



## **PRESS RELEASE**

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### **Etched in Stone: Resilient through Time, A Surge of Black Dance Brilliance In Dayton**

**In celebration of Dayton Contemporary Dance Company's (DCDC) 50th Anniversary season, The International Association of Blacks in Dance (IABD) has partnered with DCDC to bring the 31st Annual International Conference and Festival of Blacks in Dance to Dayton, OH, January 22-27, 2019.**

**Dayton, OH** - For the culture - By the culture. The International Association of Blacks in Dance's (IABD) Annual International Conference and Festival is a dance lover's playground – a fully immersive experience for all things Black Dance. Illuminating the Dayton arts scene for a week, the conference and festival unites the Dayton Art Institute, Dayton Convention Center, Dayton Metropolitan Library, Metropolitan Arts Center, Sinclair Community College, and the Victoria Theatre, while highlighting the radiant gems of the Black Dance sector.

January 24 – 26, 2019, artists and dance enthusiasts participate in the Dance Master Class Series and train with an elite dance faculty of 40+ international artists spanning 25 styles of dance, including Aesha Ash, Donald Byrd, Baba Assane Konte, and Alicia Graf Mack. True to theme, the Panels and Workshops provide a space for scholars, leaders, and educators to share research and discuss the Black Dance sector and the many and extensive contributions to the global dance community. Dialogues with dance legends and next generation artists inspire and motivate new philosophies around a quarry of topics including dancer health, the business of being a dancer, and Black bodies in ballet, to name a few. This year's conference and festival features six performances over four days, bringing 50 dance companies together on two stages, including **Dayton Contemporary Dance Company, Philadanco!, Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, Cleo Parker Robinson Dance, Dallas Black Dance Theatre, Deeply Rooted Dance Theater, Forces of Nature Dance Theatre, Lula Washington Dance Theatre, Robert Moses' KIN, Ronald K. Brown/Evidence, A Dance Company**, and a World Premiere from **Dance Theatre of Harlem**.

Continuing a tradition of progress, the Ballet Auditions for Women and Men of color return for their 4th and 2nd annual auditions, January 26 – 27, 2019, respectively. Opportunities for



scholarship dollars to summer intensives and collegiate programs are made possible to IABD members through the Youth and Artists Summer Intensive Scholarship Auditions. The Multi-Company Dance audition, taking place on Sunday, January 27, 2019, is open to the general public and IABD members, providing dancers an invaluable opportunity to audition for company positions in more than 15 companies around the world.

In keeping with the conference and festival theme, *Etched in Stone: Resilient through Time*, IABD will host a formal Gala, Saturday, January 26, 2019, at the Crowne Plaza Hotel, 33 E 5th St., Dayton, OH 45402, honoring the contributions of four treasured guests, all whose timeless work has maintained the integrity and brilliance of Blacks in dance and the City of Dayton. Sheri “Sparkle” Williams will receive the Inspirational Artist Award for extending dance’s value through her professional presence and her unprecedented 45th season with Dayton Contemporary Dance Company. Richard Lapedes will receive the IABD Distinguished Leadership Award for his significant and tangible leadership contributions to the Dayton Contemporary Dance Company. For her outstanding achievements and contributions in the academic and research areas of dance, Halifu Osumare, Ph.D., is the recipient of the Scholar’s Award. And Reginald Van Lee will receive the inaugural Reginald Van Lee Outstanding Philanthropy Award for his exceptional generosity, encouragement, and support of the dance community.

The International Association of Blacks in Dance (IABD) was created to serve the needs of black dance professionals. Since its inception, it has become a haven for Black dance due, in large part, to partnerships with professional Black dance companies and a strong desire to meet the needs of the community. As an essential part of its commitment to Black dance and a culminating celebration of its 50th year anniversary, IABD is thrilled to partner with Dayton Contemporary Dance Company (DCDC) to bring the Conference and Festival back to Dayton, OH in 2019. As one of the five founding companies of IABD, DCDC has played an integral role in the conference’s development. Conference and festival registration is open now. Don’t miss the opportunity to witness the broadest gathering of Black Dance professionals in the US and abroad.

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#### **About IABD**

The International Association of Blacks in Dance preserves and promotes dance by people of African ancestry or origin, and assists and increases opportunities for artists in advocacy, audience development, education, funding, networking, performance, philosophical dialogue, and touring. IABD has become the Mecca for Blacks in Dance such as administrators, artists, choreographers, dance companies, directors, educators, scholars, and those interested in artistry, black dance issues, and performance presentations. The Association, founded in 1991, provides a network, formal newsletters, choreographers directory, published papers and is the *raison d’être* for the annual conference and festival. The Association also responds to and initiates dialogue around issues that impact the Black Dance Community as well as the Dance community at large. IABD has developed national prominence and allowed the Black Dance Community to come together on issues important to them.

[www.iabdassociation.org](http://www.iabdassociation.org)



**About DCDC**

Dayton Contemporary Dance Company was founded in 1968 by Jeraldine Blunden to create performance opportunities for dancers of color. Five decades later, it remains rooted in the African American experience, committed to the development of diverse movement artists on the global stage. Rooted in the African American experience, the Dayton Contemporary Dance Company is a culturally diverse contemporary dance company committed to reaching the broadest audience through exceptional performance and arts-integrated education.

[www.dcdc.org](http://www.dcdc.org)