



# Coronavirus (COVID-19) Update

Last Updated April 16, 2020

## **RDA Regional Festivals Update:**

Regional Dance America has as its top priority the health and well-being of its staff, faculty, and dancers. With that in mind, we have been actively monitoring a variety of sources for the latest updates on the coronavirus (COVID-19) to support our Regions and their Festival events. The ongoing evolution of circumstances surrounding the coronavirus presents significant challenges in making these decisions. After much thought and discussion, we recommended that the RDA Regions follow the protocols of their Festival cities, counties, and states. Due to the spread of COVID-19, RDA/Southwest, RDA/Southeast, and RDA/Northeast each made the difficult decision to cancel their 2020 Festivals out of concern for the health and safety of all Festival participants.

RDA is providing online alternatives to share program sponsors' artwork and to connect recruiters and scholarship donors with deserving RDA dancers. RDA is facilitating an online audition process for the distribution of scholarship opportunities, which supports dancers from Regions who were unable to attend a 2020 Festival.

## **2020 RDA National Choreography Intensive Update:**

Every year, Regional Dance America hosts its National Choreography Intensive, which provides dancers and choreographers the opportunity to work and study with world class faculty in a focused and inspired environment. Since 1961, this program has seen thousands of dancers and choreographers converge in shared spaces to spark creativity and unleash potential. We have been working hand-in-hand with Sam Houston State University. At this time, the University has made the difficult decision to cancel all on-campus events this summer for the safety of all participants. Due to the growing COVID-19 pandemic, the 2020 in-person NCI has been converted into a cutting edge virtual NCI still taking place this July.

The year 2020 highlights the importance of technology platforms in connecting our dance community all over the globe. From the safety of your homes and backyards, RDA will present this summer's National Choreography Intensive<sup>20</sup> via the Zoom online platform. The NCI<sup>20</sup> will feature:

- Reduced tuition prices,
- Daily shortened technique classes for dancers,
- Choreography workshops with NCI's incredible Directors,
- Choreography rehearsals with a new choreographer each day, and
- For the first time ever dedicated time spent engaging with the important technology platforms needed for today's artists to present themselves virtually.

The overall structure of the virtual NCI<sup>20</sup> experience is currently being crafted, and RDA is excited to share more information soon.