



## PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Tiffany Pittman, Marketing/PR Manager

Tiffany@iabdassociation.org

(301) 755-0831

## Unite Atlanta in Dance IABD Brings Regional Programming to Georgia

**Atlanta, GA (March 27, 2019)** – The International Association of Blacks in Dance (IABD) has partnered with Anthony Burrell Center for Dance, Atlanta Dance Connection, and Ballethnic Dance Company to provide a convening of Atlanta artists to learn and share together through **EVOLVE | atlanta**. Tri-Cities High School's Visual & Performing Arts Magnet Program lends its East Point, GA location, April 13 & 14, 2019, as dancers ages 13+ take part in a weekend of master classes, symposia, summer intensive scholarship auditions, networking reception and receive a ticket to the EVOLVE dance showcase. Administrators and professionals in dance are also invited to convene at Ballethnic Dance Company for a roundtable discussion on the Atlanta dance scene Sunday, April 14 at 10:00am.

Composed of an Atlanta-based faculty, technically proficient dancers have the opportunity to train in a variety of techniques including jazz, hip hop, contemporary and ballet at intermediate and advanced levels. This experienced dance faculty has credits in television, film, Broadway, and set work on internationally-acclaimed dance companies. A summer intensive scholarship audition is offered on Saturday afternoon for dancers who are interested in continued training (included in program registration). Allyne Gartrell, Founder/Artistic Director, Atlanta Dance Connection, Anthony Burrell, Founder, Anthony Burrell Center for Dance, and Nena Gilreath and Savery Morgan, Ballethnic Dance Company will set work on participants to be premiered in the Sunday afternoon showcase.

“It is important to unite and collaborate to share the collective resources of our community”, says Nena Gilreath of Ballethnic Dance Company. Facilitated by IABD President/CEO, Denise Saunders Thompson, Atlanta dance leaders, studio owners, instructors, choreographers, and enthusiasts of all genres are encouraged to attend and engage in a dialogue on the needs of their community and its growth and future. “Being a native of Atlanta, I have had the opportunity to see the dance industry grow and change over the decades. EVOLVE comes at the right time, as the lack of local collaborations needs to be addressed, while also encouraging the education of our history in dance and bridging the generational gap to remind us that all forms of dance are important and necessary for the longevity of our art form,” says Gartrell.

EVOLVE is a two-day artist networking experience designed for the dance community in IABD member regions. EVOLVE invites IABD members and non-members, students, professionals, and studio owners to share their love for dance while expanding their technical proficiency and knowledge through this transformative dance experience. True to its mission, vision, and values,



EVOLVE continues the IABD tradition of intergenerational learning aimed at maintaining the aesthetic and integrity of Black Dance in the American tapestry.

“This program is necessary because the Black Dance community and Atlanta market are incredibly rich with talent and history. We share in the connectivity of commercial and concert dance, and I’m elated to take part in this program as a new addition to this community to also bridge the gap between “old school and new school,” says Burrell. To share the diversity and range of talent in Atlanta, the weekend culminates with a showcase presentation, open to the public, at Tri-Cities High School Sunday afternoon. EVOLVE registrants are encouraged to submit performance pieces for adjudication.

“IABD’s focus on nurturing and supporting growth, knowledge, and visibility begins with implementing programs that fulfill its mission. EVOLVE provides aspects of what is experienced at our Annual International Conference and Festival, but on a localized scale and tailored to the regional needs of the dance community. The opportunity to hold a convening of commercial and concert dance with our new program is our gift to my home city”, says Omar Ingram, IABD Programs Director.

For more information, email: [programs@iabdassociation.org](mailto:programs@iabdassociation.org)

###

#### **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. The Association, founded in 1991, provides a network, formal newsletters, choreographers directory, published papers and is the raison d’être for the annual international 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 Anthony Burrell Dance Center**

The Anthony Burrell Center for Dance (ABCD) is a multifaceted dance institution positioned to become Atlanta’s premier dance studio for pre-professional dancers and elite rehearsal space of touring artists and dancers. Founded by Hollywood Choreographer and Artistic Director Anthony Burrell, ABCD utilizes its associations with top choreographers, dance educators, and industry professionals to help shape the Art with culture, diversity, and rigor. ABCD is dedicated to becoming the epicenter for dance education, teaching students from ages 2 to Adult, professional level dancers, and offering rehearsal space for entertainers. This cultural hybrid for Atlanta talent is also the national headquarters of Anthony Burrell’s successful summer program Breaking Barriers, providing free dance classes, seminars, and workshops for deserving youth. <https://www.abdanceco.org/atlanta/>

#### **About Atlanta Dance Connection**

With an ever-expanding national and global audience, Atlanta Dance Connection is a professional dance company made up of ten ethnically-diverse artists who perform for a wide range of demographics. The company currently presents two public performances in the city of Atlanta and tours nationally and internationally, presenting a mixed repertoire of dance, drama, and live instrumental and vocal music. <https://www.atlantadanceconnection.com>

#### **About Ballethnic Dance Company**

Atlanta’s first and only African-American professional ballet company, Ballethnic is a 29 year-old classically trained culturally diverse ballet company that blends traditional ballet with the artistic influences of other ethnic cultures. Acclaimed throughout the dance world for commitment to artistic excellence and cultural diversity, Ballethnic is dedicated to providing training and performance opportunities to professional dancers, children, adolescents, emerging artists, retired professionals, senior citizens. <http://www.ballethnic.org>