



VAMOS A HAVANA con DESERT DANCE THEATRE

October 10, 2024

Dear Friend of Desert Dance Theatre,

January 2023 marked the 30th Anniversary of Desert Dance Theatre's "**Sister Moses: The Story of Harriet Tubman**" (SM) production. Since 1993, it has been our honor to entertain and educate audiences about the inspiring life story of anti-slavery activist Harriet Tubman through music, dance and drama!! (See attachment for the History of Sister Moses.)

We are excited to announce that Desert Dance Theatre (DDT) has an opportunity to perform this music/dance/drama as a cultural arts exchange program in HAVANA, CUBA on January 19, 20, 21, 2024 at the historic Teatro America (The America Theater), which is the oldest and largest theater in Havana. (See attachment for the History of Teatro America.)

How did this opportunity come about?

Associate Artistic Director Renee Davis explains how her husband, Larry Davis (former board president of DDT) has been a huge advocate for the SM production since its creation. In the past three years, during his five visits to Havana, Cuba, he has attended many performances at Teatro America. During these trips, he has had the opportunity to meet with the Director of Teatro America and planted the seed to explore options of bringing Sister Moses to Havana. In March 2023, Renee accompanied Larry to Havana and also visited with the Director which provided an opportunity to share our 8-minute Sister Moses promo video that highlights various scenes from the production. As the Director watched the video, he was noticeably moved and stated: *"This is important for the Cuban people to see because we share a similar history of slavery as those in the United States!"* This is how this opportunity originated!

How do we make this opportunity happen?

We are very honored that the Director of the Teatro America sees the value of our production for Cuban audiences. He has offered to host Desert Dance Theatre at Teatro America for three performances of Sister Moses (under the Visa travel category of Cultural Arts Exchange) on January 19-21, 2024. This is fantastic news!! However, there is **NO** financial compensation for cultural arts exchange for groups performing there! To make this opportunity a reality, DDT will need to raise funds to cover expenses for travel to/from the United States to Havana, plus accommodations and meals for our cast of performers and production staff. This means that **WE** need to raise the money if we are to take advantage of this unique opportunity to both perform and experience the wonderful hospitality and culture of Havana!

How can you help Desert Dance Theatre realize this opportunity?

Desert Dance Theatre invites YOU to JOIN US for this exciting adventure and to participate in our fundraising efforts. Please spread the word and encourage your family, friends, colleagues and sponsors to support this opportunity through the following avenues of fundraising. Your efforts will help support our performances in Havana, Cuba!

How can you support our fundraising efforts?

- **BE A SPONSOR** for Sister Moses in Cuba Project (Sponsor Levels, Benefits, Order Form: [CLICK HERE](#))
- Donate travel points for round trip (RT) flights or hotels for layovers.
- Organize and execute a fundraiser with proceeds benefiting this special project.
- Take advantage of a **Special Tour Packages** specifically designed for Friends of Desert Dance Theatre. A percentage of the tour package fees will be donated to benefit Desert Dance Theatre. (Read info below)
- Donate to our online Sister Moses in Cuba fundraising campaign (any amount appreciated): [CLICK HERE](#)
- Donate using PayPal, Credit Card or Debit Card (any amount appreciated): [CLICK HERE](#)
- Become a Friend of Desert Dance Theatre (See Levels, Benefits, Order Form: [CLICK HERE](#))
- Send a check to **Desert Dance Theatre**, P.O. Box 25332, Tempe AZ 85285.

SPECIAL TOUR PACKAGES

Three **Sister Moses Tour Packages** are designed specifically for our Friends of Desert Dance Theatre including sponsors, family, friends and guests who would enjoy a trip to Cuba between January 19-29, 2024 (under the Visa travel category of Support of Cuban People). This package would include activities and sightseeing along with attendance to any performance of Sister Moses on January 19-21, 2024. If desired, guests may customize their package to add tickets to Havana Jazz Festival events! Persons taking advantage of one of the tour packages will contribute to offsetting some of our travel expenses.

The tour reservations and customized access tickets to the Havana Jazz Festival services are provided by Desert Dance Theatre in coordination with a local travel agency. (See attachment for the Sister Moses in Cuba Tour Packages for information about descriptions and fees.)

IMPORTANT INFO for ALL traveling to Cuba (with or without the Tour Package).

- Must have a PASSPORT (not to expire before 8/1/24).
- A VISA is required. Purchase your visa online prior to departure or at the airport on the day of departure.
- The Cuban health insurance is required. Check with your Airline company whether your ticket purchase includes it. The insurance is included at no additional fee with all Southwest Airlines tickets to Havana.
- Bring enough CASH to last your entire trip. Credit cards are generally NOT accepted in Cuba.
- Retain and carry your boarding pass in case medical services in Cuba are necessary.

TIME IS OF THE ESSENCE!!!

After reading this letter, **VAMOS A HAVANA con DESERT DANCE THEATRE** and reviewing the **Tour Packages for SISTER MOSES in CUBA**, please fill out and submit this **Information/Reservation** form. This will help us to gather information needed to assist you in reserving and securing the tour package and activities of your choice. **If you decide to join us in Havana, Cuba through one of the three Tour Packages offered, complete and submit this form and send full payment to be received on or before December 1, 2023.**

Information/Reservation Link: <https://forms.gle/kyw4RvoZG682GBYj9>

We hope that you can help us make this unique opportunity a reality! We will share any additional information as it becomes available. Feel free to contact us if you have any questions or would like to get more involved with our fundraising efforts.

We hope that you will give sincere consideration to this invitation to join us in this once in a lifetime experience!

Sincerely,

Lisa R. Chow, Artistic Director
Desert Dance Theatre
Lisa@DesertDanceTheatre.org, 602-740-9616

Renee Davis, Associate Director
Desert Dance Theatre
RMDDancer@aol.com, 512-219-7410

List of Attachments & Links

1. Sister Moses in Cuba Info Page on DDT Website: <http://www.desertdancetheatre.org/sister-moses-in-cuba.html>
2. Cover Letter: VAMOS A HAVANA con DESERT DANCE THEATRE (Attachment)
3. History of Sister Moses (Attachment)
4. History of Teatro America (Attachment)
5. Sister Moses in Cuba Sponsor Form and <http://www.desertdancetheatre.org/be-a-sponsor.html>
6. Sister Moses in Cuba Tour Packages (Attachment)
7. Sister Moses in Cuba Tour Packages Information/Reservation Link: <https://forms.gle/kyw4RvoZG682GBYj9>
8. Sister Moses in Cuba Fundraiser Donation Link: https://www.paypal.com/donate?campaign_id=YSLQUHDHQP9KE
9. DDT PayPal Donation Link: https://www.paypal.com/donate/?hosted_button_id=226BVTFD2FEDY
10. Sister Moses in Cuba Facebook Event Page: <https://fb.me/e/4qNMTH6Py>
11. Sister Moses in Cuba Instagram Fundraiser: <https://www.instagram.com/p/CyZ3vxJLQgp/>
12. Friends of DDT Link: www.desertdancetheatre.org/friends.html

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DESERT DANCE THEATRE - Website & Social Media

Website: <http://www.desertdancetheatre.org/>
Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/DesertDanceTheatreAZ/>
Facebook Group: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/DesertDanceTheatre>
Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/desertdancetheatreaz/>