

“The Beauty of Giving” with Born Dancing

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Born Dancing is thrilled to announce that it has recently been featured in *O, the Oprah Magazine*’s November issue, “The Beauty of Giving”. This article premieres Born Dancing’s first coverage with a major national publication, and previews its work toward its fall show. *O Magazine* profiles the work of founder and executive director, Melissa van Wijk, and introduces a wider audience to Born Dancing’s work.

Born Dancing is founded on the belief that people of all ages and abilities should have access to every aspect of dance. It was born out of van Wijk’s experience as both a choreographer and dance educator, and came to fruition after van Wijk realized how rarely she had seen a person with a (visible) disability in her dance classes. Formally founded in 2015 following a pilot program at a Special Education Public School in the Bronx, Born Dancing’s 2018-2019 season presents its fourth full year of programming.

Each year, Born Dancing offers four dance education and apprenticeship programs for underserved Students With Disabilities and High-Needs Students in New York City, and two culminating original, inclusive dance performances that feature performers with and without disabilities. Born Dancing programming provides Students With Disabilities and High-Needs Students with real-world dance performance and production experiences, apprenticeships to learn job and social skills, and internships in performing arts production and related fields. The overarching goal is to facilitate the participation and employment of people with disabilities in performing arts production.

This November, Born Dancing invites everyone to pick up a copy of *O Magazine* and learn a bit more about its story and mission. **With the fall show slated for December 13-16, 2018 at the Martha Graham Theater, and just in time for #GivingTuesday, Born Dancing invites supporters and advocates to join in its vision.**

Thanks to the generosity of #GivingTuesday donors, Born Dancing can continue to provide invaluable artistic opportunities to New Yorkers with disabilities.

P.S. Check out this recent episode of the [Xceptional Leaders Podcast](#), featuring Melissa with Born Dancing!