

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Collective Of Black Artists (COBA)
Legacy III "Bringing it HOME"

TORONTO, ON, March 1, 2015: Can social activism have a place in Dance? COBA presents a Season of Dance focused on the lived experience of a dancing body suspended in movement, music and tradition. The Season also features live musicians; a staple in most performances supporting many of the company's work which is grounded in the wide range of African / Caribbean aesthetics. Voted best dance company in NOW best of the City 2013 and with a technique rooted in the African Aesthetics of presentation, Collective of Black Artists (COBA) presents **LEGACY III: Bringing it Home; a retrospective of the company's work from the African to the Contemporary African dance.** COBA embarks on a Season of Dance rooted in the personal experience of African and African Diasporic people. The versatility of the company's choreographic themes, forms and musicality enlivens the Africanist traditions they hold dear, COBA **"makes you sit up and take notice for all the right reasons"** *Deirdre Kelly, Globe & Mail.* The Season addresses the importance of our collective social consciousness and awareness to the present's connection to tradition, history and purpose of future.

The abduction of the Nigerian school girls in April by the Boko Haram saw a slew of "Bring Back Our Girls" campaigns, which petered off into the ether ... the choreography elicits the struggles and fears but, tangled within, it demonstrates hope and faith. In **"Meme: #Faith #Hope"** by Co-Artistic Director Charmaine Headley with original composition by N'dere Nimon Headley-Lindsay, the all-female cast lends their personal, haunting and thoughtful commentary to the soundscape affirming that ... **hope continues even through silence...**

Co- Artistic Director, BaKari I. Lindsay this season questions "Essence" with a work **"Essence" Ode to Joyce** exploring the attribute or set of attributes that make a person or substance what it fundamentally is, and which it has by necessity, and without which it loses its identity. The Essence of the Orisha is the spirit, does this spirit dwell within us all or does it only exist within the ritual of which it belongs? Can we physically manifest the spirit? In **Divine Rite Lindsay delves into** traditional spirituality, where life and death is reflected in a circle and death is a new beginning. The season all stands on the tour du force **Saraca**, a traditional Caribbean celebration practiced mainly in Grenada & Trinidad, West Indies. This tradition that was performed by African slaves who were brought to the Caribbean as a means of thanksgiving to the creator for all the gifts they have received prior and for continued strength and guidance to the future.

Legacy III – "Bringing it Home" March 19 to 21 2015, 8pm. COBA Studio Theatre @ Daniels Spectrum, 585 Dundas St E, Toronto, Tickets \$20-\$35

About Collective of Black Artists (COBA)

COBA is dedicated to the preservation of the cultural traditions of Africa and the African Diaspora. The company presents traditional West African dance, music and folklore; Caribbean indigenous dance, music and rituals; and contemporary works centered on African movement aesthetics expressing modern social themes. At the front of dance education, preserving and innovating on Africanist movement aesthetics for over twenty years COBA has the distinction of being the only company in Canada with a specialized training method developed in the 21st century.

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