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Media Contact:

Allison Alsup, Public Relations and Partnerships Specialist
College of the Arts, University of Florida, Gainesville, Fla.
Office: 352.273.1489
aalsup@arts.ufl.edu

Swamp Dance Fest Returns to University of Florida

UF Dance Faculty and Guest Choreographers Present Original Choreography

Gainesville, Fla., July 17, 2017 — The University of Florida School of Theatre and Dance presents its annual Swamp Dance Fest. This year, Swamp Dance Fest will feature works by UF dance faculty member Trent D. Williams, Jr. and guest choreographers Stefanie Batten Bland and Juel D. Lane, as well as original compositions created by students. This performance is a culmination of what is described as a “transformative four-week dance intensive,” during which UF and non-UF dance students of varying levels hone their skills in modern dance, improvisation and choreography. Their work will be showcased in the G-6 Studio of the McGuire Pavilion, located on the UF Campus. Performances are open to the public and will take place from July 28 through July 30, 2017.

Williams, who received his Master of Fine Arts in Dance and Choreography from Florida State University, was a founding member of EDGEWORKS Dance Theatre in Washington, DC. As a commercial dancer, he has performed with artists such as Destiny’s Child, 112, and Janelle Monae, to name a few. In addition, Williams has danced and choreographed with the Dayton Contemporary Dance Company in Dayton, Ohio, and his choreography has been performed in professional and academic venues throughout the country.

Batten Bland comes to UF from New York, where she serves as the founding artistic director of Company SBB, after serving as the head choreographer of the Paris Opera Comique. Her dances have been commissioned by companies ranging from the Alvin Ailey II Dance Company in New York to Transitions Dance Company in London. Batten Bland recently earned the Jerome Robbins Award for outstanding artistic integrity, an honor previously received by choreographers like Twyla Tharp and Robert Wilson. A 2012 review from *New York Resident Magazine* reads “when it comes to tackling demanding subject matter, there are few choreographers as intellectually ambitious as Stephanie Batten Bland.”

Lane also joins Swamp Dance Fest from New York, where he is a company member of the Bessie Award-winning Camille A. Brown and Dancers, based in Queens. He served as a choreographer at venues ranging from the Alliance and Fox Theatres in Atlanta and the Dallas Theater Center, and was also the first local independent black choreographer to have his work commissioned by the Atlanta Ballet. Lane’s endeavors in dance also transcend to dance-film, having released projects such as “Just Another Day,” “How to Kill a Ghost,” and “When the Beat Drops.” Lane, like Batten Bland, was recognized as one of *Dance Studio Magazine’s* “25 to Watch.”

Performances on Friday, July 28 and Saturday, July 29, will have a 7:30 pm curtain, while Sunday, July 30 will have a matinee at 2:00 pm. Tickets are \$18 for the general public, \$15 for seniors, \$15 for UF faculty and staff, and \$13 for students. Tickets can be purchased at the University Box

School of THEATRE + DANCE

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Office, located at Gate 1 of the Stephen C. O'Connell Center. The University Box Office is open Tuesday through Friday from 12:00pm to 5:00pm, and can be reached at (352) 392-1653 or by email at scoc-info@ufl.edu. Tickets will also be available 45 minutes prior to every performance, and can also be purchased online at www.ticketmaster.com. Group rates are available for parties of eight or more.

The Nadine McGuire Theatre and Dance Pavilion is located on the UF campus at 1800 McCarty Drive, Gainesville, FL 32603. Parking is available across the street from the UF Bookstore & Welcome Center on the University of Florida located on Museum Road.

About the School of Theatre and Dance

The School of Theatre and Dance is one of the University of Florida College of the Arts' three fully-accredited schools. Undergraduate students can pursue a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in acting, dance, musical theatre, theatre production—including costume design, lighting design and scenic design—or a Bachelor of Arts degree in dance studies or general theatre. Minors are also offered in dance and theatre as well as certificates in arts in medicine and dance in healthcare. Student organizations, showcase programs and other intensives provide students with invaluable professional experiences. UF is home to three School of Theatre and Dance theaters, including the Constans Theatre, Black Box and G-6 Studio. To learn more about the School of Theatre and Dance, including upcoming performance dates and ticket information, visit www.arts.ufl.edu/theatreanddance.

About the About the College of the Arts

The College of the Arts is one the 16 colleges and more than 150 research centers and institutes at the University of Florida in Gainesville, Fla. The College of the Arts offers baccalaureate, master's and Ph.D. degree programs in its three fully-accredited schools — the School of Art and Art History, School of Music and School of Theatre and Dance. The college is home to the Center for Arts in Medicine, Center for World Arts, Digital Worlds Institute and the New World School of the Arts in Miami. More than 100 faculty members and more than 1,220 students work together daily to engage, inspire and create. The college hosts more than 300 events each year and faculty and students also exhibit and perform at other local, national and international venues. Guests are welcome to attend college events and visit the University Galleries, University Auditorium and Constans Theatre, among other on-campus arts venues. To learn more, visit www.arts.ufl.edu.

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