



ANNENBERG  
CENTER  
— P R E S E N T S —

# PHILADANCO

Thursday, October 29 @ 7 PM

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**Founder, Executive/Artistic Director** Joan Myers Brown DFA, DHL, DA

**Assistant Artistic Director** Kim Y. Bears-Bailey

**Artistic Administrative Assistant/Touring Director** Marlisa J. Brown-Swint

**Rehearsal Director/Coach** Debora Chase-Hicks

**Stage Manager & Tour Lighting Director** Melody Beal

**Dancers** Janine Beckles, Joe González

# PROGRAM

## ***With-Held***

**Choreography** Janine Beckles, Joe González

**Music** Ólafur Arnalds

**Dancers** Janine Beckles, Joe González

This duet questions how to hold on to someone while being withheld from them.

## ***Rosa*** (excerpt)

**Choreography** Billy Wilson

**Music** Roberta Flack

**Costume** Natasha Guruleva

**Dancer** Janine Beckles

*Rosa* is a vivid tribute to Rosa Parks, the civil rights activist of the 60's who refused to sit in the segregated back of the bus in Montgomery, Alabama.

## ***Section II – For Five***

(Excerpt from *A Movement for Five*)

**Choreography** Dawn Marie Bazemore

**Music** Sigur Rós

**Costume** Natasha Guruleva

**Dancer** Joe González

Inspired by the events surrounding the “Central Park Five,” *A Movement for Five* aims to uncover the structure of a community and socio-political system that failed to protect the lives of five innocent young boys living in Harlem in 1989.

## ***Super 8!*** (excerpt)

**Choreography** Ray Mercer

**Music** Bonji Duma (original score), John Powell

**Costume** Natasha Guruleva

**Dancers** Janine Beckles, Joe González

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## ABOUT THE ARTISTS

### **Janine Beckles (Dancer/Choreographer)**

A native of New York City, Beckles started dancing at the age of six at Dance Theatre of Harlem, where she stayed for eight years under a fellowship scholarship. She then continued her training at LaGuardia High School and the Ailey School (performing *Memoria*, *Hymn* and *Revelations*), both on full scholarship. She received a BFA in dance performance and a BA in sociology from Southern Methodist University in Dallas, TX, where she also became a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.

Beckles was a National Foundation on the Arts award recipient in modern dance and a member of Dallas Black Dance Theatre for five years. Beckles has also done commercial work as a dancer for Beyoncé in the 2016 MTV Video Music Awards. For the 2018-19 season, she was selected as a Visiting Teaching Fellow for the School of American Ballet and is currently a lead dancer and company Graham teacher for PHILADANCO, where she is entering her 10th season. While on tour, Beckles has taught masterclasses at USC Kaufman, UMass Amherst, UNC and other universities and colleges. Most recently, Beckles became the newest board member of the Philadelphia Volunteer Lawyers Association and completed the Martha Graham Teacher Workshop this past June. She is currently in graduate school studying to obtain her MBA with a concentration on leadership.

### **Joe González (Dancer/Choreographer)**

Born and raised in Boston, González started dancing at the age of 13 at the Roxbury Center for the Performing Arts. He is a graduate of the Boston Arts Academy where he was a dance major. He participated in programs such as Boston Conservatory's Summer Dance Intensive, the American Dance Festival, Bates Dance Festival and Springboard Danse Montréal in 2010 and 2011. González received his BFA from Boston Conservatory where he premiered several works in choreography showcases. He also premiered two commissioned works at Bryn Mawr College in 2018 and 2020. González currently tours nationally and internationally as a performing artist with PHILADANCO and with Jo-Mé Dance, a company he co-founded to promote cooperative diversity and cultural awareness in the dance community. He has previously toured and performed for Anna Myer and Dancers, Prometheus Dance, Dawn Marie Bazemore's #dbdanceproject, the Putty Dance Project, Dance Iquail and Waheed-Works, founded by PHILADANCO artist-in-residence Tommie-Waheed Evans. While he continues to work as a performing artist and choreographer, González also currently serves as Executive Artistic Director and Choreographer for Jo-Mé Dance, Artistic Director of PHILADANCO's D/3 Youth Ensemble, an adjunct dance professor at Temple University and a dance educator at the Boston Arts Academy.

