



## Bridgman|Packer Dance

A look inside what seems to be an ordinary box truck reveals a stunning micro-world — such is the enigmatic wizardry of Bridgman|Packer Dance. Masterfully creating cinematic magic in real-time for both the proscenium stage and in their site-specific *TRUCK*, the company's skill in partnering video with live performance can evoke the hauntingly vivid world of American painter Edward Hopper, capture the arid beauty of the Mojave desert or transform a simple duet to a kaleidoscopic wonder — all in one breathtaking evening of dance.

Booking information: [sandyg@pentacle.org](mailto:sandyg@pentacle.org)  
Photo credit: Caleb Carr



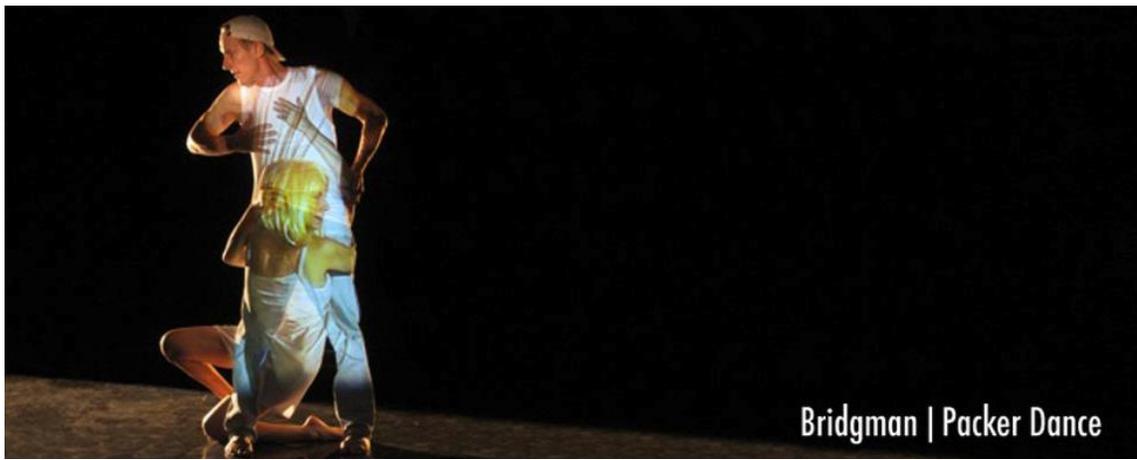
## Bridgman|Packer Dance Biographical Information

**Art Bridgman** and **Myrna Packer**, Artistic Directors of Bridgman|Packer Dance, are collaborators in performance and choreography, with their current work focusing on the integration of live performance and video technology. Their innovative work developing "Video Partnering" has been acclaimed for its highly visual and visceral alchemy of the live and the virtual. They are recipients of a 2017 New York Dance and Performance Award (The Bessies) for Outstanding Production for *Voyeur* at The Sheen Center.

The 2008 **Guggenheim Fellowship** awarded to Bridgman and Packer was the first in the history of the Guggenheim Foundation to be given to two individuals for their collaborative work. Bridgman and Packer are recipients of ten grants from the National Endowment for the Arts (2007-2017) and grants from New England Foundation for the Arts, New York State Council for the Arts, National Dance Project, USArtists International, Performing Americas Project, and La Red. They have received two Choreography Fellowships and a BUILD grant from the New York Foundation for the Arts, four National Performance Network Creation Fund Awards, and choreographic commissions from Dance Theater Workshop (now New York Live Arts), Portland Ovations, Danspace Project, and the 92nd Street Y New Works in Dance Fund.

Based in New York City, they have been presented by City Center Fall For Dance Festival, Lincoln Center, The Baryshnikov Arts Center, The 92nd Street Y Harkness Dance Festival, Dance Theater Workshop, Danspace Project, Performance Space 122, Dance New Amsterdam, and Central Park's Summerstage. They have toured throughout the United States, Europe, Asia, and Central America, performing in festivals, art centers, and universities. These include Spoleto Festival USA, Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival, Munich International Dance Festival, The Institute for Contemporary Art/Boston, The Ordway Center for the Performing Arts (St. Paul), Festival Internacional de Artes Escenicas (Panama), Aronoff Center for the Arts (Cincinnati), Bates Dance Festival, Kintetsu Theater (Osaka, Japan), Festival Internacional Chihuahua, Encuentro en la Cultura (Mexico), Tanforum (Budapest), and the Beirut Spring Festival.

