

**IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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GROUNDWORKS DANCETHEATER FALL PERFORMANCE SERIES 2022

CLEVELAND, OH – Witness a visually stunning world premiere work by Pittsburgh-based choreographer **Pearlann Porter** to live music. **“The Visual Sound of Color”** utilizes Porter’s signature “postmodern-jazz improvography” movement style. It also features Porter’s innovative lighting concepts which illuminate the dancers in designed fields, bands, and gradients of 3-dimensional color. See and hear from Porter about her debut work for GroundWorks at https://youtu.be/pm_VrpvF5Kc

Also on *GroundWorks Fall Performance Series 2022* will be the world-premiere of the staged version of GroundWorks Executive Artistic Director **David Shimotakahara’s** dance film **“Transcendence”** (2022) incorporating both film and live performance. The work takes its inspiration from composer Olivier Messiaen’s poignant masterwork, “Quartet for the End of Time.” See an excerpt of “Transcendence” the film at <https://vimeo.com/690531071>

The *Fall Performance Series* shows kick off with GroundWorks’s debut at **Playhouse Square’s Outcalt Theatre, September 30 & October** . The theater’s 3-sided audience viewing configuration offers different perspectives on the dance works and lighting not often experienced.

Our *Fall Performance Series 2022* then concludes in Akron, Ohio on **October 7 & 8 at The Knight Stage at Akron Civic Theatre**. The intimate setting brings audiences up close to the action (Limited Seating).

MAKE IT A DAY OF DANCE IN AKRON

GroundWorks DanceTheater and DANCECleveland have joined forces for a special ticket offer. **See two shows for only \$40*** and get discounts on restaurants and more with this great package deal perfect for dance lovers.

First, experience **GroundWorks DanceTheater** at 3 pm at **The Knight Stage at Akron Civic Theatre** performing Pearlann Porter’s “The Visual Sound of Color” and David Shimotakahara’s dance film “Transcendence,” Then, in-between performances, take time to check out the free Akron Art Museum or grab a bite at El Patron Tequileria & Cuisine to receive 10% off your order by showing one of your tickets!

Then keep the evening going at The University of Akron’s **EJ Thomas Hall** for New-York-based **Gibney Company** presented by DANCECleveland at 7:30 pm. The company will perform three works including



“Oh Courage,” by Tony Award-winning choreographer Sonya Tayeh of So You Think You Can Dance fame, the Midwest premiere of Johan Inger’s “Bliss,” and an energetic dynamic trio titled “Lusus Naturae” choreographed by Dance Magazine featured Cover Artist, Rena Butler whose work “Sheep’s Gothic,” GroundWorks DanceTheater premiered this summer.

**Offer can be used on for either the GroundWorks DanceTheater October 7 or 8, 2022 performances in combination with the Gibney Company performance October 8, 2022*

If you would like to set up interviews to talk to Pearlan Porter, the musicians and/or David Shimotakahara or one of GroundWorks’s dancers, need photos or press comp tickets, please contact me ASAP at steve@groundworksdance.org.

FALL PERFORMANCE SERIES 2022 DETAILS

Playhouse Square’s Outcalt Theatre

Friday, September 30, 2022 | 7:30 p.m.

Saturday, October 1, 2022 | 7:30 p.m.

1407 Euclid Ave., Cleveland

Reserved Seating – \$25

Preferred Seating – \$30

playhousesquare.org/events

The Knight Stage at Akron Civic Theatre

Friday, October 7, 2022 | 7:30 p.m.

Saturday, October 8, 2022 | 3 p.m.

182 S. Main St., Akron

General Admission \$25

akroncivic.com/shows/578

For more information visit groundworksdance.org/fall2022

ABOUT PEARLANN PORTER

Pearlan Porter is an improvisational performing artist, visual-conductor, physical-poet and experimental filmmaker. She is a passionate instigator of new ideas in dance and an investigator of physical expression.

Pearlan is the Founding Artistic Director of the improvisationally-based dance company The Pillow Project (est. 2004) and is also the Founding Director of The Space Upstairs (est. 2006), where she and her partner John Lambert are permanent full-time Resident Artists and the regular hosts/creators of the long-running Second Saturdays jazz-happenings and The Invisible Jazz Labs scientist x artist improvisational-lecture series.

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Through The Pillow Project at The Space Upstairs, Pearlann often creates performances without the formal division of a traditional stage so that intimate, inclusive interactions can occur with her audiences, helping her in building a creative community in all directions. ‘Postmodern-Jazz Dance’, to her, is a verb and creation method. The Space Upstairs is both her laboratory for navigating artistic risks and her forum for innovating new audience experiences.

Pearlann continues to represent herself as a contemporary artist of a new American modern-jazz dance driven by the concept that jazz is a partnering of music with dancers as physical musicians: Dancers articulate sound into visual motion to share another live dimension of ‘jazzing the music’.

