



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Contact: Denise Saunders Thompson
Email: info@iabdassociation.org

INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF BLACKS IN DANCE ANNOUNCES THREE NEW BOARD MEMBERS AND TWO NEW APPOINTMENTS

WASHINGTON, D.C. - The International Association of Blacks in Dance is pleased to announce the addition of three new [Next Generation Leaders](#) to the [Board of Directors](#): **Ayisha Morgan-Lee**, **Iquail Shaheed**, **E. Gaynell Sherrod, Ph.D.** The Board provides leadership for carrying out the Association's mission to preserve and promote dance by people of African ancestry or origin. Additional new Board appointments include **Yvonne Walker**, **Baltimore Dance Tech as Chairperson** and **Vivine Scarlett**, **dance Immersion as Secretary** of the 2017 Board of Directors.



At the age of twenty-one, [Ayisha Morgan-Lee](#) became the Founder, CEO, and Artistic Director of Hill Dance Academy Theatre (HDAT). As the CEO of HDAT, Ayisha oversees the Academy's fall, spring and 8 Week Summer Dance Intensive. Ayisha is an adjunct faculty member at City High School where she teaches Dance to seniors. In 2017, Ayisha was accepted into the University of Pittsburgh Doctoral Degree Program in the area of *Out of School Arts Education*. She was selected, in 2016 as one of 50 international and national leaders in the Arts to attend the yearlong program by the National Arts Strategies Chief Executive Program... Community and Culture at Harvard Business School, Michigan Ross School of Business & Ken Fischer Chief Executive Fellowship Fund. Since 2014, Ayisha has been a member of The International Association of Blacks in Dance's (IABD) Next Generation Leadership Program (NGL). The goal of the leadership program focuses on the development of arts leaders to insure the future of IABD.

Hailed in reviews as "a perfect example of his generation of male dancers... Technically superb and artistically infallible,"



[Iquail Shaheed](#) has enjoyed a career that personifies artistic versatility. He is a multi dimensional artist whose work successfully ranges through high caliber performance, teaching, choreography, and direction. Ignited by his passion as to use his art as activism, Shaheed is founder and executive artistic director of the Philadelphia-based company DANCE IQUAIL through which he creates new works and programs that centers on social justice. As a professional dancer, Iquail has worked with internationally acclaimed companies such as Compagnie Thor (Brussels), Sean Curran Company, Ronald K Brown/ Evidence, and the Fred Benjamin Dance Company. He has also appeared in various Broadway productions including

The Lion King, Hot Feet and Super Fly, in addition to credits in Motion Pictures, Television and Print. www.danceiquail.org



[E. Gaynell Sherrod, Ph.D.](#) began training with Kariamuw Welsh Asante and (the late) Pearl Reynolds, studying African-derived dance forms and the Dunham technique. Upon graduating from the University of Wisconsin-Madison with a BA in Psychology, she joined the dance faculty at the Buffalo Academy of Visual and Performing Arts, and subsequently pursued a career in dance performance. She joined the Philadelphia Dance Company (Philadanco), under the direction of Joan Meyers Brown, Founder and Artistic Director – and a host of acclaimed teachers and choreographers. After 15 years of performing, touring and teaching with such celebrated companies as PHILADANCO and URBAN BUSH WOMEN, Inc., she returned to school and earned a M.Ed. in dance education and an Ed.D. in dance pedagogy and theory from Temple University, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. In 2007, she was the recipient of the Temple University Alumni Fellow Award.

3400 14th Street, NW | Washington, D.C. | 20010
Phone (202) 899-3859 | info@iabdassociation.org | www.iabdassociation.org



“I am excited to welcome Ayisha, Iquail, and Gaynell to the Board of Directors,” says Denise Saunders Thompson, President and CEO. “Each of them brings deep knowledge and passion for the dance field and the desire to envision an ambitious future for the Association to meet the Black dance community’s growing needs. We are very fortunate to have them on the Board as we continue to strengthen the Association.”

For more information about **The International Association of Blacks in Dance** and its [30th Annual International Conference and Festival](#) hosted by [Lula Washington Dance Theatre](#) visit www.iabdassociation.org or call (202) 899-3859.

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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 such as administrators, artists, choreographers, dance companies, directors, educators, scholars, and those interested in artistry, black dance issues, and performance presentations. The Association, founded in 1991, provides a network, formal newsletters, choreographers directory, published papers and is the raison d’être for the annual conference. 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.