

DANCE PLACE



FALL 2019



Dear friends,

When searching for a title for the 2019-2020 season, I was looking for a word that speaks to one of Dance Place's core values; our commitment to heightening the visibility of and opportunities for the wide-ranging community members that grace our stage and studios. This is a goal we bring to all the work we do; whether in our Presentation Series, educational programming, or community engagements. The word needed to set the stage for the radical blend of performance programming we selected, and for our 40th anniversary just around the corner in 2020-2021. The word needed to convey a sense of accessibility, growth, expansion, craftsmanship, and precision. As I thought about the many ways Dance Place speaks about the work we do, I turned to a word we frequently use to describe our core value of visibility - AMPLIFY.

- 1 : to expand something by the use of detail, illustration or closer analysis*
- 2 : to make larger or greater in amount, importance, or intensity*
- 3 : to increase the strength or amount of something*

With the AMPLIFY Season, Dance Place vows to connect you more deeply with the world around you, whether it's from a culture and community across the globe or a neighbor in your own community. We've taken steps to amplify the voices of artists in our community through our AIR (Artists in Residence) Program and Works In Progress series. Over the next year, you'll also see unprecedented connection between our visiting artists and the incredible array of partnerships we host - including with Dance Place's own youth programs. With my incredible curatorial team, we've created a season to be proud of, full of unique voices, singular experiences, and never-before-seen premieres.

Join me. See new artists and new works from all over the globe, just a metro-ride away. Listen to their voices come through loud and clear, and add yours to the conversation.

Gratefully,

Christopher K. Morgan
Executive Artistic Director

Mission

Founded in 1980, Dance Place builds a community of artists, audiences, and students through high quality performances, commissions, training, and educational programs. We are committed to enriching the field of dance locally, nationally, and internationally. Our thriving arts campus serves as an anchor in our Brookland / Edgewood neighborhood in Washington, DC.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 6
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 7
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 8



Ben Levine / Extreme Lengths

The legacy of American modern dance is one of constant innovation and imagination. By pushing the boundaries of what dance was “supposed to be,” modern and contemporary dance have always blurred the lines between design, performance art, and on-stage production to create something wholly new. In that tradition, Ben Levine brings his technical theater background to the fore in this unique cycle of interactive dance experiences.

In *I made this dance and nobody cares but you*, audiences are ushered throughout the Dance Place campus to uncover singular dance vignettes, performed for one patron at a time. One by one, these crafted worlds unfold, revealing unexpected viewpoints and turning expected conventions on their heads. Under Levine’s direction, a team of designers and movement artists collaborate on a technology-driven movement-based experience that tips the traditional balance between design and dance, centering the technical aspects of theater as the primary mover and shaping movement around each designer’s vision.

Sadie Leigh
Photo by Jonathan Hsu

BOTTOM LINE: PROJECTION, SET, COSTUME, AND SOUND - THESE ELEMENTS DRIVE NEW DANCES FROM THIS TECHNICAL WHIZ.

d. Sabela grimes

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 14 AT 8PM
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 15 AT 7PM

From Los Angeles, d. Sabela grimes is an afrofuturist presenting his fully-realized vision of a progressive tomorrow where black and brown bodies are treated with the respect and reverence they deserve. In a home that's prided itself as Chocolate City, we can think of no stronger motivation to bring this remarkable artist to our community.

cultivates speculative realities of a future yet to come, one that counters historically-imposed gender identities using hip-hop, video art, and illustration as cooperative mediums. With his artistic team of collaborators, he unspools a broad vision of Black dance as it is in America right now, blending street and Black vernacular to form something that feels wholly new, unburdened, and original.

In *ELECTROGYNOUS*, Sabela

*"One of a mere handful of artists who
make up the vanguard of hip-hop fusion..."*
- *The Los Angeles Times*

IN SUMMARY: LA HIP-HOP INNOVATOR BRINGS A FUTURE, ANDROGYNOUS WORLD TO LIFE WITH DANCE, VIDEO, AND MORE

🎙️ **PODCAST EPISODE** 🎓 **MASTER CLASS AT DANCE PLACE**



d. Sabela grimes
Photo by Gema Galiana



Dance Box Theater

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 21 AT 8PM
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 22 AT 7PM

Stephen Clapp and Laura Schandelmeier form the collaborative backbone of this longtime DC-based dance company. Their shows are theatrical, charged, and deeply invested in taking on real issues to affect change.

