

MORDINE & CO

DANCE THEATER

MORDINE & CO. DANCE THEATER ANNOUNCES ITS 2019 CONCERT 50TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION PERFORMANCE

Founded in 1969, the Midwest's longest running contemporary dance company, **Mordine & Company Dance Theater**, celebrates its 50th Anniversary Season. Known for its interdisciplinary collaborations with artists in the fields of music, theater, visual design, video and puppetry, Mordine & Co. strives to infuse the field of dance with new modes of performance and expression.

50th Anniversary Celebration Performance

May 17th & 18th, 2019, 7 pm
Link's Hall, 3111 N. Western Ave., Chicago

Celebrating the history of **Mordine & Company Dance Theater**, this season features three works by Founder and Artistic Director **Shirley Mordine** from different decades of the company. Originally created in response to social political events at the time, the three works selected to remount and reinvent this season are still relevant. Set to lush music by Mozart, "*I haven't heard from you...*" (2003) seeks a sense of reasoning, and was initially created in response to the threat of war in Iraq. As a culmination of the depth, history, invention, teaching, and collaborations of Mordine, *Collisions I* (2017), with music by composer Vijay Iyer & Fred Simon, focuses on the evolution and changes of society, culture, as well as nature. Also presented this season will be a re-imagined *Three Women* (1974), featuring projection design by video artist Monica Thomas. Mentored work by company members will also be included
Performers: Danielle Gilmore, Melissa Pilarella, Nick Schrier, Austin Shirley, Emily Stepleton, Timothy Tsang.

About the Company

Now in its 50th year, **Mordine & Co.** has won critical acclaim for its dance theater works that combine sheer movement with wit and technical sophistication. Known for its cross-disciplinary collaborations with artists in the fields of music, theater, visual design, video and puppetry, Mordine & Co. strives to infuse the field of dance with new modes of performance and expression. Founder **Shirley Mordine** began her early training in San Francisco with Welland Lathrop, Anna Halprin, and the San Francisco Ballet School. She performed with the Welland Lathrop Dance Co. for 10 years. After graduating from Mills College in Oakland, California, she taught at the University of Minnesota for three years and continued her studies with Alwin Nikolais and Murray Louis. Moving to Chicago in 1969 she founded The Dance Center of Columbia College and directed it until 1999. Under her direction, The Dance Center has evolved

into a multifaceted institution at the national forefront of dance education. She received the first Ruth Page Award for Outstanding Individual Contribution to the field of dance and was honored again in 1994 with a Ruth Page Award for Outstanding Artistic Achievement for her ground breaking work combining movement with text, film, video, slides, and computer images, *Edge Mode, Part I*. In 2008,

Mordine was awarded an Illinois Arts Council 2008 Artists Fellowship Award in Choreography in recognition for outstanding work and commitment within the arts. In honor of the Mordine & Co. Dance Theater's 40th Anniversary and to recognize the company's contribution to the performing arts, Chicago Mayor Richard M. Daley proclaimed February 28, 2009, to be "Mordine & Co. Dance Theater Day in Chicago." More recent work has been enriched by collaborations such as "I Haven't Gone There", a collaboration between **Mordine and Company** and Mucca Pazza Marching Band. Also lending his voice was Chicago performing artist, Brian Saner. Natya Dance Theater, directed by artistic director Hema Ragagopalan. have frequently collaborated, exploring the artistic sensibilities between contemporary western dance and classical Barata Natyam. Together they evolved company pieces "Pushed to the Edge", "Two Rivers" and "Sahridaya" performed by dancers from both companies at the North Shore Center for the performing Arts. Most recently, **Shirley Mordine** was given the 2018 See Chicago Dance Legacy award for her enormous contribution to the dance community.

For more information on Mordine & Co. Dance Theater visit www.mordine.org
on Facebook - Cerqua Rivera Dance Theatre
on Instagram and Twitter @cerquarivera

Our *50th Anniversary Season* and Mordine & Company Dance Theater is partially supported by a grant from the Illinois Arts Council, a state agency, The Richard H. Driehaus Foundation, The Gaylord and Dorothy Donnelley Foundation, The Arts Work Fund for Organizational Development, The Ruth Page Foundation, Dovetail Studios, and many individual supporters.

For Immediate Release

Digital Photos Available

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