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**KAREN PETERSON AND DANCERS RETURNS TO MIAMI WITH THE 4th ANNUAL FORWARD MOTION PHYSICALLY INTEGRATED DANCE FESTIVAL & CONFERENCE ON OCTOBER 27-29**

*Fourth Annual Event Features an Evening of Florida Premieres Including Georgia’s Full Radius Dance, Guggenheim Fellow Victoria Marks and Karen Peterson and Dancers*

**MIAMI (August 30, 2022)** -- After a successful national tour, the acclaimed Miami-based dance pioneers, Karen Peterson and Dancers (KPD), return to Miami to welcome back their **fourth annual Forward Motion Physically Integrated Dance Festival & Conference (FM4) taking place in Miami from October 27-29, 2022**. This three-day event features Full Radius Dance, esteemed choreographer Victoria Marks and KPD themselves in a **full program including performance premieres, panel discussions and educational workshops**.

With leading support from the National Endowment of the Arts, KPD presents a **powerful line-up of never-before-seen works** in 2 evenings of **performances gracing The Miami-Dade County Auditorium stage**. The creative forces behind these will host classes teaching their techniques in a **full day of workshops and discussions at Koubek Center**. Cameron Basden, director of Miami Dance Hub, facilitates the discussions with a slew of prominent figures in the dance community.



Produced by KPD annually, Forward Motion is one of the first festivals and conferences anywhere in the world showcasing physically integrated dance companies and choreography. “We’re pushing the boundaries of physical differences to discover new vocabularies and possibilities within the physically integrated dance form,” says Karen Peterson, KPD’s Artistic Director. This groundbreaking contemporary dance form – **inclusive of those with and without disabilities, on stage, and in the audience** – challenges artistic and societal perceptions of what defines physical beauty and beautiful movement. “Physically integrated dance celebrates the power, potential, and artistry of the body,” says Douglas Scott, Artistic Director of Full Radius Dance.



KPD takes the stage in a new work by acclaimed LA-based choreographer Victoria Marks, an Alpert Award winner and Guggenheim and Rauschenberg Fellow. Opening the program with original music and live vocals by Bay Area composer ONIKHO, she graces the stage in her wheelchair filling the space with her acapella voice. Five KPD dancers present a piece using both mobility devices and static dining room chairs. The disabled dancers are the protagonists of the dance. Marks intends to flip the script on the kind of PI dance that seems to feature the non-disabled performers at the expense of the dancers with disabilities. Marks adds, “can our physical imagination elevate equity between all of us?”

Full Radius Dance presents two works at FM4 to share with South Florida. The first is a series of excerpts from their latest work examining the fantasy novels *Alice in Wonderland*, *Peter and Wendy*, and *The Wizard of Oz* through a disability-centric lens. Another piece to look forward to from this Atlanta-based dance company includes *Undercurrents*, which embodies currents of movement where partnerships are created and washed away, where subtle shifts create dramatic effects, and hidden feelings and impulses run below the surface.

**Performances are held at The Miami-Dade County Auditorium (2901 West Flagler Street, Miami) on Thursday, October 27<sup>th</sup> at 7:30PM and Friday, October 28<sup>th</sup> at 7:30PM.** Tickets are available on MDCA website ([MiamiDadeCountyAuditorium.org](http://MiamiDadeCountyAuditorium.org)) for \$25. For students with ID, seniors 65+ and people with disabilities, tickets are \$18.

**Workshops and the conference at the Koubek Center (2705 SW 3rd Street, Miami) are on Saturday, October 29<sup>th</sup> from 10am–5pm.** Workshop and conference passes are \$10, and one can pay at the door. Visit [www.ForwardMotionMiami.com](http://www.ForwardMotionMiami.com) for information, schedules and ticket links. All venues are fully wheelchair accessible and have free onsite parking.

To arrange for group sales discounts (10 or more people), for any questions, and to request materials in accessible format, sign language interpreters, and/or any disability accommodation call 305-298-5879 or email [ForwardMotionMiami@gmail.com](mailto:ForwardMotionMiami@gmail.com).

