



Media Contact:  
Sonia Jones, Executive Director  
[info@covenantballet.org](mailto:info@covenantballet.org)  
[www.covenantballet.org](http://www.covenantballet.org)  
(718) 891-6199

20 October 2022

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Covenant Ballet Theatre of Brooklyn pays tribute to Japanese American veterans of  
World War II with free online viewing of *The Nisei Project***

**BROOKLYN, NY** – Covenant Ballet Theatre (CBT) will pay tribute to World War II Japanese American veterans by hosting a two-week free online viewing of *The Nisei Project* in honor of Veterans' Day. The screening begins on Friday, November 11, at 9am ET and continues through Friday, November 25, at 9pm ET at [www.niseiproject.com](http://www.niseiproject.com) and on [YouTube](https://www.youtube.com).

*The Nisei Project (Nisei)* is a narrative ballet conceived and choreographed by CBT Artistic Director and Founder, Marla Hirokawa, in honor of her late father and his comrades in the World War II Japanese American segregated units of the 100<sup>th</sup> Infantry Battalion and the 442<sup>nd</sup> Regimental Combat Team. Together they were the most highly decorated and suffered the greatest number of casualties of any unit in American military history. *Nisei* utilizes a variety of dance forms to tell a powerful story of discrimination, separation, battle, and honor. In the final scene, veterans are brought onstage to be thanked and honored as a way of extending *Nisei's* message of gratitude to all veterans of U.S. wars.

The ballet was first performed in Brooklyn, NY, in 2001. In 2003, *Nisei* was presented in Ms. Hirokawa's home state of Hawai'i in a two-week tour spanning four islands. In 2014, the ballet was restaged for the New York International Fringe Festival. The score featured a six-piece band including traditional Japanese koto and shakuhachi instruments. A recording of that performance was first streamed online in 2021 to commemorate the 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the bombing of Pearl Harbor.

"Bringing this story to the stage was extremely personal and emotional for me," says Ms. Hirokawa. "I hope that all who view it experience and embrace the impact of this legacy. Being able to share this ballet is a way that I feel CBT can give back to the community."

Since 1987, CBT has invested in the children and families of South Brooklyn, where cultural activities and resources are limited. Artistic Director Marla Hirokawa founded CBT on the conviction that a serious ballet education combined with maximum inclusion is needed to advance the art form, train youth, and improve the lives of those within its embrace. In an accepting yet rigorous environment, CBT fosters the love of dance through pre-professional training in its studios and educational programs in NYC schools, and through dozens of original ballet productions.

For further information, please visit [www.covenantballet.org](http://www.covenantballet.org).