



Melecio Estrella Bio

Melecio Estrella is a director, dance artist and educator based in Oakland, CA. All of his work celebrates the wisdom, intelligence, vulnerability and grace of the human body. Melecio believes dance plays a vital role in the health of individuals, communities, and societies.

Melecio has been dancing with BANDALOOOP since 2003. In 2011 he became the company's Education Director and in 2015, the Associate Artistic Director. His recent work includes Tidal Constellations (2019) performed at the National Art Gallery of Malaysia for international arts and culture dignitaries at the Summit of Arts Councils and Cultural Agencies (IFACCA) and FLOOD (2020) at the opening of the Momentary in Bentonville, AR.

The same year in 2020, he was appointed by founding Artistic Director Amelia Rudolph to succeed her as the new Artistic Director. His BANDALOOOP artistic milestones include making dances on the cliffs of Tienmen Mountain in the Hunan province of China; Art and About in Sydney, Australia; The Africa Cup in Libreville, Gabon; The Barents Spektacle in Kirkenes, Norway; and the JFK Centennial at The Kennedy Center, Washington, DC.

Recent engagements include touring his vertical dance theater show LOOM:FIELD - celebrating the spiritual, ancestral and ecological impacts of textiles and fashion. After its premiere in Uptown Oakland, LOOM:FIELD has been presented at the Lincoln Center in NYC, a two city tour in Hungary, Santiago, Chile, and multiple cities throughout the US.

In addition to his work with BANDALOOOP, he co-directs the dance theater company Fog Beast and is a longtime member of the Joe Goode Performance Group. His choreographies have been commissioned by Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, the San Francisco Opera Center, Dancers' Group, Headlands Center for the Arts, the Morrison Center for the Arts, and numerous universities around the US.

He is a 2018-2019 recipient of the Gerbode Special Award in the Arts, and a 2017/18 Leadership Fellow with the Association for Performing Arts Professionals (APAP) and is currently a Lucas Artist Fellow at the Montalvo Arts Center. Passionate about creating spaces for artists to thrive, Melecio serves on the advisory board for the Artists Space Trust and was a 2020-2021 Cultural Space Ambassador for CAST (the Community Arts Stabilization Trust).