



Intersect: EVIDENCE, A Dance Company and TU DANCE Virtual Summer Intensive, August 3-8

Saint Paul, MN and New York City, NY (July 16, 2020). Evidence, A Dance Company and TU Dance join forces for a unique summer dance experience. The virtual summer intensive will consist of classes that include Modern, Contemporary African Dance and Ballet provided by TU Dance teaching artists including TU Dance Artistic Director Toni Pierce-Sands among others. EVIDENCE, A Dance Company Artistic director Ronald K. Brown and Associate Artistic Director Arcell Cabuag will lead students through the creative workshop.

The idea of this collaboration started as both companies' artistic directors, Toni Pierce-Sands from TU Dance and Ronald K. Brown from Evidence, A Dance Company, discussed the challenges of dancing in isolation while living through the pandemic as well as the social injustice issues our country and the world continue to face. An inspiring idea emerged from the conversation, in what both organizations imagine will be a very special summer experience for those interested in exploring TU Dance's holistic approach to dance training and the human experience in the African Diaspora that characterizes the work of Mr. Brown and Evidence, A Dance Company.

Teaching online has become a unique opportunity for both organizations. Although not ideal, teaching remotely through an online video platform will expand the cultural and dance experience for many and build community at a much larger scale.

“I’ve known Toni for many years, and I’m honored to be partnering with her and supporting her leadership during this Summer intensive and beyond...”, says Ronald K. Brown, Artistic Director of Evidence, A Dance Company.

“Who would have imagined that we will be teaching online? I’m extremely happy to have Ron and Arcell teaching in partnership with the teaching artists of The School at TU Dance Center. I’m deeply thankful for their support as we move forward as an organization. We hope that during this intensive week, the participants will have a transformational experience.” Added Toni Pierce-Sands, Artistic Director of TU Dance.

Intersect is scheduled for August 3-8, 2020 | Registration deadline: July 27.

Teaching Artists will include Toni Pierce-Sands, Ronald K. Brown, Kenna Cottman, Arcell Cabuag and Abdo Sayegh- Rodriguez. A limited number of scholarships will be offered. The intensive will conclude with a virtual open community class on Saturday, August 8.

For more information and to register visit <https://www.tudance.org/intersect>

About Evidence, a dance company

Founded by Ronald K. Brown in 1985 and based in Brooklyn, New York, Evidence, A Dance Company focuses on the seamless integration of traditional African dance with contemporary choreography and spoken word. Through work, Evidence provides a unique view of human struggles, tragedies, and triumphs. Brown uses movement as a way to reinforce the importance of community in African American culture and to acquaint audiences with the beauty of traditional African forms and rhythms. He is an advocate for the growth of the African American dance community and is instrumental in encouraging young dancers to choreograph and to develop careers in dance.

Evidence tours to some 25 communities in the United States and abroad to perform, teach master classes and conduct lecture/demonstrations for individuals of all ages. Evidence brings arts education and cultural connections to local communities that have historically lacked these experiences. Annually the company reaches an audience of more than 25,000. For more information go to evidencedance.com

About TU Dance

The award-winning TU Dance, under the direction of Toni Pierce-Sands, is known for its diverse artistic performances tackling important questions around gender, race, social justice, history, human resilience and more. Founded in 2004, TU Dance is acclaimed for its diverse and versatile artists, performing work that draws together modern dance, classical ballet, African-based and urban vernacular movements. In 2011, The School at TU Dance Center was formed and since then has served nearly 4,000 students and provided \$628,500 in scholarships through the TU Dance Access Fund and various grants. Through celebrated performances of the professional company and accessible dance education at TU Dance Center, TU Dance provides opportunities for everyone to experience the connective power of dance. For more information visit www.tudance.org.

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For questions or to request more information about *Intersect* Summer Intensive, please contact TU Dance Managing Director Abdo Sayegh-Rodriguez at abdo.sayegh@tudance.org or (612) 367-6681 or TU Dance School Director Laurel Keen at laurel.keen@tudance.org or (612) 440-9028.

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