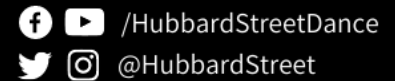




**HUBBARD STREET
DANCE CHICAGO**

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LINDA-DENISE FISHER-HARRELL NAMED ARTISTIC DIRECTOR OF HUBBARD STREET DANCE CHICAGO

CHICAGO – Hubbard Street Dance Chicago (HSDC) today announced that former company member Linda-Denise Fisher-Harrell has been named Artistic Director of the contemporary dance company effective March 1, 2021.

“As the country’s premier contemporary dance company, we are delighted to welcome such a star to lead us into the future,” said Steven Collens, chairman of the HSDC Board of Directors. “Ms. Fisher-Harrell has the vision, experience and relationships to rebuild excitement for dance as a vital and dynamic contemporary art form as we gradually return to the stage in the next year. Her extraordinary career to date as an artist and educator make her the ideal individual to advance Hubbard Street’s rich culture of learning, growth, and the creative process.”

“In 1989, I received a call from Lou Conte inviting me to join Hubbard Street Dance Chicago, and my life changed forever,” said Fisher-Harrell. “I can’t wait to return to Chicago and start working with the incredibly talented dancers, the hard-working staff and the dedicated board of directors. I could never have imagined that one day I would be entrusted with this position, but I feel that every phase of my progression as a dancer and educator has led me to this. I am profoundly grateful for the opportunity to build on the company’s legacy and to begin Hubbard Street Dance Chicago’s next chapter.”

A native of Baltimore, Fisher-Harrell began her dance training at the Baltimore School for the Arts and later studied at The Juilliard School. In 1989, she was invited to join HSDC and was quickly given featured roles in pieces including Daniel Ezralow’s *Read My Hips*, Margo Sappington’s *Mirage*, Twyla Tharp’s *Baker’s Dozen* and *The Golden Section* and many more. In 1992, she became a principal dancer with the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater under the direction of Judith Jamison, where she had the honor of performing several iconic lead roles with the company during her 13-year tenure. There, in addition to performing works by Ailey and Jamison, she was seen in Ron K. Brown’s *Grace*, Alonzo King’s *Following the Subtle Current Upstream*, Lar Lubovitch’s *Fandango*, numerous works by Ulysses Dove and many others. Since 2005 she has focused on education, passing on her knowledge and

experience to future artists of all ages. She has served as a professor at Towson University, as an instructor at the Baltimore School for the Arts, and as a mentor to middle school students as Director of Ailey Camp Baltimore. She earned a Masters of Fine Arts from Hollins University in 2007.

“From the moment I laid eyes on Linda-Denise, when she was just 19, I knew she was perfect for Hubbard Street,” said Founder Lou Conte. “Not only is she a talented and skilled dancer, she is passionate, smart, hard-working and an exemplary role model. I am confident that she has the skills to guide Hubbard Street into the future.”

Fisher-Harrel will relocate to Chicago in the coming weeks.

“I am excited to get started,” added Fisher-Harrell. “My vision for Hubbard Street includes creating a more accessible, exciting and diverse future for the company. Together we will continue to push contemporary dance and society forward by presenting challenging and diverse voices. We will seek to further integrate Hubbard Street into the Chicago community, augmenting our work in Chicago’s public schools and building authentic collaborations with organizations and artists throughout the city. Most importantly, we will work to inspire audiences, filling their hearts with joy in these challenging times.”

Linda-Denise Fisher-Harrell was selected through an international search process, led by a search committee of HSDC and leaders in the dance community, facilitated by Arts Consulting Group.

About Hubbard Street Dance Chicago

Hubbard Street Dance Chicago’s mission is to bring artists, art and audiences together to enrich, engage, educate and change lives through the experience of dance. HSDC is committed to keeping its dancers creating and finding innovative ways to share exceptional contemporary dance with the community. Hubbard Street Dance Chicago grew out of the Lou Conte Dance Studio in 1977, and Conte served as Artistic Director for 23 years. Jim Vincent then served as artistic director for nine years, followed by the 11-year tenure of Glenn Edgerton.

Hubbard Street offers extensive Education and Adaptive Dance Programs to ensure that residents in every neighborhood of Chicago have access to the benefits of dance. Visit hubbardstreetdance.com for more information.

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