Bridgman and Packer have been guest artists at over one hundred universities including New York University's Tisch School of the Arts, California Institute of the Arts, Ohio State University, Arizona State University, and the University of Utah. Bridgman and Packer are recipients of a DTW Digital Fellowship. They have been highlighted in Dance Magazine's issue on "Great Partnerships". Their work in live performance and video technology is featured in the book *Gegenwelten, Zwischen Differenz und Reflexion (Against Worlds, Between Difference and Reflection)* by Jurgen Schlader and Franziska Weber, published in Munich in 2009. Bridgman|Packer Dance's NYC Season at The Sheen Center was chosen as "Best Of 2016" in both *The Village Voice* and *Huffington Post*, and their performance at Dallas City Performance Hall was chosen as first of the top ten shows of 2017 by *theatrejones.com*.



## Press Quotes

"the most thrilling dance work this reviewer has seen in recent memory...flat-out exhilarating"  
*The Boston Globe*

"dynamic, stunning, provocative...each piece teetering between moment and memory, body and illusion" *Anchorage Daily News*

"In an age overrun with virtual dancing, the team of Art Bridgman and Myrna Packer stands out...by turns, witty, sexy, and surreal." *The New Yorker*

"An ingenious trompe l'oeil fusion of physical and video-image bodies...merged and then disappeared with magical and fascinating suddenness." *The New York Times*

"gorgeous, and deeply moving." Jeremy Gerard, *Huffington Post*

"Each aesthetic shift, unobtrusively accompanied by different optical illusions and soundscapes ... becomes a new question, a new story, and an increasingly more absorbing moment in time...We are compelled to pay attention." Nicole Duffy Robertson, *Eye On Dance*

"Their finest illusions raise haunting questions about perception and reality, about shifting perspectives of time and space, and about human relations." Deborah Jowitt, *DanceBeat*

"The two dancers were never eclipsed by the set and projections, their emotional states always in flux and always crystal clear. The effect was often breathtakingly and movingly beautiful."  
Joel Benjamin, *Theaterscene.net*

"Let's have more of this in the dance world, please." Juan Michael Porter, *Broadwayworld.com*

"The boundary between reality and imagination is brilliantly blurred...Welcome to the future of dance." *Star Tribune*, Minneapolis

"The two breathtaking shows took over our senses...swinging between reality and imagination, it has changed the way we conceive dancing." *An-nahar, Beirut, Lebanon (English Translation)*

For full articles, please go to [www.bridgmanpacker.org](http://www.bridgmanpacker.org)

# Repertory for Bridgman|Packer Dance

Please go to [www.bridgmanpacker.org](http://www.bridgmanpacker.org) for video clips and additional photos of each work.

## ***Remembering What Never Happened***

The intersection of memory and imagination is at the core of Bridgman|Packer Dance's new work, ***Remembering What Never Happened***. In this expansion of their integration of live performance and video technology, memory becomes a constantly shifting territory as they delve into the changeable nature of time, form, perception, and identity. Bridgman and Packer interact with video projections of their images that morph and explode into digital re-interpretations of the human body, while scenes shot on location in the Mojave Desert transform into surreal landscapes.

*Remembering What Never Happened* is a National Performance Network (NPN) Creation Fund/Forth Fund Project co-commissioned by The Yard (Chilmark, MA) in partnership with Opera House Arts (Stonington, ME), and Silvermine Arts Center (New Canaan, CT) and NPN. The Creation Fund is supported by the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation, Ford Foundation, and the National Endowment for the Arts (a federal agency). The Forth Fund is supported by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation. Parts of *Remembering What Never Happened* were developed during The Yard's 2015 Offshore Creation Residency. The creation of this work is also made possible in part by a 2015 National Endowment for the Arts Grant.

Premiere: June, 2015, The Yard, Chilmark, MA

## ***Under The Skin***

In ***Under The Skin***, the duet form explodes into a magically populated stage as Bridgman and Packer interchange with their ever-multiplying virtual selves. The performers' bodies and costumes become projection screens, creating a blended and redefinition of identities and revealing psychological depths. The original score of layered saxophones was created by composer/saxophonist Ken Field.

*Under The Skin* is a co-commissioning project by Contemporary Dance Theater of Cincinnati in partnership with The Dance Place of Washington, D.C. and the National Performance Network Creation Fund. The NPN Creation Fund is sponsored by the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation, Ford Foundation, Altria, and the National Endowment for the Arts. The creation of *Under The Skin* was supported by funds from the 92nd Street Y New Works in Dance Fund.

