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## Edisa Weeks/DELIRIOUS Dances presents *3 RITES:* *Liberty* at Dance Place

[WHAT: Dance Place presents Edisa Weeks/DELIRIOUS Dances: 3 Rites: Liberty](#)

**WHEN:** Saturday, March 9th at 7:30pm and Sunday, March 10th at 4:00pm

**WHERE:** Dance Place 3225 8th Street NE Washington, DC 20017

**TICKETS:** \$30 - General Admission, \$25 - Seniors (60 and over), \$20 - Artists and College Students, \$10 - Teens & Kids (17 and under)

**WASHINGTON, D.C. – *3 RITES: Life, Liberty, Happiness* by DELIRIOUS Dances / Edisa Weeks** is a trilogy featuring three interactive performance rituals that integrate dance, live music, text, visual installations, community discussions and shared meals to humorously and poignantly interrogate why life, liberty and happiness were included as unalienable rights in the United States Declaration of Independence. ***3 RITES* explores what the right to life, liberty, and happiness means today, who has access to these rights, and how they manifest in the body.**

The Liberty rite begins with an installation of roots made out of paper and twine that hang from the ceiling to floor. These roots were created as part of a [Roots Party](#) at Dance Place: a community gathering where people join Edisa Weeks in the journey of making 1,865 roots for the installation and performance of ***3 RITES: Liberty***. 1865 represents the last year of legalized chattel slavery in America. The audience moves through the maze of roots to eventually meet the Liberty character (Weeks), whose hair is braided to resemble the Statue of Liberty's crown. Each spoke of the hair crown is connected via tie-lines and pulleys to specific objects, (Bible, black dick, blonde wig, gun, lightbulb, sneakers, watermelon) that represent the Black experience in America. **In this rite, Weeks alternates between black face, white face, storytelling and visceral dance to dig into the pathologizing of African-Americans and the foundations of Liberty in America.**

*3 RITES* is produced by Maríya Wethers, and commissioned and presented by 651 ARTS, with co-commissioners Billie Holiday Theater, Kelly Strayhorn Theater, Mount Tremper Arts, and National Performance Network. This engagement of Edisa Weeks / DELIRIOUS Dances is made possible in part through the ArtsCONNECT program of Mid Atlantic Arts with support from the National Endowment for the Arts.

This performance contains mature themes and potentially triggering content about psychological and sexual violence. May not be appropriate for children under the age of 13.

Learn more and connect with Edisa Weeks/DELIRIOUS Dances by heading to their [website](#).

**Accessibility Services Offered:**

- ASL Interpretation available at the Saturday, March 9th performance
- Large print programs
- Accessible seating
- Accessible restrooms

**About the Director/Founder**

**Edisa Weeks** is a choreographer, educator, curator and founder of DELIRIOUS Dances. She creates multimedia interactive work that explores our deepest desires, darkest fears, and sweetest dreams. Her work has been performed in a variety of venues including the Brooklyn Botanic Garden, Works & Process at the Guggenheim Museum, and Mount Tremper Arts; as well as in swimming pools, storefront windows, senior centers, sidewalks and living rooms. Weeks grew up in Uganda, Papua New Guinea and Brooklyn, NY; has a BA from Brown University; and received a full fellowship to attend New York University's TISCH School of the Arts where she obtained an MFA in choreography. She has performed with Annie-B Parsons/Big Dance Theater, Bill T. Jones/Arnie Zane Dance Co., Dance Brazil, Homer Avila, Jane Comfort, Jon Kinzel, Muna Tseng, Reggie Wilson/Fist & Heel Performance Group, Sally Silvers, Spencer/Colton Dance, among others. In addition, she danced in the 2016 Bessie award-winning performance by The Skeleton Architecture. She is on the Board of Directors for Movement Research and is an Associate Professor of Dance at Queens College, where she teaches modern technique, improvisation, choreography, and mentors emerging artists.

**About Dance Place**

Rooted in the United States capital, Washington D.C., Dance Place supports movement artists by creating opportunities for creative development, performance, and education. By investing deeply in artists and centering those who have been systemically excluded from such opportunities, we strengthen the dance field.

**### END ###**