, Pamela dismantles stereotypes, creating space for diversity within the realm of dance. Exhibitions curated by Don't Forget to Smile serve as a celebration of unique stories and perspectives, fostering understanding and acceptance. Our commitment to inclusivity extends to engaging in thoughtful debates advocating for the importance of dance as a tool for breaking societal barriers.



Our company is since 2023 thrilled to announce a newfound American alliance. This collaboration marks a significant stride in our mission to make dance accessible to everyone, transcending borders and creating a global community that celebrates inclusivity. This alliance not only signifies a commitment to fostering inclusivity but also opens doors to shared resources, exchange, and collective efforts in advancing the cause of dance accessibility.

This alliance is a testament to the belief that dance knows no boundaries and has the power to unite communities across continents.

Join us as we dance together, breaking stereotypes and creating a world where everyone, regardless of ability, can revel in the beauty of movement.

Together, let's make dance accessible to all!

# The Artists

## O2



Pamela B.

Choreographer  
Interpreter  
Teacher



Laurent B.

Multi-instrument  
player  
Musician  
Composer



Alexis B.

Free Dancer



Liberty B.

Free Dancer



Isaak E.

Free Dancer



Mel C.

Free Dancer



Rudy B.

Artistic Director

# The Artists





# BIOGRAPHY

Pamela B.

Choreographer  
Interpreter  
Teacher



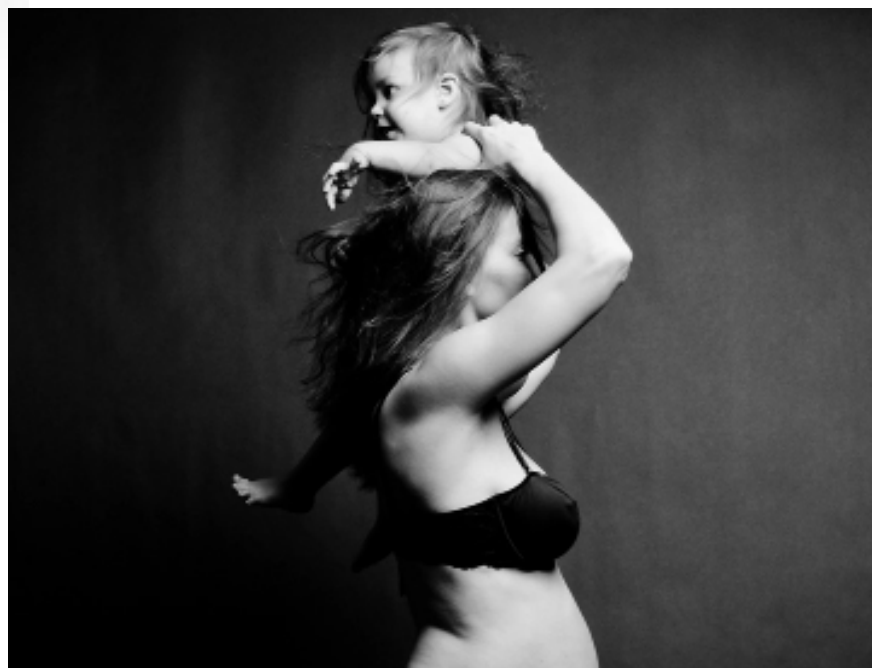
BIOGRAPHY

03

# TRIO EN SOLO

## PAMELA - NAYOMI - LIBERTY

Native of Lambersart, France, Pamela Bouthillier put on her first dance slippers at the age of four. A prodigy child, an intrepid and rebellious young woman, she quickly became passionate about contemporary dance. At the age of 14, she joined the prestigious National Conservatory of Music and Dance in Paris. She studied with renowned artists: Peter Goss, Anne Dreyfus, Murielle Belmondo, Martine Clary..., striking significant encounters that led her to train with overflowing energy and an absolute rigor. Her place in the choreographic piece 'DECADANCE' by Ohad NAHARIN, famous choreographer of the Bathsheva, offered her the freedom to live dance as a language. For Pamela, movement is an instinct and an extension of the soul.





## Biography (continued)

At the age of 20, the young artist had only one idea in mind: to dance on all the rooftops of the world. She traveled to Guatemala and joined the Momentum Company. She then went to China where she became a choreographer in the artist company she founded with Sean Weng, former solo dancer of Maurice Béjart. Pamela responded to the many artistic requests from the Publicis group in particular.

One and a half billion Chinese people. And Pamela. She was fascinated by the Chinese people. Their humility, their wisdom, their generosity, and their infinite smiles. Smiles to which Pamela sends back through her love for dance. She is about to begin a new journey, the most beautiful one.

Far from the stage and the spotlight, Pamela discovered the magic of pregnancy. The center of the world is here now, in this little round belly, where the most beautiful ballet begins.

Many offers led her to the four corners of the world, and in Turkey, she fell in love with the country. She decided to live her last weeks of pregnancy while looking at the Bosphorus. With the intuition that there is a girl who dances in her, Pamela is surprised by the euphoric turmoil and the great mystery of life. Powerful vertigo. Moment of grace. Her name will be Nayomi.

