

URBANITY DANCE ANNOUNCES PROGRAMMING FOR 2022-2023 SEASON



**Professional Company Season Includes
Call of Courage on October 21, 2022,
Of the Ether on March 24 & 25, 2023 and
Urbanity's Signature Dance Crawl Event *Go stop listen. Still wait go.*
on May 12, 13, 19 & 20, 2023**

Robust Schedule Continues at The School at Urbanity Dance for Students of All Ages

**Urbanity Dance Continues to Increase Access to Programming Through Scholarships,
Dance with Parkinson's Classes, and
Movement Mends Workshop Series**

www.urbanitydance.org

September 20, 2022 (Boston, MA) — Urbanity Dance—dedicated to inspiring, engaging and empowering the Boston community through the art of dance and movement—today announces programming for its 2022-2023 Professional Company season, featuring collaborations with numerous Boston-area institutions.

Kicking off Urbanity's eleventh season is **Call of Courage** on **Friday, October 21, 2022 at 6:00pm**. Held at **Roxbury Community College**, the 45-minute performance for all ages features choreography set to powerful stories of perseverance from Boston's youth. The dancers will play with power structures rooted in social interaction to create an immersive story of empowerment and peer intervention. Performed by the **Professional Company** and **Boston Arts Academy students**, the event is a collaboration between **Boston Arts Academy Dance Program Students** and **Brighter Boston Students**, who participate in all aspects of the production, both onstage and behind the scenes. All artists will weave stories through choreography to an original sound score by local composer **Rob Hyde**, which centers the voices and writings from **The Max Warburg Courage Curriculum**. A matinee show on the same day at **12:00pm** will also be presented for Boston-area school students.

Urbanity presents **Of the Ether** at the **Cambridge Multicultural Arts Center** on **Friday, March 24 and Saturday, March 25, 2022 at 7:00pm** featuring the Professional Company in a creative collaboration on the concept of the "ether" among Company Director **Meg Anderson**, the Urbanity Dance **Choreography Fellow**, and **MASARY Studios**. The creative team, along with the dancers, will aim to create not just a performance, but an immersive experience for the audience.

Urbanity's signature dance crawl event, featuring the Professional Company and numerous community collaborations, returns in spring 2023, entitled **Go stop listen. Still wait go**. Performances will take place on two weekends: **Friday, May 12 and Saturday, May 13, 2023**, and **Friday, May 19 and Saturday, May 20, 2023** at locations throughout Boston's South End. This innovative performance brings together the talent of Boston movers, musicians, storytellers, and poets as they dive into the many layers of history in Boston's South End neighborhood, uniting dance with original scores from Boston favorites. Collaborating artists **Tim Hall** and **Valerie Stephens** join the crawl, with Hall an award winning musician and performance poet from Detroit, MI, whose poetry draws inspiration from his lived experiences, charting the nuances of blackness, masculinity, and the beauties of life, and Stephens an award-winning performing artist and arts educator who has received the Bridge Award in Arts for creating the annual event **PRINCESS DAY: Celebrating Little Girls of Color**. **Go stop listen. Still wait go**. will begin at **1511 Washington Street** and continue to various different locations, each activated by dance and music. Show times will take place every five minutes from **6:00 to 7:30pm**. Audience members (up to 6 per group) can participate together, creating a special memory with a uniquely-designed experience for the entire group.

"As we step into our next decade at Urbanity Dance, we are focusing on providing meaningful work for local dancers and choreographers, collaborating across artistic disciplines, and supporting artists early on in their career. We want artists to find a home in Boston," says **Urbanity Dance Founder and Director Betsi Graves**. "Site-specific work like our annual dance Crawl shines a light on the stylistic and cultural diversity of our neighborhood in the South End, and this fall's performance of *Call of Courage* is designed to physicalize empathy and promote upstander behavior for young people."

Deeply committed to collaboration and providing opportunities for the community, Urbanity's 22-23 season highlights Boston-based artists and choreographers, bringing the organization's focus to the local level in contrast to the impressive national scope it has commanded in past seasons.

