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Panel discussion to explore racist signs and symbols Nov. 10 at UofSC

The University of South Carolina's Department of Theatre and Dance will present a panel discussion that focuses on themes from the upcoming dance performance "Ruptured Silence: Racist Symbolism and Signs," Tuesday, Nov. 10.

The discussion will take place at 8 p.m. in the School of Law auditorium. The event is free and open to the public. This discussion precedes the "Ruptured Silence" dance performance that premieres Dec. 1 – 4. The performance will focus on the historic presence of racist signs and symbols in southern states and how citizens respond to those representations.

"We hope to provide context for the December premiere and to introduce to audience members how dance and movement can represent political ideas and engage in meaningful political dialogue," said David Snyder, faculty principal of the International House at Maxcy College and senior instructor in the history department.

Panelists will include "Ruptured Silence" choreographers Tanya Wideman-Davis and Thaddeus Davis and renowned principal dancers Jade Solomon Curtis, Mindy Rawlinson, Vincent Michael Lopez and Kevin Guy. Snyder will moderate the discussion.

The panelists have an array of experiences within the dance field. Wideman-Davis and Davis are assistant professors in the UofSC dance program. They serve as co-artistic directors of Wideman/Davis Dance, which is the resident professional dance company in the College of Arts and Sciences.

To learn more about the Ruptured Silence dance performance visit the dance program's [website](#).

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More about the panelists:

Curtis earned her bachelor in fine arts from Southern Methodist University. In 2011 Curtis joined Spectrum Dance Theater where she performed on national and international tours. She also performed with the 5th Ave Theater, Seattle Theater Group, Seattle International Dance Festival, Seattle Central District Forum, Walla Walla Dance Festival and Velocity Fall Kick Off. In 2014, Curtis was the subject of an EMMY Award winning biographical film by Nancy Guppy and Ralph Bevins of the Seattle Channel.

Lopez trained at The School of Ballet Arizona. He is a recipient of the Oprah Winfrey Scholarship to study at The Alvin Ailey School in New York City. He has danced with Ballet Austin II and Spectrum Dance Theater in Seattle Washington. Lopez continues to perform with Wideman/Davis Dance and has performed with Dominic Walsh Dance Theater.

Rawlinson is an adjunct instructor for the UofSC dance program and is an instructor and choreographer for the university's Dance Conservatory. She has performed with the Carolina Ballet Theatre and Eliot Feld's Ballet Tech. She earned the University of South Carolina Dance Program Director Award for outstanding dedication, talent and passion for the art of dance.

Guy earned his bachelor of fine arts from the University of North Carolina School of the Arts in Contemporary Dance. He has performed in many stage and film productions. His choreography has been performed by dance companies across the country, and he has taught dance for numerous groups, including many in New York City.

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