



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

BALLET DES MOINES APPOINTS JOSHUA BODDEN AS REHEARSAL DIRECTOR IN 2024/25 SEASON

BALLET DES MOINES announced today that **Joshua Bodden** has been appointed Rehearsal Director in the 2024/25 season. Bodden retires from a 23-year career in the dance industry, including positions at Miami City Ballet, Dance Theatre Of Harlem, Cincinnati Ballet, and 10 years as an artist at Kansas City Ballet.

Bodden's notable honors include:

- Being the first African American male to perform the role of "a ballet boy" in Twyla Tharp's *In the Upper Room* with Cincinnati Ballet;
- Receiving an invitation in 2022 to participate in The Kennedy Center's "Reframing The Narrative" project and in the 2024 "Pathways to Performance" project, presented at both The Kennedy Center & Jacob's Pillow. Curated by Theresa Ruth Howard of Mobballet, both projects highlight contributions by dancers of color to classical ballet.

"I feel very fortunate and grateful to begin this new chapter of my dance career," says Josh Bodden. "The support and excitement I felt from Ballet Des Moines was unmatched in my search to find the next steps of my journey. From the professionalism of the company's dancers to the disrupting the status quo mindset

of the staff. Ballet Des Moines's ideals and philosophies align with my own, where I can be of service to the organization that sees value in my experiences not only as a professional dancer, but as a person."

Bodden will bring energy, experience, and notoriety to his work with Ballet Des Moines, where he will primarily train and coach company dancers as they prepare for a season of ambitious and diverse performances. Bodden will assume the role of Rehearsal Director beginning August 2024 at Ballet Des Moines' new downtown location. Reporting to Artistic Director Tom Mattingly, Josh Bodden joins an already stacked roster of leadership within the Ballet Des Moines team, including CEO Blaire Massa, Creative Director Jami Milne, Education and Outreach Director Beau Kenyon and Wardrobe Director Sarah Dornink.

"When Josh announced his retirement from the stage last spring, he quickly became the hottest commodity in Ballet. Josh's choice to join us at Ballet Des Moines underscores that our purpose-driven and human-centered approach is truly setting our company apart on a global stage." – Blaire Massa, CEO, Ballet Des Moines.

ABOUT JOSH BODDEN

Joshua Bodden began his ballet training at the age of 10 at the Miami City Ballet School under the direction of Edward and Linda Villella, he also attended The Harid Conservatory and Pittsburgh Ballet Theater's year-round program on a full scholarship. He spent his summers training at the School of American Ballet, Pacific Northwest Ballet, and North Carolina School of the Arts. At the conclusion of his training, Mr. Bodden was invited to dance for Miami City Ballet, Dance Theatre Of Harlem, and Cincinnati Ballet.

Mr. Bodden joined Kansas City Ballet in 2014, dancing in works by Jiří Kylián, Edwaard Liang, Amy Seiwert, George Balanchine, Val Caniparoli, Mark Morris, and

Jennifer Archibald. Career highlights include appearing as “The Tin Man” in Septime Webre’s *The Wizard of Oz*, “Hilarion” in *Giselle*, “Melancholic” in Balanchine’s *The Four Temperaments*, “Puck” in Bruce Well’s *A Midsummer Night’s Dream*, “Gaston” in Val Caniparoli’s *Lady of the Camellias*, and “Quincy” in Michael Pink’s *Dracula*.

Bodden is also a member of [Mobballet](#), led by Theresa Ruth Howard, which continues to strive for diversity, equity and inclusion in the dance community.

Bodden will assume the role of Rehearsal Director beginning August 2024 at Ballet Des Moines’ new downtown location.

“I could not be more excited to have Josh joining the Ballet Des Moines team! I was immediately impressed by his wealth of knowledge, attention to detail, and clarity of communication. During the interview process, we got to see Josh not only as a professional, but as a person. From meetings with staff to working with the dancers in the studio, Josh demonstrated an admirable combination of talent, kindness, and curiosity. I am so thankful to have him with us moving forward!” – Tom Mattingly, Artistic Director, Ballet Des Moines

ABOUT THE CAMPUS

The Ballet Des Moines Campus for Arts and Education serves as a physical and virtual hub and connector between disciplines and communities, providing shared resources and a physical space for collaboration, pop-up performances, professional development workshops for arts and education professionals, and low-cost space rentals. The campus will also provide a new home for Ballet Des Moines’ award-winning arts-integrated education programs that benefit all members of the community, from at-risk families to young professionals to corporate executives.

Support for the project was first backed by EMC Insurance, Bravo Greater Des Moines, and the Community Foundation of Greater Des Moines, and a \$3m capital campaign is in its final stages as the company prepares to formally open the campus in September, 2024.

ABOUT BALLET DES MOINES

The mission of Ballet Des Moines is to enrich lives through inspiring dance performances, inclusive education and outreach programs, and innovative community partnerships.

Ballet Des Moines' vision is to create experiences that inspire and connect people from all walks of life, modeling authentic inclusion in their performance and educational programming by focusing on access, by lifting up relevant and underrepresented stories, and by forging collaborations fostered in trust, humility, and artistry.

Ballet Des Moines is a leading regional dance company that attracts the most in-demand choreographers and hundreds of international applicants for company and trainee positions each year.

Since 2019, the company has doubled its number of performances and more than tripled the number of company dancers, all of whom have relocated to Des Moines, IA to accept their position with Ballet Des Moines. Learn more at www.balletdesmoines.org.

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