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BOWEN MCCAULEY DANCE CO. ANNOUNCES PARTNERSHIP WITH MARYLAND YOUTH BALLET FOR DANCE FOR PARKINSON'S DISEASE PROGRAM

Funding from Anonymous Donor Provides Seed Money to Secure Program for at Least Three Years

ARLINGTON, VA, May 5, 2021 — Bowen McCauley Dance Company (BMDC), an award-winning contemporary dance company with a legacy of community engagement, announces a partnership with Maryland Youth Ballet to continue free **Dance for Parkinson's Disease (Dance for PD®)** classes. Earlier this year, BMDC announced that their current 25th season will be its last, but this program will ensure that this essential community offering continues, thanks to a sizable anonymous donation. A faculty member at Maryland Youth Ballet (MYB) for three decades, this partnership will allow Lucy Bowen McCauley to continue teaching and sharing the joy of dance with people who have Parkinson's Disease.

Alyce Jenkins, Executive Director at **Maryland Youth Ballet** said, "MYB has enjoyed a long-standing relationship with Lucy as a faculty member and with BMDC, which it hosted as a resident company for over 20 years. We are thrilled to be able to again offer the Dance for Parkinson's Disease classes when COVID restrictions are lifted and it is safe to return in-studio."

Lucy has been leading Dance for PD classes for thirteen years. BMDC is the only Dance Company that is a licensed affiliate of the Mark Morris Dance Group's researched-backed Dance for PD program in the Mid-Atlantic region. Participants are empowered to explore movement and music, during which participants report a decrease in physical symptoms and improved psychological and emotional benefits. Since 2009, BMDC has served over 800 people living with Parkinson's as part of the program.

"As a BMDC's Artistic Director and a Dance for PD certified teaching artist, Lucy has been a passionate and tireless champion for dance experiences that are inclusive and accessible for people living with Parkinson's and other movement challenges," says David Leventhal, Program Director, Dance for PD at **Mark Morris Dance Group**. "Admirably, she has made Dance for PD an individual and organizational priority, and her talents, expertise and compassion continue to make an indelible impact on the region and beyond. We are so pleased that Lucy will be partnering with MYB to sustain a program that has become a lifeline for so many."

When COVID-19 hit last year, Lucy shifted her programming to free, online weekly Dance for PD classes. While she misses being in the studio in-person with her students, she has found that offering online classes has **dramatically increased access for participants**, who already struggle with social isolation, or simply feel more comfortable exploring movement from the comfort and privacy of their own homes. So much so, that she plans to continue with a hybrid online component once the pandemic restrictions are lifted. Currently, BMDC offers three, free weekly online Dance for PD classes along with on-demand classes available on the Company's Youtube channel.

The shift to online livestream performances is an additional opportunity for BMDC to fulfill its mission to “make contemporary dance accessible to all, through performances and community outreach activities,” and make exceptional artistic programming accessible to all. BMDC will be livestreaming its **Season Opening Performance – Live from the Kennedy Center for One Night** on May 26, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. Performed live and broadcast FREE via livestream, the season opener features three pieces that demonstrate the range of Lucy’s choreographic work: “**Trois Rêves**,” “**Dances of the Yogurt Maker**,” and “**Far Behind**.”

25TH SEASON EVENT SCHEDULE

BMDC Presents 25th Season Opening Performance (Virtual) – Live from the Kennedy Center for One Night

WEDNESDAY, MAY 26, 7:00 p.m.

FREE Online, RSVP requested

The LIVE virtual performance for BMDC will open with a reprise of “**Dances of the Yogurt Maker**,” Choreography by Lucy Bowen McCauley with music by Turkish Composer Erberk Eryilmaz. Lucy will also **premiere a new work**, “**Trois Rêves**” created for the COVID socially-distanced stage performance, set to Maurice Ravel’s **Gaspard de la Nuit**, featuring live piano by Nikola Paskalov.

The evening will begin with a pre-show discussion with Lucy and artists sharing their insights and thoughts on the evening’s performance. The virtual performance will follow at 7:30 p.m.

Two Artists Reunite for the Company’s Season 25 Finale

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 7:00 p.m.

The Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts - Eisenhower Theater

2700 F St NW, Washington, DC 20566

Bowen McCauley Dance Company closes out 25 Seasons at the Kennedy Center for the Silver Anniversary finale, a one-night performance featuring **three world premieres by Lucy Bowen McCauley** with live musical accompaniment.

The show will open with a reprise of “**Exuberant Fanfare**,” set to the music of Igor Stravinsky, *Suite Italienne* from *Pulcinella* and played live by violinist **Leonid Sushansky** and pianist **Carlos Cesar Rodriguez** of the **National Chamber Ensemble**. Guest artist **Manish Chauhan** will have his U.S. debut dancing a world premier solo, created by Israeli Choreographer **Igal Perry**. The first half of the program will close with “**Trois Rêves**,” set to Maurice Ravel’s *Gaspard de la Nuit* played live by pianist **Nikola Paskalov**.

After intermission, BMDC will premiere “**Imago**” set to six songs from German/Croatian Composer, **Nikola Glassl**, played live by the Composer’s grandson, **Nikola Paskalov**. Next, we present the **Kardelen Turkish Dance Ensemble** of Washington, DC for an authentic traditional Turkish Folk dance.

The final world premiere is an expanded collaboration between Lucy and Turkish Composer, Erberk Eryilmaz. “**Insistent Music**” is a rhythmic and choreographic tour de force set to a new composition, written especially for Lucy. The piece features eight Company dancers and five musicians from Hoppa Project that include: Evie Chen, Samuel Park, Laura Ann Krentzman, and Bree Ahern with Erberk on piano and percussion. The performance includes a full size backdrop brought to life by local Arlington artists painted especially for the dance piece.

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ABOUT BOWEN MCCAULEY DANCE COMPANY

Hailed by The Washington Post as “Metro DC’s premier contemporary dance company,” the award-winning Bowen McCauley Dance Company (BMDC) is renowned for its spirited dancers, use of live music, the professionalism of its dance performances and its extraordinary outreach programs for socio-economically diverse communities. For 25 years, BMDC has performed contemporary dance nationally and internationally, from Virginia to New York, and to China, Mexico, and Germany. BMDC’s community engagement programming, including the MOVE ME Festival, K-12 In-School Dance Residencies, and Dance for Parkinson’s Disease, have touched thousands of lives, fulfilling the organization’s mission to share the joy of dance with people of all ages and abilities.