

Degenerate Art Ensemble

A performance company that through hyper-experimental music and dance transforms traditional genres into multi-dimensional explosive and expressive works. This hard-edged, delicate and complex visual music and dance performance company has earned rave reviews throughout the US and Europe. A performance company that reflects our multi-faceted and multi-dimensional culture today.

DAE's work ranges from full theatrical stage productions to intimate concerts, always invading all of the senses and the depths of the imagination.

Transformations Evolutions Collaborations Inventions

DAE is known to morph and transform – a dance company, punk/jazz band, a 45 piece orchestra - the group never losing its ability to electrify an audience and create experiences that bring audiences to new territories of perception. At its core DAE's key artists are constantly in a state of invention and re-invention – always guided by a strong unified creative vision.



Music Dance Physical Theater Performance Art

Degenerate Art Ensemble harnesses the forces of visionary choreography and rich, complex, visceral composed and improvised music – creating music driven dance theater and intensely visual music performance.

Theaters Spaces Stages Festivals Galleries

All of DAE's dance theater works, from small chamber versions, to full main-stage productions, are performed with rich live music – the musicians visually and theatrically integrated into the works. Many of DAE's works are available in both chamber and main stage versions.



Organ Magazine (London)

“So, what is the Degenerate Art Ensemble? An orchestra? A live band? A dance troupe? An experimental theatre company? Forget even trying to pop the Degenerate Art Ensemble into any of those pigeon-holes - yet they are all, and much more than the sum of those. It's performance art that has broken out of the seclusion of the art house into that dirty real world of gigs... The Degenerate Art Ensemble have smeared together the styles called classical, experimental, world, jazz and rock music so completely that it seems pointless to ever untangle them again. Remember the time when there were such things as boundaries?”

Berliner Morgenpost (Berlin)

“This music and movement ensemble create work outside of all music and dance conventions... telling surreal stories filled with sweetness, power and humor. The unexpected is accomplished and a mysterious mythology emerges.”

Kultur Magazine (Prague)

“They entranced the audience... the secret of their performance is perfect drama, gradation and splendid visuals, indescribable costumes and a punk-symphonic-garage-big-band style. Dynamic upheavals were turning into relaxing passages and everything was falling into place like wheels in a postmodernist clock machine.”

Willamette Week (Portland)

“Prepare for some serious aesthetic bastinado... make way for a few conceptions about boundaries between theater, classical and rock music to melt... it leaves a huge chunk of the rule book tattered in the gutter.”

San Francisco Bay Guardian (San Francisco)

“(DAE's dancer/choreographer) Haruko Nishimura gave a performance that sparkled with the looseness of an improvisation, all the while maintaining the control of a master.”

The Seattle Times (Seattle)

“Their music is hard edged and fierce.”

Nichibei Times (San Francisco)

“Low tones of bass and the creaking of DAE's self made pantheistic harp zither created an exquisite and harmonious soundscape as the movement of Nishimura's limbs stirred the audience into ecstasy. She captured internal emotions and sentiments awakening and arousing - her velvety smooth movement producing a supernatural and ghostly air.”