

# AUDITORIUM THEATRE

CHICAGO'S LANDMARK STAGE<sup>®</sup> EST. 1889



For Immediate Release

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*The Auditorium Theatre Proudly Presents*  
**Deeply Rooted Dance Theater**  
One night only, November 5 at 7:30 p.m.

Featuring world premiere of *Q After Dark*, an homage to Quincy Jones,  
and company premiere of Ulysses Dove's *Vespers*

October 3, 2022 (CHICAGO) – The Auditorium Theatre (Chicago's landmark stage at 50 E. Ida B. Wells Drive) proudly presents **Deeply Rooted Dance Theater**—a Chicago-based African-American contemporary dance company—in a one-night-only performance Saturday, November 5 at 7:30 p.m. as part of the theatre's *Chicago Dance* series. Tickets are \$25–69 and are available at [auditoriumtheatre.org](http://auditoriumtheatre.org).

The program features the **world premiere** of *Q After Dark*, a joyous celebration of the music of Chicago's legendary Quincy Jones. The Deeply Rooted dancers perform choreography by the company's [Artistic Team](#)—Artistic Director **Nicole Clarke-Springer**, Associate Artistic Director **Gary Abbott**, Creative/Executive Director **Kevin Iega Jeff**, and **Joshua L. Ishmon**—with live music by a super-ensemble of musicians led by [Sam Thousand](#).

In a **company premiere** by acclaimed choreographer **Ulysses Dove**, Deeply Rooted performs *Vespers*, a dramatic work full of raw energy and profound grace. Inspired by Dove's memories of his grandmother's place of worship, *Vespers* showcases the athleticism and grace of six female dancers propelled by **Mikel Rouse**'s electronic score. The National Endowment for the Arts has approved a grant in the amount of \$20,000 to support the commission of Deeply Rooted's performance of *Vespers*.

Completing the program are revivals of two works choreographed by Co-Founder and Creative/Executive Director **Kevin Iega Jeff**: *Aisatnaf*, in which a woodland creature frolics to Ballet Fantasy for Strings and Harp by **Lee Holdridge**, and *Junto*, a spirited celebration of unity set to music by **Pat Metheny**.

"We are privileged to have such a diverse array of Chicago dancers perform on our stage through the Chicago Dance Series," says Auditorium Theatre CEO **Rich Regan**. "Deeply Rooted Dance Theater thrilled Auditorium audiences last season, and we look forward to welcoming them back."

"The genius of Quincy Jones has been part of the fabric of Deeply Rooted from the company's inception," says Deeply Rooted Artistic Director **Nicole Clarke-Springer**. "His music has inspired many ballets in our repertory. It is only fitting that we honor this musical giant and humanitarian, whose roots are on the South Side of Chicago. The dancers have loved working with Sam Thousand and his ensemble of musicians to offer a truly joyous tribute to a Chicago legend."

### **Special Thanks**

The Auditorium Theatre is grateful for the support of the 2022-23 Season Global and Chicago Dance Sponsor, The Florian Fund, and the Student Matinee Sponsors of Deeply Rooted Dance Theater, Denise Littlefield Sobel and The Robert Thomas Bobbins Foundation.

The Auditorium Theatre 2022-23 Season is made possible in part with support from the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation and the Illinois Arts Council Agency. The Auditorium's official hotel partner is the Palmer House Hilton.

### **About Deeply Rooted Dance Theater**

Premiering in 1996, [Deeply Rooted Dance Theater](#) reimagines and diversifies the aesthetics of contemporary dance by uniting modern, classical, American, and African-American traditions in dance and storytelling. Through its uncompromising pursuit of excellence, Deeply Rooted demonstrates the transformative power of art and beauty through performance, dance education, and cultural enrichment in Chicago and on the world stage. Deeply Rooted is rooted in traditions of American and African-American dance, storytelling, and universal themes that spark a visceral experience and ignite an emotional response in diverse audiences worldwide. Deeply Rooted collaborates with nationally

renowned choreographers, across the spectrum of modern, ballet, and African dance, to reflect contemporary voices. For information, visit [deeplyrooteddancetheater.org](http://deeplyrooteddancetheater.org).

### **About The Auditorium Theatre**

The **Auditorium Theatre**, located at 50 E. Ida B. Wells Drive at Roosevelt University in Chicago, is an Illinois not-for-profit organization committed to presenting the finest in international, cultural, community, and educational programming to all of Chicago and beyond as The Theatre for the People. The organization also is committed to the continued restoration and preservation of this National Historic Landmark that originally opened in 1889.

This Auditorium Theatre's 2022-23 performance season features a dynamic mix of acclaimed global dance companies (**Les Ballets Trockadero de Monte Carlo**, **Step Afrika!**, **Cloud Gate Dance Theatre of Taiwan**, **American Ballet Theatre**, and the much anticipated annual engagement by the **Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater**) while closer to home, beloved Chicago dance companies also take the stage (besides Deeply Rooted Dance Theater, also **Ensemble Español Spanish Dance Theater**, **South Chicago Dance Theatre**, and an evening with **Trinity Irish Dance Company**, **M.A.D.D. Rhythms**, and special guest, New York-based **Dorrance Dance**. In addition, the critically acclaimed **National Geographic Live** speaker series, offering first-hand accounts and expert voices on cultural and environmental issues, returns with three offerings and a new lower ticket price. And rounding out the season will be two holiday music concert specials in December: the popular ***Too Hot to Handel: The Jazz-Gospel Messiah*** and ***Celtic Woman***.

For more information on the Auditorium Theatre and a complete listing of events at the Auditorium Theatre, please visit [AuditoriumTheatre.org](http://AuditoriumTheatre.org).

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