GroundWorks DanceTheater is imagination you can see. Critically celebrated as an “artistically significant” ensemble, GroundWorks explores the nuances of the human experience through unique and adventurous choreography. This exciting, eclectic work brings audiences face-to-face with fresh, fascinating performances of passion, intellect and humor.

Artistic director David Shimotakahara founded GroundWorks in 1998. From its Northeast Ohio base, this group of outstanding artists has emerged as the region’s premiere dance company with a reputation that continues to expand. GroundWorks has introduced dance lovers and neophytes alike to an experience that is unconventional, yet deeply human and resonating.

Selected works from a diverse repertory, with choreography by David Shimotakahara and renowned guest choreographers, are available for touring. Past guest artists have included Lynne Taylor-Corbett, David Parker, Ronen Koresh, Doug Elkins, Kate Weare, Art Bridgman and Myrna Packer, Zvi Gotheiner, Alex Ketley, Gina Gibney, and Dianne McIntyre, among others. This entirely original repertory includes an impressive range of work for up to 6 dancers, with music from classical to popular to contemporary new music.

Current Repertory Available for 2013-14 Touring

“Brubeck” by David Shimotakahara (2012)
Set to the music of American jazz icon Dave Brubeck, Shimotakahara’s “Brubeck” highlights several of the artist’s classic recordings which epitomize his career-long experimentation with unusual time signatures, and his brilliant partnership with saxophonist Paul Desmond. GroundWorks dancers are sent into wonderful motion and commotion around the infectious melodies and dynamic rhythms of one of jazz’s most enduring legends.

“My Hummingbird at the High Line” by Doug Elkins (2012)
This witty, classy and fresh new work by award winning choreographer and creator of “Fraulein Maria” is set to an eclectic mix of pop tunes from the Rat Pack and Frankie Valli to a Handel aria. It employs Elkins’ unique style mixing classical ballet, martial arts, and hip-hop moves giving the artists cheeky interactions to convey the joy and heartache of romantic relationships. Critics praise Elkins’ skillful craftsmanship, his humor and timing.

“CoDa” by Ronen Koresh (2011)
Commissioned in 2011, Koresh’s “CoDa” is set to haunting and exuberant music by French composer Rene Aubry and communicates a full range of life experiences with passion and humanity. Koresh has choreographed for dance companies throughout the U.S. as well as South Korea, Japan, Turkey and Israel, where he was born and raised. He formed the Koresh Dance Company, based in Philadelphia, PA, in 1991.

A full 90-minute program will be designed to complement one of the above featured pieces.
Excerpts from reviews

“Marked by an amazing cohesion of style, spirit and attention to detail, Shimotakahara’s company has taken the regional dance world by an intense—yet ever graceful—storm.” - Jennifer Rogers, ArtsinOhio.com

"A seamless blend of classical and modern ideas that embrace artistic freshness..." - Don Rosenberg, Cleveland Plain Dealer

“It’s hard not to gush about GroundWorks. Its double trio of men and women dancers worked seamlessly as an ensemble so that the audience was able to concentrate on the dance story or vision being portrayed rather than particular personalities. One rarely sees repetition in their works; if it’s there, it’s special and exacting. These attributes, grouped with many others, make GroundWorks a leading and consequential force in the modern dance world.” - Roger Durbin, Westside Leader & Dance Critics Association

“An avalanche of ideas takes flight—or hugs the earth—whenever GroundWorks steps onto a stage.” Donald Rosenberg, Cleveland Plain Dealer

“GroundWorks DanceTheater is one the area’s best dance companies. Its talented and well-trained corps work as a cohesive group, displaying total awareness of the needs of contemporary dance to create segment after segment of audience pleasing performances.” - Roy Berko, Coolcleveland.com

List of References

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Fee Schedule for Performances

GroundWorks DanceTheater charges between $6,000 - 8,000 for a performance, depending largely on whether the works performed require live musical accompaniment, and whether the venue is fully appointed, or requires us to provide significant technical support.

Fee Schedule for Education programs and workshops

Workshop: $350 - 400
Master classes: $150 - 250
Lecture/Demo: $975 - 1,500
Long-term Residencies: $1,800 - 3,500
2 - 4 days including up to 4 Grade levels (K - 12)

Note: The above fees do not include transportation or lodging.

For booking information, contact:

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