



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
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Buscando La Melodia (Looking for the Melody)

March 18th, 2017 7:00pm \$15 - \$25

Jack Guidone Theatre, Joy of Motion Dance Center
5207 Wisconsin Ave NW, Washington, DC 20015

African drums form the "rolling bass" to Latin rhythms in *Buscando La Melodia*. A One-Night only performance culturally bridge together contemporary ballet, jazz, and Afro-modern dance with sultry and spicy jazz music of Black and Latin decent composer. *Buscando La Melodia* presents a perspective of contemporary ballet born to express the multitude of dance expressions through a multi-cultural lens.

The program is divided into two sections: Indigenous/Africa Calls, and Stories Meet Spice. Part A of program is designed around the sound of a people, with Part B driven by the musical sound of Fruko Y Sus Tesos, Dizzy Gillespie, Chano Pozo, Ledisí, and South America inspiration encapsulated by Ennio Morricone played by Yo Yo Ma.

An individual project funded in part by the DC Commission of the Arts and Humanities

Performing Works:

*Walk Down The Hall
*Bitter Blood
I Remember Me
Gira
*The Life
*Lose Yourself
*Beauty Only Knocks Once
Feeling Orange

*World Premieres

Dancers search for a way out, while building community in *Walk Down The Hall*. An ensemble of men find brotherhood and each other in *Bitter Blood*. A young woman surrenders to her challenges and creates a beautiful statement in *I Remember Me*, Brazilian choreographer Rafel Gomes's *Gira* brings home the sound and movement of Candomblé. Three "working girls" in prison adorn contemporary pointe work in *The Life*. A pas du deux filled with tenderness and thoughtful touches marry to *Gabriel's Oboe/The Mission* in *Beauty Only Knocks Once*. Ledisí's spicy score brings the African-American and Spanish experience together in *Feeling Orange*.

" As an African-American, I'm drawn to the sound of the drum. This project has shaped in many ways, with me focusing on various artists, styles, sounds, and musical regions. The one through line - no matter what- was the drum. I realized that a bit of Africa lives in me like others across the Americas. The amount of stories to tell are too great for one concert alone. We celebrate a small segment of the Americas (Black, Hispanic and Latino) through the life force of people of color. Ashe."

- Shawn Short, Choreographer/Director

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Named "One of the 11 small-but-mighty dance companies outside of LA and NYC" by Dance Spirit Magazine, Dissonance Dance Theatre is a Washington, DC-based professional dance company founded in 2007 by Shawn Short. Evoking emotional experiences in the audiences we touch, Dissonance's cutting-edge repertoire features works that are socially and visually appealing to audiences while remaining true to its mission; challenging audience's assumptions about the human experience through dance. DDT is the resident ballet company of parent organization Ngoma Center for Dance. Ngoma (N-GO-Mah) Center for Dance is a 501(c)3 arts organization whose mission is to provide a conduit between multicultural dance artists and their enthusiasts, across generations and social classes, with a deeper understanding of the art of dance through intense community integration, inspirational performance, competitive training, and artist development. For more information on visit www.ngcfddt.org.