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## IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## PRESS CONTACT

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## GroundWorks DanceTheater's Spring Performance Series 2023

**CLEVELAND, OH** – Be captivated by the **world premiere of *temperance*** by renowned choreographer **Sidra Bell**. The first Black female choreographer commissioned to create work for New York City Ballet and two-time Bessie Award-nominee, Bell's new creation for GroundWorks' **Spring Performance Series 2023** is an episodic piece that will have GroundWorks' dancers moving in and out of heightened physical vocabulary and into intimate moments of tenderness. Visit <https://youtu.be/Z-JQFCC2CWo> to watch an interview hosted by Christy Bolingbroke, the Executive/Artistic Director of the National Center for Choreography at the University of Akron, in which Bell discusses her career, working with GroundWorks DanceTheater and *temperance*. Also, [https://youtu.be/J\\_6McljX0Zs](https://youtu.be/J_6McljX0Zs) for an In Process video on *temperance*.

Also premiering, will be the world premiere of company Artist in Residence and Cleveland-native **Antonio Brown's *Floating Walls***. The former Bill T. Jones/Arnie Zane Company member's contemporary dance work explores the physical and psychological space that one encounters when feeling surrounded by walls both in the literal sense and within the imagination.

The **Spring Performance Series 2023** kicks off in Akron, Ohio at the intimate **Knight Stage at Akron Civic Theatre, April 14 & 15, 2023**. The Knight Stage's 3-sided audience configuration offers multiple viewing perspectives on the dance works.

Our **Spring Performance Series 2023** then concludes in Cleveland, Ohio on **April 21 & 22** at the **LatinUs Blackbox Theater at Pivot Center for Art, Dance and Expression**.

For interviews with choreographers Sidra Bell and Antonio Brown, any of the GroundWorks dancers or company Executive Artistic Director, David Shimotakahara or for photos or press review tickets, contact Steve Sucato at [steve@groundworksdance.org](mailto:steve@groundworksdance.org) or (216) 751-0088.

### SPRING PERFORMANCE SERIES 2023 DETAILS

#### **The Knight Stage at Akron Civic Theatre**

Friday, April 14, 2023 | 7:30 p.m.

Saturday, April 15, 2023 | 7:30 p.m.

182 S. Main St., Akron

General Admission \$25

[akroncivic.com/shows/654](http://akroncivic.com/shows/654)



## **LatinUs Blackbox Theater at Pivot Center for Art, Dance and Expression**

Friday, April 21, 2023 | 7:30 p.m.

Saturday, April 22, 2023 | 7:30 p.m.

2937 W 25th St, Cleveland

General Admission \$25

[groundworksdance.org/spring2023](http://groundworksdance.org/spring2023)

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### **ABOUT SIDRA BELL**

Sidra Bell is the founder of Sidra Bell Dance New York (EST 2001) and a dancer, choreographer, and educator who is currently a Master Lecturer at the University of the Arts in Philadelphia, an Adjunct Professor LINES Ballet/Dominican University and an Adjunct Professor at Ball State University in Indiana. She has been an artist in residence at University of Oklahoma (Brackett Distinguished Visiting Artist Chair), Harvard University, and an Adjunct Professor at Georgian Court University, Marymount Manhattan College and Barnard College. Bell received a BA in History from Yale University and an MFA in Choreography from Purchase College Conservatory of Dance. She is the founder and creative director of the award-winning MODULE Laboratory, a New York City based immersive platform for movement and theater artists. Bell has won several awards, notably a First Prize for Choreography at the Solo Tanz Theater Festival in Stuttgart, Germany and a National Dance Project Production Award from the New England Foundation for the Arts. In 2017 Mayor Thomas Roach named February 3 “Sidra Bell Day” in White Plains, NY. Her work has been seen throughout the United States and in Denmark, France, Austria, Bulgaria, Turkey, Slovenia, Sweden, Germany, China, Canada, Aruba, Korea, Brazil, and Greece. Bell has created over 100 works notably for Nevada Ballet Theater, BODYTRAFFIC, Ailey II, The Juilliard School, Whim W’Him, Boston Conservatory at Berklee College, River North Dance Chicago, NYU Tisch School of the Arts, Sacramento Ballet, Boulder Ballet, New Dance Partners Kansas City, Ballet Austin, Springboard Danse Montréal, Boulder Ballet and Alonzo King’s LINES Ballet School, among many others. She was the first Black female choreographer commissioned to create work for New York City Ballet where she created two works for film and the Lincoln Center stage (Fall Fashion Gala 2021 and Innovators & Icons Program). She has been nominated for a 2022 Bessie NY Dance & Performance Dance (Outstanding Choreographer) for 2021’s SUSPENDED ANIMATION for New York City Ballet. More at [sidrabelldancenyc.org](http://sidrabelldancenyc.org)

