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Hostos Center for the Arts and Culture presents

Bennyroyce Dance

The Contemporary Dance Company Premieres “1000 Full Moons” and Other New Works
Thursday, April 21, 2016 at 7:30 pm

[LINK TO PHOTOS](#)

Presented as part of the CUNY Dance Initiative

(Bronx, NY) – As part of the CUNY Dance Initiative, the Hostos Center for the Arts and Culture presents the premiere of Bennyroyce Dance’s “1000 Full Moons” and other works for the Company’s performance on Thursday, April 21, 2016 at 7:30pm in the Repertory Theater of Hostos Community College, located at 450 Grand Concourse in the Bronx.

Tickets are \$10 and can be purchased by calling (718) 518-4455 or online at www.hostoscenter.org. Box Office window hours are Mon. – Fri., 1 PM to 4 PM. Hostos Community College can be reached by the IRT 2, 4, 5, and busses Bx1, Bx2, Bx19 to East 149th Street and the Grand Concourse.

Bennyroyce Dance, the Brooklyn-based contemporary dance company under the artistic leadership of Filipino-American dancer and choreographer Bennyroyce Royon, returns for the company’s second consecutive CUNY Dance Initiative residency at Hostos Center for the Arts & Culture. The company of diverse and talented dancers presents the premiere of Bennyroyce Royon's theatrical new work "1000 Full Moons" set to a suite of music by Glenn Miller, Etta James and others. Royon will also unveil the completed version of "Undertow," expanding on the original excerpt presented at Hostos in 2015 and set to richly layered electronic music by Kangding Ray.

Artistic Associate and choreographer Marie Zvosec premieres "Viriditas," a dance for three women inspired by the spirit and music of 12th century abbess Hildegard von Bingen. The company is proud to announce that the legendary former Alvin Ailey dancer Elizabeth Roxas-Dobrish has created a new duet “Use Me” featuring Royon and Zvosec, set to music by Bill Withers.

The company consists of Artistic Director Bennyroyce Royon, Kendrick Carter, Aurélien Peillex, Allison Sale, Lynda Senisi, Gabriela Soto, and Marie Zvosec. Motion Graphics and Animation Design by Rodrigo Ribeiro. Lighting Design by Josh Monroe. Costume Design by Ryan Lee Maslin and Patrick Saint Jean.

As part of his commitment to education, Royon will work with a select group of Hostos students with little or no dance experience, who will be given a movement score consisting of a list of tasks that will encourage collaboration, innovation and creativity to create a short theatrical dance as part of the April 21 program. The student participants include Stephanie Suarez, Yolayni Nuñez, Rosalba Vázquez, Vanessa Mendoza and Gabrielle Guerrero.

Royon founded Bennyroyce Dance in 2010 and has since led the troupe to perform at theaters and dance festivals in New York City, Seattle, New Orleans, Cleveland and Oberlin, Ohio. Royon holds a BFA in Dance from The Juilliard School. While at Juilliard, he danced notable works by Jose Limon, Paul Taylor, and Mark Morris, and world premieres by Jessica Lang, Jacquelyn Buglisi, Ron Brown, Eliot Feld, Alan Hineline, and Jill Johnson. Royon has worked with distinguished choreographers such as Karole Armitage, Azure Barton, Sidra Bell, and Carolyn Dorfman, and has performed with numerous acclaimed dance companies in New York City including Armitage Gone! Dance, Carolyn Dorfman Dance, The Metropolitan Opera Ballet, and Sidra Bell Dance New York. He is a founding member of Rasta Thomas' all-male dance company Bad Boys of Dance.

As a dancemaker, Royon has received choreographic commissions from Marymount Manhattan College, Point Park University, Princeton University Ballet, Atlanta Ballet, Bad Boys of Dance, Columbia Ballet Collaborative, Harvard Ballet Company, The Joffrey Academy of Dance, The Juilliard School (Senior Dance Showcase), and Velocity Dance Center among others. Royon is currently dancing on Broadway in Lincoln Center Theater's Tony Award-winning revival of *The King and I*.

About the CUNY Dance Initiative

The CUNY Dance Initiative (CDI) is a new residency program that opens the doors of CUNY campuses to New York City choreographers and dance companies. Developed in response to the shortage of affordable rehearsal space in New York City, CDI aims to support local artists, enhance college students' cultural life and education, and build new audiences for dance at CUNY performing arts centers. In 2016, 12 CUNY colleges in all five boroughs are hosting [23 artists](#), from emerging choreographers to established dance companies. In addition to providing space for artists to create work, the residencies include master classes and open rehearsals specifically for students, plus showings and performances for the public. CDI is supported by The Mertz Gilmore Foundation, New York Community Trust, Howard Gilman Foundation, the Jerome Robbins Foundation, and the Harkness Foundation for Dance. CDI is spearheaded and administered by The Kupferberg Center for the Arts at Queens College. www.cuny.edu/danceinitiative.

About the Hostos Center for the Arts & Culture

The Hostos Center for the Arts & Culture consists of a museum-grade art gallery, a 367-seat Repertory Theater, and a 900-seat Main Theater, presenting artists of national and international renown. It is easily accessible from Manhattan, Queens and New Jersey and is a mere 15 minutes by subway from midtown Manhattan.

About Hostos Community College

Hostos Community College is an educational agent for change, transforming and improving the quality of life in the South Bronx and neighboring communities since 1968. Hostos serves as a gateway to intellectual growth and socioeconomic mobility, and a point of departure for lifelong learning, success in professional careers, and transfer to advanced higher education programs. The College's unique "student success coach" program, which partners students with individualized guidance, is emblematic of the premier emphasis on student support and services. Hostos Community College is part of CUNY, the nation's leading urban public university serving more than 480,000 students at 24 colleges.

What: Bennyroyce Dance

When: Thursday, April 21, 7:30 PM

Where: Repertory Theater

Hostos Center for the Arts and Culture

450 Grand Concourse, Bronx, New York 10451

How much? : \$10 (free for students and Under 18)

Phone Number: 718-518-4455

Website: www.hostoscenter.org

Subway/Bus: IRT Trains 2, 4, 5 and Buses BX1, BX2, BX19 to 149th Street and Grand Concourse.

