



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Dance Place Artist in Residence Ronya-Lee Anderson presents *Black Madonna and Miss Amerika*, which confronts the worship of the Black female body in popular culture

[WHAT: Dance Place presents *Black Madonna and Miss Amerika* by Ronya-Lee Anderson](#)

WHEN: Saturday, May 4th at 7:00pm and Sunday, May 5th at 4:00pm

WHERE: Dance Place 3225 8th Street NE Washington, DC 20017

TICKETS: \$30 - General Admission, \$25 - Seniors (60 and over), \$20 - Artists and College Students, \$10 - Teens & Kids (17 and under)

WASHINGTON, D.C. – *Black Madonna and Miss Amerika* is an investigation of socio-political happenings in conversation with the positioning of the Black female icon in the church, on the stage and in the streets. It is cinematic in nature, employing a familiar series of still and moving images tied to a complex historical canon. *Black Madonna and Miss Amerika* tackles the tension between the public and private; the doing and being of the Black female iconic body. The work confronts the worship of the Black female body in popular culture; worship undone in the political and economic treatment of that same body. Using popular culture, live music, comedy, interviews and portraiture, equal attention is given to the various aspects of production, including, but not limited to sound, costuming, projection design, and of course, movement. *Black Madonna and Miss Amerika* is interactive in nature, inviting the audience to engage with the world created in the space through sound, sight, smell, touch, and taste.

Connect with Ronya-Lee Anderson by heading to her Instagram [@ronyaleeandthelighthouse](#).

Accessibility Services Offered:

- ASL Interpretation (Saturday performance)
- Large print programs
- Accessible seating
- Accessible restrooms

About the Artist

Ronya-Lee of *Ronya-Lee and the Light Factory*, is a Caribbean-American folk-soul singer-songwriter and dancer-choreographer from Washington, DC. Born of Jamaican immigrants, she spent her formative years

moving between school plays, church services and bashment parties. She continued her education, obtaining a Master's of Divinity from Duke University, an MFA in Dance from Maryland University and is pursuing a doctorate in Performance Studies with a research focus on Black feminine embodiment and performance. Ronya-Lee is currently on Dance Faculty at American University and is an Artist in Residence at Dance Place.

Her interdisciplinary work which combines original music, dance, and theater has most recently been shown at Atlas Theater, Dance Place (DC), The Lyric Opera House (Baltimore), Triskelion Arts (NYC), Arkansas Hall Studio Theater (AK), Duke University Chapel (NC), and Wa Na Wari (WA). Recent commissions include University of Virginia (2024), See Site National Endowment of the Arts Residency (2023), Maryland State Arts Council (2021-22), and Aunt Karen's Farm (2021).

A former member of the *Chuck Davis African American Dance Ensemble* and of Liz Lerman's *Dance Exchange*, Ronya-Lee has numerous live theater credits and has appeared in national commercial and print ads. The 2021 recipient of the Pola Nirenska Award for Outstanding Achievement in Dance, Ronya-Lee has published articles in the *Journal of Dance Education*, *Sojourners Magazine*, the *UCC Journal of Worship, Music and Ministry*, and the textbook, *Dance in US Popular Culture*.

[About Dance Place](#)

Rooted in the United States capital, Washington D.C., Dance Place supports movement artists by creating opportunities for creative development, performance, and education. By investing deeply in artists and centering those who have been systemically excluded from such opportunities, we strengthen the dance field.

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