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EVOLVE | a Virtual Dance Summit

Montgomery, AL (April 20, 2021) – The International Association of Blacks in Dance (IABD) in partnership with Alabama State University, Department of Theatre Arts / BFA Dance Program will provide a convening of artists to learn and share together through EVOLVE | montgomery. Taking place April 24 and 25, 2021, this virtual dance summit seeks to center and amplify the dance programs and groups of our Historically Black Colleges and Universities.

EVOLVE | montgomery invites IABD members, students, professionals, and aficionados to share their love for dance while expanding their technical proficiency and knowledge through this transformative dance experience. Shining a light on the marriage between band and concert dance - this virtual dance summit features technique and composition classes from both stages, symposia on the legacies and achievements of dancers from these very programs, as well as a performance opportunity. We are excited to preserve our legacies and present this unique program with Alabama State University. Classes are open to all levels.

The Dallas Cowboy Cheerleaders, Virginia Johnson of Dance Theatre of Harlem, The Rockettes, Ronald K. Brown, newly awarded Guggenheim Fellow Tommie-Waheed Evans, as well as a host of dance artists, who span twelve (12) genres, styles and techniques of dance will provide dancers the opportunity to cultivate their skills and enrich their understanding and appreciation of the art form. This experienced dance faculty has credits in television, film, Broadway, and set work on internationally-acclaimed dance companies.

The symposia explore a range of topics from a Hip Hop lecture with Rennie Harris, conversations with HBCU graduates who are professional dance artists, to a dialogue exploring the nuances in the cultural continuum and the legacy of dance education. These symposia will remind us of why representation matters and the excellence of our HBCUs.

EVOLVE is a two-day artist networking experience designed for the dance community in IABD member regions. True to IABD’s 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. Although virtual, EVOLVE | Montgomery seeks to inspire and engage dancers through a broader range of forms, styles and techniques of dance. We are excited to bring this unique program to the South. An experience you won’t forget!

Pre-registration is strongly encouraged. Day of registrants will be accommodated as space permits. Ticket prices are as follows: Dance Classes- Members $15, Non-Members $20/each; Performance Tickets- $15/each; Symposium Tickets- $15/each. For more information and to register, visit www.iabdassociation.org/evolve or email: programs@iabdassociation.org

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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 Alabama State University, Department of Theatre Arts / BFA Dance Program**
The mission of the BFA/Dance Program is to cultivate student’s creative, performance, and scholarly aptitude through exposure to diverse practical and philosophical approaches to dance studies. It will also develop and nurture their technical proficiency in various dance forms. The BFA/Dance Program provides a rigorous and comprehensive dance curriculum designed to produce high caliber, diverse, and technically proficient dance artists, who contribute to the field of dance regionally, nationally, and globally. With ballet, modern, African or Hip Hop as foundationally techniques, students can further choose jazz or tap as a focused elective. With comfortable classroom student to teacher ratios, individualized attention is given to each student’s professional dance development and unique talents within the BFA/Dance Program at Alabama State University. [www.alasu.edu/cvpa/theatre-arts/bfa-dance-program](http://www.alasu.edu/cvpa/theatre-arts/bfa-dance-program)