

DESERT DANCE THEATRE
P.O. BOX 25332, TEMPE, ARIZONA 85285-5332

*****PRESS RELEASE*****

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(End date 1/15/2017)

CONTACT: Lisa R. Chow, 480-962-4584

E-MAIL: Lisa@DesertDanceTheatre.org

WEBSITE: www.DesertDanceTheatre.org

Who?	Desert Dance Theatre
What?	25TH ANNIVERSARY OF SISTER MOSES: THE STORY OF HARRIET TUBMAN
Where?	Chandler Center for the Arts , 250 N Arizona Avenue, Chandler AZ 85225
When?	Sunday, January 15, 2017
Time?	7:00pm Performance
Cost?	\$25 Adults, \$20 Seniors, \$15 Students, \$13 Groups 10 or more/Special Groups
Tickets?	CCA Box Office 480-782-2680 or http://chandlercenter.org/dance/50-sister-moses

Questions? For concert information contact Desert Dance Theatre, 480-962-4584 or go to <http://desertdancetheatre.org/sister-moses/>.

Photos available upon request.

25th Anniversary of Sister Moses: The Story of Harriet Tubman

In celebration of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday, Desert Dance Theatre presents “**The 25th Anniversary of Sister Moses: The Story of Harriet Tubman**” on Sunday, January 15, 2017 at 7:00pm at the Chandler Center for the Arts, 250 N. Arizona Avenue, Chandler, AZ. The first half of the program begins at 7:00pm, opening with Desert Dance Theatre repertory, including “Marco’s Swing,” choreographed by Lisa R. Chow with original music by Step Raptis; two dances as a tribute to Billie Holiday’s “Strange Fruit” performed by Renee Davis and “Spreadin’ Rhythm Around” performed by the company; and a tribute to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., “We’re On The Move” (excerpt from Desert Dance Theatre’s “FREE AT LAST”).

We are honored and pleased to have **special guest performances** by two of the Valley’s Finest Treasures from the World of Jazz Music, **Dennis Roland** and **Charles Lewis**.

Gracing the stage will be jazz vocalist, **Dennis Rowland**. This Detroit native and Phoenix,

Arizona resident was the voice of the world-renowned Count Basie Orchestra between 1977 and 1984, where he shared the stage with Ella Fitzgerald, Sarah Vaughan, Joe Williams and Tony Bennett. He is also featured on the Basie Band's Grammy award-winning record "On the Road." (<http://www.dennisrowland.com>)

Energetic, creative, and unforgettable...all words that describe Phoenix piano legend **Charles Lewis**. Named the first jazz-category inductee to the Arizona Music & Entertainment Hall of Fame, Lewis began performing on the piano at church functions when he was just seven years old. In 1953, he moved from Philadelphia to Arizona to attend Arizona State University, and he started performing in 1954 at the 7th Avenue Elks Club jams. He played with several bands before forming the Charles Lewis Quintet. <http://mimmusictheater.themim.org/charles-lewis-legacy-quintet-presented-mim-nash>

After intermission, Desert Dance Theatre presents its featured performance of "**Sister Moses: The Story of Harriet Tubman**" for the show's 25th season. This production is a beautiful story of a courageous woman's determination to free her people from slavery through the **Underground Railroad**. She was one of America's first liberated women of color, who fought against all odds for the sake of freedom and equality. Our goal in producing this program is to bring light to the incredible accomplishments of the anti-slavery activist, Harriet Tubman.

This powerful music / dance / drama features Desert Dance Theatre with Renee Davis as Harriet Tubman, dramatic narration / voice of Harriet by Renee Morgan Brooks, African drumming and music direction by Step Raptis, accompaniment by the Sister Moses String Quartet and traditional spirituals sung by the Sister Moses Choral Ensemble, featuring baritone soloist, Greg Dansby. The unique blend of this 45-minute multidisciplinary presentation highlights the most important episodes of Harriet Tubman's life, and shares the knowledge and experience of her struggles and accomplishments that will bring a source of inspiration to our audience.

The program follows Tubman's life as a young slave on a Southern Plantation, her attempts to escape slavery, her work on the Underground Railroad, and her contributions to the Abolitionist movement. Slave songs from that period are featured for their significance as a means of passing information among the slaves. Hidden in the lyrics were vital escape details.

Sister Moses brings history to life through music, dance and drama. Sister Moses is entertaining, educational and truly inspirational! Sister Moses Promo Video: <https://vimeo.com/195076754>

This performance is made possible by support from the City of Chandler and other sponsors.

Desert Dance Theatre is a contemporary dance company known for its diverse modern

dance repertory, interdisciplinary collaborations, and major thematic productions which address important historical as well as current issues.

Don't miss this exciting performance of music, dance and drama!

For more information contact Desert Dance Theatre at 480-962-4584 or go to www.DesertDanceTheatre.org.