



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: SOMOS UNO (WE ARE ONE)

Mocean Dance's Emerging Artists-In-Residence Carolin Mateus and Gabrielle Greener present their dynamic new street dance work.

Free performance at the Queen's Marque courtyard on the Halifax Waterfront, on Sunday August 28th, 6:30 PM

Kjipuktuk/Halifax NS – August 22, 2022: ***SOMOS UNO (WE ARE ONE)*** is a new work investigating street dance and its relationship with the body of each dancer. This powerful work is an expression of emotions and sensations combined with fundamental movements, styles, and history of street dance.

A new way to train:

This work was created in collaboration with the members of the intensive street dance training program run by Mateus and Greener, which took place over six weeks this summer. This training program provided specialized training to dancers from a wide range of dance backgrounds including contemporary, jazz, heels, waacking, popping, house, Kpop, and Hip Hop. Using freestyle as a creative tool, each dancer was supported in developing their own essence and freedom of expression.

Project director Carolin Mateus says, "In Colombia in 2016, I carried out research into theoretical support regarding the culture of Hip Hop, particularly in terms of this style of dance as a representative of the values and principles that govern the development of personal identity and character training in the life of dancers."

Bringing Hip Hop culture to the forefront:

Mateus' research inspired the structure of their residency, an intentional artistic community that provided direct emotional and material support in the lives of dancers. ***SOMOS UNO (WE ARE ONE)*** explores the value of each body and its particular skills, through the principles of Hip Hop culture: self-esteem, equality, personal development, liberation, respect, culture, diversity, tolerance, solidarity and community.

“Hip Hop culture respects the dignity and sanctity of life without discrimination or prejudice. Hiphoppas will take into account the protection and development of life. Hip Hop is a term that describes our independent collective consciousness, as a conscious way of life, we recognize our influence on society, especially children. Hip Hop culture fosters brotherhood, fraternity, childhood and family, we are aware not to bring or encourage any deliberate disrespect that endangers the dignity and reputation of our children, elders and ancestors”. (Parker, *The Gospel of Hip-Hop*, 2009, p187)

SOMOS UNO (WE ARE ONE) ultimately questions how and why we move. It asks: What does dance mean to you in your life? What does your body mean to you? What can your dance contribute to the life of another person? Why do you dance?

Meaningful mentorship:

The Emerging Artist-In-Residence (EAiR) program aims to support emerging dance or movement-based artists in developing and expanding their creative practice. This tailored mentorship also gives valuable administrative and career development skills, an important but often overlooked aspect of sustaining an arts career.

With funding from the Canada Summer Jobs program, Mocean is supporting two eight-week, full time residencies this summer. In addition to Mateus and Greener's shared residency, Mocean is also supporting Eskasoni First Nation dance artist Sarah Prosper in creative research exploring Mi'kmaq hieroglyphics and petroglyphs in relation to movement, history, and storytelling.

Performance Information:

SOMOS UNO (WE ARE ONE) will be performed on Sunday, August 28, 2022, at 6:30 PM at the Queen's Marquee courtyard on the Halifax Waterfront (1715 Lower Water St). Rain location: House of Eights (1533 Barrington st.).

The show is open to the public and does not require tickets.

More information:

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About the Artists:

Carolin Mateus is a Colombian dancer, choreographer and Street Dance teacher. With a bachelor's degree in Education, with emphasis on artistic Education, she is the creator of a research paper titled *HIPHOP EQUALITY*, a pedagogical support that outlines the values that the Hip Hop culture contributes to society through the positive transformation in the lives of dancers in their artistic and personal processes.

Gabrielle Greener is a Nova Scotian dancer who trains at House of Eights Dance Studio in Halifax. Her favourite styles of dance are heels, house, and waacking. She is a psychology student with an interest in the use of dance to support mental health and well-being on both an individual and community level. She is passionate about increasing access to dance opportunities and arts resources for low-income people and under-served communities.

Since it was founded in 2001, **Mocean Dance** has become a cultural magnet, bringing together diverse audiences to experience dance. Setting a course to enrich and grow contemporary dance in the region, the company has built and sustained a bold and adventurous environment that supports the creative potential of local dance artists and collaborates with acclaimed dancers and choreographers from across the country. In 2016 Mocean was honoured with The Lieutenant Governor of Nova Scotia Masterworks Art Award for Canvas 5 x 5. This marks the first and only time that this award has been given to a Nova Scotia dance work.