



Contact Truly Render, 734.647.4020

trender@umich.edu

www.ums.org/news

UMS ANNOUNCES WINTER 2015 COMMUNITY WORKSHOP SERIES ON DANCE

UMS NIGHT SCHOOL AND YOU CAN DANCE MOVEMENT WORKSHOPS TO UNLOCK THE MYSTERY OF DANCE FOR CURIOUS COMMUNITY MEMBERS

ANN ARBOR, MI (December 8, 2015) —The University Musical Society (UMS) announces two free community workshop series in winter 2015 for dance enthusiasts and those curious about the genre.

UMS Night School: Curious About Dance runs every Monday from February 2 – March 16 (no class on Monday, March 2) and **You Can Dance Workshops with visiting Dance Company Artists** coincides with select UMS performances starting Saturday, January 24, 2015. **Full details, including session dates and individual session topics start on page 2 of this release.**

A 136-year-old multi-disciplinary non-profit performing arts presenter housed on the U-M campus, UMS is in the midst of its 24th year presenting a dance series as part of its overall performance season. According to Jim Leija, Director of Education and Community Engagement at UMS, the genre of dance is still intimidating to many people. “There are any number of physical gestures that people make in their everyday lives to indicate a feeling, an emotion, or an idea through movement; we give a thumbs up when we’re pleased, we hang our heads low when we feel sad. But the moment that movement is incorporated into choreography and called ‘dance,’ many doubt their ability to understand, challenge, or enjoy the experience. The UMS Night School and You Can Dance programs are great ways for dance enthusiasts and the dance curious alike to feel comfortable talking about dance as a genre. Most

importantly, UMS Night School and You Can Dance connect participants to the artists that UMS presents and to others in the community,” said Leija.

UMS NIGHT SCHOOL

Now in its fourth season, UMS Night School is a six-session “mini-course” offered by UMS and taught by U-M professors and other guests. Starting February 2, UMS Night School will be held Mondays at 7 pm in the U-M Alumni Center (200 Fletcher St.). Hosted by Clare Croft, assistant professor of dance at the University of Michigan, this winter’s UMS Night School will feature 90-minute classes that combine conversation, lecture, and interactive exercises focused on dance. UMS Night School is free and no pre-registration is required; interested participants may attend just one session or attend them all.

UMS Night School Schedule

Session 1: Monday, February 2
Topic: Curious About Dance

Session 2: Monday, February 9
Topic: Adapting Stories

Session 3: Monday, February 16
Topic: Body Experiments

Session 4: Monday, February 23
Topic: Dancing Scholarship

No class on Monday, March 2

Session 5: Monday, March 9
Topic: Dancing Social Justice with Kyle Abraham

Session 6: Monday, March 16
Topic: Graduation and Reflection

YOU CAN DANCE WORKSHOPS WITH DANCE COMPANY MEMBERS

During the second half of the 14/15 season, UMS presents four world-renowned dance companies: Compagnie Marie Chouinard (1/23), Trisha Brown Dance Company (2/21-22), Kyle Abraham/Abraham.In.Motion (3/13-14), and the Lyon Opera Ballet (4/24-26). UMS You Can Dance workshops bring dancers from each of these companies to the Ann Arbor Y (400 W. Washington St.) for a hands-on exploration of the company's movement style. No dance training or experience is necessary and all levels, ages 13+ are welcome. The You Can Dance workshops are free but offered on a first come, first served basis until the studio reaches capacity; sign up begins 45 minutes prior to the class at the YMCA front desk. Participants do not have to be Y members to attend; interested community members can attend all four workshops or just those that interest them.

UMS You Can Dance Schedule

Session 1: Saturday, January 24 at 1:30 pm [sign-up begins at 12:45 pm]
Compagnie Marie Chouinard

Session 2: Saturday, February 21 at 10:45 am [sign-up begins at 10 am]
Trisha Brown Dance Company

Session 3: Saturday, March 14, 1:30 pm [sign-up begins at 12:45 pm]
Kyle Abraham/Abraham.In.Motion

Session 4: Saturday, April 25, 1:30 pm [sign-up begins at 12:45 pm]
Lyon Opera Ballet

About UMS

UMS is an independent non-profit affiliated with the University of Michigan, presenting over 70 music, theater, and dance performances by professional touring artists each season. One of the oldest performing arts presenters in the country, UMS is committed to connecting audiences with performing artists from around the world in uncommon and engaging experiences.

####