



PALM DESERT choreography festival

Finalists | Saturday, November 14, 2026

Duet

Gabriel Canepa - "*Cuenta Conmigo*" (Portland, OR)

Noelle Kayser - "*Dust*" (nk + collaborators, Chicago, IL)

Alexandra Light - "*Schrödinger's Cat*" (New York, NY)

Ben Needham-Wood - "*GHOST*" (Boulder Ballet, Boulder, CO)

Maté Szentes - "*AfterLife*" (Los Angeles, CA/ Winnipeg, Canada)

Small Group

Jessica Liu - "*Hek Fan Meng Ah?*" (Mannheim, Germany)

Daniel Ojeda - "*Persona*" (Brooklyn, NY)

Ashley Roland - "*Garden of Synaesthesia*" (BodyVox, Portland, OR)

Morgan Williams - "*BEEF*" (Water Street Dance Milwaukee, Milwaukee, WI)

Ensemble

Natasha Adorlee - "*OCTANE*" (Houston Contemporary Dance Company, Houston, TX)

Deanna Stanton - "*Innocent Thorns*" (Ballet Arkansas, Little Rock, AR)



PALM DESERT choreography festival

Finalists | Sunday, November 15, 2026

Duet

Kennedy Barry & Skylar Peterson - *"In-Yun"* (Orange, CA)

Small Group

Ericka Jenae Brown, in collaboration with dancers - *"And Five...Six...Seven Eight"*
(Riverside, CA)

Kally Jones - *"STIGMA"* (School of Soul, Tulsa, OK)

Seyong Kim - *"disperate + inseparable"* (Western Dance Project, Kalamazoo, MI)

Michelle Shear - *"The Remembered"* (Mt. SAC Repertory Dance Company, Walnut, CA)

Ensemble

Jacob Gutiérrez-Montoya - *"Old Religion"* (Hawkins School of Performing Arts, Folsom, CA)

Jeneane Huggins - *"Who Does Your Wash?"* (Kagami, Las Vegas, NV)

Gunta Liepina Miller - *"Passing Through"* (Premier Youth Dance Company, Tustin, CA)

Michelle Manzanales - *"Paloma Querida (Beloved Dove)"* (The University of Utah's School of Dance, Salt Lake City, UT)

Amy Nakamura - *"Torn"* (Mt. SAC Repertory Company, Walnut, CA)

Robert Rimmer, Carolyn Tellez, Danny Inestroza, and Lyssy Salvador - *"Nemesis"*
(Summit Contemporary Fusion Group, La Habra, CA)

Tyler Schnese - *"M"* (UVU Repertory Ballet Ensemble, Orem, UT)

Natalie Willes - *"Winter Wonderland"* (Carousel Dance Company, West Hills, CA)