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**The Kevin Locke Native Dance Ensemble Brings a Dance Edge to
Indigenous Theater**

MINNEAPOLIS, MN: The Kevin Locke Native Dance Ensemble performance at **TIME** on **DAY, DATE**, at **VENUE** is an opportunity for audiences to explore aspects of Native American culture they won't find in history books.

More than simply an excellent cultural representation of traditional dance, audiences will experience compelling dance theater at its most moving.

Visually dynamic and musically powerful, this year's program, "The Drum is the Thunder, the Flute is the Wind" is a sensational journey in Native American symbolism and aesthetics. Adapted from the traditional dance to welcome the 'Return of the Thunders,' the performance embraces the Native American arts through six diverse dances, storytelling and a unique presentation of musical skill.

The earth renews itself each stormy spring, and Native music and dance celebrates this annual "Return of the Thunders" through simple and powerful instrumentation: the drum is the thunder, the rattle s the rain, the voice is the lightning and the flute is the wind.

Each dance, dramatic and inspiring, represents a philosophy or mythology of an aspect of the Native American people. The champion performers of the Kevin Locke Native Dance Ensemble show how a clash of thunder keeps rhythm to the beat of the heart, and how a strike of lightning pierces the soul.

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The Ensemble's talents and mastery of Native American artistic traditions has been internationally recognized time and again in the group's short five-year period together.

“Rhythmically entrancing, [with] visually astounding statements about the human condition...”

- The Washington Post

Instantly felt by any observer, the performance is not just entertainment, it's an interactive gateway into Native American culture and beliefs portrayed through compelling dance theater.

Recent appearances by the Kevin Locke Native Dance Ensemble include the opening of the Smithsonian National Museum of the American Indian, a follow-up performance at the NMAI in New York City, the World Culture Open at the Lincoln Center (sponsored in part by the United Nations), and a residency at the University of Arizona. Future performances include a return to the Smithsonian in New York, followed by a dance at Symphony Space in Manhattan.

For more information on the Kevin Locke Native Dance Ensemble, please call the Ixtlan Artists Group at 412-521-4201. For information on performance tickets, please contact **VENUE BOX OFFICE AND/ OR WEBSITE**.

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