

HARVARD DANCE CENTER

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PRESS RELEASE

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HARVARD PARTICIPATES IN WORLDWIDE INITIATIVE FOR INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES, “ON DISPLAY/HARVARD,” AT WIDENER LIBRARY ON DECEMBER 3, 2019

(Cambridge, MA) The Harvard Dance Center, in partnership with Harvard Library, will present a movement installation entitled “ON DISPLAY/HARVARD” on December 3, 2019, from 7-8pm, at Widener Library. The work is part of a worldwide initiative titled “[ON DISPLAY GLOBAL](#)” developed by New York-based, physically integrated contemporary dance company Heidi Latsky Dance, where communities perform the work on December 3rd as part of a unified network of over 60 locations around the world celebrating the United Nation’s International Day of Persons with Disabilities. “[ON DISPLAY](#)” is performed at the United Nations headquarters in Washington D.C. by Heidi Latsky Dance alongside a slideshow and footage of the “ON DISPLAY GLOBAL” sites performing the work around the world.

“ON DISPLAY” evolved out of a partnership with the New York City Mayor’s Office and the United Nations in celebration of the 25th Anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act in 2015. The work is always presented in a public and accessible space, allowing the performers and the public alike to fully witness each other. It is seen as a platform to experience and broadcast difference, to elevate and celebrate it within a clear context.

In November 2018, Heidi Latsky Dance visited Harvard Dance Center for a [master class](#) and [discussion on accessibility and art-making](#), in partnership with The Harvard Law School Project on Disability and Theater, Dance & Media. During the master class, choreographer and artistic director Heidi Latsky and company member Tiffany Geigel taught the process and structure for “ON DISPLAY.” Participants from the master class then performed the work at The Smith Campus Center on December 3, 2018. This year, over 25 new participants responded to an open call to Harvard community members and they include Harvard undergraduates, graduates, alumni, staff, and faculty. The work will be performed in the rotunda room and stairs of Widener Library from 7-8pm and passersby are encouraged to experience the work by viewing and walking through the installation.

From Heidi Latsky Dance:

“Reverting the gaze is integral to disability culture. In this installation, the performers have the power to choose what they do or do not reveal, giving them control over a personal journey that cannot help but be affected by an audience. The tenuous and complex relationship between viewer and viewed that exists in performative work also permeates everyday life with people who are different in some physical way and hence draws attention to themselves whether they want to or not.”

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ABOUT HARVARD DANCE CENTER

The Harvard Dance Center is a site that leads through equality and dignity for all, aims to foster agency through dance for students, and promotes the arts as agents of social change in the world. Dance offerings at Harvard Dance Center include curricular courses led by Dance faculty in Theater, Dance & Media, as well as non-credit Harvard community dance classes which span a wide range of genres for students at all levels of dance experience. The Dance Center regularly hosts guest artists and choreographers who teach master classes and hold residencies

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throughout the academic year, fostering exceptional opportunities for students to work with luminaries and innovators in the field and in disciplines linked to dance. The Dance Center partners with departments and organizations across campus to provide workshops and dialogues that address important campus and cultural issues. It provides mentorship, support, and residency opportunities for student emerging choreographers, as well as for student-led dance groups which represent over 20 traditions from across the globe.