

Danse: Haiti's acclaimed dance company returns

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MIAMI — Compagnie de Danse Jean-René Delsoin, Haiti's acclaimed dance company under the direction of Jean René Delsoin, performs choreography that captures Haiti now-raw and refined, spiritual and powerful.

Traveling from Haiti as part of Center Stage, a U.S. State Department program, the Company will perform a one-evening public engagement at the South Miami-Dade Cultural Arts Center (SMDCAC) on Saturday, Oct. 20 at 8 p.m.

The Company will arrive in Miami in advance of the show to conduct free community outreach and open dance classes for the public on Thursday, Oct. 18, 7 p.m.-8:30 p.m. at the Little Haiti Cultural Center (212 N.E. 59th Ter.) and on Saturday, Oct. 20, 10 a.m.-11:30 a.m. at SMDCAC (10950 S.W. 211 St., Cutler Bay).

Tickets for the show are \$25-\$10 (\$5 tickets available through cultureshockmiami.com for ages 13-22). Buy tickets online at smdcac.org or call the Box Office at 786-573-5300. The Center is located at 10950 SW 211 Street, Cutler Bay. Free parking is available.

To RSVP for the free community dance classes at Little Haiti Cultural Center and SMDCAC the public should contact Carla Hill, 786-573-5319, CarlaH@miamidade.gov

The Company will also engage in additional outreach including a special dance class for Homestead Senior High Students and a Random Act of Culture event at Southland Mall. In addition, SMDCAC has arranged a master class for the Company with acclaimed choreographer and dancer Peter London in the Martha Graham style of modern dance.

Compagnie de Danse Jean-René Delsoin, like its founder and mastermind, moves through the many worlds that intersect in Haiti: the rough-edged and vivacious rural dances and ceremonies, the refined social dance of the cities, and the vivid yet stark lines of contemporary global dance.

Bold swaths of color alternate with somber, focused intensity. The earthy, expressive voices of traditional drums and

other music interweave with the precise grace of classical ballet.

Modern dance aesthetics and a deep love of popular moves meet beats that migrated from West Africa to Haiti: They all come together

effortlessly in bold, emotionally resonant moments that will open doors to a better, more nuanced interaction and understanding between Americans and Haitians, between the artists and their American viewers and counterparts.

“Dance is my prayer,” Delsoin explains. “I want everyone in the audience to be touched by the colors and the rhythms, and to feel the energy and spirit of the Company. I can’t imagine a more powerful way to promote understanding between us.”

“The Haitian community is an important part of the cultural fabric of Miami,” said Eric Fliss, General Manger of SMDCAC. We are thrilled to be presenting this company to our Haitian audiences and equally excited to expose the larger community to this outstanding dance company.”