St. Louis Arts Community Teams up to Promote Dance and Voter Registration Through the Premiere of “Dance the Vote”

St. Louis, Missouri, June 21, 2016 – The St. Louis arts’ community has teamed up to promote voter awareness and registration through the premiere of “Dance the Vote” campaign. This project brings together local artists who seek to make a difference during this election season by getting people registered and committed to vote for the upcoming 2016 Missouri Primary and General Elections.

The “Dance to Vote” campaign seeks to raise public awareness by performing interpretive dance featuring local choreographers and dancers from Ashleyliane Dance Company, Karlovsky and Company Dance, Beyond Measure Dance Theater and the AfroKuumba Dancers, Innervision Dance Theatre, and others as well. On Saturday, July 2nd, joining our line up of various dance companies, we will have spoken word artists including African American veteran Chris Ware, disability rights activist Katie Rodriguez Bannister, playwright Mariah Richardson, college professor Pam Garvey, disability rights activist Ana Jennings, and acclaimed Bolivian musician Matamba, among others. Alderwoman Lyda Krewson will kick off the July 2nd event with some remarks about the importance of voting.

The project is spearheaded by theatre artist and social activist Joan Lipkin, Artistic Director of That Uppity Theatre Company. The choreography will be based on various themes of the voting experience, including the experience of African Americans and women around voting, voting rights, voter suppression, voting in other countries, among other themes.

“As this is arguably the most important election of our lifetime, and as artists that care about the future of our country, we have to come together to offer our talents, vision, and passion to actively participate in promoting voting and voter registration. We are calling our project ‘Dance The Vote,’” said Joan Lipkin, Artistic Director of That Uppity Theatre Company.

Voter registration deadlines include July 6th for the August 2nd Primary Election and October 12th for the General Election scheduled for November 8th.

The first “Dance the Vote” performance will be held July 2nd and non-partisan voter registration opportunities will be available on location to interested voters. Performances will be held within a three-hour time slot and each piece will be performed multiple times.
“Dance the Vote provides an opportunity to showcase the skills of St. Louis choreographers and dancers in service of community involvement. We are excited to create pieces tied to the history of voting to remind the community how important it is to exercise this fundamental right,” said Ashley Tate, Artistic Director of Ashleyliane Dance Company who is co-chairing Dance the Vote.

The performance locations will be at landmarks in the St. Louis area. The first dance performance will kick off on Saturday, July 2nd from 2-5pm at Vintage Vinyl in the Delmar Loop of University City. Future performances will be announced to the public and will include First Friday’s at Grand Center.

WHO: That Uppity Theatre Company, Ashleyliane Dance Company, Karlovsky and Company Dance, Beyond Measure Dance Theater and the AfroKuumba Dancers, and other companies TBA, and spoken word artists Chris Ware and Katie Rodriguez Bannister

WHAT: The “Dance the Vote” campaign

WHEN: The kick off event will be held Saturday, July 2nd from 2-5pm

WHERE: Vintage Vinyl in the Delmar Loop of University City. Additional performances are TBA and will be held throughout the greater St Louis area including First Fridays at Grand Center.

Vintage Vinyl
6610 Delmar Blvd
St. Louis, MO 63130

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