

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 23, 2022

MADISONBALLET

The Curtain Rises on Madison Ballet's 41st Season Artistic Director Ja' Malik's Debuts Work at Overture & in Delafield

Power. Passion. Precision.

SummerStage of Delafield

September 9 - 10, 2022

Next Steps

Promenade Hall, Overture Center

September 23 – October 2, 2022

MADISON, WI – The artists of Madison Ballet are back in the studio preparing for an unprecedentedly athletic and inspiring season under the artistic leadership of Ja' Malik. The newly appointed Artistic Director has built a company of local and international dancers that has grown exponentially while providing more opportunities for audiences to be inspired.

The season begins in early September with a return to SummerStage of Delafield, where the company produced a record-breaking, sold-out run of *A Midsummer Night's Dream* last season after the pandemic forced the show to an outdoor venue. This year, ***Power. Passion. Precision.*** builds upon that success with an evening of stunning dance of both classical ballet from 20th century master choreographers and world premieres from emerging local artists. This program is a celebration of all the artistry and beauty behind the company's past 40 years with a special preview of what the future holds...all under the stars of Kettle Moraine State Forest.

Next Steps will see world premieres from Marika Brussel, Ja' Malik, and Richard Walters at the Overture Center for the Arts. These works explore themes as varied as inescapable conflicts, communal purpose, and the cosmos. San Francisco-based contemporary ballet choreographer Marika Brussel's *Fury and Forgiveness* is the culmination of Madison Ballet's first commission of a new work under Ja' Malik's direction.

Artistic Director Ja' Malik says, "I'm very honored to share my first program as Artistic Director with the Madison community. *Next Steps* shows the full range of the possibilities of ballet. These world premieres are stunning statements of the world we live in. This exploration of technique, ideas, emotions and music will keep ballet relevant and relatable to audiences"

Press Information

Staff and Dancers available for interview upon request. Press tickets available for all performances.

Ticket Information

Single and Group tickets may be purchased online at madisonballet.org or by calling the Overture Center Box Office at (608) 258-4141.

For over 40 years, Madison Ballet has been an integral part of the vibrant Dane County arts community. Full scale productions of inspiring traditional ballets, innovative contemporary performances, and the timeless holiday tradition of "The Nutcracker" reach more than 13,000 people each year. The School of Madison Ballet empowers students of all ages and skill levels with the poise, confidence, discipline, and fundamental life skills intrinsic to the study of dance. Outreach programming, presented in partnership with dozens of local school and community groups, enriches thousands of young people's lives by introducing them to the joy of dance.

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