Their newest work is no different. *Naked King: Subject to Change - Part 1* exposes white supremacist systems and redirects them towards equity, justice, and healing. In this evening-length dance theater work — featuring Ronya Lee Anderson, Valerie Branch, Melissa

Lineburg, Tariq O’Meally, and guest artist Pricilla Smith — Clapp and Schandelmeier expose a white patriarchy that will do anything to maintain its power. By fearlessly confronting the oppressive systems at play in our society, Dance Box Theater casts itself as the visionary youth in *The Emperor’s New Clothes*. As we grapple with what it means to be American, to live in our nation’s capital, and to exist within those patriarchal symptoms, no topic could be more germane, more pressing.

IN SHORT: SPEAK TRUTH TO POWER IN THIS THEATRICAL WORK BY LONGTIME LOCALS



slowdanger

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 5 AT 8PM

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 6 AT 7PM

Curation isn't a science, although there's certainly a lot of experimentation that goes on. In the case of Pittsburgh's Anna Thompson and Taylor Knight, the alchemical duo provoked a reaction the minute we saw them performing alongside Bill Shannon last season in his most recent premiere. From then on, we kept their performance collaborative in our sights, following them from DC to the National Performance Network conference and back. We're so pleased to have slowdanger back on our stage this year and we hypothesize that you'll be glad we did.

Featuring five dancers, two computational artists, and one responsive LED sculpture, slowdanger presents a new evening-length work that examines empathy as a continual process. In *empathy machine*, technology, sound, and movement physicalize intimacy and how it ripples through an imagined, futuristic society. Performers dramatically change their environment through responsive technology and an expansive light sculpture. By sensitizing the audience to the effects of movement in space, the work reconnects us with our bodies as a tool for resilience and resistance.

FINAL THOUGHTS: EXPERIMENTAL PERFORMANCE AND INTERACTIVE LIGHT SCULPTURES TOUCH A NERVE WITH THIS SINUOUS, SYNCHRONIZED COLLECTIVE



PODCAST EPISODE



MASTER CLASS AT DANCE PLACE



SUNDAY PRE-SHOW RECEPTION

Focus Cia De Dança



SATURDAY, OCTOBER 12 AT 8PM
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 13 AT 7PM

Born and based in Brazil, Alex Noreal brings a lot to the table. He is a gorgeous, technical mover, a skilled craftsman, and a brilliant educator, all of which have rocketed him to South American stardom and created in-roads to an international choreographic career. He first visited the DC area with a teaching fellowship at CityDance in 2007, and with their partnership, we're bringing his full company back to the States for a blow-out performance experience.

Inspired by a Steve Reich score, *STILL REICH* is emblematic of Noreal's signature style - aggressive agility countered with languorous technical phrasing. The company's full-bodied virtuosity and lush partnering entwine to create a not-to-be-missed dance indulgence.

LAST WORD: THIS INTERNATIONAL TOUR DE FORCE BRINGS DELICIOUS, VIRTUOSIC DANCING TO DC FROM ABROAD



CO-PRESENTED BY CITYDANCE

 **PODCAST EPISODE**

 **MASTER CLASS AT DANCE PLACE**

 **POST-SHOW RECEPTION ON SATURDAY**



Focus Cia De Dança
Photos by Manu Tasca

A woman with long brown hair is shown from the chest up, wearing a black dress with a wide, shimmering fringe of sequins and beads. She is looking towards the camera with a slight smile. Her right hand is raised, showing red nail polish.

AMPLIFY Gala

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 19 AT 6:30PM

Alright, you already know that Dance Place can throw a mean party. We're known for over-the-top, intimate, artist-driven affairs with live music, performances, dinner, drinks, and of course, dancing. Our AMPLIFY Gala is no different and we're looking forward to cutting up the stage with you.

Headlined by The Illustrious Blacks, the evening starts with a cocktail hour and silent auction bidding before retreating to the theater. Enjoy a sampler of performances from some of the artists that make Dance Place the vibrant arts hub it is: featuring guest artists Coyaba Dance Theater, Spilling Ink, and Miami's Rosie Herrera. Then it's outside for a divine dinner al fresco with live music from Latin-infused acoustic duet CreoDuo.

Your support means the world to us and forms the backbone of everything we do at Dance Place. Even if you can't make it to the party yourself, consider sponsoring an artist to attend in your stead!

IN SHORT: DON'T FALL VICTIM TO FOMO - GET YOUR GALA TICKETS BEFORE THEY'RE GONE!

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 26 AT 8PM
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 27 AT 4PM & 7PM



PERFECT FOR: DANCERS AND DJ'S AND DIVAS, OH MY! GET READY TO GROOVE IN THIS FUN, FABULOUS SHOW!

