

Monica Bill Barnes & Company
The Running Show
(virtual programming)

For videos, photos, and more information about Monica Bill Barnes & Company:
<http://www.elsieman.org/artist-roster/monica-bill-barnes-companys-happy-hour-2/>

DESCRIPTION OF ORIGINAL SHOW:

A 7 year old falls in love with dance at her first recital. 40 years later, she works every day to stay in the game. At 70 she keeps moving.

The Running Show documents the life of a dancer through movement, interviews, and stories. The show was originally conceived to feature a large cast of local performers in every city it toured to. Dancers from each community, ranging in age from 12 years old to 84, dance next to Monica Bill Barnes on stage with Robbie Saenz de Viteri performing live commentary that contextualizes the movement as a sporting event. The local dancers learn their parts over the course of one week. Robbie interviews each member of the cast, incorporating their voices and stories into the show, giving the audience an unprecedented look into the life of a dancer as a new kind of sports hero, that keeps moving against all odds.

For pandemic programming, Monica & Robbie have created a two-part engagement: the first part is a virtual engagement taking place during the shutdowns and the second part is the live engagement as described above, happening once it is safe to travel.

The intention is that this two-part engagement addresses the moment that we are in right now with content specifically created to be shared virtually, while also laying the foundation for Monica & Robbie to be at your venue, in person, to create the live show with your local dancers.

A note from Monica & Robbie: *We believe Part I of this engagement has the potential to be a meaningful online experience largely because it includes the community. We hope it offers the opportunity to connect with local audiences - as they will see their friends and family performing in this moment when no one can gather in a theater. We are excited to make this online introduction of the show and hope it will serve as a first step in a process toward tailor-making the live show event for your community and audiences.*

The Running Show in 2 parts:

Part I (*during pandemic shutdowns*)

- Monica & Robbie would work with your local dancers, teaching movement phrases and capturing interviews via the internet.
- The video & audio recordings would be edited to create a 10-20 minute event that you can stream and share with your audiences.
- This event would be a “teaser” to the live engagement (Part II).

Part II (*once it is safe to travel*)

- The company would continue their work with your students, incorporating new performers as necessary, creating the complete show (55-65 minutes) in a long-week process on-site, working in-person.
- The event would be a live engagement, with the company, your students, along with additional local performers performing from your stage.



The Running Show - Photo credit: David Wilson Barnes