

SPECTRUM DANCE THEATER + DONALD BYRD

The Insidious Trilogy

GRIEF

Grief explores the traumatic experience of Mamie Till-Mobley after the murder of her son Emmet Till in 1955 by white supremacists in Mississippi. In this new work, Byrd delves deeply into the fury and pain of Till-Mobley's grief, postulating that it was her profound grief and rage that led to her decision to present her son's mutilated body in an open casket funeral ("I want people to see what they did to my boy"); speculating that she desired to "amplify" her pain, to share her grief with others in the hope to lessen her pain, if only a little bit.

Whether it was an act of self-preservation or a decision made out of pure outrage, her choice changed the course of history. The Spectrum Dance Theater/Company immerses itself in the deep-seated emotions of not just Mamie Till-Mobley, but mothers everywhere who have lost a child.

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Password: grief

STRANGE FRUIT

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The 1937 poem and song of the same name by Abel Meeropol, made famous by the great jazz singer Billie Holiday, provides the narrative structure of choreographer Donald Byrd's latest production. *Strange Fruit* tracks Byrd's feelings as a response to lynching and plays out as a series of dance/theater vignettes.

TARGETED

The title refers to what appears to be a systematic targeting for murder of Black people by white supremacists. Driven by "the great replacement theory" (a belief that whiteness is under threat) white supremacists have put in their crosshairs native born black and brown people, but also non-white immigrants.

Using strategies that I have developed over time for the creation of work that is centered on Race, Social Justice, and Climate (research as a foundational tool that informs the physical work, non-hierarchical movement manipulations to generate vocabulary, and theatrical theories as a source of structural inspiration), this evening length work will conclude the INSIDIOUS TRILOGY. The production will utilize not only dance/movement but also text, music, sound, voice, documentary/facts/information, media, and speculation, and to some degree will continue my exploration of the disruption of the perceived boundaries between dance and theater.

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Password: targeted

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