On May 5, 2010, she was welcomed to the Médicana Maternity Hospital in Istanbul. The most beautiful day of her life fell into the irreversible sequence of a medical error: asphyxia, cardiac arrest, brain damage... Words and cries of pain collided in this delivery room. For Pamela, this moment became filled with the uncertainty of death rather than the celebration of a new life. Time suspended its flight in the antechamber of hell. Her baby fought with all her little being. Miraculously. Nayomi was born twice...

It was in Paris that the diagnosis would be definitively made. Nayomi was six months old. She would suffer from infantile cerebral hemiplegia that seriously compromises her motor faculties.

Pamela refused fate and decided to dance with her baby. Dance became a therapy to tame this fragile little body and free it from this sneaky ghost. Dance, dance and dance again. Defy the laws of weightlessness, push back time, explore every movement. Make only one.

Today Nayomi lives like all children her age. She is the big sister of Liberty, born 3 years after her, her 'twin' by a rare progressive genetic disease of the surdictaecity type: the USHER syndrome. Sign language, which she learns to communicate with Liberty in an institute for deaf and hard of hearing children, translates words when the body translates emotion into her new choreographic creations.

Her daughters' disabilities are an unexpected possibility to take a new look at the sense of dance, the aesthetics of the gesture and the choreographies inspired by this true story. A beautiful victory that has found its extension in the teaching of free dance in several municipalities in the south of France. Places apart from which to transcend your body and feel free in the eyes of the other.

Pamela's goal? Her daughters' conditions will cause them to lose their vision over time. Pamela is preparing her daughters to dance with their eyes wide closed.







# ARTISTIC ALCHEMY DISABILITY: A REVELATION

TEACHING - EXPLORING DANCE AS A BODY LANGUAGE

Disability opened my eyes to the creativity and technicality of free dance. Guided by my instructions, the dancers develop their uniqueness through the improvisation of movement in the present moment. Free dance welcomes the unexpected and transcends the unpredictable. My teaching is open to the human, in all his / her / their states of being and body, eager to experience movement.

## 04

### CHOREOGRAPHY

CHOREOGRAPHIC CREATION PROCESS  
& ARTISTIC PERSONALITY OF DISABILITY

Her daughters' disabilities are an unexpected possibility to take a new look at the sense of dance, the aesthetics of the gesture and the choreographies inspired by this true story. A beautiful victory that has found its extension in the teaching of free dance in several municipalities in the south of France. Places from which to transcend your body and feel free in the eyes of the other. Pamela's goal? Preparing her daughters to dance with their eyes wide closed as they face the loss of their sight.





# AN ART OF LIFE

Nayomi and Liberty, my special daughters, stimulate my multiple choreographic experiments. With modesty, they have revealed themselves as artists who speak the language of dance and appropriate a very expressive vocabulary. They have an educational, cultural and artistic aim. Through them and for them, I find the balance between art and commitment.

To invite dancers to interpret movements according to their own sensitivity using a teaching model based on a logic of individuality.

To train autonomous dancer-performers and recognize their expressiveness, leading them to master a variety of techniques.

To unify the living and artistic forces of humans and all body states in illusionist choreographies.