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## **ABOUT THE COMPANY**

The award-winning Philadelphia Dance Company (PHILADANCO), a resident company of the Kimmel Center, is currently in its 50th anniversary season, celebrating over 50 years of providing brilliant dance performances and exceptional dance training to audiences and dancers throughout the U.S. and around the world. Continuing its original mission "to present the highest quality of professional dance performance and to provide exceptional training for the improvement of skills for emerging professional dancers and choreographers in a nurturing environment while increasing the appreciation of dance among its many communities," PHILADANCO survives and thrives despite the current economic climate as it moves gracefully into its next decade.

Since its inception in 1970, PHILADANCO has had a significant impact on the dance world. As a cultural ambassador representing the U.S., the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and the city of Philadelphia, its artistic direction and renowned national and international guest choreographers have developed a reputation of producing a dance repertory with passion, power, skill and diversity. A stellar faculty (handpicked by Joan Myers Brown, founder of PHILADANCO) has trained over 4,500 dancers in a comprehensive program achieving the highest level of technical skills in dance and

performance. PHILADANCO'S unique blend of dance styles, a roster of 50-60 concert performances and approximately 45 annual residencies have made them one of the most sought-after modern dance companies in the country.

The company has received countless recognitions including a National Endowment for the Arts Fellowship and the prestigious National Choreography Planning Grant. In 1988, PHILADANCO made history when it organized the first two International Conferences for Black Dance Companies in Philadelphia. Since then, more than 600 people have assembled annually for the International Conference on Black Dance, headed by the International Association of Blacks in Dance. PHILADANCO has regularly engaged with the community through Drexel University, the University of Pennsylvania, the Annenberg Center, Breaking Barriers and others. Other notable collaborative successes include *James Brown: Get on the Good Foot* with The Apollo Theater Foundation, Inc. and *Straight Outta Philly* with Rennie Harris Puremovement.

PHILADANCO continues to provide quality arts instruction to young people through authentic learning experiences that engage the mind, heart and body. Its record of performing opportunities, commissioned works and life-changing experiences has left a remarkable legacy in Philadelphia.

"PHILADANCO's dancers are a miracle of skill and energy. They work in a range of idioms most companies don't even try to possess... A company that can do more than just anything. It can represent the possibilities of human spirit through dance."  
- *Dance Magazine*

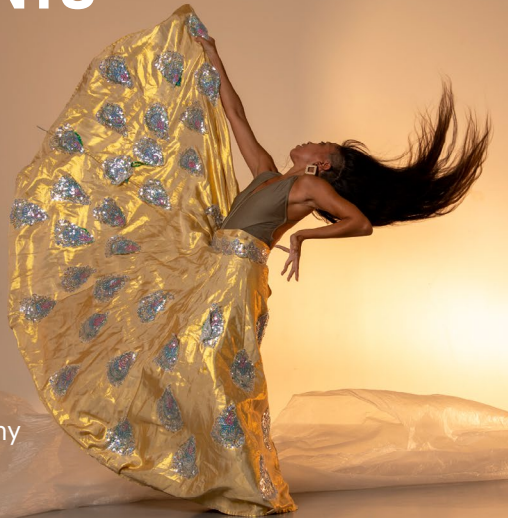
## UPCOMING EVENTS

### November

- 12 Veronica Swift
- 13 Aviva
- 15 Meg Bragle, Mezzo-soprano  
and Richard Stone, Lute
- 19 Kun-Yang Lin/Dancers
- 20 *My Darling Vivian*

### December

- 4 *Two Beats One Soul*
- 10 Martha Graham Dance Company
- 17 Sullivan Fortner



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