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A versatile dancemaker's joyous examination of African American identity

HANOVER, NH—A dynamic dancemaker whose work is seen everywhere from blockbuster TV to Broadway to the concert stage brings to the Hop an intimate, evocative, evening-long work using rhythm and movement to explore African American identity.

Ink, by Camille A. Brown & Dancers, on Thursday and Friday, April 4 and 5, in The Moore Theater, features Brown and six virtuosic and highly individual dancers, plus a four-member, percussion-rich onstage ensemble. Hop audiences can also meet and learn from Brown and her dancers in a master class, post-show discussion and post-show social event.

The past few years have been huge for Brown, with her choreography featured in an adored, long-running 2017 Broadway revival of *Once on This Island* and NBC's 2018 *Jesus Christ Superstar Live in Concert*. (Wrote *Playbill* of the NBC broadcast: "This is how you encompass a space! ... Brown conceived a vocabulary for each number that spoke one language for the show. The fact that she managed to meld individual movements within her big picture for a cast this size with such mastery, grace, and and wild abandon speaks to her command of choreography.") More than 11 million people have viewed her 2016 TED Talk, titled, "A Visual History of Social Dance in 25 Moves."

Meanwhile, Brown has also continued to create works for the concert stage, including with her own company. The third work in a trilogy examining African American identity, *ink* presents a journey into archetypal moments in black culture through a series of solos and duets that call out to ancient African roots and also contemporary life. Accompanied by piano, violin and multiple drummers playing an original score fusing African rhythms, jazz, hip hop and more, the dancers explore themes like romantic love, male friendship and abundant female physicality. The work makes a beautiful study of personal and even secretive gestures and rituals, such as stirring a stewpot, cradling a cellphone and the silent communication between friends and lovers.

Wrote the *Washington Post*, "Camille A. Brown works like a fine jeweler on her choreography. She crafts small-scale, detailed pieces that address subtle emotions and the overlooked but meaningful events of daily life, especially those deeply seated in the African American experience." Wrote *DC Metro Theater Arts*, "An entire history of a people is written indelibly on the bodies of her six dancers as well as her own. Their gestures, their postures, their interactions speak from the depths of centuries of lives lived with both vivid creativity and warmth and with the remnants of oppression encroaching [on] a rich and elastic community."

In addition to the performances, several other events offer the public a chance to meet and learn from Brown and her dancers. On Tues, April 2, her dancers will lead an intermediate-level dance master class in Straus Dance Studio of Dartmouth's Berry Sports Complex. On Thursday, April 4, the public is invited to socialize with the company post-show in the Top of the Hop. On Friday, April 5, there will be a post-show discussion with the artists, in The Moore Theater.

Brown created *ink* in collaboration with her dancers and with the music director Allison Miller and the other musicians. The show is the final installation of a dance theater trilogy made up of *Mr. TOL E. RAnCE* (2012) and *BLACK GIRL: Linguistic Play* (2015).

Brown founded Camille A. Brown & Dancers in 2006, following a years of work with such diverse driving forces in American dance as Ronald K. Brown's Evidence, Rennie Harris Puremovement and Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater. Her work has been commissioned by the Ailey company, Urban Bush Women and many others. In demand as a theater choreographer, she also worked on Broadway's *A Streetcar Named Desire*, *Fortress of Solitude*, *Stagger Lee*, *Cabin in the Sky*, Jonathan Larson's *tick, tick...BOOM!* starring Lin Manuel Miranda and the musical *BELLA: An American Tall Tale*.

MORE ABOUT...

Camille A. Brown is a prolific choreographer making a personal claim on history through the lens of a modern Black female perspective. She leads her dancers through excavations of ancestral stories, both timeless and traditional, that illustrate stories which connect history with contemporary culture. She is a four time Princess Grace Award winner (2016 Statue Award, 2016 Choreographic Mentorship Co-Commission Award, 2013 Works in Progress Residency Award, 2006 Choreography Award), 2016 Jacob's Pillow Dance Award recipient, 2016 Guggenheim Fellowship recipient, 2015 USA Jay Franke & David Herro Fellow, 2015 TED Fellow, 2015 Doris Duke Artist Award recipient, and was nominated for the 2015 Lucille Lortel "Outstanding Choreographer" Award (*Fortress of Solitude*). Her company, Camille A. Brown & Dancers, received a 2014 Bessie Award for Outstanding Production for the work *Mr. TOL E. RAnCE* and most recently were nominated for a 2016 Bessie Award for Outstanding Production for the work *BLACK GIRL: Linguistic Play*.

Initiatives: The Gathering; BLACK GIRL SPECTRUM (BGS) | Publication: Cover of Dance Teacher Magazine (August 2015) | Program: Co-Directed (with Moncell Durden) *Social Dances: Jazz to Hip-Hop* at Jacob's Pillow in 2015 | Public Speaker: 2015 TED Conference, 2016 TEDxBeaconStreet, 2016 TEDxEsteeLauderCompanies. Ms. Brown's TED-Ed talk *A Visual History of Social Dance in 25 Moves* was chosen as one of the most notable talks of 2016 by TED Curator, Chris Anderson, and has over 11 million views on Facebook and counting.

The Hopkins Center for the Arts

Founded in 1962, "the Hop" is a multi-disciplinary academic, visual and performing arts center dedicated to uncovering insights, igniting passions, and nurturing talents to help Dartmouth and the surrounding Upper Valley community engage imaginatively and contribute creatively to our world. Each year the Hop presents more than 300 live events and films by visiting artists as well as Dartmouth students and the Dartmouth community, and reaches more than 22,000 Upper Valley residents and students with outreach and arts education programs. After a celebratory 50th-anniversary season in 2012-13, the Hop enters its second half-century with renewed passion for mentoring young artists, supporting the development of new work, and providing a laboratory for participation and experimentation in the arts.

CALENDAR LISTINGS

Dance Master Class (Intermediate Level)

Dancers from Camille A. Brown & Dancers will teach a session focusing on the technique and movement language that are central to the company. Recommended for people 16+ with some dance background.

Tues, April 2, 6 to 7:30 pm

Straus Dance Studio, Berry Sports Complex

\$10

Register: hop.dartmouth.edu

Thursday Night Live with Camille A. Brown & Dancers

Socialize with the artists and have a drink with your friends in a lounge setting.

Thur, April 4, post-performance

Top of the Hop

Free

Post-show discussion with the artists

Fri, April 5

The Moore Theater

Free

Camille A. Brown & Dancers in *ink*

Combining social dance, African dance, hip hop, tap and everyday gestures, *ink* is an intimate exploration of African American identity, with an original, percussion-heavy score played live by onstage musicians. Brown is widely known through her TED talk on social dance in the African Thursday, April 4, 7 pm

Friday, April 5, 8 pm

The Moore Theater, Hopkins Center for the Arts, Dartmouth College, Hanover NH

\$50/40/30, 18 & under \$19, Dartmouth students \$10

Information: hop.dartmouth.edu

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