

'Porgy and Bess' choreographer to conduct workshops in the Twin Cities

Written by



In advance of the revival of the classic musical, "The Gershwins' Porgy and Bess," the show's award-winning choreographer is coming to the Twin Cities.

As part of the Ordway's Taking Our Place Centerstage: The African Diaspora in Harmony, dancer and choreographer Ronald K. Brown, will visit the area on Feb. 25 for a community reception at the Ordway, 345 Washington St., St. Paul. Prior to the reception, which is open to the public, Brown will visit Seed Academy and Harvest Prep to conduct workshops with students and faculty at the two schools. The evening reception at the Ordway kicks off at 7 p.m.

Brown, who has been honored with multiple awards, including the Guggenheim Fellowship, Bessie Award, Black Theater Alliance Award and Audelco Award, founded the dance company Evidence in 1985 and has choreographed for the famed Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater. His choreography with "Porgy and Bess" helped the musical win the 2012 Tony Award for Best Revival of a Musical.

"The Gershwins' Porgy and Bess" runs at the Ordway from Mar. 25 – Mar. 30.

"The Gershwins' Porgy and Bess" is set in Charleston's fabled Catfish Row, where the character Bess struggles to break free from her scandalous past, and the only one who can rescue her is Porgy.

Taking Our Place Centerstage offers enhanced programming that includes master classes and workshops, an art exhibition, social gatherings and cultural conversations to celebrate the artistic traditions of communities of African and African-American ancestry.

For more information on "Porgy and Bess" or on the Taking Our Place Centerstage: The African Diaspora in Harmony initiative, call (651) 282-3000 or visit www.ordway.org/topc .