Pearlann has been teaching and creating from her own postmodern-jazz dance philosophy and improvisational language — THE ELLIPSIS CONDITION™ — for over 20 years. Through The Pillow Project, she has extensive creation and self-production experience, having entirely self-organized and produced large-scale performance events such as at The Hunt Armory (The Concept Album – 2005), the first-ever all-day dance event at The Carrie Furnace (The Jazz Furnace – 2013), and the recurring performance series on the public streets (Thought Pockets – Downtown Pittsburgh, NYC, Paris, London, Dublin). She has also autodidactically created two original video projection methods to illuminate her dance — “Luminography” and “Light-Specific Projection” — both which are simultaneously low-tech and visually unusual applications to lighting design for dance.

She holds a BFA in Dance from Point Park University where she has also been on dance faculty for 20+ years teaching postmodern-jazz improvisation, modern dance and dance composition. She has held artist residencies and/or created original work for The Dance Alloy Theater, August Wilson Center Dance Ensemble, Xpressions Dance Company, University of Southern Mississippi, University of Pittsburgh, Slippery Rock University, Dance Conservatory of Pittsburgh, Point Park University, LABCO Dance, and TEDxGrandviewAve. Pearlann was named one of Dance Magazine’s 25 To Watch in 2010, Pittsburgh Post Gazette’s Best in Dance (2008, 2010, 2012, 2013, 2014), Pittsburgh Magazine’s Best of the ‘Burgh (2013, 2018), and has been six-times nominated for the Carol R. Brown Creative Achievement Award.

ABOUT DAVID SHIMOTAKAHARA

Executive Artistic Director David Shimotakahara founded GroundWorks in 1998, determined to challenge the preconceptions about dance. This desire to push boundaries is evident in Shimotakahara’s bold initiative: To seek collaboration and input from guest choreographers of the highest caliber and to constantly evolve the repertoire of the company.

Over the past 15 years, GroundWorks has created and produced over 60 original works. Twenty-one of these have been commissioned from nationally and internationally renowned guest artists. In addition, Shimotakahara has contributed over 30 pieces to the company’s rep. His work is about here and now. He is interested in framing issues surrounding individuality, privacy, place, and connectivity through movement that speaks through its musicality and physicality.

Shimotakahara’s performance history includes: member of the Atlanta Ballet, Boston Repertory Ballet,



Kathryn Posin Dance Company, and Pittsburgh Ballet Theatre. He performed with Ohio Ballet under the direction of Heinz Poll from 1983-1999. He also served as Rehearsal Assistant for Ohio Ballet from 1989-1999. From 1989-97, Mr. Shimotakahara founded and was Director of New Steps. This acclaimed dance project offered a variety of programs that stimulated the creation and growth of new choreography in Northeast Ohio. Mr. Shimotakahara has choreographed for opera and theater with the Cleveland Opera, Great Lakes Theater Festival and the Dallas Theater Center. He served on the Carlisle Project advisory panel in 1996, and dance panels for the Ohio Arts Council, Illinois Arts Council, the Mid Atlantic Arts Alliance and the National Endowment for the Arts. He has received 7 Individual Artist Fellowships for

Choreography from the Ohio Arts Council from 1996 to 2012. In 1998, he received a McKnight Foundation Fellowship from the Minnesota Dance Alliance to create new work in the Minneapolis, St. Paul communities. Mr. Shimotakahara was awarded the 2000 Cleveland Arts Prize for Dance. In 2002 his work with GroundWorks DanceTheater was voted "One of 25 to Watch" by Dance Magazine. In 2007, he received the OhioDance award for Outstanding Contributions to the Advancement of the Dance Artform.

Mr. Shimotakahara was a 2008 recipient of the first COSE Arts and Business Innovation awards as the founder of GroundWorks DanceTheater. In 2010 Shimotakahara received a Creative Workforce Fellowship, a program of the Community Partnership for Arts and Culture, funded by Cuyahoga Arts and Culture.

ABOUT GROUNDWORKS DANCETHEATER

GroundWorks DanceTheater, founded by David Shimotakahara in 1998, is a contemporary dance company located in Northeast Ohio. Now in our 23rd season, GroundWorks DanceTheater is continually pushing

the boundaries of what is possible through dance by engaging, educating, and enlivening our community. We are committed to presenting unique opportunities for engaging the community through work-in-progress showings, masterclasses, artist talks, and educational outreach to school age children, college students, and senior adults, along with the development and presentation of new choreography and collaborations.

The Northeast Ohio-based company performs new works by Executive Artistic Director, David Shimotakahara, as well as commissioned work by nationally & internationally acclaimed choreographers including Eric Michael Handman, Rosie Herrera, Kate Weare, Robert Moses, Ronen Koresh, Dianne McIntyre, Lynne Taylor-Corbett, Adam Barruch, Gina Gibney, David Parker, Brian Brooks, James Gregg, & many others.

GroundWorks DanceTheater is proud to be Cleveland State University's Professional Dance Company in Residence

GroundWorks DanceTheater's annual programming is made possible with funding from The National Endowment for the Arts, The Ohio Arts Council, Cuyahoga County residents through Cuyahoga Arts & Culture, The Cleveland Foundation, The George Gund Foundation, The Toby Devan Lewis Philanthropic



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For more information, please visit www.groundworksdance.org or call 216-751-0088.

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