

# WV DANCE COMPANY

Enriching Lives Through Dance



## TOUR AT A GLANCE:

- 59 schools served in 6 WV counties
- 11,800 students and 990 teachers served
- 24 creative movement workshops
- 5 public performances reaching 1,000+
- 12 WV artists supported by WVDC projects



## TOURING REPORT

*A inspiring season abbreviated by COVID-19.*

The 2019-20 season marked WV Dance Company's 43rd year serving communities throughout WV with public dance performances and educational arts programs for K-12 students. The season began with in-school performances of the company's arts integration program, "Adventures Around the Big Blue Marble," in Mercer and Wyoming County schools and continued with residencies in Raleigh County and Kanawha County reaching a total of 9,100 students in the fall alone.

A major highlight of this season, was the addition to the repertory of a new work created by Toneta Akers-Toler and Donald Laney titled "Love of Power vs. Power of Love." This work explored themes of inequality, discrimination and hegemonic oppression and the power of love to unite humanity for common good. "Power" premiered at Festivall Fall in Charleston in October and received finalist recognition by the National Dance Project.

On March 13, WVDC was forced to cancel the season's remaining performances due to COVID-19. Fortunately, some school programs had already taken place as well as a performance at Greenbrier Valley Theatre. However, the loss was substantial, including the cancellation of 20 school programs and 2 public performances accounting for over 25% of the company's revenue. In response, we quickly produced our first online performance and fundraiser providing much needed support for our dancers and staff.

Looking forward, we know that 2020-21 will not be business as usual and are exploring new models for delivering our art that keep our audiences and dancers safe. While this is challenging, our size and structure allow us to adapt quickly and even find opportunities in this new environment. We look forward with optimism, gratitude and determination.

# "LOVE OF POWER VS. POWER OF LOVE"

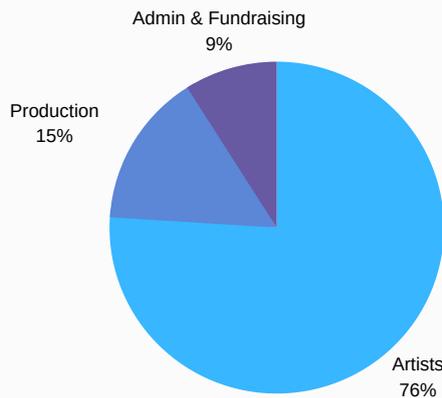
New to the repertory for the 2019-20 season, "Love of Power vs. Power of Love" was created by Toneta Akers-Toler and Donald Laney as a reflection on the continued presence of discrimination and intolerance in our society on the basis of race, gender and sexual orientation. In her work, Toneta examines issues of oppression from an historical point of view while Donald takes a personal viewpoint considering individual relationships.

WV artists included in the project include storyteller Adam Booth and musicians Mark Davis, Richard Grimes, Doris Fields and Dan Bailey. Funding for the project was contributed by WV Department of Arts, Culture and History as well as from the Carter Family Foundation. WVDC believes in the relevance of this piece and plans to continue to find ways to share it with audiences in the future.

## FINANCIAL REPORT

As a small non-profit, WVDC remains a prudent manager of finances with 91% of its budget allocated to program expenses.

Contributed funding has diversified over the years to include corporate foundations. An online performance offered after the COVID-19 shutdown was our most successful fundraiser in recent years helping to offset some of the season's losses. WVDC has participated in loan and grant programs available to small businesses and artists due to COVID-19 in order to maintain management continuity and program development into next season.



## Audience Spotlight

Reacting to "Power," audience member Jordan Lovejoy praises the extensive research involved in WVDC's work and draws parallels to repertory favorite "Black Beans and White Rice" which also emphasizes love and tolerance. She comments, "WVDC reminds us that the power of love is stronger than the love of power and can unite us in a shared dream of a more equitable future. Through its storytelling, WVDC calls on our traditions to imagine what the future might look like."

## Funding Partner Spotlight

### *Ameriprise Foundation*

Twice in the last few years WVDC has received funding from Ameriprise Foundation to support programs for schools in need in WV. Over 1,000 students, who otherwise would not have the opportunity to experience the arts, participated in WVDC's arts education program through this funding. Though some programs planned for spring 2020 were not completed, Ameriprise Foundation generously allowed WVDC to transition the funding to general operations. We are thankful for this flexibility and support!

