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Dance Place Announces 2025-2026 Season Programming

Dance Place Will Expand AFTER DARK Series, Host Commemorative Events Honoring Legacy Programs and More During Historic 45th Season

WASHINGTON, D.C. (July 21, 2025): On Wednesday, July 16, 2025, Dance Place announced its 2025-2026 season programming. With a theme of *Home is Coming: Inspiration, Connection and Action*, each artist, performance, residency, community event, and educational engagement this season serves to remind us that home is not just a place, but a *feeling*.

“In a world where belonging can feel out of reach, Dance Place welcomes you to rediscover what it truly means to be **home**,” said **Tariq O’Meally, Artistic Director of Dance Place**. “Our 45th season theme, “***Home Is Coming***,” acknowledges the complex realities of our time while envisioning a future built on compassion, creativity, and collective care. Through the transformative power of movement, we’re creating spaces where these feelings can flourish and where new forms of home can take root.”

Kicking off the season is Dance Place’s Spirit Week, a five day homecoming celebration taking place September 8-14. The week emphasizes connection through themed participation, local organization partnerships, ongoing installations like a community timeline, plus family-friendly activities including scavenger hunts and elder storytelling circles. Spirit Week blends Dance Place’s signature programming with festival-style energy.

Additional commemorative events will take place throughout the season, including:

- The *Dance Place Family Reunion*, led by Dance Place’s Founding Director Emerita, Carla Perlo and Co-Director Emerita, Deborah Riley.
- *Energizers Winter Sneaker Ball*, an unforgettable tribute to the youth, mentors, and community that have shaped the legacy of Dance Place’s Energizers Creative Arts Programs.
- *PRIME*, as a luminous tribute to the visionary women who built the foundation upon which DMV dance thrives today. This special evening honors the pioneering Architects of DMV Dance—Carla Perlo, Deborah Riley, Mama Sylvia Soumah, and Carol Foster—whose



creative ingenuity and unwavering tenacity forged new pathways for artists, youths, scholars, and community members to find their way home.

Dance Place has also announced the continuation of annual mainstays that highlight the incredible power of dance. Latinx Movement Festival, New Releases Choreographers Showcase will be on display, alongside the expansion of District Choreographers' Dance Festival and the much-anticipated return of DanceAfrica DC.

Dance Place will also continue its AFTER DARK programming, which formally launches this week through a collaboration with Metro Cabaret Club. *Backseat Boogie: A 90s Burlesque Cabaret Show* marks the debut of *Dance Place AFTER DARK*, a new series of late-night gatherings that offer a relaxed and social atmosphere.

“*Backseat Boogie* is the perfect event to premier Dance Place’s AFTER DARK series,” said Tariq O’Meally, Artistic Director of Dance Place. “We’re excited to feature informal performances, music, and opportunities to connect with artists and fellow community members in a more intimate setting.”

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.

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