



Bates Dance Festival

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EDITORS: For images, and additional press materials and artist information, please visit: <http://www.batesdancefestival.org/about/press-room/> (**password: press**)

Eclectic 'DanceNOW' showcase sets the 2016 Bates Dance Festival in motion

LEWISTON, Maine -- A showcase featuring fresh voices from a new generation of dance makers opens the Bates Dance Festival's 2016 performance season.

"DanceNOW" takes place at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, July 9, at Bates College's air-conditioned Schaeffer Theatre, 329 College St.

Admission is \$20 for adults, \$15 for seniors and \$12 for students. Tickets are available at batestickets.com. For more information, please visit the festival website -- batesdancefestival.org -- or call the BDF box office at 207-786-6161.

A stylistic cornucopia, the evening comprises works by the rapidly rising New York company Dante Brown | Warehouse Dance; post-modernist Heidi Henderson/elephant JANE dance; New England choreographer Ali Kenner Brodsky & Co.; jazz and Broadway dance dynamo Courtney D. Jones; and hip-hop sensation Shakia Johnson.

Dante Brown makes compelling, theatrical work for his company, Warehouse Dance. Since 2014 they have appeared at Boston Contemporary Dance Festival, Dixon Place, LaMaMa Moves Festival, Movement Research at Judson Church, the New Museum, and Sam Houston State University, to name a few. Brown serves on the Bates Dance Festival faculty and has been a guest artist at Bates College.

Ali Kenner Brodsky & Co. is gaining recognition for their driven and gesture-rich works. A 2014 recipient of the Rhode Island State Council on the Arts Fellowship for

Choreography, Brodsky has presented her work in New York City at Joyce SoHo, the Puffin Room, DanceNow Festivals, WAX, Dixon Place and the Dumbo Dance Festival. She has been selected as a 2016 Emerging Choreographer at the Bates Dance Festival.

In Heidi Henderson's dances the neatness of minimalist art meets the messiness of life. Her company, elephant JANE dance, has been presented at the Provincetown Dance Festival, Rochester Fringe Festival, Land Community College and the Bates Dance Festival. Henderson is on the dance faculty at Connecticut College and the Bates festival.

Courtney D. Jones, one of Dance Magazine's "25 to Watch" in 2012, is a professional dancer, actress and teacher. She performed in Broadway's first national tour of "Wicked" in 2009 and performs frequently with the Houston Grand Opera, Houston Metropolitan Dance Company and Hope Stone, Inc. among others.

Shakia Johnson, a certified teacher with the National Dance Institute, has choreographed and directed more than 40 hip-hop, modern, African and lyrical works, including a work for the Celtics/NBA half-time show. Johnson has been a Bates Dance Festival student, emerging choreographer and guest teacher.

About the Bates Dance Festival

Founded in 1982 at Bates College, the Bates Dance Festival brings together an international community of contemporary choreographers, performers, educators and students in a cooperative community to study, perform and create new work.

The festival, taking place this year July 9 through Aug. 6, serves as an annual destination for artists, students and audiences to engage in a full range of activities and performances that foster a creative exchange of ideas, encourage exploration of new ground and provide access to a wide spectrum of dance and movement disciplines.

At press time, support for the 2016 season has been provided by Bates College, the National Endowment for the Arts, the New England Foundation for the Arts, National Performance Network, the Sequoia Foundation, Morton-Kelly Charitable Trust, the Shapiro Family Foundation, Norway Savings Bank, Center Street Dental, I.dres and generous individual donors.

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