

UCSD presents a program of dance by Donald Byrd/The Group on January 24 in Mandeville Auditorium

January 8, 1992

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UCSD PRESENTS A PROGRAM OF DANCE BY DONALD BYRD/THE GROUP

Donald Byrd/The Group, a dance troupe from New York City, will perform at 8 p.m. Friday, Jan. 24, in the Mandeville Auditorium at the University of California, San Diego.

Ticket prices are \$15 for general admission, \$13 for seniors and \$11 for students; tickets may be purchased at the UCSD Box Office Tuesday through Friday from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. or from any TicketMaster outlet.

Donald Byrd founded The Group in Los Angeles in 1978, and moved the company to New York in 1983. Along with abstract works, Byrd's choreography has addressed issues of universal community concern, such as disease, drug use, race and gender relations.

The touring repertory includes such dances as "The Minstral Show," the newest of Byrd's works. In it, he uses the mid-19th century form of Southern American entertainment to confront 20th century American issues of racial stereotyping. In addition to a sampling of traditional dances of the time--the soft shoe, the stop-time, the buck and wing--Byrd uses examples of contemporary and historical social dances and music.

"The Prodigal," choreographed in 1991, is an exploration of the biblical parable of the prodigal son, with some focus on the elder son's character.

"Dark Joy" takes its inspiration from the late choreographer George Balanchine's "Concerto Barocco." With original music by composer Mio Morales, the dance is composed of abstract movement patterns and includes a company of 12, with three female principal dancers.

Byrd is noted for his bold and highly physical style of choreography. He has created works for major African American dance companies, including the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, the Alvin Ailey Repertory Ensemble, the Dance Theater of Harlem's Choreographer Workshop, and several European dance groups. His awards include a Metropolitan Life Foundation "Emerging Dance Award" grant, and grants from the AT&T Foundation, the New York State Council for the Arts, Arts International, the Harkness Foundations for Dance, and a dance/film/video grant from the National Endowment for the Arts.

This event is sponsored by the UCSD University Events Office. For information call the UCSD Box Office at 534-6467.

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