

BATTERY DANCE

SPRING 2017 NEWSLETTER



Battery Dance and Hussein Smko with artwork by Kevork Mourad - photo by Claudio Rodriguez

**Flying Off to Fort
Wayne**



On March 26, Battery Dance kicked off its highly anticipated tour of Fort Wayne, Indiana, marking the company's premiere visit to the American Midwest. During their action-packed weeklong residency at the Fort Wayne Dance Collective, the dancers have led a series of master classes and lecture demonstrations in the Fort Wayne area, engaging with dancers of all ages and proficiency levels. The company was privileged to be joined on this tour by Guest Artist, Unnath H.R., one of the preeminent Bharatanatyam dancers of his generation in India, as well as Iraqi dancer Hussein Smko, the first recipient of the company's Adel Euro Campaign for Dancers Seeking Refuge. On April 1st, a Final Performance will be held at the Arts United Center in Fort Wayne, during which *Dancing to Connect* program participants will take the stage. Following the student performance, Battery Dance will present work from its own repertoire, including the Midwest premiere of *The Durga Project*.

[>>> FULL PROGRAM ACTIVITIES](#)



Guest Artist, Unnath H.R., introducing students from Northside High School, Fort Wayne, to the Bharatanatyam form of Indian Dance (above) and Fort Wayne Dance Collective logo (below).

Greatness in Gwangju

February, 2017, saw Battery Dance jetting off to Gwangju, South Korea, for a spirited Dancing to Connect program sponsored by the U.S. Embassy Seoul. The diverse group of participants included North Korean defectors, physically and cognitively disabled students, and other local community members - all of whose unique gifts and enthusiasm lit up the studio and the stage. The Company also worked closely with members of the Gwangju Metropolitan Ballet Company. The program was widely acclaimed by officials for its representation of U.S. values of "inclusion and equality."

[>> RECAP VIDEO](#)

[>>> GALLERY](#)



Gwangju Arts High School and Eunhye School participants collaborating during a DTC workshop led by Teaching Artist Robin Cantrell.

Success in Sri Lanka



University of Peradeniya workshop with Teaching Artist Bethany Mitchell.

In December, 2016, Battery Dance, along with Indian Guest Artist Unnath H.R., traveled to Sri Lanka, for an exciting two weeks of programming in the cities of Colombo and Kandy. With support from the U.S. Embassy Colombo, the Company participated in various outreach activities, and teacher training workshops focused on conflict resolution. Battery Dance had the honor of being invited to perform in Sri Lanka's only contemporary dance festival, nATFEST, whose 2016 theme was "Dance for Reconciliation." In addition, Battery created two new works in collaboration with the Dancer's Guild of Sri Lanka and percussion group Naadro, taking the stage with Naadro for an exhilarating "Drums and Dance" performance in Colombo.

New York Season: Save the Date

Following on the heels of its spectacular Ruby Anniversary in 2016, Battery Dance is gearing up for a breathtaking 2017 New York Season, and the world premiere of five brand new works. On May 10th and 11th, 2017, the company will present a powerful lineup of original choreography onstage at Pace University's Schimmel Center, employing art in its many forms as a vehicle in which to address the pressing social issues of our time.

The centerpiece of the Season, *On Foot* fuses together the choreographic vision of Jonathan Hollander with the creative designs of Syrian-born visual artist Kevork Mourad, whose work will be projected throughout the piece, saturating the stage with a stunning multimedia backdrop. Battery Dance's full ensemble of dancers will present this immersive collaboration that tells a poignant story of migration that pulsates with the life-force of refugees. This moving exploration of forgone homes and new lands features music from Syrian musician Kinan Azmeh and Tunisian composer Anouar Brahem.

An Opening Night reception will be held on May 10th, and author and Cornell professor, Penny von Eschen, will give a pre-concert lecture on cultural diplomacy on May 11th. Click [here](#) to purchase tickets.



Battery Dance and Hussein Smko with artwork by Kevork Mourad - photo by Claudio Rodriguez.

>>> [2017 NEW YORK SEASON](#)

In Other News

- 70 Battery Dance supporters came together for an impactful evening at our annual Bouley Fundraising Dinner on March 2. Proceeds from the event will aid the growth of Battery Dance's refugee integration program.
- Battery Dance is proud to announce funding from The Rubin Foundation in support of the Adel Euro Campaign, which aims to combat Islamophobia in New York and across the United States.
- Over 222 applications were received for the 2017 Battery Dance Festival – a record number. An external curatorial panel will meet this spring to evaluate all of the applications.

- The winter season saw Battery Dance's Teaching Artists presenting well-attended lecture demonstrations at New York City's Washington Irving High School and the High School of Economics and Finance. The latter school also participated in a recent Dancing to Connect program run by Mira Cook.
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Our programming relies on your support.



BATTERY DANCE

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