Minneapolis, MN, December 29 – Alanna Morris returns to The Cowles Center February 4-6, 2022 with Black Light a re:Search performance, a collaborative solo project that doubles as a personal archive and research project. A co-presentation with the Great Northern and Northrop, Black Light is available in-person and via livestream. Tickets are $20-$35, fees included. Live music will accompany the work. This show contains mature content and frontal nudity. Learn more at thecowlescenter.org/black-light.

“Many life transitions inspired this piece, and awakenings to new information that brought down old ways of performing ‘Alanna’ and relating to the cosmos and to the source of life,” shared the artist when describing the inspiration for Black Light. “This pandemic afforded me the life crisis of going into the quiet, the stillness, and the darkness. From there I am discovering vast information that I was not conscious of in my former life practice.”

Morris achieves this reflection in the work through researching the nobility of Black-ness; the divinity of feminine creative energy; and the harnessing of sensual expression.

Additionally, they are working with a team of esteemed collaborators—artists and cultural practitioners—who informed all aspects of Black Light a re:Search performance from research and development, to dance and design. Morris’ collaborators include Gabrielle Abram, Andréa Potter, Demetrius McClendon (Imagine Joy), Afoutayi Haitian Dance, and Music and Arts Co. Costume design by Trevor Bowen. Lighting design by Beaudau Banks.

Morris performed an earlier iteration of this project called Black Light re:Search during a virtual MERGES IN MARCH performance streamed in March 2021. This project builds on its earlier iteration and features live music. Cowles Co-director Jessi Fett reflects: “It is really special to be able to present Black Light a re:Search performance, and to have this wonderful privilege of presenting multiple works in this series by Alanna on our Goodale Stage.”

Black Light a re:Search performance is an expression of season and interwoven local and global identities. The work falls between contemporary, modern, and Afro-Diasporic dance genres. This is the first co-presentation between the Cowles and the Great Northern. Learn more at thecowlescenter.org/black-light.
HEALTH & SAFETY AT THE COWLES CENTER
Masks are required at all times in The Cowles Center’s hallways, common/shared spaces, and theaters. Anyone attending an event or performance in our theaters (the Goodale Theater & TEK BOX) will need to show proof of a full course of COVID-19 vaccination or a negative COVID-19 test taken within 72 hours prior to entry. We respectfully ask that anyone who is feeling ill or are experiencing COVID-19 symptoms to please stay home. Please visit thecowlescenter.org/visit to review our full health & safety information.

ABOUT ALANNA MORRIS
Alanna Morris (formerly Morris-Van Tassel) is a Brooklyn native and Saint Paul-based artist excavating their cultural identity within a Caribbean-American diasporic experience. They were a featured performer with TU Dance from 2007-2017 and Artistic Associate in 2020. Morris has been cited as Dance Magazine’s 25 to Watch! (2018); Minneapolis’ City Pages’ Artist of the Year and Best Choreographer (2019) as well awarded a McKnight Dancer Fellowship in 2015 and Choreography Fellowship in 2021. Their choreography has been commissioned by Minnesota Dance Theatre, Penumbra Theatre, Children's Theatre Co., the Dance Department at Carleton College, and The Cowles Center. Morris is a proud graduate of The Juilliard School and LaGuardia High School for Music & Art and Performing Arts (NY) and is an Artistic Advisor to Springboard Danse Montreal. alannamvt.com

ABOUT THE GREAT NORTHERN
The Great Northern celebrates our cold, creative winters through ten days of diverse programming that invigorate mind and body. In an era of changing climate that threatens our signature season, we seek to create community, inspire action, and share the resilient spirit of the North with the world. thegreatnorthernfestival.com

ABOUT NORTHROP
Rooted in the belief that the arts are essential to the human experience, Northrop is committed to cultivating intersections between performing arts and education for the benefit of all participants now and for generations to come. Learn more at northrop.umn.edu.

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. Learn more at thecowlescenter.org.

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