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**SHALEIGH DANCE WORKS
PRESENTS THE WORLD PREMIERE of *Aló***

**May 1st & 2nd at 8pm
Venue - Reality Ministries Ballroom
Length – 40 minutes without intermission**

This performance is made possible through the community support of Reality Ministries, Ninth Street Dance, and Durham Independent Dance Artists (DIDA).

Durham, NC, March 30, 2015 – ShaLeigh Dance Works is excited to present the world premiere of *Aló*, the company's first evening length work as a part of DIDA's first complete curated season of local dance.

Aló is choreographed by Artistic Director **ShaLeigh Comerford** in collaboration with an international cast of performing artists. The ensemble includes dancer and martial artist, **Majid Bastani**; dancer, choreographer and performer, **Nicola Bullock**; choreographer and performing artist, **Dana Livermore**; dancer **Nicki Miller**; and Argentine dancer and writer **Martin Sueldo**. Original music score is by **Mike Wall** at **soundFORMovement**. Dramaturgy is by playwright **Lucia Del Vecchio**.

Aló is performed in the round and invites the audience into a rich and intimate shared experience. The work is driven by the desire to explore the instinctive human need to connect and how it paradoxically intersects with both the longing to be seen and the desire to hide our inner worlds. It plays with the gap between the stage and the audience, between the dancers and the spectators, so that the separation exposes connection and that which remains is “us”.

Says Majid Bastani “Imagine emotions so intense that they make your body speak, that’s how it felt to rehearse for this piece; to dig into the most authentic and vulnerable places and move from there.”

Says ShaLeigh Comerford: “I wanted to make work in an accessible community space and make the show accessible to all. Its theme is humanity. Its core is a sense of us. I was feeling really curious about this gap between the stage and the audience, between fantasy and reality, between making movement and inhabiting it. That’s really where it began. *Aló* literally knocks at your heart.”

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Says Lucia Del Vecchio: "This new work combines ShaLeigh's trademark choreographic honesty and vulnerability with a diverse group of dancers, each bringing treasured, tender, and bold parts of themselves to both the process and the stage."

Says Dana Livermore: "For me, the collaborative process in making *Aló* is like a kaleidoscope. We are working with ideas that constantly challenge our perception of ourselves as dance movers and how we choose to knock on our own sense of humanity. In *Aló* my sense of self rotates, converges with the other performers, and transforms me, which makes for exciting movement possibilities that aren't just about executing technique, but rather revealing a way of living or being the movement itself."

ShaLeigh Dance Works presents *Aló* at Reality Ministries. Located at 916 Lamond Ave, Durham, NC 27701 on May 1st & 2nd at 8pm.

Ticket Information

Tickets are donation-only and will go on sale to the general public May 1st & 2nd an hour before show time.

Additional upcoming performances:

Here and Now: NC Dances

Reynolds Industries Theater

Thursday, June 25 / 7pm & 9pm

ShaLeigh Dance Works is thrilled to announce selection for the **2015 ADF Performance Season** for the **Here and Now: NC Dances**. ADF and the **NC Dance Festival (NCDF)** will co-present 4 dance works by North Carolina Choreographers. Selected nationally by recognized choreographers **Carl Fink**, **Beth Gill**, and **Rosie Herrera**, the works of the four chosen artists celebrate dance being created here and now, at home in North Carolina.

ShaLeigh Dance Works will present *Dedicated to [] because of [] (and vice versa)*, a complex dance theater work that explores the deeply personal and cultural landscape of gender and violence. Referencing political and pop culture icons, Actor and playwright **Richard Kirkwood** joins the dancers as an explosive opposing force to the repetition of their movement language. **Kirkwood** and **Comerford** co-wrote the text as an ever-changing context that builds on shifts of power. The result is a multilayered dance theatre experience marked by a desire for reclamation.

Tickets for Reynolds Industries Theater - on sale May 11

www.americandancefestival.org

919-684-4444

Duke University Box Office

Bryan University Center

Duke University West Campus

Monday-Friday, 11am-6pm

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**For press reservations please contact
ShaLeigh Comerford at scdanceworks@gmail.com**

**High-resolution photographs available upon request thanks to the generous support of Alec
Himwich Photography.**

About SDW: ShaLeigh Dance Works, under the artistic leadership of ShaLeigh Comerford, celebrates its second season in North Carolina. The company was first founded in 2005 with a premiere of *Returning* at the Broach Theater in Greensboro, NC. Since then, the intimate ensemble ranging from 2 to 6 performers have toured their growing repertory worldwide.

Dedicated to creating socially conscious works, the diverse repertoire builds on an intense collaborative, choreographic process with the performers and often explores deeply personal themes of the individual in relation to the collective. A deep comprehension of abstract artistry and emotional nuance guides the company's choreographic thought to that which both resonates and transcends our most inward natures. The company's multi-layered work often interweaves dance and theatre with gesture and mime while cultivating a movement vocabulary that enhances sensitivity to our physicality. Comprised of individually unique performers including, dancers, actors, writers, martial artists and dance-makers, the international ensemble demonstrates virtuosity and versatility in a wide range of techniques and forms.

Comerford's choreography has been described as dance theatre with a "stark and inventive" physical language. The company made a successful New York debut receiving a standing ovation at Judson Memorial in May of 2007. She was featured as an emerging New York choreographer at Chen Dance Center's 2007 newsteps series and was a recipient of Dance Theatre Workshop's 2007-2008 Creative Residency. Most recently, the company was selected for the North Carolina Dance Festival's 2013-14 season tour offering performances and master classes throughout the state.

Comerford's choreography and commissions have been presented throughout the United States and abroad, most notably at Tokyo Wonder Site Shibuya, Keio University's Noguchi Room, The Week of Foreign Female Dancers in Tokyo, Cambridge University, Serendipity Gallery Berlin, The Ailey Citygroup Theatre, Washington and Lee University, The American Dance Guild and The Flea Theater. Most recently her contemporary choreography *The Within* was selected by the World Ballet Competition International to be featured alongside of Momix and several other award-winning dancers and choreographers in the 2014 Gala.

Visit us at www.shaleighdanceworks.com to learn more.