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Dance Place Presents *Reorient the Orient* from Lionel Popkin *Dance Place Introduces Immersive Exhibition Art During Historic 45th Season*

WASHINGTON, D.C. (September 15, 2025): Dance Place is proud to present *Reorient the Orient*, a unique blend of performance, art installation, and social commentary, on October 3 and 4, 2025. Choreographed by Lionel Popkin and first presented at the Roy and Edna Disney CalArts Theater (REDCAT), *Reorient the Orient* will transform Dance Place's lobby, blackbox theatre and studios into an immersive, walk-through exhibit. Tickets are available for purchase [here](#).

Similar to other exhibits in the DC-area, attendees will have the opportunity to create their own experience, ultimately choosing what to see and where to be within Popkin's thought-provoking world. Visitors will wander through Dance Place's entire campus to discover dancers, videos, archival materials, sculptures, and surprising elements like neon yellow balls and an elephant headpiece. Each audio and visual element has been curated to support Popkin's vision as he draws on 30 years of dance to explore the representation of South Asian artists in contemporary art.

"With *Reorient the Orient*, I am not interested in perpetuating imagery that promotes an orientalist fantasy, homeland nostalgia, assimilationist whitewashing, the invisibilizing of Asian contributions, or contributes to the mirage of authenticity," said Popkin in a statement. "Instead, I am investigating imagery that focuses on the trust, support, and risk necessary to survive the complex experiences of brown bodies within the American art world."

The exhibition of *Reorient the Orient* aligns with Dance Place's ongoing dedication to supporting movement artists by creating opportunities for creative development, performance, and education. Popkin previously developed this piece during Dance Place's 2024-2025 season, responding to the complex history of interculturalism and amplifying the presence of brown South Asian bodies in contemporary art and performance.

Reorient the Orient is the recipient of a National Performance Network (NPN) commission with REDCAT in Los Angeles as the lead commissioner and Dance Place in DC as a co-commissioner. Additional funds come from the UCLA Council on Research, The UCLA Chancellor's Arts Initiative, the National Performance Network's Storytelling and Documentation Fund, and the Mellon Foundation.

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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