



Bates Dance Festival

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Doug Varone and Dancers promise Maine premieres at Bates Dance Festival

LEWISTON, Maine -- Marking their 29th season as one of America's leading contemporary companies, Doug Varone and Dancers return to the Bates Dance Festival with kinetically thrilling new and reprised works at 7:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday, July 22 and 23, in Schaeffer Theatre, 329 College St.

Tickets are \$25 for adults, \$18 for seniors and \$12 for students and are available at batestickets.com. For more information, please visit the festival website -- batesdancefestival.org -- or call the BDF box office at 207-786-6161.

The company offers a Show & Tell lecture-demonstration at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, July 19, in Schaeffer, and dance writer Debra Cash gives an Inside Dance pre-performance lecture at 7 p.m. July 23. A talkback with the artists follows both performances.

Rarely do audiences have the opportunity to watch an artist develop over the long term, but Varone's frequent BDF residencies have provided just such a perspective. For its ninth residency since 1992, the company will perform three pieces.

Two are Maine premieres: "ReComposed" is inspired by American abstract artist Joan Mitchell's pastel drawings and set to Michael Gordon's explosive score, "Dystopia." In "The Fabulist," Varone returns to the stage with a moving portrait set to "Death Speaks," a score by composer David Lang.

Finally, in "Possession," set to music by Philip Glass and originally co-

commissioned by the Bates Dance Festival in 1994, Varone's superb dancers apply their all-in artistry to a riveting tale.

An award-winning choreographer and director, Varone creates works for dance, theatre, opera, film and fashion. His works are recognized for their emotional range and kinetic breadth. "It's the humanity of his work that I find so moving, and so rare in today's world," a New York Observer writer noted.

Founded in 1986, Varone and Dancers command attention for their expansive vision, versatility and technical prowess. Varone's dances make essential connections and mine the complexity of the human spirit. From the smallest gesture to full-throttle bursts of movement, his work is often breathtaking.

The company has performed in more than 100 cities in 45 states across the U.S. and in Europe, Asia, Canada and South America. Stages include the Kennedy Center, Lincoln Center, Brooklyn Academy of Music, San Francisco Performances, London's Queen Elizabeth Hall, Toronto's Harbourfront, Moscow's Stanislavsky Theater, the Venice Biennale, and the Tokyo, Bates, Jacob's Pillow and American Dance festivals.

Varone and Dancers are among the most sought-after ambassadors and educators in dance. In 2013, the company toured Argentina, Paraguay and Peru courtesy of DanceMotionUSA, a program of the U.S. Department of State that's produced by the Brooklyn Academy of Music and showcases contemporary American dance abroad.

About the Bates Dance Festival

Founded in 1982 at Bates College, the Bates Dance Festival brings together an international community of contemporary choreographers, performers, educators and students in a cooperative community to study, perform and create new work.

The festival serves as an annual destination for artists, students and audiences to engage in a full range of activities and performances that foster a creative exchange of ideas, encourage exploration of new ground and provide access to a wide spectrum of dance and movement disciplines.

At press time, support for the 2016 season has been provided by Bates College, the National Endowment for the Arts, the New England Foundation for the Arts, National Performance Network, the Sequoia Foundation, Morton-Kelly Charitable Trust, the

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