

chashama

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For IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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chashama
in association with
Greater Jamaica Development Corp
PRESENTS
Dance Jamaica!
October 4th, 11th, and 18th

Featuring public dance performances by
ESOTA/KECDE! on October 4th, Duhon Dance on October 11th, and
Ballet International Africans on October 18th

Performances at 11:00AM and 1:00PM all Saturdays
FREE and open to the public
For more information visit www.chashama.org

"Dance Jamaica!" will take place outside on the lawn in front of the
Jamaica Performing Arts Center (JPAC), on 153rd Street and Jamaica Avenue
E or J train to Jamaica Center (last stop)

chashama, in association with Greater Jamaica Development Corp (GJDC) is proud to present **Dance Jamaica!**, unexpected dance performances outside the Jamaica Performing Arts Center (JPAC).

Three dance companies that operate in the Queens area have been selected to create outdoor performances for the lawn in front of the Jamaica Performing Arts Center in its inaugural season. JPAC is located on one of Jamaica's busiest thoroughfares, and these public performances will delight the public as they go about their Saturday activities.

On **October 4th** **ESOTA/KECDE!** known for their youthful blend of concert and theater will perform "**ESOTA! Signatures.**" Works including STAND (commissioned by State Senator Malcolm A. Smith), The Day is Past and Gone (a tribute to dance pioneer Alvin Ailey) and A Chorus Line (commissioned by the New York Carats and tribute to mentor Michael Peters). This performance is made possible in part by funding by Councilmember Leroy Comrie and Councilmember James Sanders, Jr.

On **October 11th**, **Duhon Dance**, brings history to life and mirrors the energy and atmosphere of present-day Jamaica, Queens. "**Jamaica: From the Days of King to Today's Queens**" tips its hat to U.S. Founding Father and early American Abolitionist Rufus King, whose house is across the street from what is now JPAC. Through spoken word, live music, and a range of dance styles.

On **October 18th** dance company, **Ballet International Africans** will present "**Africa Meets African America**". This production is a reflection of the African American dream to one day, be able to return to Africa and feel a sense of belonging, while also accepting their history here in the U.S. The piece incorporates spoken word and contemporary dance with Traditional West African dance, drum, song, and folklore.

chashama is a not-for-profit artist services organization that provides free and subsidized space to visual and performing artists. Chashama finds and "adopts" unused properties in New York City. The real estate is loaned to the company by owners and developers and quickly transformed into workspace and unusual performance sites for artists. Chashama manages these interim arts complexes and through this process is able to offer fully and highly subsidized space, giving emerging and mid-career artists more opportunities to present innovative work.

Greater Jamaica Development Corporation (GJDC) is a community-building organization that plans, promotes, coordinates and advances responsible development to revitalize Jamaica and strengthen the region. Marshaling the resources of the public, private, and not-for-profit sectors, GJDC's work expands economic opportunity and improves quality of life for the ethnically and economically diverse residents of Jamaica and for the region at large, which benefits from rational, well-planned, and sustainable metropolitan growth.

The Jamaica Performing Arts Center (JPAC), located at 153rd Street on Jamaica Avenue, is a premier state-of-the-art, mid-size, performance complex. JPAC, housed in a completely renovated 1858 landmark building, the former

First Reformed Dutch Church of Jamaica, will become the area's arts hub- featuring a premier state-of-the-art, 400-seat multi-purpose performance space that will offer theatre productions, music concerts, film festivals, dance performances and arts education.

Additionally, JPAC offers affordable performance and rehearsal space for other professional arts entities as well as civic and community groups. The facility is fully equipped for video and telecommunications conferencing, making it an efficient meeting and seminar space for businesses and corporations.

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