Justice
Dance
Performance
Project

JDPP

Moving for Change

In the Presence of Trees: Spring

Sunday, May 7, 2023

2:30pm-5:00pm

Schedule of Events for May 7, 2023

2:30 to 5:00 pm

- Enjoy **story time for kids - all about trees!** Led by JDPP teaching artist, Suzi, Jensen
- **Family-friendly arts & crafts with tree themes**. Led by JDPP teaching artist, Melissa Wright
- Travel through the seasons in a **self-guided poetry walk through the trees with the original poems from the series** in English and Spanish
- Meet **representatives of Hartford-area environmental organizations** to learn how you can work on behalf of trees and urban forest equity

4:00-5:00pm

JDPP's Ensemble presents a dance theater performance, *In the Presence of Trees: Spring*. A talk back with performers, visual designer, and artistic director will follow the show.



Dedicated to the late **Renata Dixon**
(March 6, 1959 - January 6, 2022), who truly shone in her life and with JDPP. We miss her!

At her celebration of life, her niece shared that more than once Renata had said, *"When I go, I want to be turned into a tree. That's the way I want to give back."*

Production Credits

Conceived and Directed by **Judy Dworin**

Visual Designer: **Marcela Oteíza**

Dances developed with JDPP Ensemble members **Mellissa Craig**, **Emily Daly**, **Haley Fabrycki**, **Juanita Harris**, **Heidi Klecak**, **Lisa Matias, and Alexa Melonopoulos Fleury, and Kathy Borteck Gersten**

Performed by **Mellissa Craig**, **Emily Daly**, **Haley Fabrycki**, **Juanita Harris**, **Heidi Klecak, Lisa Matias, and Alexa Melonopoulos Fleury**

Poetry: **Marjorie Agosín,** translated by Celeste **Kostopulos-Cooperman,** spoken by **Judy Dworin**

Original Score: **Daniel Birch**

Sound Direction: **Ritz Ubides**

Production Coordinator: **Robin Cullen**

Production Order

Introduction

Hartford's Tree Lady, Charmaine Craig

Soft Prayer Invitation

Soft Prayer Song, Lakota tradition led by special guest singer-songwriter, Angela Luna

Homage

Among the Cherry Trees

Embracing the Elders

One Family

Vernal Celebration

Fly with Us!

Talk Back Following

All music copyright Daniel Birch
www.danielbirchmusic.com

Justice Dance Performance Project:
Judy Dworin, Executive and Artistic Director
Kathy Borteck Gersten, Associate Artistic Director
Robyn Genzano, Director of Operations & Community Engagement
Jennifer Eifrig, Development and Communications Director
Suzi Jensen, Programming Coordinator
Yalines Torres, JDPP Fellow in Marketing and Community Outreach

The Justice Dance Performance Project (**JDPP**) is a critically acclaimed dance and multi-arts organization. Its mission is to educate, inspire, and ignite awareness, bridging the boundaries of art and social justice to create a more equitable society in ways that spark individual growth and collective action.

The JDPP Ensemble enriches public dialogue and awareness of social justice through pioneering dance-based, multi-arts performances that examine contemporary social and individual issues. Known for its innovative fusion of dance, text, music, and visual design, the JDPP repertory searches the darkness to discover the light, drawing audiences into worlds that illuminate understanding and reflection. The company's award-winning work can be seen throughout New England in theaters, at colleges and universities, prisons, and inner-city schools. Its collaborative repertory has been performed in major cities across the United States and Europe.

Special Thanks to

Mary Zeman and the Bushnell Park Conservancy; **Charmaine Craig,** Tree Lady of Hartford; the **Hartford Public Works Department**; **Dr. Susan Masino**, Professor of Applied Science, Trinity College; **Jack Hale** and the **Hartford Tree Commission**; **Charles Tracy** for helping to lay the groundwork; **Dr. Suzanne Simard** and **Robin Wall Kimmerer** for their inspirational research and writing; **Joe Lea** for gifting their books; **Mighty Kites** for their wonderful stress-relieving invitation to go fly a kite!; and the **JDPP Board of Directors** for their constant dedication and support.

The performance series has been supported by the Greater Hartford Arts Council and City of Hartford; George A. & Grace L. Long Foundation; Edward C. & Ann T. Roberts Foundation; and Wesleyan University.

This project was made possible in part by a grant provided by the CT DEEP Division of Forestry and was funded through Connecticut's participation in carbon dioxide allowances auctions conducted as part of the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative.

JDPP receives operating support from the J. Walton Bissell Foundation, CT DECD Office of the Arts, CT Humanities, Diebold Foundation, Greater Hartford Arts Council, and others. A complete list of funders is available at **www.jdpp.org.**

We invite all audience members to take a **brief audience survey.** Your feedback will help us monitor the impact of our programs so we can provide the best experience possible for all.

Scan for Audience Survey

https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Trees4



Why Trees are Critical to our Lives

As social and economic issues fracture our society, trees connect communities, cultures, and generations.

Trees create healthier, safer, and more connected communities.

Trees clean air, filter water, and even slow flooding in cities.

Tree shade can cool cities by up to 10 degrees, preventing heat-related deaths.

Neighborhood trees can

- Reduce stress
- Improve health and development in children
- Encourage physical activity

Community-wide tree canopies:

- Foster economic advantages
- Increase civic pride among residents

Find out more https://www.arborday.org/trees/index-benefits.cfm

What You Can Do?

Old Growth Forest Network

CT DEEP Forestry Division

Keney Park Sustainability Project

Trees for Bloomfield