

# MARCIANO SILVA DOS SANTOS

CONTEMPO  
PHYSICAL DANCE

## BIO

A native of Brazil, Marciano Silva dos Santos is recognized by the American Folkloric Society as a “Brazilian artist of unique and exceptional ability and merit.” he has performed with renowned companies such as TU Dance, Stuart Pimsler Dance & Theater, Penumbra Theatre and in his dance company Contempo Physical Dance. Marciano has been named “Best Dancer” by City Pages and “one of the most graceful movers on any Twin Cities stage” by Star Tribune and “one of the hottest choreographers in town” by Minnesota Monthly Magazine.

Silva dos Santos has established a much-celebrated dance company, Contempo Physical Dance, with a mission to create work that is artistically exceptional, riveting to watch and that speaks to the cultural dynamics of his ancestry. Marciano is both Afro-Brazilian and indigenous. He is interested in contemporary movement and the ways it intersects with traditional movement forms. Marciano has garnered numerous recognitions as a choreographer and a performer. He has worked in residence at University of Campinas (Brazil), Minnesota State University, Mankato, St Olaf College, Macalester College, University of Minnesota and many others.

## WHAT ARE YOU WORKING ON IN THE NEXT TWO YEARS?

My interest is in exploring how land, memory and culture are interconnected. I am planning to develop a solo work, which examines the kidnapping of my maternal grandmother, resulting in a forced removal from her Indigenous reservation and subsequent generational loss of culture.

In partnership with the McKnight International Choreographer Residency program, Contempo Physical Dance is working to bring the renowned Indigenous Brazilian contemporary choreographer, Mario Nascimento, from the Amazon region of Brazil to St. Paul for four weeks of residency (fall 2022) to create a full-length dance production to be premiered at The O’Shaughnessy Auditorium in St. Paul, MN.

## CONTACT

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## REPERTOIRE AVAILABLE FOR TOURING

### TEAR OUT OF PLACE

For a large portion of my life I lived in the Estate of Espirito Santo, Brazil and didn't know that a large Quilombola community, called Linharinho, existed nearby. This work is about Brazil's settlement of escaped slaves known as Quilombola. Creating a full-length solo piece was a life changing experience after visiting and researching a place where my ancestors lived and fought for survival.

Performer: 1 dancers, 1 stage manager

Tech needs: Theatrical lighting,  
professional sounds system

### SENZALMA

SenZalma is a combination of two words "senzala" (slave quarters) and "alma" (soul). Senzalas were large structures created specifically to house slaves in Brazil, who were believed to not have souls. Alma is connected to the word senzala as a commentary. The inspiration for SenZalma comes from Castro Alves' poem, *O Navio Negreiro* (*The Slave Ship*), widely regarded as one of the most influential Brazilian abolitionist poems ever written. This work is "transcendent" with bounding leaps, sounds of water, drums and capoeira rhythms and painterly images of the starry sea.

Performers: 8 dancers, 1 stage manager

Tech needs: Theatrical lighting, projection