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GROUNDWORKS DANCETHEATER PRESENTS EXCITING FALL SERIES FEATURING NEW WORK BY GUEST CHOREOGRAPHER BRIAN BROOKS

CLEVELAND, OH (September 18, 2019) – GroundWorks DanceTheater celebrates the 8th season at the beautiful Allen Theatre in Playhouse Square. The Department of Theatre and Dance at Cleveland State University presents GroundWorks through an ongoing partnership. The fall series features a dynamic world premiere and the revivals of two critically-acclaimed works. Performances take place:

- Friday, October 11 at 7:30 pm at Allen Theatre at Playhouse Square
- Saturday, October 12 at 7:30 pm at Allen Theatre at Playhouse Square



This fall, Groundworks welcomed award-winning choreographer Brian Brooks to Northeast Ohio to create new work on the company. Mr. Brooks spent approximately three weeks with the company at work in the studio on a new piece that will be the centerpiece of this fall's series. Brooks leads his own company in New York, Brian Brooks Moving Company, and is also currently serving as the inaugural Choreographer in Residence at Chicago's Harris Theater for Music and Dance. A 2013 Guggenheim Fellow, other recent awards include a NY City Center Fellowship, Joyce Theater Artist Residency, and Mellon Foundation Creative Artist Fellowship.

"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 to bring it to our audience," 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."

The fall series will also feature the return of two distinctive works from GroundWorks' repertory: *Remora,* choreographed by <u>Eric Michael Handman</u> and *Chromatic,* choreographed by Executive Artistic Director David Shimotakahara.

Originally created for GroundWorks in 2015, *Remora* is rooted in its physicality, the demands of its execution, its complexities, and its nuances of timing, which together exert a compelling experience that we connect with outside of any particular narrative. Choreographer Eric Handman is also an Associate Professor at the University of Utah's Department of Modern Dance.



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"While researching music for *Chromatic*," says Shimotakahara, "I came across Conlon Nancarrow's work by accident. I was immediately taken by its idiosyncratic qualities and unique sound. His experimentation, composing on player piano rolls as a way of layering complex rhythmic and tempo changes, gives his work a certain driven, automated quality. Also in Nancarrow's music you hear all types of social dance forms — tango and dance hall rhythms and themes. I was inspired by this juxtaposition, a mash up of influences, from which something very human and almost whimsical emerges." *Chromatic* was originally created and staged in 2016.

GroundWorks welcomes newest company members <u>Michael Arellano</u> and <u>Spencer Dennis</u> to the Allen Theatre stage, joining artists Alexis Britford, Nicole Hennington, and Annie Morgan.

Ticket information can be found HERE or by calling 216-241-6000. From more information call 216-751-0088.

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 Brian Brooks, Rosie Herrera, Kate Weare, Robert Moses, Adam Barruch, Dianne McIntyre, Lynne Taylor-Corbett, Jill Sigman, Gina Gibney, David Parker & many others. In 2012, GroundWorks was invited to be the professional dance company in residence at Cleveland State University. GroundWorks is committed to presenting unique opportunities for engaging CSU students and the community at large through work-in-progress showings, master classes, workshops and innovative educational programs for learners of all ages.

GroundWorks DanceTheater's annual programming is made possible with funding and support 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 Rob & Alyssa Briggs Fund of the Akron Community 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, Cleveland State University, Individual Contributors & Members of the GroundWorks Board of Directors.

For more information, please visit www.groundworksdance.org.