MY MISSION

MY ACTIONS

GROUP FREE DANCE WORKSHOPS

SOLO FREE DANCE WORKSHOPS

CHOREOGRAPHY

ARTISTIC DIRECTION

DOCUMENTARIES

CONFERENCES

DEBATES





# 05

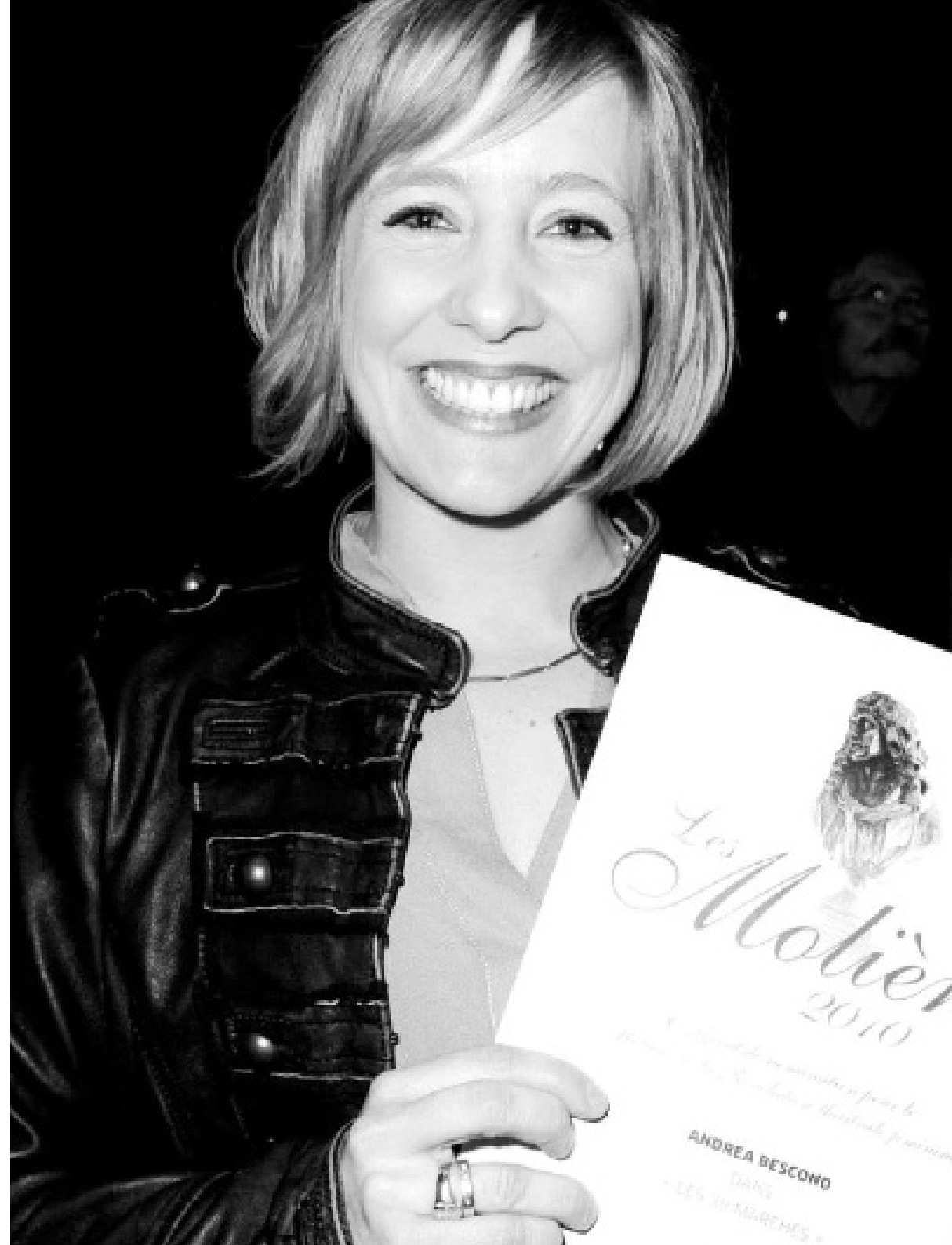
## Andréa BESCOND

“Social networks can have this extraordinary ability to bring people together. When Pamela and I spoke on the phone, twenty years after last seeing each other when we left the Conservatory, I was struck by her sweetness and joy of life.

I remembered Pamela's joyful temperament, but when she told me her story, I realized her strength. I am honored to sponsor the association 'Don't Forget to Smile!' because I fundamentally believe that the connection between beings through dance is restorative. Beyond a situation of disability, which generates a constraining life in our poorly thought-out society, every human has emotions to release to feel balanced, serene.

Dance creates link, creates emotion beyond words. Dance liberates.

It is time for this society to act for more fairness, for more equality, for more consideration of people with disabilities, let's break the taboo, and dance to live!”





FAMILY CAREGIVER  
I WON'T SILENCE MYSELF!

INTERPRETERS  
Pamela BOUTHILLIER  
Isaac HELL

MUSICIAN  
Laurent BESSON

WRITER  
Andréa BESCOND

"She enters the darkness and looks all around her... She is Pamela: dancer, mother of two little girls who are differently-abled. We wait, We are interested. What will be next? It starts and we let ourselves be carried away by a unique story: a whirlwind of music, silences, torn and tender enveloping movements to end with a surprising, disconcerting ballet.

Can we feel the pain felt by a parent when he / she / they learn their child has a disability? We think we see the whole iceberg when in fact, we only see the tip. We think of these parents for whom life focuses on their child's happiness without receiving sufficient external support.

We think that we will change our vision and approach facing these human beings, but it would be up to institutions, responsible leaders, actors in public life to become aware of the distress of these people (in situations of disability + accompanying persons) and to act for their well-being! A ballet/piece of intense emotion, to experience! A celebration of existence..."

06

PERFORMANCE



FAMILY CAREGIVER - I won't silent myself!

# From a Spectator

“Thank you for this moving tribute. Let those who close their eyes finally open them. Disability is everyone’s problem and must challenge us more. Work more and give even more resources to the research and creation of helping structures. Too many poor families and facing themselves. We manage too well a problem that bothers too much. You have to see this show that speaks for itself. Everything is said. We don’t come out unscathed. We would even feel guilty of so much indifference. It makes you think. Thank you again for your courage and determination to carry the values of disability: your choreography is of great quality, accuracy and sensitivity.

MOVING!!!”



# ONCE UPON A TIME, 2 LIVES

## A Show designed for younger audience

33 minutes

Courage is the strength of the hero, and what would a hero be if there was no fear? We are bored in the land of Unicorns. Fear is a big rock, which courage will explode to allow the heroine to achieve her magnificent goal: To live, to no longer survive.

//Artists: Pamela & Laurent B. // Performer  
& Cellist

#DANCED MUSICAL STORY





# 07

## Contacts

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Rudy B.

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