



Marcello Angelini | Artistic Director

CONTACT  
Bethany Kirby  
(918) 392-5949  
bethany.kirby@tulsaballet.org  
www.tulsaballet.org



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

October 11<sup>th</sup>, 2021

**MULTIMEDIA BALLET INSPIRED BY 1921 TULSA RACE MASSACRE BEING PERFORMED BY TULSA BALLET, ALONG WITH *FLIGHT OF FANCY* BY MA CONG**

**TULSA, OK** – On the year of the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the 1921 Tulsa Race Massacre, Tulsa Ballet will perform an inspiring multimedia experience choreographed by Jennifer Archibald, combining dance and dialogue in a piece that hopes to promote healing that is long overdue.

*“Breakin’Bricks* will open the doors for Tulsans to interrogate societal practices that do harm and hinder,” says Archibald. “It invites them to invest in the future by imagining a Tulsa that does not perpetuate racial divide, inequity or oppression, and rather actively works toward the development of an equitable field for all.”

Originally conceived as a historical timeline, through intensive research that included intimate conversations with descendants of survivors, this project has evolved both in structure and in meaning. These interviews, showcasing the diverse voices of the Tulsa community, will provide the documented visuals the audiences will see on stage.

“In the research process,” Archibald explains. “I found the conversation with members of the community gave me a deeper understanding of the city and its citizens...There was a significant shift in my creative process while interviewing Tulsans from different cultural backgrounds. Their voices are the spine of the work.”

Artistic Director Marcello Angelini finds that it is necessary and critical to be more than just a ballet company who presents beautiful dances. “Our commitment to the community goes beyond the presentation of dance,” Angelini says. “We have an obligation to present, without passing judgement or necessarily offering a solution, works that are pertinent to the cultural

issues of the past and present. We are a Tulsa cultural institution and it's unthinkable that we don't use our platform to reflect on the most transformational event of the past 100 years for our community, and how it has affected our lives in the present. All that in the hopes to learn a number of lessons that will positively shape our future.”

This story, however, could not be told with the absence of black bodies, and this project highlighted the reality that, although Tulsa Ballet is highly diverse internationally and racially, the Company does lack black dance artists.

Committed to telling this story, Tulsa Ballet engaged seven extraordinary black dance artists to collaborate with the Company on this important and groundbreaking production. These seven artists are singular and seasoned, having performed with Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, Dance Theatre of Harlem, Ballet Memphis, BalletMet and more.

“For me, Breakin’Bricks is about breaking down walls between people in a segmented society,” Archibald says. “The title is about awareness, rebuilding and finding communal support.”

The program will be presented as a double bill with two very different pieces presented. The evening will open with the return of *Flight of Fancy*, a fast-paced and lively piece by Ma Cong, a piece Tulsa World called, “...a joyous celebration.” *Fancy* was choreographed on the Company in 2016 as part of the *Creations in Studio K* performance. According to Cong, *Flight of Fancy* was “designed to impart a feeling of curiosity and playfulness to the audience.” Ma Cong, former Resident Choreographer of Tulsa Ballet during the last 12 years, was recently hired by Richmond Ballet as their Associate Artistic Director.

## QUICK FACTS

### WHEN AND WHERE:

Thur. October 28, 7:00 pm at Tulsa PAC | 110 E 2<sup>nd</sup> St. Tulsa, OK 74103 (Preview Night)

Fri. October 29, 7:30 pm at Tulsa PAC | 110 E 2<sup>nd</sup> St. Tulsa, OK 74103

Sat. October 30, 7:30 pm at Tulsa PAC | 110 E 2<sup>nd</sup> St. Tulsa, OK 74103

Sun. October 31, 2:30 pm at Tulsa PAC | 110 E 2<sup>nd</sup> St. Tulsa, OK 74103

**TICKETS:** Starting at \$25 | Call the Tulsa Ballet Box Office at 918.749.6006 or visit [tulsaballet.org](http://tulsaballet.org). Discounted student tickets available with valid ID.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION:** [tulsaballet.org](http://tulsaballet.org) or 918.749.6006

Hi-Res images and interview opportunities available:

Bethany Kirby | Marketing Manager

918.392.5949 | [Bethany.kirby@tulsaballet.org](mailto:Bethany.kirby@tulsaballet.org)