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# Sean Dorsey Dance Presents 'The Missing Generation'

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Trailblazing transgender choreographer Sean Dorsey returns to San Francisco on the 20-city tour of "The Missing Generation," a stunning new dance-theater work based on oral history interviews with longtime survivors of the early AIDS epidemic. This Spring "The Missing Generation" travels to Atlanta, Washington DC, Pittsburgh, Los Angeles and San Francisco before heading to Canada.

To create "The Missing Generation," Dorsey spent a year traveling the US to record 75 hours of oral history interviews with queer and transgender survivors of the early epidemic. Next, Dorsey spent more than 500 hours crafting an intricate, multi-layered

score that incorporates clips of these remarkable interviews, haunting original music, and Dorsey's own writing.

The soundscore - recently nominated for an Isadora Duncan Dance Award - is broken into 17 sections that sweep the audience through history and into intimate first-hand experiences of the early AIDS epidemic.

Sean Dorsey Dance's award-winning, multi-generational ensemble dances all 17 sections, pushing themselves to their physical and emotional limits - moving seamlessly between full-throttle dancing, live speaking and intimate storytelling. The company was nominated for an Isadora Duncan Dance Award for "Best Company Performance" for "The Missing Generation."

With stark tenderness, heart-breaking storytelling and breathtaking dancing, "The Missing Generation" moves and inspires audiences - revealing the unshakeable human capacity to lift each other up out of unthinkable loss with compassion, strength and resilience.

Highly physical, deeply accessible, rooted in story, and danced with precision and guts and deep humanity, "The Missing Generation" was commissioned by Bates Dance Festival, Dance Place (Washington DC), 7 Stages Theater (Atlanta), The Theater Offensive (Boston), Queer Cultural Center (San Francisco).

Dorsey created the work as a love letter to a forgotten generation: "Our culture has really turned its back on the early AIDS epidemic - along with its survivors," says Dorsey. "This project calls us to witness and hold a long-neglected generation -those who witnessed and experienced unthinkable loss, discrimination and grief during the horrific early years of the AIDS epidemic. These people are living amongst us - but are unseen in so many ways."

WHERE LGBT LEADERS COME TO EXCEL

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Dorsey says, "There is an incredible urgency to undertaking this project now: during my lifetime, we will see the passing of the last generation of people who actually experienced the early years of the AIDS epidemic first-hand. We are already rapidly losing our community's stories. I wanted to capture and share part of this

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important history, and ask us to collectively reckon with the loss and grief this generation endured, and to face this history and grieve and heal together."

"The Missing Generation" breaks new ground by bringing transgender stories of the early AIDS epidemic to the stage: "Most people have no idea that transgender women's communities were absolutely decimated by the early epidemic," says Dorsey, "As a trans person, I am passionate about bringing compassionate awareness to this long-buried part of American history." Sean Dorsey is the nation's first acclaimed transgender contemporary dance choreographer.

"The Missing Generation" is performed by: Sean Dorsey, Brian Fisher, ArVejon Jones and Nol Simonse. Original music composed by: Alex Kelly, Jesse Olsen Bay, Ben Kessler and Jeffrey Mooney. Lighting Design: Clyde Sheets. Sound Engineering/Mixing: Laura Dean. Costume Design: Tiffany Amundson.

"The Missing Generation" not only brings long-neglected LGBT voices from the early AIDS epidemic to the stage - Dorsey will also archive all 75 hours of his oral history interviews with LGBT and HIV/AIDS archives across the US, making them available as a resource to coming generations.

Sean Dorsey is the US' first transgender dance artist ever awarded NEA support. Dorsey's works have been praised as "exquisite...poignant and important" (BalletTanz), "trailblazing" (San Francisco Chronicle) and "evocative, compelling, elegant" (LA Weekly). Dorsey has toured his work to 26 US cities.

Dorsey is the nation's first acclaimed transgender contemporary dance choreographer. With his signature fusion of contemporary dance, storytelling and theater, Dorsey is blazing a trail celebrated by critics and sold-out audiences alike. He has been named "San Francisco's Best Dance Company" (SF Weekly) and named in the nation's "Top 25 to Watch" by Dance Magazine. Dorsey has been awarded three Isadora Duncan Dance Awards, the Goldie Award for Performance, national commissions, and praise from New York to Los Angeles.

"The Missing Generation" was made possible by the National Endowment for the Arts, National Dance Project, National Performance Network, Kenneth Rainin Foundation, Phyllis C. Wattis Foundation, San Francisco Arts Commission, and commissions from Bates Dance Festival, Dance Place (Washington DC), Queer Cultural Center (San Francisco), 7 Stages (Atlanta) and The Theater Offensive (Boston).

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