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Join Open Arms Dance Project for their Inaugural Performance of THREADS at the Morrison Center for the Performing Arts.

Boise, ID: Celebrate the inaugural performance of Open Arms Dance Project at the Morrison Center for the Performing Arts. THREADS will premiere on Thursday, April 28th. Through the course of this performance, you will enjoy award-winning dance films and live performances – all embodiments of our formidable journeys over the past two years. Open Arms dancers are between the ages of 7 and 76, with and without disabilities, performing honest, uniquely crafted, joyful movement. This evening of dance will help hearts heal and provide a reason to feel hopeful.

On Thursday, April 28th there will be a school performance at 12:30pm and a public performance at 7pm. Schools may attend the matinee for free and tickets for the evening performance are purchased for \$5-\$20 through the Morrison Center box office. During the show there will be live performances by Open Arms Dance Project and special guests, the Afrosonics. Additional original music from local musicians and internationally known disabled composer Molly Joyce will be featured. Open Arms Dance Project will also share their two Award winning dance films, and, most notably, premier a mini documentary of the *Upstanders with Open Arms* anti-bullying project.

This mini documentary will introduce the Boise community to the important partnership between the Wassmuth Center for Human Rights and Open Arms Dance Project. Since January, Open Arms' Artistic Director and Ambassadors have been teaching the Wassmuth Center's *Upstander* lessons through dance. This has involved 80 second grade students from two Treasure Valley schools, many of whom will perform on stage with Open Arms on April 28th.

Elements have been thoughtfully designed to make this performance as accessible as possible for all audience members. These include ASL interpretation, increased wheelchair accessible seating, captions for live dance and films, a poetic audio description for film, and discounted ticket options for people with disabilities.

Open Arms Dance Project is a community of dancers with diverse bodies, ages, and abilities, creating powerful art together in Boise, ID since 2008. Their beautiful range of physical and neuro-diversity helps send waves of positive change through the community, time and again, with each of their performances. They dance everywhere from street corners to formal stages. Founding Artistic Director, Megan Brandel says, "It's revolutionary to see ordinary people performing extraordinary dance that values each person's unique body, brain, and contributions from the heart." *The art of Open Arms Dance Project is exactly what the world needs right now.*

About Open Arms Dance Project

As a 501(c)(3) non-profit, Open Arms Dance Project creates greater joy and compassion in the community with dance that opens hearts, minds, and arms. It is our vision to empower a diverse group of people to share their unique creative expression through equitable, collaborative dance making that has the ability to transform communities.