

Press Release Real Edge Dance Company
August 17th 2016

Real Edge Dance Company (aka: RED) will present its Sixth Season annual fall concert entitled **“PRISM” October 14,15,16, 2016** at the Paul A. Daum Theater in Akron, Ohio. The concert will feature premier modern dance works by RED Artistic Director Kelli Sanford and Guest Dance Artist Damien Highfield (professional dancer with Groundworks Dance Theater), as well as the return of two dance works from prior seasons of RED that will be performed by company dancers Kelli Sanford, Chelsea Shump, Mary Vaccani, Darcie Lemons, Karina Browne, Kaylee Behringer, as well as one dance work that will feature community dancers of all ages in a special collaborative outreach project.

The premiere of **“Flowers”** choreographed by RED Artistic Director, Kelli Sanford, set to the music of Pachelbel’s “Canon in D” and Two Guys and a Piano’s “Rockabel” is a beautiful visual interpretation of flowers blossoming. The work designed for 4 dancers begins with adagio choreography that is a representation of floral growth with the latter part of the work turning into a celebration of floral beauty and energy. Also included on the program is the return of Sanford’s dark, psychological dance work **“Secrets”** that premiered in 2015. Set to the original musical score by RED Resident Composer Jonathan Monacelli, this work set for 3 dancers is the depiction of the subconscious thoughts that plague one’s mind, and the battle of taming such thoughts and fears so that they do not take over one’s sanity. This work with its bold movement and stark, sharp lighting creates striking images of the struggles of the soloist who is surrounded by two dancers clad in faceless black masks representing her “subconscious thoughts” as they circle and encroach upon her space. The concert will also feature a new work by Guest Artist Damien Highfield, who is a professional dancer with Groundworks Dance Theater

Lastly, the finale dance work is RED’s 2011 original work entitled **“The Natural Being.”** This dance work is a visual representation and highlight of the land of Australia and the Aboriginal culture. Sanford traveled to Australia in 2007 by receiving the prestigious “Pancoast Award” from Case Western Reserve University at the conclusion of her graduate career while earning her MFA in Contemporary Dance that provided her the opportunity to study and explore the land of Australia and dance. The dance work represents the energy of the environment and the strong spirituality and human-nature community that is practiced within the Aboriginal culture. As part of this dance, RED has invited 7 community members whose ages range from 11-55 years old to learn this dance work and perform alongside the professional dancers of RED. This special educational outreach opportunity that RED offered to the community to audition for earlier in late April 2016, provides these community dancers a chance to gain the experience of being on the ‘other ‘side of attending a dance performance with them being a “performer” and not just an audience member. The work will provide these community dancers the experience of a professional rehearsal setting with only having 10 rehearsal sessions to learn the work, a performance opportunity, and the chance to share their passion of dance with the audience and Greater Akron community.

“PRISM” will be performed **Friday October 14, 2016 at 7:30pm; Saturday October 15, 2016 at 7:30pm; and Sunday October 16, 2016 at 3:00pm.** Tickets are sold at the door, general admission \$20.00, students & senior citizens \$15.00. The Paul A. Daum Theater is located on the main campus of The University of Akron. To learn more about RED please visit www.RealEdgeDance.org and contact ksanford@RealEdgeDance.org “PRISM” and Real Edge Dance Company are generously supported by The Margaret Clark Morgan Foundation, The Mary S. and David C. Corbin Foundation, Ohio Arts Council, Akron Community Foundation, and private patrons.

The RED Dance Center’s **RED School of Modern Dance** now entering its second year is offering modern and ballet technique classes for community members of all ages. Community members interested in classes should contact Kelli Sanford at ksanford@RealEdgeDance.org to register. Fall classes begin September 6, 2016.