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JAMES SEWELL BALLET ANNOUNCES DA'RIOUS MALONE AS RESIDENT
CHOREOGRAPHER FOR 2021-2022 SEASON

Debut production of */kən'səm(p)SH(ə)n/* to premiere October 16-17

(Minneapolis/St. Paul) -- The James Sewell Ballet has announced the promotion of company dancer Da'Rious Malone to the role of Resident Choreographer for the 2021-2022 season.

Malone has been with the company for the past four seasons and will hold prominent roles in upcoming performances, including the *30th Anniversary Retrospective* (Oct 16-17, Cowles Center) and *Earth Tomes* (March 2022).

"Da'Rious has great creativity and passion as a dancer," said Eve Schulte, executive director of James Sewell Ballet. "He embodies the company's signature style of combining dynamic power with whimsy in a way the audience doesn't expect. "

While previous James Sewell Ballet dancers have contributed choreography to performances, this is the first time a member of the company has been bestowed the title of resident choreographer. "James Sewell serves as the company's artistic director and primary choreographer. He has entrusted Da'Rious with this new role to give him the opportunity to focus on his art and refine his craft. Da'Rious has worked hard for this opportunity," said Schulte.

"I'm thrilled and honored to take on this role with the company," said Malone. "And I take the opportunity very seriously. My duty is to present my peers and JSB in the best way possible and in a new lens."

Among the dances Malone is choreographing is */kən'səm(p)SH(ə)n/* which will premiere at the James Sewell Ballet's 30th Anniversary Retrospective October 16-17 at the Cowles Center. "The dance is my response to the anger and frustration I felt with the pandemic and police

brutality a year ago,” said Malone. “The choreography is my message that it’s OK to not be OK. Sometimes, in life, we need to pause and cry or be angry.”

Voyage, another Malone production, depicts how friendships and passions intertwine and then separate over time. *Voyage* premiered as a video project with the MacPhail Spotlight Series in April of 2021. The dance will have its stage debut next March at the Warren Miller Performing Arts Center in Big Sky, Montana, followed by performances in Bozeman and the Twin Cities.

Malone is a 2014 graduate of The Chicago High School for the Arts (ChiArts), where he won the award for Scholar-Artist and had the privilege to perform works from leading Chicago dance companies. He continued his training at The Boston Conservatory at Berklee and graduated in 2018 with his BFA in Contemporary Dance Performance with an Emphasis in Ballet. He has traveled in Europe as a guest artist and danced in several world premieres of choreography.

Download a photo of Da’Rius Malone [here](#).

ABOUT JAMES SEWELL BALLET

The James Sewell Ballet (JSB) was founded in 1990 in New York City by James Sewell and Sally Rousse, and relocated to Minnesota in 1993. Combining their expertise, vision and chutzpah, the founders envisioned a close-knit company of dance artists willing to both challenge their physical limits and expand their notions about ballet. The company is known for performing innovative work that explores the technical boundaries of ballet. The critically acclaimed JSB performances continue to move and delight audiences across the country.