

MEDIA RELEASE

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Europe's imPerfect Dancers Company US Premiere of "Anne-Frank - Words From The Shadows" in Kansas and California, January 29 & 31, 2019

Kansas State McCain Auditorium and Folsom Lake Harris Center in California to Host One-of-a-Kind Performance

Washington, D.C., January 15, 2019: The National Performing Arts Funding Exchange today confirmed that it is supporting Europe's renowned modern dance [imPerfect Dancers Company](http://imperfectdancers.com/) and the dance company's upcoming US tour and premiere of "Anne Frank - Words From The Shadows". The exclusive showings will be staged at Kansas State University's McCain Center in Manhattan, Kansas on Tuesday, January 29, 2019, and at the Folsom Lake College Harris Center just outside Sacramento, California on Thursday, January 31.

Acclaimed Europe-wide for its evocative choreographic creations and led by Co-Artistic Directors Walter Matteini (mah-tay-EE-nee) and Ina Broeckx (brewks), Italy-based imPerfect Dancers Company first premiered "Anne Frank - Words From The Shadows" in April 2014 at the Teatro Verdi in Pisa. Since then, the Company has been invited to stage this compelling evening-length production, together with many other of its now-highly-lauded original dance creations, all over Europe and beyond.

"Our choreographic language is intensely physical and athletic. It hinges on our quest to explore and understand the human soul in all its different facets," explains Matteini. "'Words From The Shadows' is an inspirational tribute to this young woman's life, especially to her spiritual strength during one of the darkest moments of the 20th century."

In the performance, imPerfect Dancers Company artists physically narrate emotion, fear, pathos and love: after the liberation of Auschwitz, Anne's father Otto, the only survivor of the Frank family, returns to the Secret Annex where he is given his daughter's diary. Reading it, he discovers elements of her personality that he did not expect. The audience then travels with him, through sound, light and dance, as he relives the time when the Frank family went into hiding and then faced the tragic events that followed.

The Matteini-Broeckx duo is a rapidly rising star of the European contemporary dance scene. Their work is deeply human and accessible, energetic and emotional. They purposefully push past conventional interpretation and breathe fresh life into music and stories that inspire them. Broeckx, a native of Belgium, has had an extraordinary choreographic and dance career throughout Europe and is the Company's costume and set designer as well as one of the dance members.

imPerfect Dancers Company was founded by Matteini and Broeckx in January 2009. Since its inception, this eight-strong contemporary dance company has proven tirelessly creative as it evolves, expands its repertoire, and delights audiences with its sensitive, original and compelling performances. Doing so, imPerfect Dancers Company has secured its rightful place as a leader in the European artistic landscape.

"The source of our creativity, the essence that differentiates imPerfect Dancers Company from all the others, is human nature itself," Matteini and Broeckx point out. "As dancers and human beings, we all start from imperfection, constantly striving for the unattainable: individual and collective perfection. This remarkable paradox is encapsulated in the company's name, imPerfect Dancers: True perfection lies in imperfection."

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Interview Availability: Both Matteini and Broeckx will be available in both cities for live interviews. Skype / WhatsApp calls can also be arranged before the tour begins. Contact Cliff Brody at (+1) 202.213.3076 or cbrody@npafe.org to schedule.

Online Media Resources. For **imPerfect Dancers:** <http://imperfectdancers.com/> (choose "About" menu item); NPAFE one pager about imPerfect Dancers: <https://www.npafe.org/ai-impd/>. For **NPAFE:** <https://www.npafe.org>.

About NPAFE - The National Performing Arts Funding Exchange. NPAFE is the country's only not-for-profit partnering exclusively with private sector businesses committed to advancing the performing arts, channeling non-grant direct corporate funding to artists acclaimed for compelling original work. This financial support comes from corporate sponsors intent on associating their brands with the very best among performing artists, people applauded by loyal and discerning audiences. NPAFE provides all of its promotional services to performing artists at no charge.