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Dancing While Deaf: Defying the Odds and Inspiring Others

A New Definition of Dance featuring Antoine Hunter and the Urban Jazz Dance Company coming to SoundScape Park in Miami Beach

MIAMI, FLA (March 17, 2021) -- Deaf dancer Antoine Hunter and the Urban Jazz Dance Company (AHUJDC) from the San Francisco Bay area inspire people every day with their perseverance and passion for dance. In partnership with [Arts4All Florida](#), the Miami-Dade County Department of Cultural Affairs' [All Kids Included](#) initiative presents [A New Definition of Dance: Bridging Community, Culture and Communication Through Dance](#) performed by AHUJDC.

Acclaimed African-American Deaf dancer and choreographer Antoine Hunter and his company will explore identity and spirituality while sharing wisdom and communication with the audience during this filmed dance production. The performance is presented via [WALLCAST](#) on Tuesday, April 20, 2021 at 8 p.m. on the wall of the New World Center in the City of Miami Beach's SoundScape Park. The screening will also be shown via [Facebook Live](#). The free event is open to the public and the outdoor setting is ideal for social distancing.

This exciting performance supports the mission of All Kids Included – Accessible Arts Experiences for Kids (AKI). AKI promotes inclusive arts and cultural programs in school settings and throughout the community so that kids of all abilities and their families can participate fully in the arts. Currently, there are more than a dozen model demonstration projects being developed and/or implemented through the initiative.

To raise Deaf cultural awareness, American Sign Language and open captions will be featured throughout the performance. The company hopes to provide insight into the challenges of being Deaf/hard of hearing, while proving the arts have the power to connect people and bring joy to all. The performance also seeks to break down negative stereotypes of people with disabilities.

A New Definition of Dance: Bridging Community, Culture and Communication Through Dance is the culminating event following Hunter's six-month contract working with Arts4All Florida. Prior to the WALLCAST, Hunter will lead a virtual master class with high school and college students from Miami's New World School of the Arts.

For more information on the WALLCAST performance, please visit [here](#).

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About Miami-Dade Department of Cultural Affairs

The Miami-Dade County Department of Cultural Affairs and the Cultural Affairs Council develop cultural excellence, diversity and participation throughout Miami-Dade County by strategically creating and promoting opportunities for artists and cultural organizations, and our residents and visitors who are their audiences. The Department directs the Art in Public Places program and serves its board, the Art in Public Places Trust, commissioning, curating, maintaining and promoting the County's art collection. The Department also manages, programs and operates the South Miami-Dade Cultural Arts Center, a campus of state-of-the-art cultural facilities in Cutler Bay, as well as Miami-Dade County Auditorium, Joseph Caleb Auditorium and the African Heritage Cultural Arts Center, all dedicated to presenting and supporting excellence in the arts for the entire community. Through staff, board and programmatic resources, the Department, the Council and the Trust promote, coordinate and support Miami-Dade County's more than 1,000 not-for-profit cultural organizations as well as thousands of resident artists through grants, technical assistance, public information and interactive community planning. The Department receives funding through the Miami-Dade County Mayor and Board of County Commissioners, The Children's Trust, the National Endowment for the Arts, the State of Florida through the Florida Department of State, Division of Cultural Affairs and the Florida Council on Arts and Culture, and the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation. Other support and services are provided by TicketWeb for the Culture Shock Miami program, the Greater Miami Convention and Visitors Bureau, the South Florida Cultural Consortium and the Tourist Development Council.

About All Kids Included (AKI)

AKI promotes inclusive arts and cultural programs in school settings and throughout the community enabling kids of all abilities and their families to participate fully in the arts. All Kids Included continually raises the bar with excellence in programming that demonstrates and promotes the benefit and importance of inclusionary arts and cultural programs for children and youth. All Kids Included is an initiative of the Miami-Dade County Department of Cultural Affairs, made possible with the support of the Miami-Dade County Cultural Affairs Council, the Miami-Dade County Mayor and Board of County Commissioners, and funded in part through a grant provided by The Children's Trust. The Children's Trust is a dedicated source of revenue established by voter referendum to improve the lives of children and families in Miami-Dade County by making strategic investments in their future. For more information about AKI and its programs, visit www.AllKidsIncludedMiami.org.

About Antoine Hunter and the Urban Jazz Company

A San Francisco Bay Area native, Mr. Antoine Hunter, also known as Purple Fire Crow, is an award winning and internationally renowned African American/Indigenous Deaf dancer, choreographer, actor, instructor, speaker, and producer as well as a Deaf and social justice advocate. He strives to create opportunities for people with disabilities, Deaf and hearing artists and produces Deaf-friendly events worldwide. He trained at the prestigious California Institute of the Arts and the Paul Taylor Dance School in New York City. Antoine's life experience as a Deaf, African/Indigenous choreographer and poet led him to become a mentor and advocate for the Deaf Community.

Founded in 2007, Antoine Hunter founded Urban Jazz Dance Company that features both hearing and deaf professional dancers. The company's mission is to contribute to the arts and society by increasing awareness around Deaf issues through the performing arts. www.RealUrbanJazzDance.com