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Images: Anthony Dean Photography (available upon request)

TAKE IT AWAY DANCE

TAP DANCE. JAZZ MUSIC. PHILLY.

TAKE IT AWAY DANCE PREMIERES "A MONTH OF SUNDAYS"

The Company Performs A Brand-New Concert Every Week of Philly Fringe 2020

Pamela Hetherington brings her company Take It Away Dance to the Philadelphia Fringe Festival for "A Month of Sundays," a tap dance and jazz music concert live-streamed to your eyes and ears, every Sunday afternoon, during the Fringe. Each week: a new show. Each week: anything can happen.

With indoor venues closed, outdoor crowds discouraged and audiences encouraged to stay home, Artistic Director, Pamela Hetherington, saw new opportunities to present her work that just were not feasible before COVID-19. "Producing a live tap dance and jazz music concert for longer than a two-show run is extremely cost prohibitive. Another side effect of that is: a short run doesn't give us the chance to explore new material fully or feel comfortable to take risks. Since I already own a dance space with wood floors, the dancers and the band can easily set up there, once a week, and we can dive into an open format that allows for flexibility, improvisation and virtual audience interaction, still in the moment," says Hetherington. One more bonus: "this will be the biggest amount of space we have ever had to dance in! Usually, we perform in jazz music settings or venues that aren't exactly set up for tap dance."

For this four-show run, Hetherington will present new choreography that features the music of Dave Brubeck, Miles Davis, Duke Ellington, Thad Jones and Ray Brown. To keep it fresh each week, special guests will drop by every Sunday...and get ready, because they will take your music requests, throughout the show.

Hetherington, who composes her own music arrangements in addition to setting the choreography, positions the tap dancers as instrumentalists and designs their movements as music. On the floor each week will be five tap dancers: Lauren Belasco, Olivia Bohrer, Alec Chupik, Pamela Hetherington, and Kristin Potocki. The company's house band, The Jazz Tap Quintet, is made up of some of the hippest jazz musicians in Philly: Tim Brey (piano), Paul Giess (trumpet), Jon Katz (saxophone), Nicholas Krolak (bass), and Claudio de Pujadas (drums). In particular, Katz and Krolak have played for Take It Away Dance since its inception in 2014.

Returning to the Philadelphia Fringe Festival after a successful 2019 run that the *Broad Street Review* called, "the time of your life," the ways in which audiences receive jazz music and dance, and art in general, have certainly changed dramatically. But the company's intention to keep jazz music and tap dance vitally connected, collaborative, and sometimes, totally off the cuff, remains the same. "Improvisation is the heart and soul of what we do," says Hetherington, and notes that tap dance will continue to evolve as long as there are dancers who have something new to say with their feet. She concludes, "music never stops - - and neither does the show."

The weekly concerts will stream from Sound Space Performing Arts, located on West Girard Avenue in Brewerytown. The music will start at 4 pm each Sunday. The set will last approximately 75 minutes with no intermission. Support provided by The Philadelphia Cultural Fund.

ABOUT TAKE IT AWAY DANCE

Take It Away Dance advances the scope of American tap dance and jazz music through current choreography, modern compositions, progressive performances and accessible environments and contexts for the work. Utilizing the synergistic forms of tap dance and jazz music, the company reflects a shared American history and our collective future, which is cultivated through education and community initiatives throughout Philadelphia. Our work is fueled by and connected to jazz music with a distinctive focus on Philadelphia musicians and compositions. Since its founding in 2014, Take It Away Dance has been presented by Jazz Bridge, Philadelphia Jazz Project, Creative Philadelphia, Dixon Place, Barnes Foundation, Outlet Dance Project, Allentown Art Museum, and Symphony Space. Take It Away Dance was featured on the nationally-syndicated program, *Articulate*, due to its continued accomplishments in re-staging and performing the work of women tap choreographers. This is the company's sixth year. -syndicated arts program, *Articulate*, has been directed by Pamela Hetherington since 2014.

ABOUT PAMELA HETHERINGTON

Pamela Hetherington is a Philadelphia native and jazz tap dancer. Her artistic work aims to expand the boundaries of the dance, both as a soloist, a choreographer, and a composer. Her choreography has been presented in a variety of jazz music and concert venues along the East Coast. Her solo career is devoted to duo jazz collaborations that devise new ways to arrange tap dance to improvised music. She has an original jazz composition published in the Philadelphia Real Book and is a featured artist on the Whitman Project Mixtape, published by The Philadelphia Jazz Project (2019). Since 2015, she has owned Sound Space Performing Arts, an urban dance studio in North Philadelphia, where she directs forward-thinking dance programs and spearheads new initiatives that keep tap dance alive in Philadelphia.

ABOUT SOUND SPACE PERFORMING ARTS

Founded in 2015, Sound Space Performing Arts is an urban dance studio for all ages and all levels. Its educational mission is grounded in a deep understanding of music and rhythm, driven by a knowledge of world dance traditions and American history, and committed to growing and encouraging the next generation of dance artists. It has the only youth percussive dance conservatory program on the East Coast. Recent press features include the *Inquirer*, *Billy Penn*, *NBC 10*, *6ABC*, *Philadelphia Magazine* and *Dance Teacher Magazine*.

SHOW AT A GLANCE

Title of Work:

A Month of Sundays

Dates:

September 13, September 20, September 27, October 4

Time:

Live streams start at 4 pm. Set runs approximately 75 minutes.

Genres:

Tap dance, dance, jazz music

Venue:

Live-streamed from Sound Space Performing Arts, 2511 West Girard Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19130.

Running time:

One set, 75 minutes, no intermission

Ticket information:

\$15 per show, \$45 for the month of Sundays. Single ticket holders access the show for 24 hours. Monthly ticket holders access the group from 9/13/20-10/4/20.

Suitable for all ages

Credits:

Pamela Hetherington: Artistic director, choreographer, Arranger.

Dancers:

Lauren Belasco, Olivia Bohrer, Alec Chupik, Pamela Hetherington, Kristin Potocki

Musicians:

Tim Brey (piano), Paul Giess (trumpet), Jon Katz (saxophone), Nicholas Krolak (bass), Claudio de Pujadas (drums)