



PRESS RELEASE

April 2, 2021

**Department of Theatre Arts Dance Arts Program  
Virtually Presents  
2021 Annual Spring Dance Concert  
Breaking. Through. Discovering. Truth. Within.**

**Washington, D.C.** – Howard University, Department of Theatre Arts, Dance Arts Program proudly presents the annual 2021 Spring Dance Concert in a world premier dance film **Breaking. Through. Discovering. Truth. Within.** Featuring dance majors and minors, the annual dance concert brings together the best work produced by students, faculty, professional dancers and choreographers from across the nation, April 16 – 18, 2021, 6:00pm – 8:00pm EDT.

This year's concert will highlight dance's unique ability to bring awareness to societal issues and elevate the human condition. Through a variety of dance styles that do not conform to modern day constraints on body shape, size, dance style, and choreography, students will showcase their artistry and resilience to perform works by some of the country's most prominent choreographers, including highly celebrated Dancer, Choreographer, Educator, Hope Boykin and Emerging Choreographer to Watch, Rachel Harris. The program will also include a Senegalese African Dance piece by Professor Assane Konte, Artistic Director of KanKouran West African Dance Company and a student work by Junior Dance Major, Keishonna Belcher, originating from Dance Program Composition studies and class assignments.

Experience an evening filled with the raw power of dance, infused with originality, thoughtfulness, and beauty. Boykin states, "during the spring semester, the students, faculty, staff, and guest choreographers have continued to persevere through these once, unimaginable times. **Breaking. Through. Discovering. Truth. Within.**, exhibits real endurance displaying the strength of these young artists in a world they have been forced to see around us; uncovering the truths within us, discovering all we can be, as they break through to new."

Hope Boykin serves as Artistic Advisor and Guest Choreographer for the Spring Dance Concert as well as a guest lecturer to the Dance Program for the Spring semester. Rachel Harris, a graduate of the USC Gloria Kaufman School of Dance joins Boykin as they create three new works for the concert. Program Coordinator Royce Zackery in partnership with Supervising Producer Denise Saunders Thompson, of The International Association of Blacks in Dance, are working together to continue the program's legacy of creating, nurturing and developing the artist/scholar while providing connection to present-day dance artists, even throughout the raging and global pandemic.

COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES ~ DIVISION OF FINE ARTS  
DEPARTMENT OF THEATRE ARTS ~ DANCE ARTS PROGRAM  
2455 Sixth Street, NW - Washington, DC 20059  
[www.theatrearts.howard.edu](http://www.theatrearts.howard.edu)  
Tel (202) 806-7050 ~ Fax (202) 806-9193  
Press Contact: dominique.douglas1@howard.edu  
Dominique Douglas Hendricks- Assistant Artistic Director



All Dance Program weekend activities are free and include the following (all events are Eastern Time):

**Friday, April 16**

6:00pm – 7:00pm

Dance Class with Make Space Artists led by Rachel Harris

7:00pm – 8:00pm

Make Space Artists Panel w/Q&A

<https://www.instagram.com/makespaceartists/>

**Saturday, April 17**

6:00pm – 7:00pm

Dance Composition Class showing w/Q&A moderated by Hope Boykin

7:00pm – 8:00pm

2021 Annual Spring Dance Concert

**Sunday, April 18**

6:00pm – 6:45pm

Dance Concert Choreographers and Dancers Panel Discussion w/ Q&A

7:00pm – 8:00pm

2021 Annual Spring Dance Concert

8:00pm - 8:30pm

Panel Discussion & Q/A with Joshua Gaddy, Lailah LaRose, Annique Roberts moderated by Hope Boykin

**Breaking. Through. Discovering. Truth. Within.** combines all of the theoretical classroom instruction, studio techniques, rehearsal, and performance skills into a dance film premiering virtually on Facebook and YouTube, April 16 – 18, 2021 from 6:00pm – 8:00pm EDT. The 2021 Spring Dance Concert is supported by Friends of

Theatre and Dance at Howard University and The International Association of Blacks in Dance. Visit [www.https://theatrearts.howard.edu](https://theatrearts.howard.edu) for more information.

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### **About Howard University, Department of Theatre Arts**

Howard University's Department of Theatre, led by Interim Chair- Dr. Ofosuwa Abiola, is dedicated to the continued growth and development of African-American theatre by training competent professionals in the fields of Acting, Dance Arts, Musical Theatre, Theatre Arts Administration, and Theatre Technology. The Department is committed to fostering an environment that encourages research and experimentation in performance, thereby pioneering innovative forms of drama and dance that best enable African-American artists to speak in their own distinctive cultural voice. The 2020-2021 SanCOFA Season is being led by Artistic Director- Eric Ruffin and Assistant Artistic Director- Dominique Douglas Hendricks, with support from T.W. Starnes as SanCOFA Virtual Technical Director and Kevin Thorne II as Assistant to the Artistic Director [www.theatrearts.howard.edu](http://www.theatrearts.howard.edu) .

### **About Friends of Theatre and Dance at Howard University**

The mission of the Friends of Theatre and Dance at Howard University is to lead community support and service for the Department of Theatre Arts and its programming. Our efforts focus on scholarship fundraising, production support, and advocacy. Founded in 2015, Friends of Theatre and Dance at Howard University, Inc., is a non-profit 501(c)3 corporation that serves as a support organization to the Department of Theatre Arts and its programs, fostering a distinctive program for the study of the performing arts, benefiting the development of emerging artists, cultivating social engagement, and connecting with established professionals in the arts community. Contributions make it possible for Friends of Theatre and Dance at Howard University, Inc., (FOTD@HU) to expand its offerings and provide scholarships to great students. [www.fotdhu.wix.com/fotdhu](http://www.fotdhu.wix.com/fotdhu)

### **About The International Association of Blacks in Dance**

*The International Association of Blacks in Dance (IABD)* 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, dance-related personnel, directors, educators, scholars, students, teachers, and those interested in artistry, black dance issues and performance presentations. The Association 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. [www.iabdassociation.org](http://www.iabdassociation.org)

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