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NEVILLE
DANCE THEATRE

MILWAUKEE FRINGE FESTIVAL PRESENTS

New York City's NEVILLE DANCE THEATRE'S **EXPOSED**

Saturday, August 24, 5:30-6:30pm
@Marcus Center for the Performing Arts, Wilson Theatre, Vogel Hall
929 N. Water Street, Downtown Milwaukee, WI

Single Event Tickets available by phone 414.273.7206 or at Marcus Center lobby Box Office
One and Two Day Festival passes available online at <http://mkefringe.com/tickets/>
Ticket pricing not known at time of Press Release

New York City contemporary ballet company Neville Dance Theatre comes to Milwaukee for their first ever performance in the Midwest, performing the audience favorite *Exposed*, for the 4th Annual Milwaukee Fringe Festival. The company, founded in 2005 by choreographer and Milwaukee native Brenda Neville, performs Saturday, August 24 at 5:30 - 6:30 p.m. at the Wilson Theatre in Vogel Hall in the Marcus Center for the Performing Arts.

With a legacy of twelve years of innovative and theatrical repertory, Neville's company and choreography has a cohesive thread that transcends movement and channels the human spirit. Hailed as "*compelling*", "*ingenious*", and "*a pure delight*" by critics and patrons, the company brings excitement and intrigue to classical and contemporary ballet.

Founder and Artistic Director Brenda Neville is a Milwaukee native, having spent most of her teen and pre-professional years training at the Milwaukee Ballet School and setting her first choreographic works at the University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee. She states it's a long dreamed-of-opportunity come true; to bring the company to Milwaukee and even more so, for Milwaukee to be the company's first ever traveled to city and touring debut outside of the New York area and East coast.

The area is also of importance to Neville and the company as it is home to many of the company's initial donors and long standing supporters, most of whom have never had the chance to see the company perform live over its long thirteen year history. This performance opportunity means, at long-last, they, and many others, can now see first hand the excitement of the company's artistically astute works and the dynamic diversity of it's dancers, which they've been supporting for so long.

A larger than life feast of towering shadow images and movement, *Exposed* explodes with a sense of magic, intrigue, beauty, and energy. An abstract social commentary, the piece sheds light on our over exposure and vulnerability in an online world. A 20 minute work danced in three movements entitled *Invasion*, *Confrontation*, and *Reclamation*, the work is set to the music of contemporary composers Todd Reynolds, Hauschka & Hildur Gudnadottir and Matmos. The piece creatively incorporates hand-held lights, creating snapshots of the blurred boundaries between our personal and public selves, illuminated reflections on the diminishment of individual privacy stemming from social media exposure,

internet business data collection, increasing public surveillance and our own desires to make ourselves known.

Neville explains “This work challenges audiences to consider the impact of how much of their personal lives and identity they’re sharing, not just with friends and family, but strangers, corporations and the world at large, and the far reaching repercussions it may have on ourselves and our society as a whole.”

“Well worth seeing. An abstract, cautionary tale that entertains while maintaining visual interest throughout.” Jerry Hochman, Critical Dance

The 4th Annual Milwaukee Fringe Festival is a two day festival that takes place across five stages in downtown Milwaukee, showcasing an exciting and diverse array of artists from the Milwaukee area and beyond, comprised of theatrical actors, painters, musicians, dancers, performance artists and playwrights. As described on the festivals website at mkefringe.com, “In August 2016 the Milwaukee Fringe made its debut in downtown Milwaukee, following the rich tradition of Fringe Festivals. The Milwaukee Fringe Festival is a showcase of a diverse collection of artists that call Milwaukee home... and a joyous celebration of what makes Milwaukee’s culture vibrant and extraordinary.”

The Milwaukee Fringe Fest is presented under the direction of John Schneider (Theatre Professor at Marquette University), Eric Engelbart (Marketing and Events Expert) Matt Kemple (Milwaukee Comedy Festival), Karen Raymond and Katie Rhyme (Dance Revolution Milwaukee). The festival is produced under Nice Plays, Inc, a 501c3 nonprofit organization.

