

## Karen Charles brings powerful personal stories to the stage

Written by

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Artistic director Karen Charles will present her Threads Dance Project in its fourth season show at the Lab Theater on Oct. 25, 26 and 27.

The performance, entitled "Only Human," features works that delve into many aspects of what makes a person human. According to producers, the show opens with a light-hearted look at women's obsessions and objectification of their physical forms, and the joy and exhilaration felt when they imagine no limits. The company will also premiere "Malignant" – a work that unearths the stories of 10 people who experienced cancer in their lives, and uses their stories to remind the audience that everyone is in fact "only human."

Charles was awarded an American Composer's Forum Live Music for Dance grant as well as a Metropolitan Regional Arts Council grant to create "Malignant."

"Malignant is an important work for me. It gives me the opportunity to honor my father and three other family members I lost to the disease, as well as raise people's awareness about cancer and the importance of early detection," said Charles. "Thanks to the grants from the American Composer's Forum and the Metropolitan Regional Arts Council, I also was able to collaborate with other artists in a way I never have before."

In addition, visual artist Bill Jeter is creating a three dimensional work of art that represents the ideas and thoughts about cancer that evolved from research and conversations between he and Charles. New York-based composer Nioka Workman has created a musical score through her collaboration with Charles.

Performances are Oct. 25 and 26 at 8 p.m. and Oct. 27 at 2:30 p.m.  
at The Lab Theater, 700 N 1st St., Minneapolis. For ticket information, go to [www.thelabtheater.org](http://www.thelabtheater.org)  
or call (612) 333-7977.