



**Press contact:**

John MacElwee - 718-518-6539, jmacelwee@hostos.cuny.edu

Heather Derby – 305-519-7978 H.Derby@RudduRDance.com

Christopher Rudd – 347-440-9663 C.Rudd@RudduRDance.com

**Hostos Center for the Arts & Culture presents**

**RUDDUR DANCE**

**Performing “Empowered”**

**Part of the CUNY Dance Initiative**

**Friday, May 11, 7:30 PM, Repertory Theater**

**[LINK TO HIGH RESOLUTION PHOTOS](#)**

As part of the CUNY (City University of New York) Dance Initiative, the Hostos Center for the Arts & Culture presents RudduR Dance on Friday, May 11, 7:30 PM in the Main Theater, 450 Grand Concourse in the Bronx. Under the direction of Artistic Director Christopher Rudd, formerly of Les Grands Ballets Canadiens de Montréal and Cirque du Soleil, RudduR Dance blends contemporary ballet with theatricality and aerial artistry to create provocative experiences that address timely social and political landscapes.

In its first single-billed performance, *Empowered*, the Company will showcase the world premiere of *Witness: Part I – Yesterday* along with audience favorites *The Place Between*, *A Night in the Life of Us*, and *Doubt of the Devout*. There will be a post-performance talk with Christopher Rudd followed by a reception. Reserved seating is \$10, and free for students. Tickets can be purchased at 718-518-4455 or [www.hostoscenter.org](http://www.hostoscenter.org). The box office is open Monday through Friday, 1 PM to 4 PM, and two hours prior to performance.

According to Rudd, “from the physical to the spiritual, *Empowered* is about breaking visible and invisible chains that bind, and moving to greater strength.” “The men and women on stage crawl, fly, and leap as they move through aerial silk, bungee restraints, shackles, and violent embraces to free more themselves and allow for transcendence.”

*Witness: Part I - Yesterday* is the first of a three-part exploration of historic and current race relations. This first section blends contemporary ballet, traditional African dance, and aerial bungee, to portray shackled male and female dancers with limited mobility. Their subtle movements use the space to depict the hardships of captivity and the fierce attempts to flee as the bungee pulls the dancers back into enslavement. Starting with a powerful solo, *Doubt of the Devout* exhibits a woman struggling with an issue that causes her to question her faith in a higher power, while *A Night in the Life of Us* is an erotically charged encounter between a man and a woman. *The Place Between* takes to the air in an aerial silk contemporary ballet depicting the final moments of a woman’s life, and her male partner’s grief.

## **Biographies**

### **ABOUT RUDDUR DANCE**

RudduR Dance is an emerging contemporary ballet company that combines contemporary ballet, classical, African, modern, and aerial artistry to create provocative, authentic, and relevant performances that mirror the human condition. It works to increase awareness of dance as a viable change agent and envisions a global space where that readily takes place. The works of RudduR Dance have been presented in New York, Florida, Texas, Utah, France, Trinidad & Tobago, and Burkina Faso, West Africa. Fiscally sponsored by New York Live Arts and Miami Dance Futures Inc., RudduR Dance has been supported by The NewWorld School of the Arts Alumni Foundation, Career Transition For Dancers, STREB's GO! Emerging Artists Commissioning Program, American Dance Abroad, Dance Gallery Festival, Arts Envoy, World Learning, and The US Embassy Burkina Faso. In addition to Rudd, the creative team behind *Empowered* includes acclaimed vocalist and composer Tariq Al-Sabir and Mathieu Leopold, Head of Rigging.