Since 2013, the DC chapter of this nationwide non-profit has shared a close relationship with Dance Place. They teach a hugely popular hip-hop class every Wednesday night and for the last several years have presented their original productions on our stage. We've been so proud to have Culture Shock, Washington DC as a Partner Organization in our mission to bring high-quality arts education to Brookland / Edgewood. By showcasing this vital social dance form, Culture Shock, Washington DC has continued to promote and innovate this genre for the concert stage

with their athletic and adaptable choreography.

With *Volume V: Home*, Culture Shock, Washington DC returns to Dance Place with the fifth in a series of socially-minded, irrepressibly fun shows. Filled with music, light, and laughter, individual members of the professional company have come together to choreograph a series of hip-hop works on the theme of "home." This eclectic troupe of over 150 dancers uses hip-hop dance, spoken word, and music to inspire positive change in our community.

Culture Shock , Washington DC



Culture Shock, Washington DC
Photos by Preet Mandavia



ANIKAYA



ANIKAYA
Photos by Gary Alpert

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 2 AT 8PM
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 3 AT 4PM

During our near-40-year history, Dance Place has hosted artists from all over the world but rarely have all those artists been contained within one show. Thanks to choreographer Wendy Jehlen, we'll have the unique opportunity to see artists from Benin, Egypt, Japan, Indonesia, Brazil, Turkey, South Africa, India, Iran, and beyond gracing our stage at once. Each artist brings their unique histories to ANIKAYA and enriches the work with their perspectives in a blend you're not likely to find anywhere else on earth.

The company premieres in DC with *Conference of the Birds*, an evening-

length movement theater work inspired by the epic poem of Farid Ud din Attar. Embodying stories gathered from modern-day refugees and other migrants, *Conference* symbolizes the journey that our broad human family takes together — a story of found community and the necessity of difference.

IN SUMMARY: EXPAND YOUR HORIZONS IN THIS DANCE ON MIGRATION, MOVEMENT, AND MULTIPLICITY

MC MASTER CLASSES AT DANCE PLACE & DANCE EXCHANGE

PODCAST EPISODE

SOLE Defined



SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 9 AT 8PM
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 10 AT 4PM

Just over a year ago, we selected SOLE Defined to be one of our inaugural Artists In Residence. For many years, we've been proud to represent the key role percussive dance forms play in our dance ecosystem and no company does this quite like SOLE Defined. They've created a custom blend of tap dance, step, and beatbox, spiced liberally with African and Latinx polyrhythms and whipped it together into their own inventive and inspiring "percussicals." As the AIR program aims to drive new opportunities and avenues for dance to thrive in DC, we're so proud to

bring you the world premiere of this company's latest work.

In the premiere of *Zaz*, SOLE Defined's electric performers embark on a spiritual journey. Comprised of intimate, first-person testimonies, this dance performance uses storytelling, digital projection, song, and brass music to explore the events of Hurricane Katrina from a small speakeasy in New Orleans. Get ready for an evening-length adventure that takes audiences on a high-energy immersive roller coaster.

LAST WORD: YOU WON'T FIND A MORE FUN AND MEANINGFUL SHOW THIS SIDE OF THE MISSISSIPPI!

 **PODCAST EPISODE**



SOLE Defined
Photos by Jonathan Hsu

Baakari Wilder & Kerri Edge

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 23 AT 8PM

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 24 AT 4PM

Baakari Wilder is a tap legend and has shared his unparalleled skills with Dance Place for many years under many guises. You may remember his Metro Tap Roots festivals, showcasing DC's prolific tap dance history, or maybe you've watched his students perform with Capitol Tap. He's returned with another percussion-driven performance, this time in collaboration with Queens filmmaker Kerri Edge.

In *REFORM*, Baakari Wilder & Kerri Edge use tap dance to reveal the racial disparities in the American criminal justice system and encourage audiences to advocate for legislative change. This collection of tap dance monologues performed by Baakari Wilder, Omar Edwards, Jason Samuels Smith, and Abron Glover are set to urban political music, poetry, and film. The dancers portray stories that highlight the African American male experience with the criminal justice system and the lasting effects on both the African American family and the community at large. With a huge historical scope stretching from Emancipation to the present day, this work tackles an issue that needs continued, varied viewpoints to reveal and ultimately, to amend.



