

deeply *rooted*
DANCE THEATER



*2018 Deeply Rooted Dance Theater
Press Kit*

Mission

Deeply Rooted Dance Theater (DRDT) re-imagines and diversifies the aesthetics of contemporary dance by uniting modern, classical, American, and African-American traditions in dance and storytelling. Through its uncompromising pursuit of excellence, DRDT demonstrates the transformative power of art and beauty in Chicago and on the world stage. It cultivates a creative community dedicated to nurturing artists, supporting collaboration and human relationships, and sharing common values.

Values

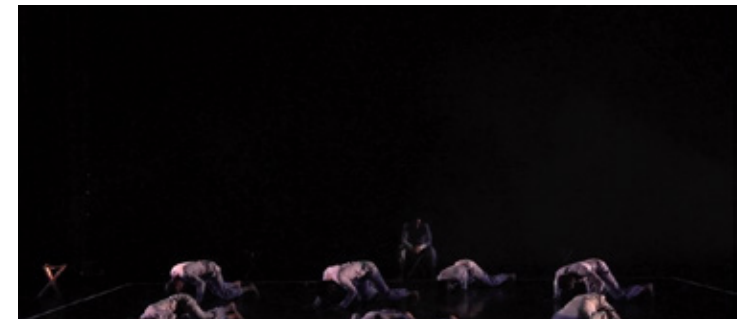
- ▲ We believe art is fundamental in forming community.
- ▲ We encourage individual brilliance and authentic voices.
- ▲ We recognize art's impact on society and the relationship between the aesthetic and the political.
- ▲ We strive to be ethical in our art and our lives.
- ▲ We endeavor to foster conditions for our artists and staff to aim high and be successful with sound financial management that supports growth.
- ▲ We commit ourselves to constructive and compassionate communication when in the midst of conflict.
- ▲ We find joy in working together, creating beauty, and being.

The Company



[Watch Video](#)

INDUMBA Excerpt



[Watch Video](#)



About

Chicago's Deeply Rooted Dance Theater is rooted in traditions of American and African-American dance, storytelling, and universal themes that spark a visceral experience and ignite an emotional response in diverse audiences worldwide. DRDT collaborates with nationally renowned choreographers, across the spectrum of modern, ballet, and African dance, to reflect contemporary voices.

In Chicago, the company has performed at numerous venues including the Auditorium Theatre, the Shubert Theatre, The Dance Center of Columbia College, The Harris Theater for Music, and Dance and The Reva and David Logan Center for the Arts.

Performances

Deeply Rooted Dance Theater performs nationally and internationally and regularly attracts diverse audiences. DRDT has performed at the New Jersey Performing Arts Center (Newark, NJ), the Apollo Theater (New York, NY) Brooklyn Academy of Music (Brooklyn, NY), Detroit Music Hall (Detroit, MI), National Performance Network Conference (Los Angeles, CA), Pepperdine University (Los Angeles, CA) and more. DRDT became the first U.S.-based dance company to perform in South Africa as part of JOMBA!, Africa's leading contemporary dance festival. The company has also performed in South Africa, Canada, Brazil, France, Germany, Italy, Spain and Switzerland.

THE ARTISTIC TEAM

Kevin Ilega Jeff



Co-Founder &
Artistic Director

Gary Abbott



Co-Founder &
Associate Artistic Director

Nicole Clarke-Springer



Nicole Clarke-Springer
Dance Education Director

Associate Artistic Team

Joshua L. Ishmon, Emerging Choreographers Showcase
Dereque Whithurs, Community Workshops

Board of Directors

Anjali Johnson, Board Chair
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Otis Richardson, Secretary
Gary Abbott, Associate Artistic Director
Jane Brownley
Nicole Clarke-Springer, Dance Education Director
Kevin Iega Jeff, Artistic Director
Rita McGuire, M.D.
Fred Miller
Philippe Ravanans

To become a Board Member or for more information email
info@deeplyrootedproductions.org

Dance Education

Summer Intensive

The Summer Dance Intensive (SDI) offers technical training and artistic development within the discipline of dance. Participants are exposed to a rigorous curriculum fostering learning and personal growth, along with opportunities to experience the company's repertoire through workshops and performances. The curriculum includes classes based in Horton, Graham, Ballet, African-Pyramatic, Body Conditioning, Contemporary Movement. The curriculum also features The Continuum, a three step process of self-awareness and growth.

[Click Here for more information about the Summer Intensive](#)

Youth Ensemble

Deeply Rooted Youth Ensemble is a training program led by Deeply Rooted's Artistic Team, company members, and select guest artists. Training in ballet, modern, African-based techniques, and repertory workshops, develops the dancer's technical skill and performance readiness.

[Click Here for more information about the Youth Ensemble](#)





Mature H.O.T. Women

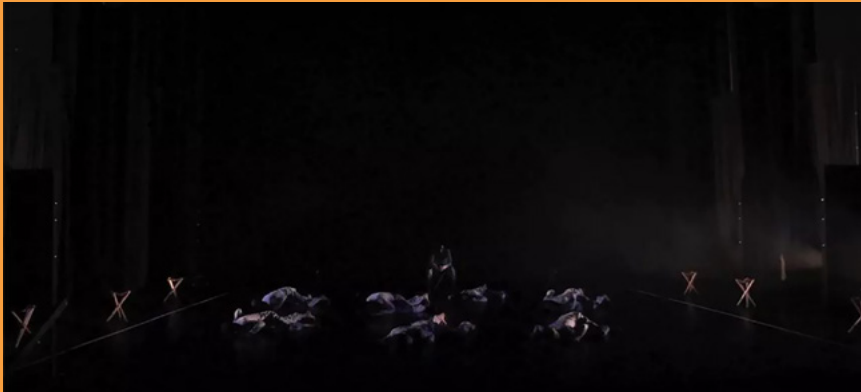
The Mature H.O.T Women program is designed for women who are Health-Conscious, Optimistic and Triumphant. The program provides technical training and repertory workshops to strengthen the body, challenge the mind, and nourish the spirit through a synergy of modern, ballet, and African dance techniques.

