



# Dance Program

Office for the Arts at Harvard

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P R E S S   R E L E A S E

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**For More Information**

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## **DANCE PROGRAM AT HARVARD UNIVERSITY PRESENTS NEW DANCE INSTALLATION AND PERFORMANCES AT HARVARD DANCE CENTER**

**PERFORMANCES: DECEMBER 1-3, AT 7PM AND DECEMBER 4 AT 3PM, 2016. HARVARD DANCE CENTER, 66  
GARDEN 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 a dance installation with performances created for The Harvard Dance Project (HDP) by Artist-in-Residence Sidra Bell and Jill Johnson, Director of Dance at Harvard. The installation and performances will take place December 1-3, at 7PM and December 4, at 3 PM, at Harvard Dance Center, 66 Garden St., Cambridge, MA.

Brooklyn-based, artistic director/choreographer of Sidra Bell Dance New York, and 2015 National Dance Project awardee, Sidra Bell has been Artist-in-Residence at the Harvard Dance Center during the Fall of 2016. She and Dance Director Jill Johnson are co-founding collaborators of the Movement Invention Project summer dance intensive program in New York City. The two choreographers continue their collaboration this fall, each bringing their own distinct and manifold choreographic methodologies to creating an original dance installation for the Harvard Dance Project student dancers. The new work will premiere on December 1, 2016, at the Harvard Dance Center.

This is the 24th original work created for Harvard student dancers in the last six 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 and Theater, Dance, & Media Jill Johnson, HDP focuses on performance research, collaboration, and choreographic composition, and links choreographic thinking to other fields. It is one of more than ten dance courses now offered for credit at Harvard. Choreographers who have made work for

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

Tickets are available online at [boxoffice.harvard.edu](http://boxoffice.harvard.edu) or in person at the Harvard Box Office, 10 Holyoke St. (Tues-Sun., 12-6pm). Prices are \$5 students/seniors and \$10 general admission if purchased in advance, or \$10 for students/seniors, \$15 general admission at the door. You may contact the Dance Program directly for group discounts. 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

“The Harvard Dance Center aim is to lead through academic, artistic and civic leadership. We are a site for dignity and inclusion for all, and we create the conditions that foster agency through dance and the arts for our students. Our continued goal is to advance dance literacy on campus and for the world.” Jill Johnson, Dance Director

Artist Bios:

Sidra Bell: [www.sidrabelldance.org](http://www.sidrabelldance.org)

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

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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. Part of the concentration in Theater, Dance & Media, the Dance Program also offers a secondary field of concentration in drama with a focus on dance; for-credit courses; and 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.