



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **Dance Place Honors DMV Dance Pioneers for Women’s History Month With *PRIME* Showcase**

*“PRIME: A Tribute to Returning Home” Showcases Legacy of Women in Dance, From One Generation to the Next*

**WASHINGTON, DC** (February 19, 2026): For Women’s History Month, Dance Place is hosting a special performance honoring the women whose ingenuity and leadership paved the way for artists, scholars, youth and community members home. *PRIME: A Tribute to Returning Home* will be held on Saturday, March 7 at 7PM, and Sunday, March 8 at 4 PM. Tickets to the shows can be purchased [here](#).

PRIME stands as a luminous tribute to the visionary women who built the foundation upon which DMV dance thrives today:

- **Carla Perlo**, Dance Place Founder and Director Emerita
- **Deborah Riley**, Dance Place Co-Director Emerita
- **Sylvia Soumah**, Dance Place’s African Dance Program Director and Griot/Artistic Director of Dance Africa DC
- **Carol Foster**, Founding Member of the International Association of Blacks in Dance

As part of the Sunday show, which falls on International Women’s Day, there will be a story circle with the very women being honored: Perlo, Riley, Soumah and Foster will share stories and anecdotes about their decades-long careers, ultimately leading to a reception post-show.

The evening will feature performances from **Sarah Beth Oppenheim**, **Dr. Ronya-Lee Anderson** and **Ama Law**, all of whom have deep ties to Dance Place. Oppenheim, the [2024-2025](#) Carla Perlo Fund for Choreography & Performance recipient, is a long-time Dance Place teaching artist; she is also the artistic director for Heart Stück Bernie, part of the inaugural cohort of Dance Place’s [Artist in Residency program](#). Anderson, a 2022-2024 Artist in Residence, is one of three [2025-2026 recipients](#) of the Carla Perlo Fund for Choreography & Performance. Law is a co-founder and co-director of Project ChARma, which has presented over several Dance Place seasons and is also a Dance Place teaching artist.

The curated collective of Oppenheim, Anderson and Law reflects Dance Place’s 45th season theme, *Home is Coming: Inspiration, Connection, Action*. At a time when many are looking for ways to continue supporting the arts in the DC region, Dance Place’s programming reflects an ongoing commitment to provide home for artists.

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### **About Dance Place**

Rooted in Washington, D.C., Dance Place supports movement artists by creating opportunities for creative development, performance, and education. The organization strengthens the dance field by investing deeply in artists and centering those who have been systemically excluded from it.