

# COMMUNION

MAVEN LEADERSHIP COLLECTIVE 2025 IMPACT REPORT



CHAPTER 2. ESSAY 2

## What Were You Thinking?

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**Maven Pioneer Winter** (he|they).

Founder, Choreographer &  
Artistic Director

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**maven.**  
Maven Leadership Collective

**What Were You Thinking? Pioneer Winter  
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Chapter 2 | Essay 2**

Pioneer ([00:00](#)):

I find dance in other people. The body is so political. People go around thinking of their bodies as these broken instruments, and so with choreography, we are organizing the body in such a way that there's this collective experience beyond just the individual. I remember just before the pandemic, we'd been awarded some really great funding, an opportunity not only to create a new piece, but also then to tour it after everything was great, until we had to stop. It definitely was the start of thinking very intentionally about iteration and how iteration gives you the opportunity to rewind and pivot. Rewind and pivot.

([00:58](#)):

Pivoting is isn't a bad thing. Pivoting is improvisation. It also is getting me closer to realizing what this piece is about. I had this aspirational goal of creating a really powerful work about being together, but what happens when that collective is fragmented and we're splintered and we have to be on our own? As things improved, we went back to rehearsals and we ended up creating an ensemble piece that braided all of those solos together, and so the choreo portrait would not have existed were it not for the need to pivot with the pandemic. There were more pivots than I can count, but it's been one of our most important works.