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**PENNSYLVANIA BALLET AND MURAL ARTS PHILADELPHIA
ANNOUNCE *SPREAD YOUR WINGS* SPRING EXHIBITION**
Exhibiting Artists on Display at Cherry Street Pier

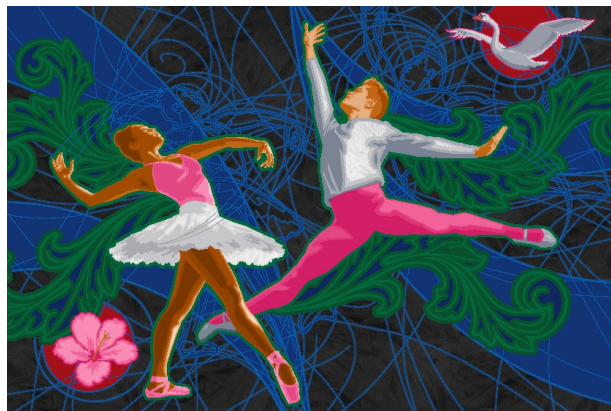
PHILADELPHIA – April 8, 2021 – Pennsylvania Ballet, in partnership with **Mural Arts Philadelphia**, announces the opening of a new public art exhibition, *Spread Your Wings* at Cherry Street Pier on the Delaware River Waterfront. The free public exhibition is a dynamic display of photography, video, an indoor mural, and live performances. **The exhibition opens on Friday, May 7, 2021, at Cherry Street Pier, coupled with a free live performance by the Pennsylvania Ballet II.** The exhibition is meant to spread the joy of movement to all Philadelphians.



Pau Pujol of Pennsylvania Ballet. Photographer: Arian Molina

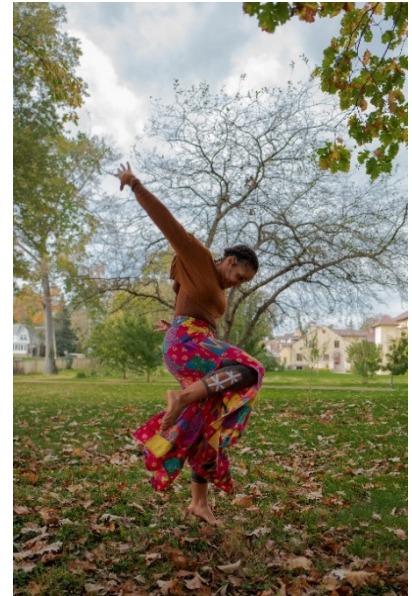
Media are invited to a press preview of the exhibition and performance on Thursday, May 6, at 1 pm at Cherry Street Pier, 121 North Columbus Blvd., Philadelphia.

The *Spread Your Wings* exhibit will run at Cherry Street Pier from Friday, May 7 until Sunday, June 6. See Mural Arts Philadelphia Artist David McShane's newest mural as part of the exhibition, inspired by Shawn Theodore's photography featuring Pennsylvania Ballet company dancers. Also on display will be large scale photography of these dancers by Vikki Sloviter, Arian Molina, and Shawn Theodore as well as a video directed by Michael Candelori.



Spread Your Wings Mural by David McShane

“*Spread Your Wings* is an exciting project for Pennsylvania Ballet,” stated **Sarah Cooper, Director of Community Engagement for the Pennsylvania Ballet**. “The idea behind this project is that everyone can connect to the beauty of dance no matter what their interests are, and we want the opportunity for people to do just that. Movement is universal, and we simply want people to notice and celebrate it with the help of prominent Philadelphia cultural partners.”



Photographer: Shawn Theodore

The **Opening Night** on Friday, May 7, at Cherry Street Pier, will include a live performance by the Pennsylvania Ballet II at 7 pm.

Choreographer Maria Konrad uses the backdrop of Philadelphia’s rich artistic community to create new, vibrant choreography for the event. Dancing to the soundtrack of original classical, spoken word, electronic and jazz music, Konrad attempts to encapsulate the intangible grit, joy, and energy of the city in *PHrenetic*. The performance is in collaboration with underground Philadelphia musicians and artists. Following opening night, Pennsylvania Ballet II will be performing a **matinee at 2 pm on Saturday, May 8**.

“At Mural Arts Philadelphia, we love collaborating with other arts groups to share messages of hope and healing,” said **Mural Arts Philadelphia Executive Director Jane Golden**. “The bringing together of visual arts and movement is inspiring to all of us, and we look forward to having Philadelphians experience this powerful combination with the talented dancers of the Pennsylvania Ballet.”

Making dance personal and accessible, the Pennsylvania Ballet’s *Spread Your Wings* encompassed a variety of activities that encourage creativity and personal engagement with dance and storytelling. Through the visual arts, photography, choreography, and creative writing opportunities, *Spread Your Wings* is about equipping Philadelphians to engage with art-making and movement, to become agents of their own creative experience.

Partners for *Spread Your Wings* are Pennsylvania Ballet, Mural Arts Philadelphia, Cherry Street Pier/Delaware River Waterfront Corporation, Fleisher Art Memorial, Big Picture Alliance, Philadelphia Gay Men’s Chorus, Art Reach, and Mighty Writers. Funding is provided by Reliance Standard Life Insurance.

