

****For Immediate Release****

**Kennedy Dancers, Inc. Announce their 2nd Annual Folkloric Concert:
"Dances from The Diaspora"**

February 18, 2019

Jersey City, NJ - The Kennedy Dancers Inc., is hosting its 2nd Annual International Folkloric Concert entitled "Dances from the Diaspora" at 6:30 pm on April 4th, 2019, at the Brennan Courthouse, located at 583 Newark Avenue, Jersey City NJ 07306.

Dances From The Diaspora is an evening of international folk from migrant peoples, and will include introductions and a brief histories by renowned Anthropologist, Folklorist, and Professor of NJCU, Dr. William Westerman to give us contextual backgrounds to these diverse and rich cultures, their traditions, and means of furthering these through dance! Learn and enjoy performances by The Kennedy Dancers, MDN Latin Dance, The Hellenic Dancers of NJ, Mosaic Dance Theatre, Reaction Dance Company, and Ennobled Dance Ensemble. Experience traditional cultural dance from Greece, Mexico, Venezuela, Italy, India, and more! The performances will be followed by an intimate reception with light refreshments. Tickets are general admission for \$15 and the show is suitable for all ages. Tickets can be purchased on line using the link below. Ticket purchase includes attendance to the performance as well as access to the reception following the performance, which includes light refreshments.

<https://squareup.com/store/the-kennedy-dancers/item/dances-from-the-diaspora>

The Hellenic Dancers of New Jersey is a group of 40 young adults who are first, second, or third generation Greek Americans, and are dedicated to perpetuating their heritage through enthusiastic performances of the regional folk dances of Greece. Under Master Instructor Eleni Chakalos more than 300 dances, songs, and related traditions have been preserved. These are indigenous to mainland Greece, its island and Asia Minor, and have been passed on to two generations of Greek Americans and the American Public. Their traditional music and folk dance is representative of a cross-section of these diverse regions, past and present. Performed in authentic ethnic dress, the Hellenic's wardrobe represents the 20 regions from which the dance originated including: Macedonia, Thrace, the Peloponnese, Epiros, Roumeli, Crete, Cyprus, the various island groups; and Pontos, Cappadocia, and Ikonion in Asia Minor.

Reaction Dance Company NYC (RXN) was founded in 2014 by Artistic Director, Juliette Nieves. Our mission is to challenge the boundaries between dance styles and change audiences' perception of cultural dances. Our most notable performances have been for the Parrish Art Museum in South Hampton, *RAW Artists Brooklyn 2018*, *Reaction Presents: The United Boroughs of NYC*, *Dance USA Dance 2017* on Zee TV, *Kpop Cover Dance Festival 2017* (4th place US Finalists), music video "La Conoci Bailando" by Ozzie Valencia, school assemblies since 2016 and much more.

The Mosaic Dance Theatre Company (MDTC) is dedicated to the dance and folkloric traditions of the Mediterranean- the Middle East, North Africa, Turkey, Greece, Italy and Spain, creating dance, theatre, and educational programs which celebrate the rich diversity of cultures in this region. Founded in 2003, the award-winning company is known for its artistry and authenticity not only in creating the critically acclaimed original works that compose its repertory, but also in faithfully

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researching their origins to ensure cultural integrity. Touring nationally to performing arts venues, universities, and educational facilities, MDTC is the recipient of the 2013 Sunshine Award for its contribution to the performing arts, recognized by NARAS and the United Nations. MDTC embraces the historical treasures of the past, the ways of traditions, and the electricity of the present in its passionate goal to celebrate the remarkable varieties and similarities of the Mediterranean cultures.

Marcus Nieves founded MDN Latin Dance Studio in 2009. His passion for dancing was inspired by the turn patterns and energy he saw in local dancers when they performed. Nieves began dancing in 1998, taking dance lessons with Kenny Lopez and continuing his training with world renowned instructors Luis Zegarra and Nelson Flores. In 2003 he toured around the world with the Salsa On2 pioneer himself, Eddie Torres, later becoming "Eddie Torres Certified". After years of performance experience and training with the very best, Marcus took a leap of faith and formed a company of his own. MDN Dance Studio and Company specializes in salsa, merengue, and bachata training and is considered New Jersey's sole studio teaching Eddie Torres style. MDN professional dances have participated in world salsa competitions and have been ranked 4th in the world.

The Kennedy Dancers, Inc., is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization. Funding is made possible in part by funds from The New Jersey State Council on the Arts/Dept. of State, a partner of The National Endowment for the Arts and by funds from The Jersey City Community Development Block Grant, Hudson County Community Development Block Grant, Hudson County Offices of Disabilities & Peer Grouping, the City of Jersey City Dept. of Cultural Affairs, Lillian Schenck Foundation, Provident Bank Foundation, Walmart Foundation, PSE&G Foundation, the Dragone Family Fund for Dance, and Tom Horan.

For more information please contact Diane Dragone, Executive and Artistic Director at **201-659-2190** or email us at kennedydancers.org. **See images inserted below signature for visual supplements. The ticket link to purchase online is listed below:**

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