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651 ARTS in association with The Joyce Theater Foundation, Inc. present critically acclaimed Brazilian Hip-Hop Dance Company, Companhia Urbana de Dança

The company performs two powerhouse works revealing the imaginative handiwork of a choreographer who *“has dissected hip-hop and dismantled its trickery...to show how the dance form...could enter into the realm of art.”* The New York Times

Brooklyn, NY – **Companhia Urbana de Dança** (Rio de Janeiro), in a co-presentation with The Joyce Theater Foundation, Inc., makes its debut at The Joyce (175 Eighth Avenue at 19th Street in Chelsea), as part of a three week festival of Brazilian Dance, with four performances from **March 3 – 6** in a program of two works, including a U.S. premiere. Tickets range in price from \$10 - \$49 and can be purchased at www.Joyce.org, or by calling 212-242-0800. Please note: ticket prices are subject to change.

Under the artistic direction of **Sonia Destri Lie**, the company will perform *Id Entidades*, a contemporary work by Lie featuring a blend of her most favorite dance genres, including hip-hop, urban traffic and contemporary dance. The company will also present the U.S. premiere of *Na Pista*, a work inspired by the dancers’ daily lives growing up in the *flavelas* (small towns) of Rio de Janeiro.

Founded in Brazil in 2004 by dancer Tiago Sousa and choreographer and artistic director Sonia Destri Lie, Companhia Urbana de Dança is an ensemble of street performers working to foster the human experience through dance. Destri’s experiences traveling through Europe for work in theater and films exposed her to hip-hop and b-boy techniques. Highly influenced by Brazilian street forms, she began to integrate these techniques into her already established contemporary movement sensibility.

The work of Companhia Urbana de Dança brings its dancers’ identities, testimonials and attitudes to the stage, and it does that with a *carioca*, Afro-Brazilian accent, which is nevertheless universal. The group is firmly positioned in the most contemporary urban dance scene in Brazil and internationally. It highlights the talents of young black Brazilians in the modern world, from an affirming and pluralist stance. Companhia Urbana de Dança aims to transcend cultural boundaries, while showcasing eclectic skill sets.

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THEATER

DANCE

MUSIC

COMMUNITY

For more information on the Brazilian Dance Festival, visit www.Joyce.org.

ABOUT 651 ARTS

For 25 years, **651 ARTS** has been committed to developing, producing, and presenting performance and cultural programming from the African Diaspora, with a primary focus on contemporary performing arts. 651 ARTS serves the cultural life of New York City, with a particular focus on Brooklyn, one of America's most culturally diverse communities. For more information, visit www.651ARTS.org.

ABOUT THE JOYCE THEATER FOUNDATION, INC.

The Joyce Theater Foundation, Inc. has served the dance community and its audiences since 1982. Founded by Cora Cahan and Eliot Feld, The Joyce is responsible for The Joyce Theater, which features an annual 48-week season with over 325 performances; and Dance Art New York (DANY) Studios, which provides subsidized rehearsal space for dancers and choreographers. Through its performance programs, education initiatives, and artist services, The Joyce annually helps to advance the careers of thousands of artists and brings audiences of over 130,000 closer to dance.

The presentation of Companhia Urbana de Dança is made possible in part by a grant from the National Performance Network's Performing Americas Program. Lead funding of the National Performance Network Performing Americas Program is provided by the Robert Sterling Clark Foundation and the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation.

This tour of Companhia Urbana de Dança is made possible through Southern Exposure: Performing Arts of Latin America, a program of Mid Atlantic Arts Foundation.

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