Baakari Wilder
Photo by Enoch Chan

FINAL THOUGHTS:
LOCAL TAP DANCER
USES THIS QUINTES-
SENTIALLY AMERICAN
ARTFORM TO CHAL-
LENGE AMERICA'S
CRIMINAL INJUSTICE
SYSTEM



Kerri Edge
Photo by Enlightened Jewel Photography

In a move to create new showcase opportunities for short-form work by artists based in our wider DMV community, last year we started our new annual festival, Contemporary Viewpoints. Along with its counterpart Global Perspectives, the festival fills a gap in local programming for artists delving deep into short-form works while giving us an opportunity to build new relationships with the artists that serve as the bedrock of our flourishing community.

This year's festival includes new work from **Krystal Collins**, **Gabriel Mata**, duo **Sam Horning & Juliana Ponguta**, and **Katie Sopoci Drake** - as well as a premiere from Resident Company **ReVision dance company!** The artists in this program represent a wide range of boundary-pushing modern dance makers from the DMV area, selected with curatorial support from Ava Delasanta, Janice Marks, and Alvin Mayes.

Contemporary Viewpoints Festival

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 7 AT 8PM
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8 AT 4PM

BOTTOM LINE: LOCAL, BOUNDARY-PUSHING
WORK IN THIS ANNUAL FESTIVAL SHOWCASE



Kwanzaa Celebration



Coyaba Dance Theater
Photo by Mariah Miranda

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 14 AT 7PM
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15 AT 3PM

For 15 years, we've been proud to host Coyaba Dance Theater's singular performance honoring the principles of Kwanzaa. One of the few long-running Kwanzaa community activities in the city, we invite you and your family to join us this holiday season for incredible West African dance and drumming, under the direction of Mama Sylvia Soumah.



Coyaba Youth Academy
Photo by Emily Amey

IN SHORT:
DANCING,
DRUMMING AND
THE HOLIDAY
SPIRIT - COYA-
BA INVITES YOU
TO CELEBRATE
WITH THEIR
FAMILY THIS
KWANZAA!

Funding Credits

Baakari Wilder is supported by the Carla Fund for Choreography and Performance.

Performances by slowdanger are made possible through the Special Presenters Initiative program of the Mid Atlantic Arts Foundation with support from the National Endowment for the Arts and the DC Commission on the Arts & Humanities.

Performances by d. Sabela grimes are made possible by the New England Foundation for the Arts' National Dance Project, with lead funding from the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation and the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation.

Performances by Focus Cia De Dança are co-presented by CityDance.

Technical Residencies for Ben Levine / Extreme Lengths, slowdanger, and the Dance Place Artist In Residence (AIR) program are supported in part by the National Endowment for the Arts.

ReVision dance company and Coyaba Dance Theater are Dance Place Resident Companies.

Culture Shock, Washington DC is a Dance Place Partner Organization.

SOLE Defined is an inaugural Dance Place Artist In Residence (AIR).

THANK YOU to GRASSROOT COMMUNICATION, our 2019-2020 corporate sponsor, who made the production of this brochure possible.

DANCE PLACE 2018-2019 SEASON FUNDERS \$5,000 AND ABOVE

This list of donors represents giving between September 1, 2018 and August 19, 2019

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AMPLIFY 19/20 SEASON

SEPTEMBER

6-8 Ben Levine / Extreme Lengths
14-15 d. Sabela grimes
21-22 Dance Box Theater

OCTOBER

5-6 slowdanger
12-13 Focus Cia De Dança
19 AMPLIFY Gala
26-27 Culture Shock, Washington DC

NOVEMBER

2-3 ANIKAYA
9-10 SOLE Defined
23-24 Baakari Wilder & Kerri Edge

DECEMBER

7-8 Contemporary Viewpoints Festival
14-15 Kwanzaa Celebration

JANUARY

18-19 KanKouran West African Dance Company
25-26 darlingdance

FEBRUARY

1-2 PASSION FRUIT DANCE COMPANY
8-9 Global Perspectives Festival
29-1 Cie Hervé KOUBI

MARCH

7-8 Orange Grove Dance
21 New Releases Showcase
28-29 PEARSONWIDRIG DANCETHEATER

APRIL

4-5 Heart Stück Bernie
25-26 Rosy Simas Danse

MAY

2-3 Christopher K. Morgan & Artists
9-10 Unit Souzaou
26-31 DanceAfrica, DC 2020

JUNE

8-14 Excessive Realness
13-14 jumatatu m. poe
& Jermone Donte Beacham
20-21 Abby Z and the New Utility

JULY

18-19 Project ChArma
25-26 Xing Dance Theater

YOUTH SHOWCASES

May 17 NEXTgeneration Showcase
Aug 6-7 Energizer Creative Arts Camp Concert

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