

THE WOODEN FLOOR COMMISSIONS HIGH PROFILE SEÁN CURRAN AND OTHER ARTISTS TO DEEPEN TEEN LEARNING AND ACHIEVEMENT

SANTA ANA, Calif. (June 23, 2017) – **The Wooden Floor**, a nationally recognized creative youth development nonprofit, aims to strengthen and deepen teen artistic programming by creating a summer Co-Creation Lab with unique and invaluable collaboration opportunities with top artists, including a professional residency by **Seán Curran**, his internationally recognized dance company, and filmmaker **Tiffany Rhynard**. The art-making opportunities conclude with three public performances showcasing the co-created dance and films July 20-22, 2017, at The Wooden Floor.

In 2016, The Wooden Floor received a three-year Thriving Cultures grant from the Surdna Foundation totaling \$240,000. As part of their Teens' Artistic and Cultural Awareness priority, Surdna seeks to invest in organizations that help teens explore their cultural identity and equip them with the life-enhancing skills they need to achieve their educational and career goals. With this multi-year grant funding, The Wooden Floor's objective is to strengthen and deepen teen artistic programming to serve its growing pipeline of teens resulting from high retention rates, while deepening their engagement through 12th grade in order to maximize The Wooden Floor's opportunity to have life-long impact.

Overview of Programming

June 26 – July 8: Dance Film-Making Workshop

- 15 teen students of The Wooden Floor, ages 15-18, work with filmmaker **Tiffany Rhynard**
- Teens create three dance films using material derived from their lives and interests relevant to them and their communities; teens learn the difference between creating dance for stage and for the camera
- The Wooden Floor Studio Theatre showing of the films at the Co-Creation Lab event

July 3 – July 8: Creation of a world premiere dance piece

- 25 teen students of The Wooden Floor, ages 15-18, work with: **Seán Curran**, Department of Dance Chairperson and an Associate Arts Professor at NYU's Tisch School of the Arts; a Seán Curran Company member; and **Elizabeth Coker**, Co-Artistic Director of the Seán Curran Company and Assistant Arts Professor at NYU's Tisch School of the Arts
- Teens co-create a world premiere dance, which will culminate in performances at The Wooden Floor Studio Theatre, which will include a showing of the films, plus two repertory works by the Seán Curran Company, *Social Discourse* from 2007 and *Even Here* from 2012

July 10 – 18: Master Classes

- The 375 students of The Wooden Floor, ages 8-18, will experience master classes with: **Seán Curran**, Department of Dance Chairperson and an Associate Arts Professor at NYU's Tisch School of the Arts as well as six Seán Curran Company members
- Students will be introduced to the various approaches to art-making and contemporary dance

July 20-22: Public showing of dance and film works

- The Wooden Floor Studio Theatre showing of one world premiere dance plus two Seán Curran Company repertory pieces (*Social Discourse* from 2007 and *Even Here* from 2012) and three student films to take place at the Co-Creation Lab event July 20-22, 2017

Public Event Details

Name: Co-Creation Lab
When: July 20-22, 2017, 8:00pm nightly
Where: The Wooden Floor Studio Theatre, 1810 North Main Street, Santa Ana, CA 92706
Tickets: **Limited public tickets are available – this event will sell out.** \$20 General Admission; \$10 with Student ID
Available: TheWoodenFloor.org/Lab

[Meet the Artists](#)

[About the Dances](#)

About The Wooden Floor

Founded in 1983, The Wooden Floor is one of the foremost creative youth development nonprofit organizations in the country. We transform the lives of young people in low-income communities through the power of dance and access to higher education. In Orange County and through national licensed partners, we use a long-term approach grounded in exploratory dance education to foster the confidence and gifts within each child to innovate, communicate, and collaborate – skills necessary for success in school and in life. **100 percent of students who graduate from The Wooden Floor immediately enroll in higher education.** Our students become change agents and beacons of hope within their own families, their neighborhoods, our community, and our world.

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High-resolution images of rehearsals are available upon request.