DEEPLY ROOTED CELEBRATES 25TH SEASON WITH DEEPLY 25: BEYOND DANCE Fundraiser, JOMBA! Festival, and More This Fall
Deeply Rooted Dance Theater (DRDT), which diversifies the aesthetics of contemporary dance by uniting modern, classical, American, and African-American traditions in dance and storytelling, announces initial plans for Deeply 25: Beyond Dance, a celebration of the company's 25th anniversary season including local, national, and international events.

The season officially launches Saturday, October 17 from 7 to 8:30 p.m. with “Deeply 25: Beyond Dance...The Celebration Begins,” a virtual fundraiser featuring a reflective, cinematic history of DRDT, with video highlights of company performances and interviews that illuminate the company's founding and inspiration, its evolution to the present, and its plans for the future under new artistic leadership. The event also includes a silent auction during the film's intermission; comments from leadership, including Artistic Director Nicole Clarke-Springer, Co-Founder/Associate Artistic Director Gary Abbott, and Co-Founder/Creative Director Kevin Iega Jeff; and testimonials from past and current company members. Tickets for the full evening, which includes the opportunity to interact with DRDT's Artistic Team in a Continuum dialogue following the film, are $150; general admission is $25.

Prior to the fundraiser, DRDT participates in several events with important presenters. The 22nd annual JOMBA! Contemporary Dance Experience, an annual festival in Chicago's sister city, Durban, South Africa, takes place August 25–September 6. Artistic Director Lliane Loots has invited DRDT, which was the first American dance company to participate in the festival seven years ago, to join eight other key dance makers from across the globe to participate in the festival’s first virtual performance. DRDT contributes recordings of past performances, including Parallel Lives by Gary Abbott (2018) and excerpts from INDUMBA (2017) by South African choreographer Fana Tshabalala and Dance Revival (2020) by South African choreographer Tshedisho Kabulu, an excerpt from the full-length GOSHEN, a collaboration between DRDT and GRAMMY Award-winning producer, songwriter, and gospel artist Donald Lawrence. DRDT’s performances will be available on the JOMBA! website, jomba.ukzn.ac.za, on Wednesday, August 26 at noon CDT and Thursday, August 27 at 5 a.m. CDT.
The Chicago Park District’s “Night Out in the Parks” has shifted this year to “Your Night Out at Home,” featuring select works from Night Out artists from across Chicago. DRDT is scheduled to participate during the week of September 7 with excerpts of Essence, choreographed by guest choreographer Martial Roumain, and Heaven, choreographed by Kevin Iega Jeff and Gary Abbott. More information will be available at chicagoparkdistrict.com/night-out-at-home.

Deeply 25: Beyond Dance continues through 2021, with additional performances and activities to be announced at a later date. For information, visit deeplyrooteddancetheater.org.

All programming is subject to change.

Premiering in 1996, Deeply Rooted Dance Theater is rooted in traditions of modern, contemporary, and African dance, as well as storytelling, in universal themes that spark a visceral experience and ignite an emotional response in diverse audiences worldwide. Collaborating with nationally renowned choreographers across the spectrum of modern, ballet, and African dance, DRDT presents work that reflects eclectic voices in contemporary life.

Deeply Rooted programs are partially supported by the Reva and David Logan Foundation, MacArthur Funds for Arts and Culture at the Driehaus Foundation, the Arts Work Fund and Smart Growth program of the Chicago Community Trust, Allstate, the Alphawood Foundation Chicago, Chicago Park District’s Night Out in the Parks Program, CityArts grant from the City of Chicago’s Department of Cultural Affairs & Special Events, the Gaylord and Dorothy Donnelley Foundation, Ginger Farley Charitable Fund at The
Chicago Community Foundation, the Martha Struthers Farley and Donald C. Farley, Jr. Family Foundation, the Field Foundation of Illinois, the Lloyd A. Fry Foundation, Gilbert Fund, Irving Harris Foundation, Illinois Arts Council Agency, Illinois Humanities, the International Association of Blacks in Dance, the Joyce Foundation, National Endowment for the Arts, the University of Chicago's Accelerator Program, US Bank, and Deeply Rooted Family of Friends. Special thanks to the Auditorium Theatre, Ballet Chicago, the Chicago Community Trust, Chicago Dancemakers Forum, the Chicago Park District, Hyde Park School of Dance, the Reva and David Logan Center for the Arts and St. Benedict the African Church for their partnership and support.

###

Photos top to bottom:
Deeply Rooted Dance Theater dancers (L–R): Rebekah Kuczma, Ricky Davis, Dominique Atwood, and Ahmad Hill in *Heaven*. Photo by Michelle Reid.
Deeply Rooted Dance Theater in *Parallel Lives*. Photo by Michelle Reid.
Deeply Rooted Dance Theater dancers (clockwise from L) Marlayna Locklear, Rebekah Kuczma, Nyemah Stuart, and Dominique Atwood in *Essence*. Photo by Michelle Reid.

Want to change how you receive these emails?
You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#).

---

*Copyright © 2020 Deeply Rooted Dance Theater, All rights reserved.*