



**Jessie Jeanne & Dancers Launch
Boston Premier of
Beneath Crystal Skin
April 28 & 30, 2017**

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

BENEATH CRYSTAL SKIN. . . Premiere Project of Jessie Jeanne Stinnett's Boston based company, Jessie Jeanne & Dancers to be presented April 28 and 30 at 7:00PM on a split bill in the Julie Ince Thompson Theatre, at The Dance Complex. 536 Massachusetts Avenue, Cambridge, MA. Tickets may be reserved in advance at <http://donewaiting.bpt.me/> are \$21 for general admission or \$12 for students, current BDA members, seniors, and military. Specialty tickets may also be purchased to include VIP seating (\$29) or a complementary drink and access to the Friday evening talk back session as part of Art Week Boston (\$35). To contribute directly to the project's development, please visit our Kickstarter Campaign page, <https://www.kickstarter.com/projects/1578196015/1623812234?token=d917ba57>, going live April 4-April 30.

Beneath Crystal Skin seeks to boldly rupture the superficial layer of socially imposed ideas and customs cocooning our authentic selves. Catalyzed by the play of childhood, the angst of teenage transformation, and tremors of the current abrasive political climate, the work activates stories that bare nude personal and collective histories of womanhood through the lens of sexuality. Via visceral narrative, the 20 minute quintet, performed by company dancers Olivia Coombs, Whitney Cover, Katie Lake, and Jen Passios with JJ&D apprentice, Caitlin Peeler, challenges the social frameworks that dictate our relationship to sex, offering a conscious release from our ingrained attachments to the systems that choreograph us. The creation of *Beneath Crystal Skin* has been sustained in part by the LAB grant from the Boson Foundation with support from the Barr Foundation and a catalytic grant from NEFA via the New England Dance Fund.

Jessie Jeanne Stinnett Jessie Jeanne Stinnett holds a BFA in Dance Performance from The Boston Conservatory and an MFA in Creative Practice: Dance Professional Pathway from Trinity Laban Conservatoire, in conjunction with Independent Dance/Siobhan Davies Dance. She has performed for the Metropolitan Opera, Tate Britain, Prometheus Dance, Anna Myer and Dancers, Rebecca Rice, The Boston Baroque Opera, and Bard College's Summer Scape Festival; most notably in works by Itzik Galili, Pablo Bronstein, Marjorie Folkman, and Gigi Caciuleanu. Jessie is an internationally recognized vinyasa yoga instructor and regularly leads classes, workshops, and wellness retreats in the UK, Europe, and US. She has also recently joined the dance teaching faculty of Dean College in Franklin, MA where she leads sessions in improvisation and contemporary dance technique

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Jessie Jeanne and Dancers (JJ&D) is a rigorous creative laboratory and performance collaborative for visceral and somatic research, via contemporary dance making practices. With an emphasis on audacity and somatic nakedness, the company traverses cultural and interpersonal boundaries, unearthing new pathways of communication and connection. JJ&D is committed to sustaining community relationships and contributing to the rooting of concert contemporary dance in Boston through initiatives such as local choreographic commissions, exposure to the work of established and international dance makers, and educational programming (workshops and residencies) allowing young New England artists to grow and take agency in artistic discourse.

This iteration of *Beneath Crystal Skin* will be performed alongside work by established Boston artists, Prometheus Dance, Lorraine Chapman, and Peter DiMuro as part of the concert *Done Waiting*. A champagne reception and post performance discussion, moderated by Peter DiMuro and Lorraine Chapman will be held immediately following the **Friday, April 28** performance for audience members with an Art Week Boston ticket. Reservations are highly recommended and may be made in advance at <http://donewaiting.bpt.me/>. For additional information about the show, please visit the Dance Complex website, http://dancecomplex.org/Performances_at_the_Dance_Complex.htm or contact Jennifer Magnuson (617) 547-9363

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