

For Immediate Release

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**SOULSKIN DANCE ANNOUNCES THE CONTINUATION OF ITS FIFTH
ANNIVERSARY SEASON WITH THE WORLD PREMIERE OF HERO**

*September 7-9, 2018
Dance Mission Theater*



SOULSKIN Dance; Photo credit: Andy Mogg

SAN FRANCISCO, May 30, 2018 – **SOULSKIN Dance** announces today the continuation of its fifth anniversary season with the **world premiere of *HERO*, September 7-9, Dance Mission Theater.**

HERO is a collaborative experience of dance, spoken word, live music, and video, that explores the meaning and role of the HERO in our contemporary, fractured, but beautiful world.

With spoken word by LA-based writer, performer and movement artist Lilly Bright and choreography by Artistic Director Adrianna Thompson and collaborator/guest artist Sebastien Thill (Paris Opera Ballet), *HERO* features a young woman who unexpectedly receives a message from faraway; a doorway mysteriously reveals itself. An odyssey of the individual merging with the universal (and vice versa) is the parallel realm that envelops her, testing her fortitude through longing and love, struggle and salvation, loss and remembrance. At once mystical and mundane, *HERO* explores the multitude of roles the hero plays in our everyday, extra-ordinary lives.

“*HERO* is a politically themed ballet that poses the question: What defines a hero,” says

SOULSKIN Dance's Artistic Director, Adrianna Thompson. "In today's society there are everyday heroes; those who speak out against atrocities like gun violence to make the world a better place. *HERO* seeks to understand the different ways that one can be a hero".

Collaborators include:

Guest Artist: Sebastien Thill

Visual Designer: Andy Mogg

Playwright: Lilly Bright

Lighting Designer: Harry Rubeck

Costume Designer: Jamielyn Duggan

Composer: Noah Salomon

Dancers: Devon Chen, Barbara Koch, Erika Hassan (Associate Artistic Director of SOULSKIN Dance), Allie Papazian (ODC Dance & Company Nacional de Danza - Madrid), Margot Lena (Sarah Bush Dance Project), Arvejon Jones (Sean Dorsey Dance & PUSH Dance Company), Ryan Camou (Smuin Ballet, State Street Ballet), Adonis Damian, and Delvis Savigne Frinon

CALENDAR LISTING

SOULSKIN Dance celebrates the continuation of its fifth anniversary season with the world premiere of Hero, a new work that explores what is a hero

WHO: SOULSKIN Dance, the Bay Area-based company founded by Artistic Director Adrianna Thompson

WHAT: The world premiere of *Hero* choreographed by Artistic Director Adrianna Thompson with spoken word by Lilly Bright and Guest Artist Sebastien Thill

WHEN: Friday, September 7 & Saturday, September 8, 8 pm
Sunday, September 9, 5:30 pm

WHERE: Dance Mission Theater, 3316 24th Street, San Francisco, 94110

TICKETS: \$20-\$25 (General Admission)
Advance \$20 tickets available at brownpapertickets.com or by calling Brown Paper Tickets at 800.838.3006
At-the-Door: \$25

About Artistic Director Adrianna Thompson

A California native, Thompson attended the illustrious San Francisco School of the Arts and received her BFA in Dance from California State University, Long Beach. She was a professional dancer in New York City for over 15 years with Battery Dance Company, Carolyn Dorfman Dance Company, Mark DeGarmo & Dancers, and has worked with

Bella Lewitzky, Milton Myers, Jonathan Wolken, Brenda Daniels, Risa Steinberg and Mary Jane Eisenberg, among others.

Thompson was the founder and choreographer of MEFTAS Dance Theatre in New York City for 10 years. Her choreography has been presented at Joyce SoHo, the Cunningham Studio, The Riverside Theatre, Mulberry Street Theater, the Downtown Arts Festival, Trisha Brown Studios, Movement Research, Theater for the New City, Dance Space, the Boston Conservatory and the Wheeler Opera House in Aspen, CO.

She has received numerous awards including Best Performance of the Year by the Boston Globe, the Komaroff Award for Performance Excellence and was awarded a full dance scholarship by the American College Dance Festival.

She has performed and taught master classes around the world including Poland, Norway, Sweden, Estonia, Slovenia, Finland, Bulgaria, Sri Lanka, India, Peru, Texas, and the Harvard Summer Dance Project in Cambridge, MA.

She has been a guest artist in the New York Public Schools and for the Missouri River Dance Company and was on faculty for 10 years with Aspen Santa Fe Ballet and is a guest faculty teacher for Alonzo King LINES Ballet BFA at Dominican University, California.

Her work with SOULSKIN Dance has been presented at various festivals across California and nationally, including San Francisco's PUSHfest, sjDANCEco's festival, HH11 Dance Festival, and Aspen Fringe Festival. SOULSKIN has been commissioned by Aspen Art Museum for site specific works as well as youth educational outreach programs.

Ms. Thompson is a specialized master teacher in GYROTONIC® and GYROKINESIS® and has been practicing the method for more than 26 years.

About SOULSKIN Dance

SOULSKIN Dance is a Bay Area-based dance collaboration founded in 2013 by Artistic Director Adrianna Thompson. Thompson curates a roster of exceptional artists including fashion designers, DJs, musicians, media designers and dancers to create immersive, electric dance environments. Cultural scenes of rhythm and music populate her work. Thompson's choreographic style celebrates musicality and exudes personality, while remaining firmly rooted in modern dance technique.

SOULSKIN Dance embodies a spirit of collaboration, exploration and pure fun. Its artists work together with a goal to create a universal access point through dance.

For more information about SOULSKIN Dance visit <http://www.soulskindance.org/>

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