



# Dance Program

Office for the Arts at Harvard

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## PRESS RELEASE

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**For More Information**

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## **DANCE PROGRAM AT HARVARD UNIVERSITY PRESENTS WORLD PREMIERE: *WHAT MOVES YOU?***

**PERFORMANCES: APRIL 14-16 AT 8PM, AND APRIL 17 AT 3PM, 2016. FARKAS HALL, 12 HOLYOKE ST.,  
CAMBRIDGE, MA.**

(Cambridge, MA) – The Office for the Arts (OFA) at Harvard Dance Program, The Harvard University Department of Music, and Theater, Dance & Media present *WHAT MOVES YOU?* – a full-evening collaborative work created for The Harvard Dance Project (HDP) by choreographers Francesca Harper, Jill Johnson, and Mario Zambrano. Performances will take place April 14-16 at 8 PM, and April 17 at 3 PM, at Farkas Hall, 12 Holyoke St., Cambridge.

*WHAT MOVES YOU?* is a unique collaboration between three distinct choreographic voices: Francesca Harper, Jill Johnson, and Mario Zambrano. Together, they have collaborated with HDP dancers and associate student artists, composed of singers, poets, musicians, and writers, to create a work that is both responding to and asking the governing question: “What moves you?” This question was posed to the cast to create movement phrases and choreographic structure, and resulted in a series of personal stories adapted through motion. The work also invites audience members to think about the same question: “What moves you?” – whether considering a large topic or something poignantly small.

*WHAT MOVES YOU?* is the 23rd original work created for Harvard student dancers in the last five years, and the newest work for The Harvard Dance Project (HDP) – an academic course and faculty-led performance ensemble which gives students the opportunity to be original cast members and collaborators in two or more diverse dance works created by preeminent professional choreographers. Led by Dance Director and Senior Lecturer in Music Jill Johnson, HDP focuses on performance research, collaboration, choreographic composition, and links choreographic thinking to other fields. Choreographers who have made work for

Harvard students include: MacArthur Awardees Liz Lerman and Michelle Dorrance, John Jasperse, Dwight Rhoden, Andrea Miller, Brian Brooks, among others.

Tickets are available online at [www.boxoffice.harvard.edu](http://www.boxoffice.harvard.edu) or in person at the Farkas Hall, 10 Holyoke St., Cambridge. \$5 for students/seniors, \$10 general admission for tickets purchased in advance. \$10 for students/seniors, \$15 general admission for tickets purchased at the door. For more information, visit [ofa.fas.harvard.edu/dance](http://ofa.fas.harvard.edu/dance) or call the Dance Program main office: (9:30am-5:30pm) 617-495-8683.

“Through the fieldwork conducted in the Harvard Dance Project course, students are contributing their very own propositions for considering, creating, and communicating ideas in dance – and this is tremendously exciting research to witness.” – Dance Director, Jill Johnson

“Dance is continually growing and continues to be a meaningful and dynamic part of our students’ lives – from student-led dance groups and dance courses to master classes and the new Theater, Dance & Media Concentration. Dean of Harvard College, Rakesh Khurana, thoughtfully advocates an educational environment that supports ‘intellectual, social, and personal transformation’ for all of our students. The Dance Center aligns with this mission and aims to foster transformative experiences in the arts for our students, faculty, interdisciplinary collaborators, audience members, and our community.” – Dance Director, Jill Johnson

“This year is the 10 year anniversary of the Harvard Dance Center. Our aim is to be a site for dignity and inclusion for all who enter its doors— to create the conditions that foster agency through dance for our students and to promote the arts as agents of social change. We mark this anniversary with great pride, and strive to continue the Dance Center goal of advancing dance literacy on campus and for the world.” – Dance Director, Jill Johnson

#### Artist Bios:

Francesca Harper: [www.francescaharper.com](http://www.francescaharper.com)

Jill Johnson: [www.ofa.fas.harvard.edu/people/jill-johnson](http://www.ofa.fas.harvard.edu/people/jill-johnson)

Mario Zambrano: [www.marioalbertozambrano.com/](http://www.marioalbertozambrano.com/)

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#### DANCE PROGRAM MISSION STATEMENT

Rooted in tradition, committed to innovating, the [OFA Dance Program](#) supports studies in dance composition, improvisation, performance, choreographic design and history of dance with an emphasis on collaboration and trans-disciplinary inquiry. The Program is a part of the concentration in Theater, Dance & Media; offers a secondary field of concentration in drama with a focus on dance; for-credit courses; co-curricular dance courses at all levels, plus opportunities to perform repertory, commissioned work, and installations. The Dance Program provides mentorship and support for student-led dance companies, a vibrant community of Harvard dancers who represent over twenty dance traditions from across the globe. The Program regularly hosts guest artists and choreographers who teach master classes and hold residencies throughout the academic year, fostering exceptional opportunities for students to work with luminaries and innovators in the field and in disciplines linked to dance.

#### THEATER, DANCE & MEDIA CONCENTRATION MISSION STATEMENT

Harvard's newest concentration, [Theater, Dance, & Media](#), invites students to become art makers and researchers ranging across theater, dance, and performance-based media. Using Harvard's immense resources, from the Theatre Collection to the Dance Center and the American Repertory Theater, students will learn to hone their creative instincts, work collaboratively in small groups, and participate in professional departmental productions. Our courses range from physical

movement, directing and design to creative writing, aesthetics and digital humanities and emphasize the combination of theory, history and practice. Equally invested in technical skills and a broad liberal arts education, the concentration aims to launch a generation of graduates who will use their experience in storytelling, performance, and media for careers inside and outside the arts.

#### HARVARD UNIVERSITY DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC

[The Harvard University Department of Music](#) is devoted to the study and practice of music, and exists to provide a first-rate musical education that gives students advanced skills in music as well as knowledge of music history and repertory.

The Music Department offers both an undergraduate and a graduate program. Undergraduates receive an A.B. with a concentration in music. Graduate students complete a PhD program in historical musicology, ethnomusicology, theory, composition, or cross-disciplinary music studies.