



# Program Description: *The Cohort*

## The RS Annual Production, Reimagined!

This past summer, Rhythmically Speaking celebrated 10 years of presenting excellent staged work inspired by jazz and American social dance ideas and created by primarily Minnesota-based artists as a means of building community and encouraging consciousness of the sociocultural histories of and innovations in these forms. Now entering our second decade, we are excited to stretch ourselves and fulfill our mission in innovative new ways by reimagining our annual multi-choreographer production under the title Rhythmically Speaking presents *The Cohort*.

For this inaugural year of the program, we are looking for one “Local” (Minnesota-based) choreographer (in addition to RS Artistic Director Erinn Liebhard) to make a new work, and two “Touring” choreographers (based outside Minnesota) to revisit a piece of their repertoire. We will also be casting a group of eight to twelve dancers to learn and perform said works. The project will culminate in a fully produced show August 15-17, 2019 at the Southern Theater in Minneapolis.

This new vision for our annual production will continue our support of new work by local choreographers while providing touring opportunities for choreographers from outside Minnesota. It will also create regular professional performance opportunities for local dancers interested in staged work inspired by jazz and American social dance ideas. We are looking to deepen the engagement of and improve compensation for involved artists and to offer audiences fewer but more substantial works to experience while building community among all of them. Details:

### **Important Dates: (audition & rehearsals all at Zenon Dance in the Cowles Center in downtown Mpls)**

- 11/30/18: Choreographer Submission Form due at 5pm CST
- 12/21/18: Choreographers announced
- 1/6/19 6:30-9:30pm: Dancer audition
- 1/14/19: Dancers announced
- 2/6/19 - 3/8/19 Ws & Fs 1:30-5:30pm: Erinn Liebhard rehearsal period (40 hours)
- 3/27/19 - 4/26/19 Ws & Fs 1:30-5:30pm: Local choreographer reh. period (40 hrs)
- \*6/3/19 - 6/7/19 1:30-5:30pm: Touring choreographer #1 intensive rehearsals (20 hrs)
- \*7/8/19 - 7/12/19 1:30-5:30pm: Touring choreographer #2 intensive rehearsals (20 hrs)
- 8/12/19 - 8/17/19: Production Week (@ The Southern Theater, Minneapolis MN)
  - 8/12-8/14: Techs (approx. 3 hour slots scheduled for each choreographer) and Dress
  - 8/15-8/17: Shows (7:30pm 8/15-8/17 and 2:00pm 8/17)

\*Which weeks in June and July 2019 these will be is currently negotiable

### **Details for potential CHOREOGRAPHERS:**

#### Eligibility:

- Artists at any point in their careers are welcomed to apply. Must 21 and older.
- Submitted work must explore staging of jazz and American social dance forms: approaches include but not limited to tap and hip-hop styles. Potential applicants encouraged to join our ongoing conversation around “what constitutes jazz and American social dance?” by applying.

#### Requirements:

- Local choreographer: making a new 15-22 minute work for eight dancers or less/ Touring choreographers: remounting a piece of existing 15-22 minute repertoire for eight dancers or less. Work to be set on The Cohort’s dancers.
- Teaching a master class and do a public showing of their work.

- Dutiful participation in production week activities and post-program evaluation efforts.

#### Compensation:

- Commission includes full rehearsal and presentation support, from the provision of rehearsal space and dancers to the rental of celebrated Twin Cities performance venue The Southern Theater, a full technical staff, and major marketing support from Rhythmically Speaking for the show, as well as an honorarium of at least \*\$1,500.00.  
\* Honorarium offered at the same rate for both Local and Touring choreographers, given the former will be in rehearsal more and the later will have travel costs to cover. Homestay available for Touring choreographers during rehearsal periods and production week.

#### Submission Details:

- Submission Form to be completed as a PDF file with naming convention "LASTNAME," and sent to [rhythmicallyspeakingdance@gmail.com](mailto:rhythmicallyspeakingdance@gmail.com) by 5pm CST on Friday, 11/30/18. Limit text to amount of space provided on the form, keeping application to a SINGLE PAGE.
- Video sample required: MUST be submitted as 'Unlisted' YouTube link within Submission Form. Local applicants: select ONE video of an entire past work best representing your aesthetic/ the work you hope to create. Touring applicants: provide video of entire work being submitting.

#### Details for potential DANCERS:

#### Eligibility:

- Artists at any point in their careers are welcomed to audition. Must be 21 or older.
- Prior experience with jazz and American social dance forms will be beneficial.

#### Requirements:

- Full availability for 'Important Dates' listed above.
- Agreement to learn and perform 2-4 of the 4 works programmed onto the show.
- Dancers are expected to \*dutifully participate as movers in rehearsals, public showings and production week activities and post-program evaluation efforts.  
\* In the event a Choreographer chooses to seek additional creative contribution, dancers can expect to receive appropriate additional recognition in the program and the support of RS staff in defining their developed role as needed.

#### Compensation

- Stipend of at least \$1,250.00 (for an average of 100 rehearsal hours (3 pieces + brush-ups) and 25 performance hours at \$10 per hour).

#### Audition Details:

- Come to the audition on 1/6/19 from 6:30-9:30pm (location TBD) prepared to move through a warm-up and phrases the touch on the aesthetic priorities of selected Choreographers. Cast will be announced by the end of the day on 1/14/19.

Questions? Contact [rhythmicallyspeakingdance@gmail.com](mailto:rhythmicallyspeakingdance@gmail.com). We look forward to seeing your work, and thank you for your support of our past efforts and foray into new programming territory!

Sincerely,

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Erinn Liebhard  
Artistic Director  
Rhythmically Speaking  
[rhythmicallyspeakingdance.org](http://rhythmicallyspeakingdance.org)