

Artist Bio

Incorporated in 2013, Adaptations Dance Theater (ADT) is Maui's contemporary dance company that creates groundbreaking work to spark new energy in the local dance community. By producing original works and creating professional performance opportunities on an annual basis, ADT addresses a specific need to create and sustain a home for professional contemporary dancers on Maui so that they may create, collaborate, and grow in their artistry without having to leave their island home to do so. Simultaneously, ADT fosters a space where the general public can regularly experience this performing art, presented by artists trained locally and abroad.

ADT's performance programs seek to relay universal human experiences expressed through dance's visceral form. ADT is proud to be a part of the vibrant arts community on Maui and strives to contribute to the creativity, education, and inspiration of future dancers and art advocates.

Please select the "Talk Story" (in section D HERE) that has inspired this proposal:

Sally Ann Delos Reyes, Water-woman + Lopaka White, Kaho'olawe Island Reserve Commission

Statement of Interest

ADT values storytelling and relationships as foundational values for creating new dancework. Through ST*BA, we've reaffirmed those values while simultaneously garnering a deeper understanding about how our organization, mission, and performative work connect to Maui. In our previous collaborations with ST*BA, we've enjoyed embodying the wisdom, experiences, and guidance of other artists, cultural advisers, and community members to create deeper, long-lasting ties to Wailuku. We'd like to continue fostering our collaborative relationship with ST*BA to highlight the many perspectives and experiences of Maui locals that have yet to be told.

Project Description

Proverb: He lawai'a no ke kai pāpa'u, he pōkole nō ke aho. He lawai'a no ke kai hohonu, he loa ke aho (#725). A fisherman of the shallow sea uses only a short line; a fisherman of the deep has a long line. [A person whose knowledge is shallow does not have much. But he whose knowledge is great, has much.]

Our vision: Imagine – a waterwoman, drenched from head to toe as if she's just stepped out of the ocean, leading an audience of 15 individuals along a yellow rope through figurative representations of Sally and Lopaka's memories of the "deep, deep blue." What you'll experience: a hybrid dance performance and art installation that connects to place through the celebration of multi-generational wisdom. Sally's memory of the yellow rope will serve as the primary source of guidance for this original performing experience. For Sally, the rope represented focus, determination, and stability as she fished with her father and crossed the 'Au'Au channel. As the audience pulls themselves along the rope, they will encounter ADT dancers abstractly representing key memories from the talk story between Lopaka and Sally.

The dancers will represent the key themes of 1) bravery, 2) heart, and 3) wisdom. An example could be Lopaka's story about the octopus and the corresponding lessons of connection, wisdom, and loyalty. Another example could be Sally's time as a nurse before there was a dress code—dressing in wild outfits to cheer up her patients—and the incredible bravery and heart it takes to work in pediatrics. Excerpts from the dialogue between Sally and Lopaka and ambient sounds from select sites mentioned in the talk story will be built into a soundscape that will accompany the dancers as they perform. The rope itself will be an art installation that can live beyond the evening of performances. It will be bright yellow with key quotes displayed on fabric tied to and hanging off of the rope. These quotes will include sayings from the talk story like, “use whatever you have to propel yourself forward,” “anything this boy gets ahold of he will never let go,” “deep deep, blue,” “and that's where it started,” our chosen 'Ōlelo No'eau, and much more. Sally and Lopaka impart many nuggets of wisdom throughout their talk story, and we'd like to give those lessons a physical and tangible symbol within the work. The rope will simultaneously represent aging—it will weave in and out of a modular performance space. The end of the rope will appear frayed, stained, weathered, and cluttered with an excess of memorabilia and quotes to signify aging toward wisdom as well as a physical representation of our 'Ōlelo No'eau. The waterwoman will age in parallel with the rope, representing an aging body that is still curious and in search of adventure.

Notes (optional)

Our Design Approach: Our creative process allows our artists to explore the connections between their personal artistic values and dance concepts. In the studio, the dancers often work in collaboration with the choreographer to flush out movement concepts and research. Through improvisation and iterative experimentation with gestures, full-body movement, music, text, costume, and props, we create works that highlight the unique choice making of our dance artists as well as the choreographic vision. This often results in work that is accessible to a wide range of individual audience members and connects with their personal identities, histories, and experiences.

Experience Working on Similar Projects: SEED is an annual ADT residency that gives dance artists the freedom to let their movement ideas take root and flower during the choreographic process and community outreach performances. SEED aims to sow the love of dance theater across new audiences through free public performances. Our most recent SEED 2022 successfully brought dance work to the Nisei Veterans Center and Haiku Elementary grades K-5. The year before, SEED 2021 resulted in a series of dance films staged at various outdoor Maui locations. Whether we are performing in-person for audiences ranging in age from young children to the elderly, or a mixed audience of mainland and Maui residents on a digital platform, we especially enjoy our post-performance talk backs, where we get to hear about the different lenses through which our audiences experience our work.

Community Engagement: We'd like to host a talk-story and improvisational dance exchange, either in-person or via zoom conference, where members of the elderly Maui community can come to share a short anecdote about Maui. After each story is told, an ADT dancer will perform a short improvisation, created on the spot, that embodies the story. We would ideally work with residents of Hale Makua, members of the Nisei Veterans Center, or elderly in the Kainoa Senior Care Facility.

The stories and resulting improvisational works can be used as source material to fill in and add depth/perspective to the main talk story by Sally and Lopaka. This would help to answer a question that is very present for ADT's co-artistic directors: whose stories are most valued? The elderly community on Maui is both a highly respected and tragically invisible community on Maui (especially those in nursing homes). In order to keep their stories alive and perpetuate the wisdom of kupuna, we hope to document their most profound Maui memories through improvisational dance and video recording.

Adaptations Dance Theater Storytelling Budget

EXPENSES	COST
Program Oversight/Insurance Coverage	\$500.00
Concept Artist/Project Mgmt	\$1,200.00
Contracted Dance Artists Rehearsal	\$1,600.00
Contracted Dance Artists Performance	\$800.00
Rehearsal Rentals	\$450.00
Costumes/Props	\$200.00
Contingency	\$250.00
lights	
TOTAL	\$5,000.00