

For Immediate Release

Media Contact: Stella Adelman
dancemissiontheater@yahoo.com, 415-826-4441

Please contact for interviews
Press photos available upon request

Dance Mission Theater in collaboration with
JoQ of Vogue & Tone and Fatha Soul Nubian Benetton of AfroHouse Hop present

Get Your Life UNITY Mini Ball

Performances, competition, legendary children... a Dance Missions first!

Dance Mission Theater, 3316 24th St, SF Ca 94110
Saturday, December 7th at 7pm
\$10 * advance tickets available at www.brownpapertickets.com

November 2013, San Francisco – Dance Mission Theater in collaboration with JoQ and Soul Nubian present Dance Mission's very first Mini Ball! The 1990 award-winning documentary, *Paris is Burning* gave some notoriety to ball culture and competitions, where people "walk" - meaning compete – for prizes and trophies. People that walk often dance and vogue, while others compete in various genres of drag and social classes.

JoQ and Soul Nubian are bringing ballroom culture to the Dance Mission stage for the very first time. The evening will include a mini performance, Grand March, competitions with categories and prizes, and a cypher. Categories include Realness with a Twist, Runway, Hand Performance, Old Way, Virgin Vogue 101, & Baziarre (Bohemian Ratchetness). Sign-ups to compete are accepted the day of ball. This event is OTA (open to all). Only \$10 to compete and/or watch!

About Balls: Ball culture describes a LGBT subculture in the United States. Contestants "walk" (much like a fashion model's runway) the elaborately-structured Ball competitions, adhering to a very specific category or theme, and are subsequently judged on criteria including the "realness" of their drag, the beauty of their clothing and their dancing ability.

This underground scene was fostered decades ago by black and Latino gay and transgender men as a way of celebrating their identities, finding a place to shine in the face of being marginalized double minorities. Competitors are usually affiliated with a "house," a sort of intentional family of performers on the circuit with house mothers/fathers.

About Soul Nubian: Rashad Pridgen, aka Soul Nubian, is a dance artist, facilitator and founder of AfroHouseHop dance movement. He has been apart of urban dance culture for more than 15 years, while simultaneously studying the art of choreography and performance. This inquiry places him amongst the generation of artist developing the "future dance aesthetic" alchemizing street dance vernacular for performance and workshop. Pridgen has performed with Bill T. Jones/Arnie Dance Company, Ronald K. Brown/Nick Cave's "Soundsuite", Rennie Harris's Illadelph Legends Festival, TheLiving Word/Hybrid Projects

SF, The Hip-Hop Theater Festival SF, The Black Choreographers Festival Oakland and Jacinta Vlach/Liberation Dance Theater, including performances at Jacob's Pillow.

Constantly examining the theory of movement and facilitation, Pridgen is the first African-American graduate of the Moving On center School For Participatory and Somatic Research as a Somatic Educator (cmt-se). Pridgen is currently an adjunct faculty at University of San Francisco where he teaches Hip-Hop dance in the Performing Arts and Social Justice Department. He teaches AfroHouseHop at studios throughout the Bay Area.

About JoQ: Jocquese Whitfield, aka JoQ, is the founder of Vogue and Tone. A dancer/choreographer, Whitfield was born and raised in San Francisco. Starting his career steeped in the improvisation of freestyle hip-hop, Whitfield has added modern, classical, and Diasporic dance traditions over the last several years. He has been a member of City Shock San Francisco, F.B.C. (Funk Beyond Control), and UFO Movement, J. Jun Productions and M.O.M. (Mind Over Matter). A shape-shifter, Jocquese challenges assumptions of sexual identity in dance as he plays with gesture both "masculine" and "feminine". He has performed throughout the Bay Area and the country and has won SF Bay Guardian's Best of the Bay (2012) and was featured in SFBG's Hot Pink List (2011).

About Dance Mission Theater: Dance Brigade's Dance Mission Theater is a non-profit, multi-cultural dance center located in the heart of San Francisco's Mission District. The theater is a 140-seat venue, with a full season of work featuring the Bay Area's best and most diverse dance artists and is also the home of Krissy Keefer's Dance Brigade, San Francisco's groundbreaking, feminist social-change modern dance company. Dance Mission produces events such as SkyDancers, Women Against War, SkinSongs and Manifestal eclectic performing arts focusing on women. Dance Mission also offers a full range of adult and youth dance classes in Hip-Hop, Salsa, Bhangra, Brazilian, Bollywood, Afro-Haitian, modern and more.

FOR CALENDAR EDITORS

What: *Get Your Life UNITY Mini Ball*

With performances, competition, legendary children and more... a Dance Mission first!

When: Saturday, Decemebr 7th at 7pm

Where: Dance Mission Theater, 3316 24th St, SF CA 94110

Tickets: \$10 to watch and/or compete. Tickets available at the door and online at www.brownpapertickets.com; no one turned away for lack of funds at the door.

Details: This event is OTA (open to all); sign-ups to compete are accepted the day of the event

Information: www.dancemission.com; 415-826-4441