## ***Voyeur***

***Voyeur*** takes the paintings of **Edward Hopper** as a point of departure. This work bears witness to fragmented moments of private lives. *Voyeur* is designed for performance in museums, galleries and alternative spaces, as well as for traditional theaters. It incorporates a multi-surfaced set made of hinged panels at various angles. Through the use of video projections, the set transforms, evoking imagery of both spatial and psychological enclosures as the performers are seen through the windows and doorway. Stream-of-consciousness sequences evoke the light, time and place of Hopper's work. The creative team includes filmmaker Peter Bobrow, sound designers Scott Lehrer and Leon Rothenberg, and lighting designer Frank DenDanto III. The work can also include an installation component where, prior to the performance, the audience is invited to enter the set to explore the projections and live cameras.

*Voyeur* is co-commissioned by Portland Ovations (Portland, ME) and the Edward Hopper House Art Center (Nyack, NY). The creation of *Voyeur* is made possible by a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts. Premiere: October, 2012 Portland Ovations

## ***TRUCK***

***Truck*** by Bridgman|Packer Dance is designed to be performed inside a 17-foot box truck, bringing performance to non-traditional public spaces. With audiences looking into the back of the truck from the outside, live performance and film projections alter the space into a micro-world of visions. *Truck* can be performed outdoors after dark in parking lots, parks, university campuses, and plazas or at any hour at indoor parking garages or large indoor spaces.

Parts of *Truck* were created through a Fellowship with Experimental Film Virginia 2014.

Premiere: August, 2014, Harbor for the Arts Festival, Cape Charles, VA

## ***Table Bed Mirror (2019)***

*Table Bed Mirror* navigates an illogical and fantastical night of dreams through a melding of live performance and video technology. The work follows two people who are experiencing the same dream. At the same time, they don't know if they are dreaming, awake, or dreaming they are awake. Live movement, video, and text create an absurdist collage, confounding one's sense of reality and flipping assumptions upside down.

# Outreach & Residency Offerings

## **Video Playground (Interactive Video Installation)**

This engaging interactive installation invites participants of all ages to experience the magic of Bridgman|Packer Dance up close and personal. *Video Playground* allows participants to play with scale, juxtaposition of shadow and video imagery and explore the duality and morphing of self and image. This live interactive installation can be projected in public spaces – bringing to life the architecture in a community and new meaning to familiar places.

## **Artist Talk / Lecture Demonstration**

Bridgman and Packer explain their choreographic process and its integration with video technology. Including slides and video excerpts, they describe the history and development of their unique concepts of Video Partnering and demonstrate their use of green screen technology, video editing, and live camera stage set-up. A performance of an excerpt of their repertory and/or audience participation in a short demonstration of live camera work can also be included.

## **Dance and Video Workshop**

Art Bridgman and Myrna Packer lead this demonstration and workshop, explaining their choreographic process in working with video and live performance. The students participate by experimenting with several live camera angles, so that the movement performed can be simultaneously projected in ways that are surprising, fun, and innovative with emphasis on the relationship between the live performance and the video projections. This workshop is appropriate for all ages and levels of experience.

## **Partnering Workshop**

The Partnering Workshop transmits Bridgman|Packer's approach to contemporary dance partnering for beginners through advanced performers. The class is non-gender specific, emphasizes the release and ease as well as the strength of partnering, and builds to develop exhilarating and risk-taking partnering in duet, trio and group forms.

## **Creative Movement for Children**

This class offers a fun, energetic approach to movement exploration. The session emphasizes rhythm, musicality, awareness of space, and imagery that leads to individuality of expression and movement invention.

## **Live Performance and Video Technology Workshop (3-5 days or longer)**

Designed for high school, college or professional levels, this workshop examines the relationship of video and live performance from a choreographic point of view. Participants explore how video technology can become an integral part of the performance and the creative process; how it can offer a vital layering element in composition; and how it can add depth to the realization of the artistic intent. Participants will work on short performance projects. Basic knowledge of video editing software is helpful but not required. Participants with or without technological experience are welcome.

**Other Master Class and Workshop Offerings:** Composition/Improvisation; Body Awareness (based on Alexander Technique, Laban-Bartenieff Movement Fundamentals, and other somatic techniques); Movement for Actors, Movement for Athletes

**Post-performance discussions available upon request.**