HYBRID celebrates synthesis in a new online performance from Helen Hatch and Darrius Strong

Minneapolis, February 22, 2021 - Dance artists Helen Hatch and Darrius Strong, with The Cowles Center, present their new collaborative production, HYBRID, with a pre-recorded livestream premiere on March 5, 2021 at 7:30 PM. The performance features pieces by Hatch and Strong’s respective companies, Hatch Dance and STRONGmovement, as well as a new ensemble work for which the production is named. HYBRID will also be available to watch on demand anytime between Saturday, March 6 and Sunday, March 7. Livestream and on demand tickets are $25, including fees.

HYBRID is the first in the MERGES IN MARCH series offered by the Cowles. This series is the culmination of the center’s MERGE program, which pairs artists working in unconventional collaborations. This production provides a combined ballet/contemporary experience that will provide a chance to experience the technically articulate Hatch Dance & blended modern aesthetics of STRONGmovement.

The world premiere of HYBRID - their masterful, blended ensemble finale - is prefaced by four works: One River (STRONGmovement), The Machine Stops (Excerpt) (Hatch Dance), You Think You Know (world premiere by STRONGmovement), and Daisy (world premiere by Hatch Dance).

This production was originally intended to premiere in March 2020, though it was forced to postpone due to Covid-19. “The postponement actually allowed us to deepen our relationship and discover a richer collaboration,” shared Strong. The Covid pandemic forced other transformations, namely the new, virtual-only format of the show.

The pieces will be pre-recorded prior to their livestream premiere, but viewers will have the added benefit of a live Q&A with the artists. To learn more about the show, and for tickets, visit thecowlescenter.org/tickets.
ABOUT HELEN HATCH

Helen Hatch is a dancer and choreographer based in the Twin Cities. Named as one of Minnesota Monthly's “10 Artists to Watch” in 2012, Helen was a member of Minnesota Dance Theatre from 2011-2017, dancing an eclectic range of repertory while also creating her own work. Helen is a graduate of the Ailey/Fordham BFA program where she was awarded Dance Departmental Honors. Her choreography has been presented at the Ailey Citigroup Theater, the 2011 Jacob’s Pillow Inside/Out Festival, The Southern Theater, The Cowles Center, throughout Mexico and Guatemala by the Juntos Collective, and commissioned by Minnesota Dance Theatre, Saint Paul Ballet, Penelope Freeh, Aveda, and Saint Paul Ballet. Helen is the Founder and Director of Hatch Dance, whose debut performance Isotope was named a “2018 Top Ten Twin Cities Dance Performance” by the Star Tribune. Helen has taught extensively throughout the Twin Cities and is currently on faculty at Saint Paul Ballet. Visit Hatch Dance’s website at helenhatch.wixsite.com/hatchdance/helen-hatch.

ABOUT DARRIUS STRONG

Darrius Strong is a Twin Cities based choreographer, dancer, and educator whose creative work has been chosen for the Walker Art Center’s Choreographers’ Evening and Rhythmically Speaking. Strong has created works for Threads Dance Project, Flying Foot Forum, Alternative Motion Projects, and James Sewell Ballet. He is the recipient of a 2019 Jerome Hill Fellowship and is faculty at St. Paul Conservatory Performing Arts High School, TU Dance Center, and Eleve Performing Arts Center where he focuses on teaching young dancers how to connect their identity to movement. Strong developed his own dance company, STRONGmovement, in 2015. Visit STRONGmovement’s website at strong-movement.com.

ABOUT MERGE

The Cowles Center created the MERGE program in 2016 to pair dance artists working in unconventional collaborations. This culminates in a premiere, evening-length performance on the Cowles’ 500-seat main stage. This approach fosters interorganizational collaboration, providing choreographers the opportunity to explore new ground and take artistic risks. It also cross-pollinates audiences, introducing fans dedicated to one dance style or artist to new forms or movement makers. This project is supported in part by the National Endowment for the Arts.

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.

MEDIA CONTACT
Laura Moran, Communications Manager
920.636.6290
laura.moran@artspace.org
###