Support for Forward Motion comes from the National Endowment for the Arts, SouthArts, The Miami Foundation, Miami-Dade County Department of Cultural Affairs and the Cultural Affairs Council, the Miami-Dade County Mayor and Board of County Commissioners and the State of Florida, Department of State, Division of Arts and Culture, and the Florida Council on Arts and Culture.

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***Hi-res images, video and other materials, and interviews with key talent available upon request.***

Pictured: Sonya Rio-Glick & Ashlee Jo Ramsey-Borunov of Full Radius Dance. Photo by Bubba Carr.

Pictured: Empty Chairs, Piece by Victoria Marks, KPD, Photo by Lisa Nalvin.

#### **Karen Peterson and Dancers · [karenpetersondancers.org](http://karenpetersondancers.org)**

Karen Peterson and Dancers was founded in 1990 and is dedicated to the development, education, and presentation of physically integrated dance (PID), bringing together dancers with diverse abilities as a role model for the dance and disability communities for thirty years. The organization has presented an annual season of new work at multiple venues throughout South Florida. The troupe has performed nationally at festivals in New York to Washington, D.C., and performed in nine countries. In 2019, in honor of her work, the company was named “Best Dance Company” in Miami by the New Times, and received the 2017 Boston Conservatory Alumni Entrepreneurial Award to support the presentation of “Warmamas: a Performance” at the Judson Memorial Church, NYC. KPD has produced the annual international festival of physically integrated dance, “Forward Motion,” in 2018- 2022 with the support from the Knight Foundation and the National Endowment for the Arts, and has brought together leading PID companies from around the country. Visit [www.karenpetersondancers.org](http://www.karenpetersondancers.org).

#### **Victoria Marks**

Victoria Marks is an Alpert Award-winning choreographer, Guggenheim and Rauschenberg Fellow, and Fulbright Distinguished Scholar, who has been making dances for stage and film for the past 40 years. Marks is also a UCLA professor of dance and serves as Chair of UCLA's Disability Studies minor. Marks' work has continuously challenged conventional notions of virtuosity and embraced an expansive view of dancing bodies. Currently, her projects include the Dancing Disability Lab at UCLA, a gathering of dance artists whose focus on Disability Justice challenge “ability paradigms” and a choreographic commission for Störling Dance Company in Kansas City. Recently, she led “Ten Questions: If not now, when?” an arts-based University-wide course and public event that brought together artists, scholars and scientists to address questions crucial to our contemporary moment. Some of these questions included: How do we remember? How do we heal? How do we love?

#### **ONIKHO**

ONIKHO is a Bay Area-based musician and dancer. As a music producer, she melds her influences of classical, blues, jazz, and electronic music. She has released a self-titled EP, and plans to finish releasing her first full-length album at the end of 2022. Having formerly danced professionally with AXIS Dance Company, she also uses video to showcase collaborations with other disabled creators. ONIKHO is a Fulbright Fellowship recipient and has toured both the United States and internationally to teach and perform. One of her goals as an artist is to feature artists with diverse bodies and abilities in her work to normalize people with disabilities in the arts.

#### **Full Radius Dance · [fullradiusdance.org](http://fullradiusdance.org)**

Founded in 1990 by Artistic/Executive Director Douglas Scott, the organization was originally known as Dance Force. The company began as a traditional dance company - all members were professional dancers without disabilities. In 1993, through a partnership with VSA arts of GA, Shepherd Center and Special Audiences, Douglas began teaching dance classes for persons with physical disabilities. Two years later, he incorporated dancers with disabilities into the company's performances. In 1998, Dance Force was rebranded as Full Radius Dance. The company continues to be the only professional physically integrated dance company in the state of Georgia. Full Radius Dance maintains a busy schedule in Georgia with performances, classes, and workshops and by supporting the Georgia dance community through the presentation of the Modern Atlanta Dance (MAD) Festival. The company also has a deep commitment to education and outreach and brings a unique artistic experience to schools, senior citizen centers and disability groups on a regular basis.