### **ABOUT CHRISTOPHER RUDD**

Christopher Rudd is a Jamaican born dance-maker who creates by blending contemporary ballet, modern dance, and at times the aerial artistry. He began dancing at the age of 9 in Miami, Florida under the auspices of the [Thomas Armour Youth Ballet](#)'s (TAYB) Scholarship Program. Two years later, Mr. Rudd became the first black child to dance the title role in Balanchine's "The Nutcracker", an accomplishment for which ABC's Peter Jennings named him Person of the Week in 1991. [ABC News Person of the Week](#)

Mr. Rudd performed with Alberta Ballet, Carolina Ballet - of which he was a founding member - and Les Grands Ballets Canadiens de Montreal, where he rose to the rank of soloist. He has guested with Pennsylvania Ballet and The Metropolitan Opera. Mr. Rudd worked on the creation and danced for Cirque Du Soleil's *Zaia*, Cirque's first resident show in Asia. He has choreographed for The Alvin Ailey School's Summer Intensive, Earl Mosley's Institute of the Arts, Duke University, North Carolina School of the Arts, Alberta Ballet's Workshop, Peter London Global Dance Company, Harlem Stage's E-Moves 14: The Takeover, and E-Moves 15.

### **ABOUT CUNY DANCE INITIATIVE**

The CUNY Dance Initiative (CDI) is an unprecedented model for collaboration between the City University of New York (CUNY) — the nation's largest public urban university system — and the NYC dance field. A residency program that opens the doors of CUNY campuses to professional choreographers and dance companies, CDI supports local artists, enhances the cultural life and education of college students, and builds new dance audiences at CUNY performing arts centers. A successful pilot project supporting residencies and performances on four CUNY campuses in 2013 prompted CDI to expand its scope. Since its official launch in 2014, CDI has subsidized and facilitated a total of [91 residencies](#) — from emerging choreographers to established dance companies at [13 CUNY colleges](#) in all five boroughs.

The CUNY Dance Initiative receives major support from The Mertz Gilmore Foundation, the Howard Gilman Foundation, and the Stavros Niarchos Foundation. Additional support is provided by the Jerome Robbins Foundation, the SHS Foundation, the Fan Fox & Leslie R. Samuels 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](http://www.cuny.edu/danceinitiative)

## **ABOUT THE HOSTOS CENTER FOR THE ARTS & CULTURE**

Founded in 1982, The Hostos Center for the Arts and Culture, based at Hostos Community College of the City University of New York, serves the cultural needs of residents of the South Bronx and similar inner-city communities who do not have the means or inclination to attend arts events in mid-town Manhattan. The Center, which includes a 900-seat theater, a 367-seat theater, and museum-grade art gallery, creates forums in which the cultural heritages of its audiences are affirmed and nurtured. The Center's programming consists of a performing arts presenting series; a visual arts exhibiting series; periodic festivals promoting cultural traditions, especially Afro-Caribbean; The Hostos Repertory Company; and an individual artists' program with commissions and residencies. Nearly 60,000 partake in the Center's programs each year.

[www.hostoscenter.org](http://www.hostoscenter.org)

## **ABOUT HOSTOS COMMUNITY COLLEGE**

Eugenio María de Hostos Community College is an educational agent for change that has been transforming and improving the quality of life in the South Bronx and neighboring communities for nearly half a century. Since 1968, Hostos has been a gateway to intellectual growth and socioeconomic mobility, as well as a point of departure for lifelong learning, success in professional careers, and transfer to advanced higher education programs. Hostos offers 27 associate degree programs and two certificate programs that facilitate easy transfer to The City University of New York's (CUNY) four-year colleges or baccalaureate studies at other institutions. The College has an award-winning Division of Continuing Education & Workforce Development that offers professional development courses and certificate-bearing workforce training programs. Hostos is part of CUNY, the nation's leading urban public university, which serves more than 500,000 students at 24 colleges. <https://www.hostos.cuny.edu/>

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**What:** Rudder Dance performs *Empowered* featuring *Witness: Part I – Yesterday, The Place Between, A Night in the Life of Us, and Doubt of the Devout*

**When:** Friday, May 11, 2017, 7:30 PM

**Where:** Main Theater, Hostos Center for the Arts and Culture, 450 Grand Concourse, Bronx, New York 10451

**How much?** \$10 reserved seating (free for students and under 18)

**Phone Number:** 718-518-4455

**Box Office:** Window hours are Mon. – Fri., 1 PM to 4 PM and 2 hours prior to performance.

**Website:** [www.hostoscenter.org](http://www.hostoscenter.org)

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