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GROUNDWORKS DANCETHEATER'S 20TH ANNIVERSARY 2019 SPRING SERIES: NEW WORK AND NEW YORK

Cleveland, OH (February 21, 2019) – GroundWorks DanceTheater's 20th Anniversary Season continues with its 2019 Spring Dance Series which lives up to the "clear vision, always new" mantra that highlights this milestone year. The upcoming season represents the latest installment in the company's expansive body of work that aims to understand, appreciate and celebrate different perspectives and styles.

"This entire year is an expression of the company's ongoing creative evolution," says Executive Artistic Director, David Shimotakahara. "From the beginning there have been relationships and works that resonate and have significance. We are honored to celebrate our continuing commitment to new work and enduring relationships during this special season."



Dianne McIntyre; Photo by Karli Cadel

GroundWorks kicks off its 2019 Spring Series at the Cleveland Museum of Art Gartner Auditorium, on **Wednesday March 20, 2019**. During GroundWorks 20th Anniversary, we are delighted to be able to perform at CMA, which has been truly supportive of the company over the years and for the past 4 years has been a generous venue partner hosting our annual "It Takes Two" Benefit Gala.

GroundWorks will feature the world premiere of a new work by a giant in contemporary dance and a Cleveland native – Dianne McIntyre. "Her work in dance reverberates throughout the contemporary dance community as well as in opera and theater," says Shimotakahara. "To have her create new work on our company is a gift. This is the second time we have had the opportunity to work with Dianne. Our first resulted in the creation of *Just Yesterday* (2009.) The work embodied the importance of acknowledging life stories from across generations. It had a great impact with audiences of all ages. " McIntyre's new work, *The Witness*, expresses that we are often witness to things that are life changing and transformative.



James Gregg; Photo by Benjamin Lussier

At CMA GroundWorks will also feature James Gregg's *éveillé* (*Awake*) inspired by Italian poet Giambattista Basile's version of the Sleeping Beauty story. Creating this work in 2017 for GroundWorks, Gregg combines his unique "fixed point" movement technique while reimagining a timeless story about tenderness, love, dark beauty and tragedy. Shimotakahara says, "I am excited to see *éveillé* realized by our new company artists who are making this and other work from our repertory their own and transforming the work in wonderfully unexpected ways."



GROUNDWORKS

One of GroundWorks' important and longstanding relationships is with New York City based Gibney Dance led by Gina Gibney and Senior Company Director Amy Miller, GroundWorks' former Associate Artistic Director. Gibney and Miller, who are both NE Ohio natives, have each choreographed works for GroundWorks as well as hosted the company in NYC to workshop new pieces prior to premiering.

GroundWorks' 20th Anniversary season marks the first time the company will perform as part of Gibney's *POP* series. GroundWorks' NYC performances will take place **March 22-23** featuring both Gregg's *éveillé* and McIntyre's *The Witness*. The program will also feature *LUNA* by Shimotakahara. *LUNA* explores the nature of desire and its deeply held and often opposing motivations. "These polarities developed into a series of physical relationships that reveal many facets in a cycle of experience," Shimotakahara says of *LUNA*. "That cycle is like the moon, as primal and unknowable as it is familiar."

"I am so grateful to Gina for sharing her incredible artistry, collaboration and trust over the years. We are thrilled to have this opportunity to bring an exciting range of pieces from our repertory – including new work created with the current company – to New York audiences," says Shimotakahara.

Fresh from its New York City performances, GroundWorks returns to Northeast Ohio with its annual appearance at University of Akron's EJ Thomas Hall on **March 30**. GroundWorks will bring Dianne McIntyre's new work *The Witness* to audiences in Akron along with Shimotakahara's *LUNA*. The program will also include *Hindsight*, created for the company by Lynne Taylor-Corbett in 2011. This tribute to rock legend and Akron native Chrissie Hynde of the Pretenders has had lasting appeal as one of our all time audience favorites.

GroundWorks' 2019 Spring Series will be performed in conjunction with the company's ongoing education and outreach activities that are shared through collaboration with our many community partners in both Cleveland and Akron, including, Judson Services, the University of Akron, Rainey Institute and our partnership schools. In this 20th Anniversary Season, GroundWorks is particularly grateful to Cleveland State University and the Department of Theatre and Dance for its generous support of the company as CSU's professional dance company in residence since 2012.

Ticket information can be found at groundworksdance.org and gibneydance.org or by calling 216.751.0088.

About GroundWorks DanceTheater

Now in its 20th 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 & 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 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 Mary S. and David C. Corbin 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.