January 27, Minneapolis, MN – The Cowles Center presents THE MIXTAPE Collective’s new, virtual-only production MIXTAPE IV: Now Streaming at 7:30 PM on February 26 & 27. THE MIXTAPE Collective is known for their exploration of Street and Hip Hop dance, and their intensive processes of collaboration and mentorship (a practice in equity they continue in this production with five mentors and four mentees). Tickets are $25, including fees, and attendees can stream the performance on any internet-enabled device. This is the first performance in The Cowles Center’s 2021 “Take Back the Stage” performance season.

“Incredibly, this production was subtitled Now Streaming even before the pandemic and our pivot to virtual performances,” explained The Cowles Center’s Director of Operations and Production, Joseph Bingham. “The serendipity is exciting. It really highlights how carefully and specifically these performances are made for a screened experience.”

The made-for-screen experience is a joint effort between THE MIXTAPE Collective and The Cowles Center. The Cowles commissioned the reimagined virtual piece once a staged version was off the table, and THE MIXTAPE Collective brought on videographer V. Paul Virtucio as Virtual Director, who worked carefully with the choreographers, dancers, and composers to imbue movement into video, investigating “screendance” – an interdisciplinary practice grounded in cinema and dance performance. Crucially, THE MIXTAPE Collective is embarking on an interactive form of screendance, thereby providing a unique performance to virtual performance viewers each night. And In heightening the performances, Musical Director Stefon “Bionik” Taylor composed original music to suit each choreographer’s mission. By embracing screendance, the artists bypass the need for audience members to be in a specific location, and instead maximize the at-home experience.

This production features five dance pieces choreographed by artists Darrius Strong, Averie Mitchell-Brown, J-Sun Noer (Artistic Director), Andy Asong-Morfaw, and Herb Johnson III AKA JDot Tight Eyez. Each explore topics ranging from community, humanity, otherness, and Black womanhood.
THE MIXTAPE Collective continue their practice of collaborative mentorship with *MIXTAPE PART IV: Now Streaming*. Established choreographers Herb Johnson III, Darrius Strong, and J-Sun Noer mentor up-and-coming dance artists Andy Asong-Morfaw and Averie Mitchell-Brown. This year, the collective expanded their mentorship mission to include a composer mentorship between Stefon “Bionik” Taylor and Yan Pang (composer/musician) with mentee Maya Ntim AKA MAYA, as well as a video production mentorship between V. Paul Virtucio and Gregory Addison. Mentorship is a key aspect of THE MIXTAPE Collective’s mission to amplify the work and stories of BIPOC and LGBTQ+ artists.

Audiences for *MIXTAPE IV: Now Streaming* can expect a deeply artistic, full-length performance. For more information about the performances, please visit [thecowlescenter.org/mixtape](http://thecowlescenter.org/mixtape).

**ABOUT THE MIXTAPE COLLECTIVE**

THE MIXTAPE Collective is a group of established and up-and-coming Street and Hip Hop choreographers and dancers, musicians and composers, and videographers and editors. Our mission is to push the boundaries of these art forms through an intensive process of collaboration and mentorship. We are concerned with creating performances that encourage the audiences to be fully present with us, honoring vulnerability as a strength, and resisting a political landscape that tries to keep us apart. Our collaborative approach encourages clear and continuous communication between artists to produce works that have gone through rigorous editing. All of the artistic voices involved have equal weight and presence in the process.

**ABOUT THE COWLES CENTER**

The Cowles Center is a dance and performing arts hub that promotes movement and growth for artists through supportive programs and spaces; engages audiences through dynamic performances; and educates learners of all ages through robust and inclusive education initiatives. The Cowles Center is owned and operated by Artspace. Learn more: [thecowlescenter.org](http://thecowlescenter.org).

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