

SPOTLIGHT:USA

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New York, NY & Plovdiv, Bulgaria
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American Dance Abroad and One Foundation for Culture and Arts Present
"SPOTLIGHT: USA," a Platform of American Dance in Bulgaria

(New York, NY) "SPOTLIGHT: USA," a platform of American dance in Bulgaria, will feature U.S. dance companies in performances in Plovdiv, Bulgaria, from March 26-28, 2018. **SPOTLIGHT** will introduce American dance companies to international dance professionals, increase cultural exchange and appreciation between the U.S. and Bulgaria, provide opportunities for American dance to be seen and embraced by international audiences, and lay the groundwork for sustained collaboration among the numerous countries that will attend.

Performances will be presented in four venues throughout Plovdiv, the 2019 European Capital of Culture. American Dance Abroad and One Foundation for Culture and Arts are closely collaborating on the project and together will invite and host 50+ international programmers from approximately 30 countries to attend the event.

A prestigious international jury curated the platform from a select list of 50 proposals. Congratulations to the following American companies selected by the jury: [Camille A. Brown & Dancers](#) (New York, NY), [CONTRATIEMPO](#) (Los Angeles, CA), [Dance Hegnbotham](#) (New York, NY), [Degenerate Art Ensemble](#) (Seattle, WA), [*fidget*](#) (Philadelphia, PA), [Jonah Bokaer Choreography](#) (New York, NY), [Kate Wallich + The YC](#) (Seattle, WA), [Palissimo Company](#) (New York, NY), and [Tahni Holt Dance](#) (Portland, OR).

The jury included Marc Olivé López, theatre programmer, Mercat de les Flors (Spain); Yvona Kreuzmannová, founder and director of Tanec Praha (Czech Republic); Felix Wittek, former director, internationale tanzmesse nrw (Germany); Karen Cheung, director, China Dance Development Project at the City Contemporary Dance Company (Hong Kong); Balázs Arato, manager, National Dance Theater (Hungary); and Antonello Tedesco, artistic director, CollettivoNada (Italy).

American Dance Abroad Co-Directors Dickey and Snyder remarked on the jury's selection, "We are delighted with the results of the jury's review and determination. These companies exemplify the extraordinary diversity of styles and artistic voices, represent the geographic range of great dance throughout our country, and offer a balance of gender in choreographic distribution. We hope the Bulgarian public and international colleagues who attend **SPOTLIGHT: USA** will appreciate and enjoy this unique platform."

Performance tickets will be available to the public starting in December through www.SpotlightUSA.org and www.EasyPay.bg. The website will also include details on the companies, program schedule, local accommodations in Plovdiv, how to contribute, and other pertinent information.

SPOTLIGHT is supported, in part, by the America for Bulgaria Foundation, the City of Plovdiv Municipality, the U.S. Embassy in Sofia, and the Trust for Mutual Understanding. According to Barbara Lanciers, director of

TMU: "The staff and board of the Trust for Mutual Understanding are delighted to support American Dance Abroad's **SPOTLIGHT: USA** program, which will serve to increase communication and understanding between American and Bulgarian dance professionals, bolster Bulgaria's presence in the European performing arts market and introduce American dancers and choreographers to a new Bulgarian audience as well as international presenters they otherwise would be unable to meet. This kind of interconnected, mutually beneficial focus encompasses the heart of the important work we have come to expect from American Dance Abroad."

About American Dance Abroad

American Dance Abroad is a national organization that seeks equitable cultural engagement among American dance artists and companies and their international counterparts. It facilitates introductions and creates opportunities for artistic discovery and dialogue. It was created as a tactical response to the decline of American dance in the global marketplace as put forth in [*Dance America: An International Strategy for American Dance*](#), co-authored by Carolelinda Dickey and Andrea Snyder in 2009, co-directors of American Dance Abroad.

One Foundation For Culture And Arts

One Foundation For Culture And Arts was established in 2010 to support the activity of EDNO, a platform that produced the annual festivals Sofia Design Week, Sofia Dance Week and Sofia Architecture Week. In 2013, the festivals were relocated from the capital in Sofia to Plovdiv, the second biggest city in the country, to aid the decentralization of cultural events in Bulgaria. The festivals were hence renamed One Design Week, One Dance Week and One Architecture Week. One Foundation for Culture and Arts' mission is to provide continuous development of local culture through delivering rich, innovative and high quality content that is accessible to all communities, and to enable cultural exchange between local and international artists. The goal is to promote and encourage contemporary culture and arts of the highest standard by propagating world-class art and offering a program of events that can be experienced and enjoyed by all.

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About the Artists

[Camille A. Brown & Dancers](#) creates and presents performances, offers dance engagement activities, and investigates historical and contemporary cultural, personal, and social justice issues through the art of dance theater, in order to provide a multi-faceted platform for sharing and building understanding of the African American experience and fostering interaction and dialogue among diverse communities.

[CONTRA-TIEMPO](#) is a bold, multilingual dance company creating physically intense and politically astute performance work that moves audiences to imagine what is possible. They create a new physical, visual and sonic vocabulary that collages Salsa, Afro-Cuban, hip-hop, and contemporary dance with theater, compelling text, and original music to bring dynamic multi-modal experiences to the concert stage.

[Dance Heginbotham](#) is a contemporary dance company committed to moving people through dance. With an emphasis on collaboration, DH enriches national and international communities with its unique blend of inventive, thoughtful, and rigorous dance theater works.

[Degenerate Art Ensemble](#) makes live performances inspired by punk, comics, cinema, nightmares and fairy tales, driven by live music and their own style of visceral movement theater and dance. Their work challenges how one

sees audience, architecture, music, story, myth and reality, and stems from a deep desire for communion, soul-exchange and transformation.

[**<fidget>**](#) is a platform for the experimental, ensemble-derived performance works of collaborators Megan Bridge (choreography) and Peter Price (design, music). The origin of [**<fidget>**](#)'s work is multimedia dance theater, an orientation that follows the historical legacies of Bauhaus, Ausdruckstanz, 1960's experimentalism, performance art of the 70's and 80's, and developing digital multimedia.

[**Jonah Bokaer Choreography**](#) has cultivated a new form of choreography merged with visual art and design. Bokaer is the author of 60 original works, produced in 31 nations. He also works in digital media, cross-disciplinary collaborations, and social enterprise.

[**Kate Wallich + The YC**](#) is dedicated to cultivating a community of artists and the public through dance-based, design-forward experiences. Their vision is a collaborative and connected community that engages and supports uncompromising dance projects.

[**Palissimo Company**](#)'s founder and director Pavel Zuštiak creates works for stage and public spaces that merge the abstract aspects of dance with nonlinear qualities of "theatre of images" into interdisciplinary pieces rich in evocative imagery and piercing emotional resonance. Zuštiak is the 2015 Bessie Juried Award winner for his "poetic layering of movement and visual imagery, conceiving the stage space as a decentralized world in which the corporeal body is the focus and canvas for a wide range of human expression."

[**Tahni Holt Dance**](#) asks questions that demand rigorous specificity yet remain open to a terrain of inquiry – inviting rather than prescribing interpretation. Holt actively uses her intuition, improvisational forms, collaborations with the performers, and her on-going somatic practice to create work.