In addition to its Professional Company programming, Urbanity continues to offer a wide array of dance classes for children ages 1 to 18 and works to ensure that students have equitable opportunities to participate in dance education through its **Access for All Scholarship Fund**. The organization also offers a full array of classes for adults in both session and drop-in formats.

Urbanity's impactful work in the community continues this season with its free, weekly **Dance with Parkinson's classes**; **Movement Mends**, a dance and movement workshop series that engages and empowers individuals

who have experienced incarceration, housing insecurity, or abuse; and affordable studio rentals for the artistic community.

2022-23 Programming Information

Call of Courage

Friday, October 21, 2022 at 6:00pm

Roxbury Community College

Tickets: \$25 General Admission, \$50 Priority Seating, \$100 VIP Ticket

Link: <https://www.classy.org/event/call-of-courage/e427890>

Of the Ether

Friday, March 24, 2022 at 7:00pm

Saturday, March 25, 2022 at 7:00pm

Cambridge Multicultural Arts Center | 41 Second St | East Cambridge, MA

Tickets: \$30 General Admission, \$75 VIP Ticket

Link: <https://www.classy.org/event/of-the-ether/e427900>

Spring Crawl: *Go stop listen. Still wait go.*

Friday, May 12, 2023

Saturday, May 13, 2023

Friday, May 19, 2023

Saturday, May 20, 2023

Starts at 1511 Washington St and continues to locations throughout Boston's South End

Tickets: \$30

Link: <https://www.classy.org/event/go-stop-listen-still-wait-go/e427905>

About Urbanity Dance

Urbanity Dance was founded as a non-profit arts organization in 2011 by Director Betsi Graves with the mission to engage, inspire, and empower individuals and communities through the art of dance and movement. This mission is manifested through Urbanity's organizational pillars of Company, School, and Community, which strive to achieve three objectives: to propel contemporary dance to the forefront of Boston's cultural landscape; fill an unmet demand for access to training in diverse dance forms; and use dance as a tool for fostering bodily autonomy and creativity in local schools and community spaces. Through its three South End studios and work in the community, Urbanity is proud to provide high-quality dance experiences to over 10,000 dance-lovers of all ages, backgrounds, and abilities every year.

Urbanity's Professional Company offers challenging, entertaining, and visionary experiences that leverage excellence to activate space, engage art, and build connection. With its blend of disciplines ranging from modern jazz to breakdance, it embodies Urbanity's commitment to community by celebrating the collective tapestry of lived experiences and training of its dancers. Company performances, workshops, and classes promote empathy and harness the collaborative spirit and energy of Boston residents and its multidisciplinary arts network. Through these efforts, the Company has been recognized as one of Boston's Best by *Improper Bostonian*, a "Best of Boston" winner by *Boston Magazine*, and a Top Ten Critics' Pick by *The Boston Globe*. To date, it has presented work at Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival, The Alvin Ailey Citigroup Theater, The Institute of Contemporary Art, and venues across New England, New York, New Mexico, Virginia, Texas, and Florida.

The School at Urbanity Dance offers high-quality dance training in several styles and genres for over 500 students of all ages and experience levels each year through its three South End studios. The faculty, all from diverse cultural and dance backgrounds, supports each student in their training through a structured, nurturing classroom environment that fosters growth, discipline, and fun. The School's teaching philosophy aims to teach

to the whole dancer and develop students' emotional, social, and physical well being to become fully empowered individuals.

Urbanity's commitment to Community encompasses a diverse range of partnerships with schools, health centers, local arts institutions, enrichment camps, and juvenile detention centers through its three flagship programs: Urbanity in the Community, which provides dance curriculum to Boston Public School students who otherwise would not have access; Dance with Parkinson's, which uses movement to improve the mobility, balance, and coordination of those with Parkinson's Disease and other neurodegenerative disorders; and Movement Mends, which uses movement to empower and inspire those who have experienced incarceration, homelessness, or violence.

Together, the Company, School, and Community programs create an interwoven network that provides high-quality art experiences to students of all ages and backgrounds, as well as paid opportunities for all professional dancers, dancemakers, artistic collaborators and teachers, that serve Urbanity's mission, its South End neighborhood in Boston, and the city at large.

For more information, please visit www.urbanitydance.org.

Image at top of release by Ryan Smith Visuals

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