

## Koresh Dance Company's 4th Annual Come Together Dance Festival 41 Local, Regional, and National Dance Companies Share a Stage This Summer

By Keila Perez-Vega

Koresh Dance Company welcomed dance innovators, audience favorites, and emerging artists this summer when it presented 41 dance companies in its 4th annual Come Together Dance Festival at the Suzanne Roberts Theatre. The festival, which began in 2013, celebrates the diversity, creativity, and technical excellence of Philadelphia's dance community. From August 16 through the 20th, five mixed programs offered an eclectic range of styles, juxtaposing genres from hip hop, tap, and jazz to ballet, modern, contemporary dance, acrobatic physical theater, and traditional dance.

Koresh Dance Company aims to increase access to dance and awareness of the city's rich movement cultures by assembling these styles in a single festival. In 2013, the *Dance Journal* called this effort "a rousing success" that "reflected a healthy, diverse Philly dance scene." *Philadelphia Weekly* hailed the 2014 festival as "tak[ing] the art to a whole new level." Representing many of the city's most established companies alongside its younger talent, the festival has also been called a taste of "serious Philly flava" (*The Dance Journal*). That year, the festival attracted audiences from 12 states and across the city of Philadelphia. More

than 1,500 people were expected at this year's festival.

With over 100 dance companies either invited or applying to participate in the 2017 Come Together Dance Festival, the final roster of 41 companies (eight more than in 2015) includes internationally acclaimed Philadelphia companies **Brian Sanders' JUNK, Just Sole! Street Dance Theater Company, Rennie Harris Puremovement, PHILADANCO!**, and **Kun-Yang Lin/ Dancers**. The festival also featured up-and-coming choreographers and talented young dancers from the Koresh Pre/Professional Summer Intensive.

The *Come Together Dance Festival* attracts support from foundations dedicated to artistic and cultural development. In 2014, the PNC Foundation supported the festival with a PNC Arts Alive grant awarded to only 21 organizations in the Philadelphia and Southern New Jersey region that year. The William Penn Foundation also supports Come Together as part of its goal to promote collective engagement with thought-provoking, creative material. This year, the festival is supported by The Dexter F. & Dorothy H. Baker Foundation & Richard Glassman.

Koresh Dance Company's Roni Koresh values collaboration, and launched the *Come Together Dance Festival* with his brother, Executive Director Alon Koresh, in order to provide a platform for networking and mutual support in the dance community. Hip hop artist, photographer and filmmaker Raphael Xavier, who has performed in previous festivals, calls Come Together "a great opportunity" for dancers to motivate each other and learn from one another's craft. "I was inspired by other artists' work," Xavier says. "It made me realize I have to keep pushing towards a high standard of performance art and dance."

Since emigrating from Israel to the United States, Roni and Alon Koresh have been active in the Philadelphia dance scene for more than 25 years. They both recall the moments of artistic solidarity that furnished their early opportunities in the city—foundations that led to the establishment of the Koresh Dance Company and the Koresh School of Dance in the early 1990s. The Koresh brothers believe that now it is their turn to contribute performance opportunities at no cost to the city's young and innovative choreographers, and to bring its luminaries together to celebrate dance and promote art in Philadelphia.

### Shop Talk

## To Stop Junk Mail, Follow These Easy Steps

By Bonnie Eisenfeld

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It is best to unsubscribe frequently before your inbox gets too full. If you already have too many of these unwanted emails, you are probably never going to read them, so just delete them all. Look for a box at the top of the email list that allows you to check all emails and then delete. Going forward, it's a good idea to sign up for two email addresses, one for just family and friends and the other for organizations and vendors.

You may think all of this effort will take too much time, but actually if you do a few each day or each week, within a month or two, you may get no unwanted mail at all!