

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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“DANCE ON THE LAWN”
The Montclair, NJ Free Outdoor Dance Festival
HAS GONE VIRTUAL!

**DOTL 2020 TO STREAM PERFORMANCE HIGHLIGHTS CELEBRATING
SEVEN YEARS SINCE ITS FOUNDING
Sunday, September 13, 2020 – 4:30-6:30pm**

**COMPILATION VIDEO PERFORMANCES
BY 26 NJ/NY DANCE COMPANIES
PLUS PANEL DISCUSSIONS BY DOTL PARTICIPATING ARTISTIC DIRECTORS**



DANCE ON THE LAWN 2019

Montclair, NJ, August 17, 2020 – [Dance on the Lawn](#), Montclair, NJ’s outdoor dance festival, will return this year with a virtual event in response to the Covid-19 pandemic. The Festival, celebrating its seventh year, will present “best of” **DANCE ON THE LAWN**

archival footage via our [website](#), [YouTube](#), [Facebook](#), [Vimeo](#) on Sunday, Sept. 13 from 4:30-6:30pm. The 2020 virtual *Dance on the Lawn* Festival will highlight compilation performance video dating from the Festival's inception in 2014. (*Full lineup below.*) The *Dance on the Lawn* Festival traditionally takes place every September on the front lawn of St. Luke's Episcopal Church, 73 South Fullerton Avenue in Montclair.

In addition to compilation highlights, the Sept. 13 DOTL streaming event **will include panel discussions by NJ School, NJ Professional and NJ Emerging Artistic Directors, as well as an additional panel discussion with Artistic Directors now rescheduled for DOTL 2021.** The 2021 Artistic Director/Choreographer panel will include **Amber Sloan, *Dance on the Lawn's* 2020 NJ Emerging Commissioned Choreographer, Rekha Srinivasan (Bhaarat Nritya Academy), Jessica Totaro (Movement Arts Project/Dance for Joy), Nai-Ni Chen (Nai-Ni Chen Dance Company), Megan Chu (Inimoi Dance) and Nicole Philippidis (277dance project).**

A premiere showcase and mentoring launchpad for NJ and NY's finest choreographic talent, *Dance on the Lawn* offers Montclair residents and neighboring communities a sneak peek at emerging and established artists from New Jersey and the New York area.

Dance on the Lawn was founded by Montclair resident Charmaine Warren in 2014, hoping to increase New Jersey's exposure to dance by bringing professional and emerging companies, plus students of dance from around the state, together to perform in a community setting. In addition to offering presentation opportunities, *Dance on the Lawn* created an "Emerging Commissioned New Jersey Choreographer" and mentor program to help support young, emerging artists.

"Like the rest of the world, especially in the arts, we knew that we needed to prepare for the repercussions of COVID-19. We had hoped that because our Festival falls in September and is outdoors that we could welcome our audience to the beautiful lawn of St. Luke's as usual. We stayed in touch with our DOTL artists, and shared updates in our monthly newsletter.

In July we planned for three possible iterations and the final one, online, is where we landed. A virtual DOTL 2020 will happen on Sunday, September 13. We are happy to announce that DOTL artists and directors, since our inception in 2014, will join us as we share video and talk about dance in New Jersey since moving to the online platform and more. We hope you will join us." – CHARMAINE WARREN, DOTL FOUNDER AND LAURA MARCHESE, DOTL MANAGING DIRECTOR

***THE 2020 DANCE ON THE LAWN VIRTUAL LINEUP:**

NEW JERSEY SCHOOLS:

Sharron Miller's Academy for the Performing Arts
DanceWorks & Co.
New Jersey Dance Theatre Ensemble

Grooves Unlimited Dance Studio

NEW JERSEY COMPANIES:

Alborada Dance
Freespace Dance Company
10 Hairy Legs
Carolyn Dorfman Dance Company
MeenMoves
Mignolo Dance
Maurice Chestnut

DOTL'S EMERGING COMMISSIONED NEW JERSEY CHOREOGRAPHERS:

Robert Mark Burke
Kyle Marshall
Lauren Connolly
Javier Padilla
Oluwadamilare "Dare" Ayorinde

2021 LINE UP ~ ARTISTS NEW TO DOTL

Bhaarat Nritya Academy
Movement Arts Project/Dance for Joy
Nai-Ni Chen Dance Company
Inimoi Dance
New Jersey Ballet
277dance project

***Program subject to change.**

MORE ABOUT *DANCE ON THE LAWN*:

Charmaine Warren, DOTL founder, is a recipient of a 2017 Bessie Award for "Outstanding Performance," as part of The Skeleton Architecture Collective. She is also winner of the Dance NJ's JETÉ AWARD, in honor of founding the *Dance on the Lawn* Festival. Dance NJ is the service organization committed to advocating the excellence of dance and dance education in the state. Ms. Warren, together with **Laura Marchese**, DOTL Managing Director, are the guiding force behind "Dance on the Lawn: Montclair's Dance Festival." Ms. Marchese is a recipient of a NJ Governor's Arts in Education Distinguished Teaching Artist Award. In 2018, Ms. Marchese received national recognition as a Master Teaching Artist in Dance by [Young Audiences Arts for Learning](#).

The New Jersey State Arts Council has given four awards to *Dance on the Lawn* artists: Nancy Turano, Artistic Director, NJ Dance Theatre Ensemble, DOTL artist since

2014-2018; Kyle Marshall, DOTL 2016 "Emerging Commissioned New Jersey Choreographer" recipient; Lauren Connolly, DOTL 2017 "Emerging Commissioned New Jersey Choreographer" recipient; and Hillary-Marie, Choreographer/Director FutureSTEP Tap Company, DOTL 2017 participating artist.

Dance on the Lawn VIRTUAL Outdoor Dance Festival – 7th year!
Streaming on Sunday, September 13, 2020 from 4:30-6:30pm
Find us on our [website](#), [YouTube](#), [Facebook](#), and [Vimeo](#).

Read more [here](#). See video excerpt of *Dance On The Lawn* 2019 [here](#).

The 2021 Dance on the Lawn outdoor dance festival is currently scheduled for Saturday, Sept. 11 on the front lawn of St. Luke's Episcopal Church in Montclair, NJ.

