

# URBAN BUSH WOMEN

## PARENT/CAREGIVER GUIDE

MARCH 9, 2018

Use this guide to jump-start a conversation with your child about the performance they saw recently – not only will you get to learn about what your child experienced, but it will also help them to process and reflect upon the onstage material.



### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- What was the performance about? ( Did it connect to history? To something else you've seen?)
- What did the performance make you think about? (Did it spark any new thoughts or give you any new understanding?)
- How did you connect ideas in the performance to ideas or realities in your own life? In your school work? In the rest of the world?
- Can you remember something about the performance that you particularly liked or disliked? If so, what was it and why did it stand out to you?
- Did you have a favorite moment in the performance? Tell me about it.

### EXPLORE MEDIA PORTRAYALS OF BEAUTY

Think about magazines commercials, tv shows, music videos, youtube videos you've seen lately.. What images of beauty are promoted?

- What stereotypes are perpetuated? What's missing? Who's missing? What's the message to people consuming that media?
- If you were creating a campaign about authentic beauty, what would you include?

### A BIT OF BACKGROUND

Urban Bush Women's uniquely bold and boundary-pushing storytelling weaves contemporary dance, music, and text with the history, culture, and spiritual traditions of African Americans and the African Diaspora.

This radical re-imagining of an earlier work (HairStories, 2001) features the choreography of Samantha Speis and Chanon Judson in collaboration with the company, new music compositions by The Illustrious Blacks (Manchildblack and Monstah Black), with stage direction by Raelle Myrick-Hodges.

Crafted from personal narratives from our communities, kitchens and living rooms, social media, and YouTube, Hair and Other Stories is an opportunity to see a dance work that debates the center of perceived American "values" and celebrates the persevering narrative of the African Diaspora.

Hair and Other Stories will leave you wondrously and often humorously disquieted regarding the nature of our current society. The performance explores perceptions of body image, race, gender identity, economic inequities and what constitutes freedom, liberation, and release in our everyday struggles to rise to our Extra-ordinary Selves in extraordinary times.

With costume design by DeeDee Gomes, projection design by Nick Hussong, and lighting design by Xavier Pierce, Urban Bush Women's Hair and Other Stories invites its audience to delve into the complexities of individual identity versus collective society with humor and honesty.