About the Artists

Big Picture Alliance and Director **Michael Candelori** created the video on display at Cherry Street Pier. Big Picture Alliance empowers youth to define their own narrative through filmmaking and digital media. Their pathway of digital media programs, independent filmmaking, and industry apprenticeships provide youth ages 12-21 the tools to represent themselves and the skills to succeed in school, life and career, aiming to uplift and amplify underrepresented voices and build an inclusive creative community that plays a vital role in Philadelphia and beyond.

David McShane has been designing and painting murals for Mural Arts Philadelphia since 1996, and has completed well over 100 large, outdoor, community-based murals in the Philadelphia area. His murals include subjects such as the Philadelphia Phillies, Philadelphia Stars Negro Baseball League, community leader Herman Wrice, Larry Fine, Dirty Franks, Jackie Robinson Mural, Legendary Blue Horizon Mural, and fifteen elementary school transformation projects in partnership with the Philadelphia Eagles. Outside of Philadelphia, David has received grants to create community murals in Coatesville and Middletown Township, PA; Dublin, Ireland; and in the suburbs of Paris, France. He also creates fine art paintings in his studio and has exhibited his work at the LaSalle University Art Museum, Artists' House Gallery, Temple Gallery of the Tyler School of Art, University City Arts League, Philadelphia Office of Arts and Culture, and Nexus Gallery. David was raised in Audubon, New Jersey and received degrees from LaSalle University and the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts. He is married to artist Eurhi Jones and has two daughters.

Arian Molina joined Pennsylvania Ballet as a principal dancer for the 2015/2016 season, performing a range of works from the contemporary to the classic. Prior to Pennsylvania Ballet, Arian danced with the Cuban National Ballet, which he joined in 2010 (upon graduation from the National Ballet School in Havana) and danced under the artistic and technical guidance of Alicia Alonso. In addition to his professional work as a dancer, he is a dance photographer.

Vikki Sloviter is a Philadelphia-based fine art portrait and ballet photographer whose work showcases the artistry, technique, athleticism, and beauty of the ballet dancer's body. Vikki has photographed dancers from around the country who dance with New York City Ballet, American Ballet Theatre, Boston Ballet, Houston Ballet, San Francisco Ballet, Pennsylvania

Ballet, BalletX, Complexions, and Martha Graham Dance Company. Her work can be seen on social media and has appeared in *RangeFinder Magazine* and *Pointe Magazine*, has been on display on billboards, at the National Constitution Center, and at the PhotoPlace Gallery in Vermont.

Shawn Theodore (b. 1970, Germany) is an award-winning photographer whose work opens broad conversations regarding the role of the photographer in the shaping of agency and imagery, engage in new forms of storytelling, and its impact on the trajectory of the collective black consciousness. Theodore has participated in exhibitions at various institutions, galleries, and fairs, including the African American Museum in Philadelphia, Mennello Museum of American Art, The Barnes Foundation, Photo LA 2020, and many others. His practice converges in the commercial, editorial, fine art/photography, illustration, and the academic sectors. Recently completed projects include works for Apple, Showtime, RocNation, PAPER, *New York Magazine*, *Smithsonian Magazine*, *The Atlantic*, *The New York Times*, and PDN. Theodore was awarded the prestigious PDN's 30 New & Emerging Photographers to Watch (2019), the Getty Images / ARRAY 'Where We Stand' grant and a grant from the Knight Foundation for 'A Dream Deferred.'

Pennsylvania Ballet is one of the nation's premier ballet companies and one of Philadelphia's cultural treasures. Internationally renowned dancer Angel Corella took the reigns as Artistic Director at the start of the 2014/2015 season, bringing the company to a new level of excellence with 45 dancers from around the world and an ever-changing repertoire of works. In addition to its performances on Philadelphia's famed Avenue of the Arts, Pennsylvania Ballet serves more than 17,000 individuals across the Philadelphia region every year with hands-on, high quality arts education activities brought to children and adults alike regardless of socioeconomic background or abilities. For more information visit paballet.org or connect with us on [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), and [YouTube](#) for a behind the scenes look at our dancers in the studio and onstage. Pennsylvania Ballet is supported in part by a grant from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Department of Community & Economic Development and receives support from The Philadelphia Cultural Fund and the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts, a state agency funded by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

Mural Arts Philadelphia is the nation's largest public art program, dedicated to the belief that art ignites change. For more than 35 years, Mural Arts has united artists and communities through a collaborative and equitable process, creating over 4,000 artworks that have transformed public spaces and individual lives. Mural Arts aims to empower people, stimulate dialogue, and build bridges to understanding with projects that attract artists from Philadelphia and around the world, and programs that focus on youth education, restorative justice, mental health and wellness, and public art and its preservation. Popular mural tours offer a firsthand glimpse into the inspiring stories behind Mural Arts' iconic and unparalleled collection, which has earned Philadelphia worldwide recognition as the "City of Murals." For more information, call 215-685-0750 or visit muralarts.org. Follow along on social media: @muralarts on Twitter and Instagram, and @MuralArtsPhiladelphia on Facebook, and phillymuralarts on YouTube.

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EDITOR'S NOTE: high-resolution images are available in the Mural Arts Philadelphia press room at <http://bit.ly/MuralArtsPressKit>.