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Charting New Territory. Dissonance Dance Theatre Opens 11th Season

With Season 11 beginning in a few weeks, Founder and Producing Artistic Director Shawn Short is charting a bold new future for his company, Dissonance Dance Theatre, which will include seven world premieres debuting across the region from Annandale, VA to Philadelphia, PA.

"There is a growing interest in Dissonance regionally," said Short. "We're pleased to be able to continue growing the company and exposing more and more dance enthusiasts to what we're doing. I believe our artists are ready, we have a rep that has matured and has a greater broad appeal."

Dissonance is recognized nationally and heralded for its dance style versatility and diverse roster of company artists. Ten of the 15 artists on the company roster have returned from the previous season, giving Dissonance a stable core of company dancers.

This season, Dissonance will continue to diversify its stable of choreographers. Short has commissioned new works from five guests choreographers:

- Kjara Starič Wurst of Slovenia;
- Edward Franklin, a former dancer with Alvin Ailey American Dance Theatre;
- Jamie Thompson, a Caribbean-born choreographer who founded LyveARTS International LLC, an international organization that is dedicated to cultivating and sustaining a global arts community;
- Broadway veteran Maleek Washington, a Broadway veteran who is Dissonance's 2017 New Voices of Dance recipient; and
- Philadelphia native Kareem Goodwin, who received Dissonance's inaugural New Voices of Dance commission last season.

The New Voices of Dance initiative was developed to highlight emerging choreographers in contemporary ballet and modern dance.

The works of Goodwin, Washington, and Wurst will debut in the company season opener, Fast Forward to Rewind, premiering at the Ernst Theater in Annandale, VA on Oct 7.

To learn more about DDT's exciting new season, productions, premieres, artists and more at https://issuu.com/sshort49/docs/ddt_season_brochure_2017-2018

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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.