



May 14, 2015

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
MEDIA CONTACT: Missy Pfohl Smith
Email: biodance@frontiernet.net
Phone: 585-201-1002
www.biodance.org

BIO/DANCE and Social Justice
"BIO/DANCE AND SOCIAL JUSTICE" SERIES BEGINS MAY 29

Rochester, NY – BIODANCE begins its *BIO/DANCE and Social Justice* series later this month on May 29, 2015 with performances through the end of the year. Venues include Monroe Community Hospital, Community Place of Greater Rochester, Kinnections, Rush Rhees Library and more. The series was developed by BIODANCE's Artistic Director Missy Pfohl Smith, also the Director of the Program of Dance and Movement at University of Rochester, and is meant to provide a forum for choreographers and collaborative artists to create socially conscious work. Smith says, "Community engagement can take many forms. I see this series as a way to bring different communities of people together to experience art and dance, to listen to one another's perspectives and to engage in conversation. In my new choreography, *In/Difference*, I am thinking about how misunderstanding of difference serves as a divide and about how dangerous indifference can be in the world. Both the dance work and the series itself is meant to provide new exposure for different segments of the community to one another."

*Performances are free and open to the public. The dances will reflect themes of social justice and equality.

May 29*

Where: Monroe Community Hospital (435 East Henrietta Rd, Rochester, NY 14620) When: 10:30am

Help is needed to bring hospital residents down from their rooms to the auditorium (and then back afterwards). If you are interested in attending and willing and able to push a wheelchair, please plan on arriving around 10am. This is one way to provide access to the arts for those who may not otherwise have the experience. Please rsvp for planning purposes to mvan0423@gmail.com.

June 19*

Where: Community Place of Greater Rochester (145 Parsells Ave, Rochester, NY 14605)

When: 12:30pm

Join senior citizens from the Senior Center at Community Place to view the performance and engage in discussion.

September 11*

Where: Kinections (718 University Ave, Rochester, NY 14607) entrance facing Atlantic Ave

When: 7:00pm

October 16*

Where: Rush Rhees Library, University of Rochester

When: 12noon

First Niagara Rochester Fringe Festival

BIO/DANCE and Social Justice will appear at the Geva Theatre Center's Fielding Nextstage

Further dates in the greater Rochester area will be announced.

Artists sharing works:

Coalesce (Karah Charette, Lauren Sava, Olga Nikolayeva, Jenny Graham) Rochester, NY

Kathleen Dalton, Cleveland, OH

Donna Davenport, Geneva, NY (BIODANCE)

Liv Earle, Smithfield, RI (BIODANCE)

Kelly Johnson, Geneva, NY (BIODANCE)

Kelly Ferris Lester, Hattiesburg, MS

Jessica Moore, Buffalo, NY

Missy Pfohl Smith, Pittsford, NY (BIODANCE)

Allen Topolski (sculptor), Rochester, NY (BIODANCE)

Marcia Vanderlee/Umoja Drummers, Rochester, NY

This project, which also includes free weekly dance/movement workshops for urban seniors at Rochester Community Place, is generously supported by a \$5000 Decentralization Community Arts Grant newly administered by the Livingston Arts Council, with support from the New York State Council on the Arts, Governor Andrew Cuomo, and the New York State Legislature. BIODANCE is working towards raising an additional \$5000 to match this funding. To make a tax-deductible donation to support the project and help BIODANCE match the grant, simply visit: <http://www.biodance.org/contributions/> and thank you for your support!!

BIODANCE website: www.biodance.org, Phone: (585)-201-1002

BIODANCE Social Media: facebook.com/BIODANCE1 and Twitter: @BIODANCE1

NOTE TO MEDIA: Interviews and photos are available upon request.

BIODANCE is a contemporary dance company committed to artistic excellence in the creation and performance of socially conscious choreography/dance theatre, as well as to dance education and sharing the many facets of dance with a wide audience.

###