

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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## **DC's Dissonance Dance Theatre Director Wins Best Dance Film in Cannes World Film Festival**

DDT Website: [www.ngcfdtdt.org](http://www.ngcfdtdt.org)

Media Company Website: [www.dogbarkmedia.com](http://www.dogbarkmedia.com)

Direct Video Trailer: <https://dogbarkmedia.com/mute/>

Vimeo On Demand Link: <https://vimeo.com/ondemand/mute>

Black Choreographer and now filmmaker Shawn Short wins Best Dance Film for his directorial debut on the dance documentary film *Mute: Dance Silenced by COVID*.

Created through Ngoma's exciting public/private partnership with Dog Bark Media, *Mute: Dance Silenced by COVID* is a short documentary of six US dancers and their experiences within the initial months of COVID. A "light on the other end of the tunnel" story, *Mute: Dance Silenced by COVID* also speaks on personal reactions to George Floyd's murder, artist unemployment, new hopes, and creativity. The film shot solely through cell phone footage features dancers from Dissonance Dance Theatre's COVID-inspired DDT Ambassador Project.

"As the world begins to wake from the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic, we need to be reminded of the joys that kept us going – the arts. The arts laid dark for many months, casting a sector of people from their livelihoods. *Mute: Dance Silenced by COVID* gives voice to dancers across regions and conversations, as they tell stories of simple life and complex reality, says Short. He further states, "Dance is not solely esoteric, but a digestible and essential part of every culture. This film provides a COVID "time capsule", one that shares the thoughts of an over-giving (but often undervalued) group of expressive human beings."

*Mute: Dance Silenced by COVID* is Vimeo On Demand streaming through July 25<sup>th</sup>, 2021.

The film is a winner in the Oniros Film Awards NYC. Shawn is the Founding Director of Dissonance Dance Theatre, the only self-proclaimed Black-managed contemporary ballet company between NYC and ATL; celebrating 15 years in Fall 2021.

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**Ngoma Center for Dance** (N-Go-mah) is a Washington, DC 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. Ngoma is the parent organization of professional company Dissonance Dance Theatre.