For full festival performers line-up and schedule go to <http://mkefringe.com/2019-fringe-schedule/>

Neville Dance Theatre

Hailed as “*compelling*”, “*imaginative*” and a “*pure delight*” by both critics and patrons alike, Neville Dance Theatre, a non-profit Manhattan based dance company, brings theatrical innovation to classical and contemporary ballet. Through eclectic and universally themed works that celebrate the human spirit and our shared world, this vibrant company presents colorful tapestries of movement woven from a diverse array of dance styles, enabling the joy, artistry and ever evolving traditions of dance to be felt and experienced by audiences of all ages and persuasions.

Founded in 2005 by Brenda R. Neville and comprised of artists from around the world, Neville Dance Theatre regularly performs at venues and festivals throughout the five boroughs and beyond including Boston’s Cambridge Square, Kingston, NY’s Ulster Performing Arts Center and New York City’s Dixon Place, Jamaica Performing Arts Center, Lincoln Square BID, 92nd Street Y, COOL NY Dance Festival, Queensborough Dance Festival, the NYC Dance Parade and Dance Fest, Martha Graham Studio Theatre, Actors Fund Arts Center, Hudson Guild Theatre and Kumble Theatre for the Performing Arts in Brooklyn. The company annually presents New York City seasons of new works and repertory favorites.

Neville Dance Theatre is a non-profit, 501©3 organization. For full details and more information about our company, artists and programs, visit www.NevilleDance.com

Brenda R. Neville (*Artistic Director, Founder and Choreographer*) Brenda is an international performer and dance teacher in the New York City area specializing in classical ballet, Argentine Tango and Flamenco. For over two decades, Brenda performed, taught and choreographed in over 18 different countries including Argentina, China, Europe, Japan and Spain with companies such as the *Milwaukee Ballet, Indianapolis Dance Company, AllNations Dance Company, Covenant Ballet Theatre of Brooklyn*

and in musical theatre productions including *La Cage aux Folles*, *Crazy for You*, *Footloose* and *My Fair Lady*. She trained and performed with some of the top talents in dance including Juan Carlos Copes, Soledad Barrio, Sean Curran, Elizabeth Parkinson, Marjorie Mussman and Graciela Kozak. An active dance teacher, she is currently a faculty instructor at *The Ailey School* and *Covenant Ballet Theatre of Brooklyn*. Brenda holds a B.A. in Dance Pedagogy, cum laude, from Butler University and is an expert ballet pointe shoe fitter currently with Freed of London in NYC. Brenda formed Neville Dance Theatre in 2005 as a means to bring together and explore contemporary, classical and world dance styles while creating works that capture and explore the human condition and our shared world. Since the company's inception, she has choreographed and created two narrative ballets, seven contemporary, concert length conceptual works and numerous duets and shorts presented in and around New York City. Her eclectic expertise covers a vast array of dance styles giving her choreography exceptional diversity and color.

DANCERS

Laura Dearman, a native of North Carolina, is an alumni of the University of North Carolina at Charlotte, where she graduated Summa Cum Laude with her B.A. in Dance: performance, choreography and theory. Upon graduation, she completed her Professional Training Certificate in partnership with Charlotte Ballet. During her time at UNCC, Laura performed principal roles in a variety of works, including Bourneville's Flower Festival in Genzano, George Faison's Suite Otis, and Paul Taylor's Esplanade. Laura's professional performance experience includes Ballet Inc., Living And Breathing (L.A.B.) Contemporary Dance, and Piedmont Dance Theatre. While attending The School at Jacobs Pillow, Laura had the opportunity to work with choreographers Ronald K. Brown, Didi Veldman, and Cayetano Soto, under the direction of Mr. Milton Myers. Additional training highlights include Richmond Ballet, The Joffrey Ballet School and The Martha Graham School.

John Raffles Durbin (*company dancer*) John Raffles Durbin hails from Katy, Texas. He attended the High School for the Performing and Visual Arts in Houston, as well as the Houston Ballet Academy. Raffles recently graduated from the University of Arizona with degrees in both Dance and Biomedical Engineering, as well as membership in Tau Beta Pi, the Engineering Honor Society. He has attended Summer Dance Intensives at Juilliard and Perry Mansfield. Additionally, Raffles was named a National Merit Scholar in 2011 and an Amgen Scholar in 2013. He has performed works by George Balanchine, Larry Keigwin, Kyle Abraham, Sam Watson, and Sherry Zunker, among others. Recently moved to New York City, Raffles is pursuing a professional dance career with vigor and verve.