### **ABOUT ANTONIO BROWN**

Antonio Brown is the artistic force behind AntonioBrownDance, a native Cleveland, Ohio, where he began his dance training at the Cleveland School of the Arts and received his BFA from The Juilliard School. While there, he had the opportunity to perform works by Jose Limon, Ohad Naharin, Jiri Kylian, Eliot Feld, Aszure Barton, Jessica Lang, Susan Marshall, Larry Keigwin, among others. Mr. Brown has also worked with Camille A. Brown & Dancers, The Dash Ensemble, Sidra Bell Dance New York and Bill T. Jones/Arnie Zane Company for 11 years. Antonio has choreographed works for Verb Ballets, The Juilliard Dance Ensemble, MOVE(NYC), August Wilson Center Dance Ensemble, Jacksonville University, Cleveland State University, Hunter College, Perry Mansfield Performing Arts School and Camp, The Arden Theater Company’s production of “The Bluest Eye”, Drama League DirectorFest, Earl Mosley’s Dancing Beyond and is



currently the movement director for The Public Theater’s Shakespeare Initiative and Associate Choreographer for upcoming Broadway musical “Black No More”. More at [antoniobrowndance.com](http://antoniobrowndance.com)

### ABOUT GROUNDWORKS DANCETHEATER

GroundWorks DanceTheater is a contemporary dance company founded in 1998 by Executive Artistic Director, David Shimotakahara. Entering its 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Year, GroundWorks is nationally recognized for its contribution to the art form and the enrichment of human experiences in collaboration with some of the most innovative voices in dance today. Work that is created, produced, and supported in Northeast Ohio. GroundWorks' collaborative philosophy informs its work, in the studio, on stage, and in community. It expands the ways dance is shared and engages with and enlivens the communities we serve.

Fundamental to GroundWorks is the fostering of new choreography and challenging preconceptions about dance. This group of outstanding artists has introduced dance lovers and neophytes alike to an experience that is unconventional, yet deeply human and resonating.

The desire to push boundaries is evident in Shimotakahara’s bold initiative: To constantly seek collaboration and input from ground-breaking choreographers of the highest caliber and to make certain that the repertoire of the company is constantly evolving.

The company performs new works by Shimotakahara, as well as commissioned work by nationally and internationally acclaimed choreographers including GroundWorks Artist in Residence Antonio Brown, Rena Butler, Sidra Bell, Peter Chu, Dianne McIntyre, Robyn Mineko Williams, Adam Barruch, Gina Gibney, David Parker, Brian Brooks, James Gregg, and many others.

Now in its third decade, GroundWorks looks toward its future, having earned solid support and a growing audience base as more and more people discover what the Cleveland Plain Dealer has described as the “smoldering brilliance” of one of “Cleveland’s cultural gems.”

For GroundWorks DanceTheater company dancers’ bios visit <https://groundworksdance.org/company-dancers/>

For GroundWorks DanceTheater Executive Artistic Director David Shimotakahara’s bio visit <https://groundworksdance.org/about/executive-artistic-director/>

### CREATIVE RESIDENCY FUNDERS





For more information, please visit [www.groundworksdance.org](http://www.groundworksdance.org) or call 216-751-0088.

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