

COMPLEXIONS CONTEMPORARY BALLET NAMED YOUNGARTS RESIDENT DANCE COMPANY FROM OCTOBER 25 THROUGH NOVEMBER 8

Renowned Dance Company to Create New Work by Dwight Rhoden While in Miami

Supported by ArtPlace America Grant

MIAMI, FL (July 28, 2015) – The [National YoungArts Foundation](#) (YoungArts) is proud to announce that Complexions Contemporary Ballet—co-founded by Tony Award-nominated Broadway performer, 1986 YoungArts Winner in Modern Dance and U.S. Presidential Scholar in the Arts, Desmond Richardson—will be YoungArts’ resident dance company from October 25 through November 8. Supported by a generous grant from ArtPlace America, this residency builds on YoungArts’ existing visual arts residency program and expands the organization’s support of artists in the United States while strengthening its place as a creative catalyst for Miami’s growing cultural landscape.

“YoungArts is honored to support Complexions Contemporary Ballet by providing them with the space, time and resources needed to create new works,” said Lisa Leone, Vice President of Artistic Programs. “As YoungArts continues to identify and support young artists across the country we are also expanding our programs to assist them throughout their careers. This residency is just one example of how we are addressing the needs of artists across generations.”

Being YoungArts’ resident dance company will provide the renowned Complexions Contemporary Ballet with time, space and resources, giving the dancers a chance to work in Miami and engage with its community. Complexions will receive an honorarium; a stipend to cover travel, projects and other related expenses as well as two weeks of housing and a studio workspace in the newly renovated Jewel Box on the YoungArts Campus. While in residence, the company will create an original work by Master Choreographer Dwight Rhoden that will premiere at the company’s annual Joyce Theater Season in New York between November 17 and 29. On November 7, Complexions will share some of its work with the public through an Outside the Box performance in Miami.

Richardson stated, “As an alumnus, YoungArts has continued to be such a supportive entity in my career. I am incredibly honored that Complexions, now celebrating its 21st season, has been given this vital opportunity. What I am most looking forward to as part of this residency is sharing with Complexions the supportive environment of art and exchange that YoungArts fosters. I cannot wait to get started.”

Complexions dancer and YoungArts alumna Melissa Anduiza (2005 YoungArts Winner in Dance) also will return to the YoungArts Campus for the residency.

Renovated by STA Architectural Group as part of Frank Gehry's master plan for the Campus, the Jewel Box has been transformed into a flexible space for artists to work, play and create. The second floor features a sprung dance floor, full-length mirrors and ballet barres.

This residency is sponsored by a grant from ArtPlace America, a national consortium that funds significant projects that use art and culture for creative placemaking to shape communities' social, physical and economic futures.

About Desmond Richardson

Hailed by The New York Times as "one of the great dancers of his time," YoungArts alumnus Desmond Richardson is a multi-talented dancer and choreographer, Broadway and TONY award nominee and is the Co-Founder/Co-Artistic Director of Complexions Contemporary Ballet. As American Ballet Theater's first African American principal dancer and a principal dancer with The Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, Richardson has performed internationally on the most important stages such as The Metropolitan Opera House, Teatro alla Scala, Paris Opera, the Bolshoi Theatre in Moscow and the Mariinsky Theatre St. Petersburg Russia. Among many honors, Richardson is a winner of the prestigious Dance Magazine Award, Capezio Dance Award and YoungArts Alumni Award, has been a choreographer and special celebrity guest performer on "So You Think You Can Dance" in the US, Australia & Israel and has performed with such musical artists as Michael Jackson, Prince, Aretha Franklin, En Vogue and Madonna.

About Complexions Contemporary Ballet

Complexions was founded in 1994 with a singular vision to reinventing dance through a groundbreaking mix of methods, styles, and cultures. To date, the company has presented an entirely new and exciting vision of human movement to well over 20-Million television viewers and well over 350,000 people in live audiences. Celebrated by Dance Magazine as the artistic creation of the "Super Dancer", Complexions Contemporary Ballet represents the pinnacle of excellence in dance. Each year around the World over 25,000 Complexions enthusiasts enjoy great shows featuring 16 incredible performers of different ethnic and dance backgrounds with dazzling work encompassing everything from big, dynamic ensembles featuring the music of U2, Stevie Wonder and Metallica to poignant duets and solos embracing Bach and Rachmaninoff.

ABOUT THE NATIONAL YOUNGARTS FOUNDATION

The National YoungArts Foundation (YoungArts) was established in 1981 by Lin and Ted Arison to identify and support the next generation of artists in the visual, literary, design and performing arts; assist them at critical junctures in their educational and professional development; and raise appreciation for the arts in American society. Each year, there are approximately 11,000 applications to YoungArts from 15-18 year old (or grades 10-12) artists, and from these, approximately 800 winners are selected.

YoungArts provides these emerging artists with life-changing experiences and validation by renowned mentors, access to significant scholarships, national recognition and other opportunities at critical junctures throughout their careers to help ensure that the nation's most outstanding emerging artists are encouraged to pursue careers in the arts. To date, YoungArts has honored more than 20,000 alumni, including Doug Aitken, Josh Groban, Jenji Kohan, Desmond Richardson and Kerry Washington, with over \$12 million in monetary awards; facilitated in excess of \$60 million in college scholarship opportunities in the past two years; and enabled its participants to work with master teachers who are among the most distinguished artists in the world, such as Marina Abramović, Mikhail Baryshnikov, Plácido Domingo, Zaha Hadid, Jeff Koons, Robert Redford and Bruce Weber.

Carnival Foundation is the YoungArts National Premier Sponsor.

For more information, visit youngarts.org, facebook.com/YoungArtsFoundation or twitter.com/YoungArts. To watch a brief video about YoungArts, [click here](#).

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