



Bates Dance Festival

July 1, 2016

Contact: Laura Faure, Executive Director
207-786-6381 | bdypress@bates.edu

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

What's on tap at Bates Dance Festival? The award-winning Dorrance Dance

LEWISTON, Maine -- Lauded by The New Yorker "as one of the most imaginative tap choreographers working today," tap innovator Michelle Dorrance brings her company, Dorrance Dance, to the Bates Dance Festival for performances at 7:30 p.m. Thursday and Saturday, July 14 and 16, in Schaeffer Theatre, 329 College St.

Tickets are \$28 for adults, \$20 for seniors and \$14 for students. Online 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.

Prior to the performances, Dorrance offers a Show & Tell lecture-demonstration at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, July 12, also in Schaeffer. Additionally, dance writer Debra Cash offers an Inside Dance pre-performance lecture at 7 p.m. July 16, affording insight into the artists and their work.

Dorrance, who received a MacArthur "genius" award in 2015, presents excerpts from three award-winning works at Bates: "Blues in D," featuring Americana blues music by Muddy Waters, Etta James, Chris Whitley and Jimmy Reeves Jr.; "SOUNDspace," an acoustically cogent and rhythmically explosive exploration of footwork; and "ETM: The Initial Approach," a piece created with Bessie Award winner Nicholas Young that features breathtaking solos, duets and ensemble choreography.

This sampling of Dorrance's work, hailed as a groundbreaking contribution to the evolution of tap, pays homage to tradition while adding a contemporary edge. The

company features live music by the incomparable "American Idol" Top 20 finalist Aaron Marcellus, Greg "Big Prawn" Richardson and Donovan Dorrance.

Mentored by Gene Medler, Dorrance has performed with the North Carolina Youth Tap Ensemble, "STOMP," Savion Glover's "Ti Dii," Manhattan Tap, Barbara Duffy & Co., JazzTap Ensemble, Rumba Tap, Ayodele Casel's "Diary of a Tap Dancer," Mable Lee's "Dancing Ladies," Harold Cromer's original "Opus One," Derick Grant's "Imagine Tap!" and Jason Samuels Smith's "Charlie's Angels/Chasing the Bird."

Dorrance holds a bachelor of arts degree from New York University, teaches at Broadway Dance Center and has been featured on the covers of Dance Magazine and Dance Teacher Magazine.

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 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.

#