



GROUNDWORKS

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**GROUNDWORKS DANCETHEATER'S AKRON SPRING SERIES PRESENTS THE
STAGE PREMIERE OF DAVID SHIMOTAKAHARA'S APERTURE**

CLEVELAND, OH (February 20, 2020) – Experience GroundWorks DanceTheater this spring at E.J. Thomas Hall, in partnership with the University of Akron, on April 3, 2020, at 7:30 pm. The performance will feature *Aperture*, Executive Artistic Director David Shimotakahara's latest work, created in response to selected pieces from the acclaimed photography collection at the Akron Art Museum. The concert will also feature the Akron premiere of *Unwritten* by guest choreographer Brian Brooks, and a restaging of *Remora* by Eric Michael Handman.



[David Shimotakahara's](#) latest work, *Aperture*, will be making its stage debut during this performance series. The work was created as part of a two-year project with the Akron Art Museum. Funding for the project is through a Knight Foundation Arts Challenge Award and aims to make new work in response to pieces in the museum's permanent collection. *Aperture* takes influence from selected images of [five acclaimed photographers](#) from the museum's permanent collection – Manuel Alvarez Bravo, Esther Bubley, Sophie Calle, Adam Fuss, and Carrie Mae Weems. This work dives into the relationship between time, identity, change, and how these factors influence the other.

"I found different things in each of their work—I mean, they are all really different! I would say that the starting place with me was through Adam Fuss's work—probably a combination of him and Manuel Alvarez Bravo, because of their interest in these ideas of life and death. Their work captures moments that shape our recognition of something larger." said Shimotakahara. From this starting point, he became interested in how connections to pivotal moments throughout one's life shape whom they become.

This past fall, GroundWorks welcomed award-winning choreographer [Brian Brooks](#) to Northeast Ohio to create a new work with the company. His work titled "*Unwritten*" is a multifaceted abstract dance that creates a thrilling awareness of vital forces within and around the human body in action. Brian Brooks is one of the leading innovators defining new directions in contemporary dance. He is the founder of BB Moving Company, and his work has received national recognition, including – a Joyce Theater Artist Residency, a Mellon Foundation Creative Artist Fellowship., and a 2013 Guggenheim.



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“It has been a creative high point for GroundWorks to be able to collaborate with Brian Brooks on the creation of this new work, and we are excited to bring it to Akron audiences at E.J. Thomas Hall,” commented Executive Artistic Director David Shimotakahara. “For me personally, it has been a privilege to be able to observe the work of such an established artist unfold. His work constantly allows us to discover new connections, without asserting a particular interpretation. It is about form and action, and that speaks volumes.”



This spring performance will also feature *Remora*, choreographed by [Eric Michael Handman](#). The work was initially created in 2015 for GroundWorks, and Handman himself restaged the piece this past fall. *Remora* is rooted in its physicality, the demands of its execution, its complexities, and its nuances of time. “The point of choreography for me is to be surprised. It’s not about translating what’s in my brain to the dancers’ bodies,” Handman said about his creative residency with the company. “For me, it’s about seeing ideas that I didn’t know I wanted until I saw them.” Handman is also an Associate Professor at the University of Utah’s Department of Modern Dance.

The company will be in residence with the University of Akron two months leading up to GroundWorks performance at E.J. Thomas Hall. Unlike previous years when GroundWorks has offered a master class-based residency to the University of Akron students, David Shimotakahara and the dancers will be coaching and setting sections from *Aperture* on the students. After setting these excerpts, the students will have the opportunity to perform them as part of their spring dance concert. This connection allows for students to connect to David’s and the company’s work at a deeper level and begin to understand elements of GroundWorks creative process.

Ticket information can be found [HERE](#) or by calling the E.J. Thomas Box office at 330-972-7570. The box office is open Monday-Friday from 10 am to 4 pm.

About GroundWorks DanceTheater

Now in its 21st season, GroundWorks DanceTheater is dedicated to the development and presentation of new choreography and collaborations. The Northeast Ohio-based company performs new works by Executive Artistic Director, David Shimotakahara, as well as commissioned work by nationally & internationally acclaimed choreographers including Eric Michael Handman, Rosie Herrera, Kate Weare, Robert Moses, Ronen Koresh, Dianne McIntyre, Lynne Taylor-Corbett, Jill Sigman, Gina Gibney, David Parker, Brian Brooks, James Gregg, & many others. GroundWorks is committed to presenting unique opportunities for engaging the community through work-in-progress showings, master classes, and educational outreach to school children, college students, and senior adults.

GroundWorks DanceTheater’s annual programming is made possible with funding from The National Endowment for the Arts, The Ohio Arts Council, Cuyahoga County residents through Cuyahoga Arts & Culture, The Cleveland Foundation, The George Gund Foundation, The Toby Devan Lewis Philanthropic Fund, GAR Foundation, Peg’s Foundation, The Char & Chuck Fowler Family Foundation, The John P. Murphy Foundation, The Kulas Foundation, Akron Community Foundation, The Demetros Charitable Trust, The Judith Gerson Fund, Sisler McFawn, Individual Contributors & Members of the GroundWorks Board of Directors.

For more information, please visit www.groundworksdance.org or call 216-751-0088.