

## Dorrance Dance Takes Tap to a New Level in Debut at The Wallis

October 12 – 14, 2017

(Beverly Hills, CA September 25) A Bessie Award-winning ensemble known for “blasting open our notion of tap,” **Dorrance Dance** pushes tap dance’s tradition—rhythmically, aesthetically and conceptually—into the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Street, club and experimental dance forms combine with the energetic rhythms of America’s long-standing tap and jazz vernacular in Dorrance Dance’s new, dynamically compelling creations. Now, this energetic company launches the 2017/18 season of Dance @ The Wallis bringing a new, fully extended West Coast premiere version of *Myelination* with original live music to the **Wallis Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts** (The Wallis) in Beverly Hills from **October 12 – 14**. In addition, the program also features the rarely-seen award-winning *Three to One* and a revival of the whimsical *Jungle Blues*, illustrating the great range for which the company is known. Dance @ The Wallis is made possible in part by a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts.

“Dorrance Dance captures the heart and the imagination wherever they appear and I’m delighted to welcome them to The Wallis,” said Paul Crewes, Artistic Director. “Michelle Dorrance is an incredible force of nature whose innovative approach to tap dance and its various iterations stretch the boundary of our perceptions of this quintessential American artform.”

Single tickets are now available for \$45 – \$125. For more information or to purchase tickets, visit [TheWallis.org/Dorrance](http://TheWallis.org/Dorrance), call 310.746.4000, or stop by in person at the Wallis Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts Ticket Services located at 9390 N. Santa Monica Blvd., Beverly Hills, CA 90210. Ticket prices subject to change.

The Wallis also offers three different options to subscribe to the 2017/18 season: the Premium Subscription Series; the Design-Your-Own option; and the new 3-show Flex Pass for \$99, created for busy young professionals—39 and younger—giving the most flexibility to join The Wallis family of subscribers. Learn more at [TheWallis.org/Subscribe](http://TheWallis.org/Subscribe).

### **About Dorrance Dance:**

Dorrance Dance is an award-winning tap dance company based out of New York City. The company’s work aims to honor tap dance’s uniquely beautiful history in a new, dynamic, and compelling context; not by stripping the form of its tradition, but by pushing it—rhythmically, technically, and conceptually. The company’s inaugural performance garnered a Bessie Award for “blasting open our notions of tap” and the company continues its passionate commitment to expanding the audience of tap dance, America’s original art form.

Founded in 2011 by artistic director and 2015 MacArthur Fellow, Michelle Dorrance, the company has received countless accolades, rave reviews and performed for packed houses at venues including Jacob's Pillow, The Joyce Theater, The Kennedy Center, New York City Center, Lincoln Center Out of Doors, Vail International Dance Festival, National Arts Center of Canada, Spoleto Festival USA, Fira Tarega, Staatstheater Darmstadt and more.

"With each performance of Dorrance Dance, tap expands." – *The New York Times*

**About Michelle Dorrance:**

Michelle Dorrance is a New York City based tap dancer, choreographer, director, teacher, performer, and is the founder and Artistic Director of Dorrance Dance. Mentored by Gene Medler, she grew up performing with his North Carolina Youth Tap Ensemble and has since performed with: STOMP, Savion Glover's ti dii, Manhattan Tap, Barbara Duffy & Co, JazzTap Ensemble, Rumba Tap, Ayodele Casel's Diary of a Tap Dancer, Mable Lee's Dancing Ladies, Harold Cromer's original Opus One, Derick Grant's Imagine Tap, Jason Samuels Smith's Charlie's Angels/Chasing the Bird, Jon Batiste and Stay Human on CBS's The Late Show with Stephen Colbert, and toured the US, Europe, and Australia playing the bass for indie-pop sensation, Darwin Deez.

Most recently Michelle served as Vail Dance Festival's 2017 Artist-In-Residence, curated Tireless: A Tap Dance Experience at Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival while co-directing its tap education program with Dormeshia Sumbry-Edwards, and collaborated with Nicholas Van Young on Works and Process at the Guggenheim Museum's first site-specific commission for the Guggenheim Rotunda. Michelle's choreography is performed throughout the world and has been featured at countless theaters, clubs, and festivals including a choreographic commission for the The Martha Graham Dance Company as a part of their Lamentation Variations, and a high-fashion short film for Tabitha Simmons.

Michelle is a 2016-17 New York City Center Choreography Fellow, 2016 United States Artists Award Recipient, 2015 MacArthur Fellow, a 2014 Herb Alpert Award in the Arts winner (receiving a \$75,000 grant), 2013 Jacob's Pillow Dance Award winner, 2012 Princess Grace Award winner, 2012 Field Dance Fund recipient, 2011/2015 Bessie Award winner. She has been featured on the cover of Dance Magazine and Dance Teacher Magazine, is a Capezio Athlete, is a Virgo (Aquarius rising, Gemini moon), and her favorite colors are various shades of green and grey. A passionate educator, Michelle holds a Bachelor of Arts from New York University, teaches on faculty at IFTRA, taught on faculty at Broadway Dance Center for over a decade, and teaches as a guest artist at universities, festivals, and arts organizations through the world. Michelle wishes to credit the master hoofers from whom she studied with in her youth for constant inspiration and influence.

For downloadable photos, please visit [TheWallis.org/Press](http://TheWallis.org/Press).

For more information about The Wallis, please visit: [TheWallis.org](http://TheWallis.org).

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**TICKET INFORMATION:**

**What: Dorrance Dance**

Wallis Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts  
Bram Goldsmith Theater  
9390 N. Santa Monica Blvd, Beverly Hills, CA, 90210

**When:** Thursday, October 12 – Saturday, October 14, 2017 at 7:30pm

**Tickets:** Single tickets: \$45 – \$125 (prices subject to change)

Online – [TheWallis.org/Dorrance](http://TheWallis.org/Dorrance)

By Phone – 310.746.4000

Box Office – Wallis Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts Ticket Services  
9390 N. Santa Monica Blvd, Beverly Hills, CA, 90210

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