

For Immediate Release

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30 YEARS OF SERVING BLACK DANCE —IABD's Virtual 30th Anniversary Celebration

(Silver Spring, MD) The International Association of Blacks in Dance (IABD) presents 30 Years Of Serving Black Dance, a 12-month anniversary season celebrating IABD's role as the preeminent dance service organization and institutional voice for the Black Dance sector. We proudly honor the significant contributions, connections and influences that dance by people of African ancestry or origin have on the American and International cultural landscape. Over the last three decades, IABD has championed Black Dance voices through performance presentations, educational programming, networking opportunities, and scholarly activities. We celebrate our foresight and resilience to enrich the dance sector with the narratives of Black experiences. Join us in recognizing our legacy, our connections, our influence from 1991 and into the future, for many years to come.

Thirty years ago a group of dance artists came together in Denver, Colorado, where they shared their stories, dared to dream, and decided to formalize their annual gathering of Black Dance companies. A historic decision amongst this body would yield, The International Association of Blacks in Dance (IABD). These creatives and innovators imagined a place where the Black Dance experience would be revered, respected and preserved in the consciousness and cultural institutions of all people. A place where everyone was welcome, could come to see them perform, and be proud. A place where the caliber of the art would reflect the depth of their culture. With the leadership and presence of some of the most prominent individuals in the dance community, IABD has been a torch bearer for three decades.

In that time our members have hired, nurtured, and developed more dance artists of color than any other dance service organization. We have raised our voices in the fight for racial justice and social change. We have challenged our audiences to confront difficult issues and led them with compassion towards transformational dialogue and actionable outcomes. We have trained generations of young people in our many genres, styles and techniques of dance by people of African ancestry or origin. We have carried and kept the light burning and stand ready to pass it on to our next generation. We did more than build an association, we made a home for our family. And we're not done yet—thirty years is just the beginning.

Welcome to a brave and bright future for IABD. We invite you to celebrate our bold history, stand with us to dismantle the injustices of the present, and witness the power of dance to move us into future. IABD remains steadfast in its mission lifting us all toward the light of hope and change for the future.

Beginning January 2021, our celebration launches with an array of dance experiences and events that will commemorate the rich history and contributions from this organization to the dance industry. IABD will bring you the artists and companies you love, historic works from the Black Dance canon, dance classes in a diversity of genres, rich conversations from scholars and academics within the community, and so much more. We will be chronicling the story of how IABD came to be, illustrating the progress we have made towards achieving our mission, and recognizing our members and many partners who have been with us on this 30-year journey. Most importantly, we will shine a spotlight on the impact of IABD by affirming how DANCE has been our mode of survival and sustainability. There is something for everyone. At IABD, Dance Thrives Here. Let's Celebrate It!

Tickets are required for all events. Ticket prices range from \$3 to \$300. Your ticket, at any price level, includes access to all 30th Anniversary events throughout the entire year. Although IABD is a member organization, our virtual 30th Anniversary events are open to the public. Visit

www.iabdassociation.org/30years

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. The Association, founded in 1991, provides a network, formal newsletters, choreographers directory, published papers and is the *raison d'être* for the annual 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.

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