

For immediate release:

Media Contact:

Cassie Gholston; 512.232.5301; gholston@austin.utexas.edu

Gene Bartholomew; 512.471.0632; gbartholomew@TexasPerformingArts.org

Images Available At:

http://tinyurl.com/pjxh6g3

Password: media

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN DEPARTMENT OF THEATRE & DANCE PRESENTS MOVE!

A COLLECTION OF DANCE WORKS BY RENOWNED CHOREOGRAPHERS SIDRA BELL, KATE WATSON-WALLACE AND YACOV SHARIR

MARCH 6-14, 2015 AT THE OSCAR G. BROCKETT THEATRE

Under the direction of Charles O. Anderson, Andrea Beckham and Yacov Sharir, The University of Texas at Austin's award-winning dance company Dance Repertory Theatre is going "downtown" this season, presenting experimental, contemporary works inspired by New York City's "downtown dance" scene. *MOVE!*, a collection of works by nationally acclaimed choreographers including Sidra Bell, Kate Watson-Wallace and Yacov Sharir, runs March 6-14 at the Oscar G. Brockett Theatre.

"The works of this concert run the gamut in terms of movement – pedestrian, idiosyncratic, neo-classical, virtual and virtuosic. As an expressive art form, dance has always been a means to record history, shape culture, cultivate imagination, and harness individual and social transformation," shares Co-Artistic Director Charles O. Anderson. "It is not only a means to generate awareness or to celebrate classist notions of 'beauty' or

to entertain; it can also be a catalyst to engage community members to take action around a social issue."

Highlights of the dance concert include Kate Watson-Wallace's Wildness: a requiem for Jamaal Muhammad, a reflection on the murder of a young African American man. Watson-Wallace is a choreographer and visual artist based in New York and Philadelphia. She co-directs anonymous bodies with Jaamil Kosoko. They have shown work at venues nationally, including: The Philadelphia Live Arts Festival, Joyce SoHo, Dance Theater Workshop, Dance Place, ODC Dance, Velocity Dance, Movement Research at Judson Church, and Kelly Strayhorn Theater. She has received numerous awards for her choreography including: a Pew Fellowship in the Arts, two Map Fund Grants and a Doris Duke Exploration grant through Creative Capital.

"Watson-Wallace has a gift for making pockets of space fill infinite... wild imagination ruled."

- The New York Times

Sidra Bell's schematic focuses on pure movement, showcasing the dancers' exploration of self from the inside out. The artistic director of Sidra Bell Dance New York and a master lecturer at the University of the Arts (Philadelphia), Bell's choreography has been seen throughout the United States and internationally in Denmark, France, Austria, Turkey, Germany, China, Canada, Aruba, Korea, Brazil and Greece. She was awarded a 1st Prize for Choreography for *Grief Point*. at the 15th Internationales Solo Tanz Theater Festival in Stuttgart, Germany (2011) and the Patricia Kerr Ross Award for Choreography from New York Foundation for the Arts (2005).

"Bell has a lot working in her favor: powerful, daredevil dancers and an almost garish imagination capable of dreaming up surreal scenarios... a slick intensity dominates her onstage worlds."

— The New York Times

Other work includes University of Texas at Austin Professor Yacov Sharir's AdMortuos, an examination of virtual environments, cyberspace and computerized choreography. The founder of American Deaf Dance Company and Sharir Dance Company, he is a recipient of numerous National Endowment for the Arts Choreographic Fellowship awards, a Meet the Composer/Choreographer National Grant award and The University of Texas College of Fine Arts Student Council Teaching Excellence Award.

Choreography by University of Texas at Austin students Jun Shen (M.F.A. in Dance candidate), Jessica Gray (B.F.A. in Dance candidate) and Kelsey Oliver (B.F.A. in Dance candidate) will also be featured.

PROGRAM

Dance Repertory Theatre presents MOVE!
Artistic Directors: Charles O. Anderson, Andrea Beckham, Yacov Sharir

Moving Stories I: Prelude

AdMortuos

By Yacov Sharir in collaboration with the dancers

Paix
By Kelsey Oliver

Moving Stories II: Entr'act-Five By Jessica Gray

schematic
By Sidra Bell in collaboration with the dancers

Independence Day By Jun Shen

Moving Stories III: Turning the Page

Wildness: a requiem for Jamaal Muhammad By Kate Watson-Wallace

For more information on MOVE!, please visit <u>texasperformingarts.org/event/move-ut-austin-theatre-dance</u>

CALENDAR LISTING:

March 6-14, 2015 – The University of Texas at Austin Department of Theatre and Dance presents MOVE! at the Oscar G. Brockett Theatre (300 E. 23rd Street). A map of the campus: wtexas.edu/finearts/tad/season-tickets/map-directions-parking
Performance times are March 6-7, 12-14 at 7:30 p.m. and March 8 at 2:00 p.m. Tickets (\$25 adults, \$20 UT faculty & staff, \$15 student) are now on sale at authorized ticket outlets, which include the Bass Concert Hall Box Office, most H-E-B stores and all Texas Box Office outlets, online at JoinTheDrama.org, or by calling (512) 477-6060 or (800) 982-BEVO. In addition, Texas Theatre and Dance is pleased to present a free performance of MOVE! on March 7 at 2:00 p.m. in conjunction with Explore UT, the biggest open house in Texas.

ABOUT TEXAS THEATRE AND DANCE

The University of Texas at Austin Department of Theatre and Dance is a world-class educational environment that serves as the ultimate creative incubator for the next generation of artists, thinkers and leaders in theatre and performance.

ALSO THIS SEASON

Refugia

An original idea developed by The Moving Company B. Iden Payne Theatre February 12-15, 2015

Enter a Woman, Pretty Enough

Premiere of a new play by Diana Lynn Small Oscar G. Brockett Theatre

March 27-April 3, 2015

The Cohen New Works Festival Presented by Broadway Bank April 13-17, 2015

###