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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **Sonia Jones named Executive Director of Covenant Ballet Theatre of Brooklyn**

**PROVIDENCE, R.I.** —The Board of Directors of Covenant Ballet Theatre of Brooklyn (CBT) has named Sonia Jones as the organization’s first executive director. An experienced professional dancer, choreographer, dance educator, and nonprofit administrator, Ms. Jones will begin serving on June 1, in a lead-up to CBT’s 35th season. The Board voted unanimously to appoint Jones to the position following a ten-month-long national search.

In a uniquely accepting yet rigorous environment, Covenant Ballet Theatre of Brooklyn fosters the love of the art of dance through pre-professional training, educational programs in the schools, and original ballet productions. Since 1987, CBT has invested in the children and families of south Brooklyn, where cultural activities and resources are limited.

“This is an exciting time for us as we prepare for Covenant Ballet’s 35th anniversary,” said Founding Artistic Director Marla Hirokawa. “And now, with Sonia on board, bringing her experience and energy, I can’t wait to see what we can achieve in the years to come.”

“Sonia Jones’ experience and skill, both as a nonprofit administrator and as a ballet dancer and educator, will serve her and Covenant Ballet well,” said Board Chair Steven Rissman. “CBT’s dance academy, educational programs, artistic achievements, and organizational resources have been growing steadily. We have a beautiful, permanent home in South Brooklyn to serve a community that otherwise would not have access to our extraordinary artistic director, choreographer, and ballet instructor, Marla Hirokawa, and to a fantastic team of dedicated instructors. We look forward to a very bright future with Sonia.”

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## **Sonia Jones**

Sonia Jones trained as a student, teacher, and choreographer, and performed classical and contemporary repertoire in her native Pennsylvania prior to moving to Brooklyn, New York in 2009. She has over 15 years of teaching experience, including at the American Ballet Theatre (ABT) Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis School, ABT's Young Dancer Summer Workshop, Covenant Ballet Theatre of Brooklyn, Dance Theatre of Harlem, Harlem School of the Arts, Huntington Center for Performing Arts, and Ballet Theatre of Lancaster.

From 2015 to 2022, Ms. Jones was a staff member of the education department at ABT, where, among other responsibilities, she managed ABT's network of over 1,800 certified teachers. She also served on the board of examiners and as a co-instructor for the ABT/NYU Master's Program with NYU Steinhardt. Additionally, she is the founder of Sojo Performing Arts in Midtown Manhattan and she serves on the board of directors for Times of Refreshing Christian Centre, New York.

Ms. Jones holds an MA in Teaching Dance in Higher Education and the Professions with a concentration in ABT Pedagogy from NYU Steinhardt. She became a member of the CBT family through her work there as a teacher, choreographer, and performer from 2011 to 2019. She is very much looking forward to returning to CBT as a key member of the leadership team, and taking the lid off the best-kept secret in South Brooklyn.

"Covenant Ballet Theatre of Brooklyn is clearly a creative pillar in the community of south Brooklyn," Jones said. "I find it humbling but also exciting to be back on board in a capacity where I can enhance the growth of the company while also maintaining and preserving the heart of Covenant, which is what makes it so special and what inspired me to become a part of it more than ten years ago."

Funding for this position was provided in part by a grant from the New York State Council on the Arts (NYSCA), along with numerous other very generous donors to Covenant Ballet Theatre of Brooklyn.

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