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Junior Players Announces New Dance Production: *Amplify*

Performance Dates: August 19 - 21, 2021

DALLAS, TX, August 1, 2021 - Junior Players is excited to announce that it will be a brand-new dance production entitled *Amplify*. Performances will take place at the Annette Strauss Artist Square at the AT&T Performing Arts Center. Cobly Calhoun, Floyd McLean, and Ani Vera will choreograph the production. This production marks Junior Players first dance production featuring only BIPOC choreographers.

The performance will provide a glimpse of what challenges exist within our teen communities and family ecosystems. Dancers from across DFW will come together to discuss some of the most challenging issues facing themselves, their peers, and their community, and how the arts have given them an outlet to deal with those challenges. The choreographers will then partner with the students to pair both their light-hearted and life-altering struggles to music, stage combat, and choreography to create an hour-long dance performance.

With everything happening in our community and our country, these issues are more relevant than ever before. This program allows our younger generations a safe and creative environment to discuss real life issues that affect our community like racial tensions, body image, identity perceptions, and acceptance.

As with all Junior Players programs, there will be no cost for the participants of the production. Tickets are \$15 for all performances and are available now at juniorplayers.org/tickets. The doors will open at 7:00 pm and the show will begin at 8:00 pm each night.

By providing this new program, Junior Players will give young people a unique opportunity: the chance to make tangible connections between themselves, their peers, and their communities; to express themselves in a safe and supervised, yet flexible forum; and finally, to create this within the exciting, imaginative context of the arts.

Junior Players was founded in 1955 and is the oldest non-profit children's theater organization in Dallas. Over its existence, Junior Players has striven to meet the changing needs of the community. From 1955 to 1989, Junior Players presented traditional children's theater productions performed entirely by children and teenagers. In 1989, the Board of Directors changed the focus of Junior Players activities, deciding that, Junior Players can best serve the youth of Dallas by providing free programming accessible to all the children of North Texas. Junior Players, therefore, exclusively provides free arts education programs in local recreation and cultural centers, housing projects, elementary and middle schools, and through social service agencies serving youth at risk.

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