Michelle Siegel, originally from New York City, received her B.A. Dance from Hunter College. She has performed with, Lydia Johnson Dance, LLMoves, Dzul Dance, Armitage Gone! Dance, Staten Island Ballet, Urban Dance Collective, Balasole Dance Company, The Umbrella Dance Company, Dance Visions, and in work by Niles Ford and Nathan Trice. She has also worked with choreographer Pascal Rekoert as a dancer/model for the BERENIK fashion line. Michelle has taught master classes and performed at the OPEN LOOK Contemporary Dance Festival in St. Petersburg, Russia. She worked as an adjunct professor of dance at Touro College and a substitute professor of dance at Hofstra University. Michelle has choreographed and performed for Latin Grammy-nominated music artists Lola Flores and Anaís, and renowned Haitian band, Carimi. Michelle's choreography has been performed by The Umbrella Dance Company, Performing Arts Educators, NY1 Television, P.S. 196 Theater Arts Program, in venues such as Lincoln Center Avery Fisher Hall, The United Palace Theater, The Alvin Ailey Citigroup Theater, Queens Theatre, University Settlement, Queensborough Performing Arts Center, the Highline Ballroom, The Bowery Ballroom, and Disney's Hollywood Studios to name a few. Michelle is grateful to have set one of her choreographic works, *Pendulum*, on Neville Dance Theatre in 2015. She has been performing with the company since 2013.

Lauren Settembrino (*company dancer*) Lauren was born and raised in central New Jersey. Under the direction of George Warren, Mickey Defranco, and Benjamin Briones, she studied ballet, modern, tap, hip hop, acting, and voice. She has spent her summers training at Central Pennsylvania Youth Ballet and in Quebec City with Victor Quijada and RUBBERBANDance Group. Lauren recently earned her

BFA in Dance from New York University's Tisch School of the Arts, where she graduated cum laude and also completed a second major in English. She has performed works by Stefanie Batten Bland, Ori Flomin, Elizabeth Coker, and Giada Ferrone. Lauren has also performed in Crystal Pite's *Polaris* at New York City Center as a part of Lincoln Center's White Light Festival, and has worked closely with Larry Keigwin as a guest artist with Keigwin + Company. Most recently Lauren had her BAM debut performing as a featured emerging artist with BalaSole Dance Company.

Amanda Summers (*company dancer*) Amanda is originally from Baltimore, Maryland where she trained at the Mid- Atlantic Center for the Performing Arts. She went on to graduate Summa Cum Laude with a BFA from Point Park University's Conservatory Dance Program. While at Point Park, Amanda had the pleasure of performing classical works by George Balanchine, Marius Petipa, Gerald Arpino, Val Caniparoli, Patrick Frantz, Nicolas Petrov, and Peter Merz, in addition to more contemporary works by Kiesha Lalama, Christopher Huggins, Darrell Grand Moultrie, Kristofer Storey, and Garfield Lemonius. She has attended summer programs at Boston Ballet, Complexions Contemporary Ballet, and Hubbard Street Dance Chicago twice. Most recently, she has been performing with Texture Contemporary Ballet in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. With Texture Ballet, she has performed repertoire by artistic director Alan Obuzor, Kelsey Bartman, and Gabriel Gaffney Smith and has had the opportunity to perform at the Jacob's Pillow Inside/ Out Festival, as well as White Wave's DUMBO Festival.

Tanya Lynn Trombly (*company dancer*) Originally from Michigan, Tanya earned her B.A. in dance and business from Mercyhurst College in Erie, PA. After graduating, she performed and toured with several professional companies across the country before moving to New York City. She is currently a principal/soloist with Ballet Long Island, Neville Dance Theatre, and Covenant Ballet Theatre of Brooklyn. Tanya has enjoyed performing lead roles in ballets such as *A Mid-Summer Night's Dream*, *Cinderella*, *Sleeping Beauty*, *Swan Lake*, *Firebird*, *Romeo & Juliet*, *Paquita*, *The Little Mermaid*, *Beauty & the Beast*, *Spartacus*, and *The Nutcracker*, just to name a few. She is also the founder of Anti-Bunhead Fitness, a website dedicated to giving dancers the mental and physical tools required to excel in such a demanding art form. The recent launch of her Bulletproof Ballerina program gives dancers a competitive edge through cross-training techniques designed specifically to enhance and extend a dancer's career. The ultimate purpose behind her work is to help dancers get out of their self-destructive mindsets and gain an appreciation and love for their unique bodies and art.