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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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CONTEMPORARY DANCE THEATER
And MAMLUFT&CO. DANCE
are joining to make a somewhat new,
somewhat familiar, and certainly exciting organization.

Cincinnati, Ohio:

Contemporary Dance Theater, founded in 1972 by Artistic and Executive Director Jefferson James, will merge with the current MamLuft&Co. Dance led by AED Jeanne Mam-Luft in September of 2021. Both organizations have histories in the Cincinnati area of presenting, producing, teaching, and championing contemporary dance and diversity. Those principles will remain core pillars of the new organization which will be led by Jeanne Mam-Luft.

This new organization will have a new name, Mutual Dance Theatre and Arts Centers – one in Hartwell (The Hart) and one in College Hill (The Hill). There are currently a few unanswered questions, but there are some definite answers. Like the Covid-19 pandemic we're living through some things will be changing and some things will return stronger than ever. The presentation of dance which has been a focus of Contemporary Dance Theater for all of its 48 years will continue. The commitment to the celebration of contemporary dance will also be a continuing commitment of the new organization, as will the continued teaching of dance techniques.

The actual merger will take place in the fall of 2021, so these two organizations have the next 14 months to make the change-over and hear from their supporters about the future. At present the plan is for the two boards to merge and legal and logistical details to be worked out. We'll be asking you, our patrons, friends and supporters for your feedback. What do you want to see continue, what would you like to see change, what will keep you interested and make you excited by this move? We'd like to hear because we need to know your opinions. How much do you want to be involved during this coming year? Please respond to our website cdt-dance.org and/or to the new Mutual Dance Theatre future website at mutualdance.org with your questions and concerns. We hope you will tell us a lot; we serve you through contemporary dance.

Donations would also be welcome to complete our season and help with the transition.

Jefferson James says about the decision to step down and to pursue the merger:

“This was not an easy decision to make, but I thought the time was right. There is so much change happening in the field of live performance now that one more change seemed appropriate. I will miss the joys of directing my dance organization, but I'm confident I'm leaving the mission of CDT in the hands and heart of an equally dedicated and supremely talented leader. Her job will be to combine the organizations and make an even stronger dance presence in our community than we've had.”

While Jefferson James is stepping down from directing Contemporary Dance Theater she is not stepping away from the field or the new organization. She intends to remain involved and available to lend assistance for as long as Mutual Dance Theatre wants.

Jeanne Mam-Luft says:

“Contemporary Dance Theater — and, really, that means Jefferson — has been absolutely integral to MamLuft&Co. Dance. I’ve never met another person who has single-handedly held up a genre of art for an entire city for as long as Jefferson has. When people call her the ‘mother of Modern Dance in Cincinnati’ (and I know she hates the term), they do it with good reason. My organization — actually, the city — owes so much to her, and it’s an immense honor to be trusted with continuing her work. We both have a deep, deep love for Modern Dance and for Cincinnati, and I know that there is no other work that either of us want to be doing.”

ArtsWave support has been crucial to the existence of both MamLuft&Co. Dance and Contemporary Dance Theater and in this next chapter they are stepping forward again to assist both organizations in accomplishing this merger while we continue to operate separately this coming season.

2020-21 will CELEBRATE OUR 48TH SEASON!

Contemporary Dance Theater was founded in 1972 by Jefferson James and remains dedicated to promoting and presenting contemporary dance. CDT operates a dance studio and performance space in the historic College Hill Town Hall, 1805 Larch Avenue, Cincinnati, Ohio 45224.