[Click Here for more information about Mature H.O.T.Women](#)

REPERTORY

INDUMBA

Choreographer Fana Tshabalala
Music Nicolas Aphane



[Watch Video](#)

In July 2017 South African choreographer Fana Tshabalala completed a three-week residency with Deeply Rooted Dance Theater to create an American-focused adaptation of his work INDUMBA, created to illuminate the perpetual impact of apartheid politics in his native South Africa. “Indumba” means African healing hut, promising a work of stirring resilience and reconciliation.

Femme

Choreographer Nicole Clarke-Springer
Music Nina Simone



[Watch Video](#)

A celebration of the allure, strength, courage and beauty of womanhood, set to music by Nina Simone.

In A Child's Eye

Choreographer Kevin Iga Jeff

Music Charles Gross, Stevie Wonder and Gustav Holtz



[Watch Video](#)

Strong colors, powerful emotions, passionate social views, finely etched in joyful, dynamic and soul-filled movement: these are some of the ingredients of In A Child's Eye, a work that tells the story of a young girl's dream journey to a flower community where she encounters a war between Good and Evil. Ultimately, Evil is destroyed, but resurrected as the community embraces the reality that Evil will always exist, and the need to co-exist with Evil is inevitable.

Desire

Choreographer Gary Abbott

Music Hans Zimmer, Geoff McCormack and Simon Goldberg



[Watch Video](#)

Steeped in the primal urge of attraction, Desire depicts three types of attractions: love at first sight, love of physical beauty and young love.

When Men

Choreographer Joshua L. Ishmon
Music Paolo Nutini



[Watch Video](#)

When Men explores the idea of abandoning stigmas to strengthen from within, set to music by Ananda Giri and Paolo Nutini and text by Charlie Chaplin.

Church of Nations

Choreographer Kevin Iega Jeff
Music Ennio Morricone and The Art Of Noise



[Watch Video](#)

Upon the U.S. invasion of Iraq in 1991, it was reported that President George Herbert Walker Bush consulted his spiritual advisor, who advised him that it was “Okay to go to war.” Church of Nations questions the impact of religious leaders who give consent to war in the name of God. The empty chair represents leaders who abstain from condoning the war.

Heaven

Choreographer Kevin Iega Jeff
Music Raymond Jones



[Watch Video](#)

Joy and humanity, clarity and resolve.

Bach'd

Choreographer Gary Abbott
Music Johann Sebastian Bach



[Watch Video](#)

Reflecting the timeless grace, passion, power and rhythmic qualities of Johann Sebastian Bach's compositions.

[Click Here to view the full repertory](#)

Dance Theater Schedule

Concert Performance (Full Tech)	A performance featuring selections from the company's repertoire	90 - 120 minutes
Mini Performance (Full Tech)	A performance featuring selections from the company's repertoire	30 - 60 minutes
Up Close & Personal Performances/Lecture Demonstrations (Low Tech)	A performance featuring selections from the company's repertoire with narration from guest choreographers and/or members of the artistic team	30 - 60 minutes
Guest Performances	One to four company members.	5 - 15 minutes
Master Class	DRDT Artistic Team member	90 - 120 minutes

Team Teaching	DRDT company members	40 - 90 minutes
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Brown Bag Discussion	Contextual creative discussions about the company's artistic process and work	60 minutes
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Dance Residency	A choreography and/or teaching residency led by an Artistic Team member or senior DRDT artist	6 working days over a 7 day period, at 6 hours per day unless otherwise approved
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Assisted Dance Residency	A choreography and/or teaching residency led by an Artistic Team member or senior DRDT artist, accompanied by an assistant	6 working days over a 7 day period, at 6 hours per day unless otherwise approved
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In School Teaching Artist	Chicago Public Schools and similar organizations	40 minutes - 1 hour
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Critical Acclaim

I simply could not take my eyes off
“Indumba.”...it’s the best of them we’ve ever
seen, packed with raw corporeality...

– Lauren Warnecke, *Chicago Tribune*

...the company has not just withstood, but it has
flourished during two decades of the country's
political, social and economic roller-coasters.

– Joanna Furnans, *Windy City Times*

Deeply Rooted Dance Theater performed a
program that was a balm for the soul. The
company, which celebrates twenty years this
season, danced powerful repertory pieces on
themes of love, endurance, courage, spirituality
and the strength of African-American
communities. ...Need to see the best in
humanity this weekend?

See this show.

– Sharon Hoyer, *Newcity*





Deeply Rooted's programs are partially supported by The Alphawood Foundation Chicago, The Arts Work Fund and Smart Growth program of The Chicago Community Trust, The Chicago Park District's Night Out in the Parks Program, The Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs and Special Events (DCASE), The Field Foundation, Ginger Farley Charitable Fund at The Chicago Community Foundation, The Gaylord and Dorothy Donnelley Foundation, The Irving Harris Foundation, The John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, The Illinois Arts Council Agency, The International Association of Blacks in Dance, The Joyce Foundation, The Martha Struthers Farley and Donald C. Farley, Jr. Family Foundation, The Richard H. Driehaus Foundation, The Trust for Mutual Understanding, and the Deeply Rooted Family of Friends. Special thanks to Ballet Chicago, Chicago Dancemakers Forum, The Chicago Park District, The Reva and David Logan Center and St. Benedict the African Church for their partnership and support.

Contact

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