



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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# 20 MORE! Encore!

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## ***Joe's Movement Emporium Celebrates 20 Years of Artist Service and Community Development***

*An Eclectic Vision and Visionary Bring Lasting Change to Mt. Rainier Community*

**Mount Rainier, MD** – In 2015, the largest independent performing arts center in Prince Georges County, Joe's Movement Emporium, will celebrate two decades of community impact the a series of major events, performances, and exhibits.

In 1995, dancer/choreographer Brooke Kidd had a unique vision to meet her needs as well as those of the surrounding community. Seeing the shortage of rehearsal and performance spaces, she set out to bring to the Washington DC suburbs an environment in which everyone would be welcome to express themselves through movement, regardless of experience, body size, or age.

Since then, Joe's has evolved from being a small, storefront studio located in Mt. Rainier to becoming a 20,000 sq. ft. arts center widely-regarded as the cornerstone of an arts-led economic re-development effort in Prince George's County.

Today, the landscape of scarcity that initially attracted Kidd to this community is now brimming with resources for the arts. The Gateway Arts District, a state designation which spans four municipalities (Hyattsville, Brentwood, North Brentwood, and Mt. Rainier) along the Rt. 1 corridor, joins small businesses and arts community in pursuit of economic growth. "We have grown to be a home for many producing artists by offering rehearsal space and support to run their individual arts businesses" Kidd explains.

Joe's serves as the artistic base to over 25 artists and arts group of all disciplines. Complete with a black box theater, three dance studios and an arts education wing, the facility serves nearly 70,000 individuals annually. As one of the region's most well respected non-profit arts center, Joe's successfully utilizes arts as a vehicle for progressive education and workforce training, serving 3,500 youth last year alone.

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This year will highlight the diverse and rich history of arts Joe's in known for including and On March 21<sup>st</sup>, Joe's will officially celebrate its 20<sup>th</sup> year of community impact with the annual Gala event, complete with special performances, live music and, of course, dancing.

### **About Brooke Kidd**

Brooke Kidd is a dance artist, choreographer, dance instructor, researcher and founder of *Joe's Movement Emporium*, Maryland-based arts non-profit established in 1992. Her pioneering efforts to utilize the arts in Maryland as a vehicle for progressive education, workforce training and economic growth have made her one of the most well respected arts managers in the region.

Kidd was born in Ligonier, IN in 1968 and graduated from Concord High School in Elkart. She came to the area to attend American University in Washington, DC, earning an M.A. in Dance with the thesis *Revitalizing Community through Dance* (1998) after a B.A. in International Relations and B.A. interdisciplinary degree in Dance, Anthropology and African Studies (1991). She has been a resident of Maryland since 1995, living, working and creating within her beloved Mount Rainier, MD community. Kidd received the Alan Kriegsman Award from Dance Metro DC for lifetime achievement and an Individual Artist Award in choreography from the Maryland State Arts Council.

"Joe's" was a storefront studio when Kidd and fellow artist Ajax Joe Drayton opened it. The concept of Joe's Movement Emporium came from Kidd's travels as an undergraduate student in Cameroon where she experienced performing arts centers that were more "open-door-oriented" than a large facility.

As an artist, Kidd has designed dance programs to engage community, produced large-scale performances, and presented work in the region. For several years, she choreographed and co-directed a large scale musical in a swimming pool at New York's community center at Asphalt Green featuring 75 swimmers and past Olympian athletes in swimming, diving and synchronized swimming.

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*Joe's Movement Emporium is the largest independent performing arts center in Prince George's County, MD. Founded in 1992, it is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that incorporates dance, movement and performing arts traditions from around the world into exceptional educational and artistic experiences. Joe's unique ability to utilize the arts as a vehicle for progressive education, workforce training and economic growth have made it one of the most well-respected nonprofit organizations in the region. For more information call 301-699-1819 or visit [joesmovement.org](http://joesmovement.org).*