

"...an impressive display of raw intensity and serious abandon within their work. You were compelled to watch.... PHILADANCO! is well worth watching in the years to come, and I think we can all learn something from Joan Myers Brown." - *The Berkshire Edge*



"The dances in 'Success Stories strove to address the strength and healing of hope and faith. Philadanco's evening of dance sent the message that sharing pain can foster resistance, unity, growth, and success."
- *Broad Street Review*

PHILADANCO!

50th Year Anniversary in 2020 Celebrations Begin in 19-20 Season

PHILADANCO, under the artistic direction of its founder Joan Myers Brown, is often celebrated for its innovation, creativity, and preservation of African-American traditions through dance. It is internationally acclaimed for its signature blend of passion, athleticism, musicality, and technique. And now, **with the sell-out success of their summer performances in their first appearance at Jacob's Pillow in over 20 years (program features Ray Mercer's *Super 8!*, Anthony Burrell's *Endangered Species*, Gene Hill Sagan's *Suite en Bleu*, and Christopher Huggins' *Enemy Behind the Gate*) PHILADANCO paves the way in 2019 with exciting new repertory as we lead up to their 50th Anniversary in 2020.**

New Repertory

With nearly half a century's worth of repertory choreographed by some of modern dance's greatest legends, PHILADANCO, as "one of Philly's cultural gems," brings audiences of "all ages and cultural backgrounds together to experience the power of dance" (Steve Ramm). In 2018 the company celebrated the successful careers of PHILADANCO dance alumni with new works inspired by themes of oppression and spirituality. Recent additions to company's available repertory include Tommie Waheed Evans' *With(in)verse*, which focuses on gospel as desperation, showing how hitting rock bottom sometimes precedes redemption; Iquail Shaheed's *The Order*, a sweeping work with an epic score that explores gender roles; Hope Boykin's *Testimony: Evidence Given by a Witness (for Talley)*, a work focusing on the theme of sharing joy and suffering with a supportive faith community; and Anthony Burrell's *Endangered Species*, a spell-binding work that explores the criminalization of black masculinity.



An Audacious Hope Come True...

Special Residency Option

Nearly 50 years of performance and over 55 years of teaching means that Joan Myers Brown is responsible for a century of American dance. Featured in the recently acclaimed documentary film *Black Ballerina*, Brown offers dance presenters the option to focus on her biography, The Audacious Hope of the Black Ballerina, including special residency activities around the book and master classes to train the next generation of aspiring artists. Screenings of the *Black Ballerina* film can also be facilitated.

UPCOMING PERFORMANCES

November 16-18, 2018
Home Season
Kimmel Center for the Arts
Philadelphia, PA

APAP 2019
January 5 (1 - 3pm)
January 6 (5 - 7pm)
PMG Showcase
City Center Studio 4
New York, NY

January 25, 2019
Ballet Northwest
Minnaert Center
Olympia, WA

February 8, 2019
The Buckman Center
Memphis, TN

March 2, 2019
Longwood Gardens
Kennet Square, PA

March 21, 2019
University of
Southern California
Visions and Voices
Los Angeles, CA

April 12-14, 2019
Home Season
Kimmel Center for the Arts
Philadelphia, PA

April 24, 2019
WhiteBird
Portland, OR

PHILADANCO! Partial Repertory

The Philadelphia Dance Company (PHILADANCO) is approaching 50 years of repertory, choreographed by some of the greatest talent modern dance has seen. Works include:

A MOVEMENT FOR FIVE

5 dancers

Choreographer: Dawn Marie Bazemore

Music: Public Enemy and others

Choreographed by Philadanco! alumna, Dawn Marie Bazemore, *A Movement for Five* opens with Public Enemy's anthem "Fight the Power" blaring out, depicting the social landscape of the events involving the arrest of the so-called Central Park 5, young black men accused of sexually assaulting a woman in New York in 1989. This poignant work grabs the audience's attention from start to finish in both social justice content and powerful dance expression.

SUPER 8!

8 dancers

Choreographer: Ray Mercer

By turns exuberant and introspective, this high-energy piece is a great way to close out an evening program from PHILADANCO. It includes an emotional duet and male solo that will keep audiences on the edge of their seats and begging for more.

ENEMY BEHIND THE GATES

13 dancers

Choreographer: Christopher Huggins

Music: Steve Reich

Enemy Behind the Gate is a work that was inspired by enemies that live within our midst. THEY LOOK LIKE YOU...THEY ACT LIKE YOU...THEY LIVE LIKE YOU BUT, THEY ARE NOT ONE OF YOU. The Gate is not invincible but it's yours to secure. Set to the burning music of Steve Reich and danced by the explosive energy of PHILADANCO!.

GATE KEEPERS

6 dancers

Choreographer: Ronald K. Brown

Music/Original Score: Wunmi Olaiya

This ballet symbolizes the dancers as 'soldiers walking toward heaven, searching for the wounded and looking-out to make a safe haven for others to follow.' *Gate Keepers* is a story of homage, celebration and an acknowledgment of conscious continuity, interconnectedness, history, tradition and perseverance.



SUITE EN BLEU

8 dancers

Choreographer: Gene Hill Sagan

Music: George Frideric Handel & Johann Sebastian Bach

Choreographed by Gene Hill Sagan in Israel from the archives of Batsheva Dance Company with permission of the estate of Mr. Sagan, this neo-classical ballet danced by 8 dancers, challenges the audience with its framing balletic flavored pure dance movements set to the brilliant music of Handel & Bach.

FOLDED PRISM

Choreographer: Thang Dao

Music: John Levis

A full company work infusing the dreamlike choreographic imagery of Thang Dao set to a hypnotic original music compilation by John Levis.

**View trailers and clips at bit.ly/PMGYoutube
Technical Riders available at www.pmgartsmgt.com**