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news release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Local Choreographer's Dance Production Heads to the Small Screen

Program Spotlights Alzheimer's, Premieres May 13 on PBS Western Reserve

Kent, OH — May 6, 2025 — After taking his dance-theater production, "The Remember Balloons," on a national tour, Akron-based choreographer Dominic Moore-Dunson is bringing the story back to Northeast Ohio with its small-screen premiere on PBS Western Reserve (WNEO 45.1 / WEAO 49.1) on Tuesday, May 13, at 8 PM.

An adaptation of the 2018 children's book by Jessie Oliveros, "The Remember Balloons" is a heartwarming dance-theater production that tells the story of family, memory and love through the power of dance, soulful music and multimedia. It is created by Moore-Dunson and renowned composer Theron Brown.

"The Remember Balloons" began with a vulnerable conversation in the aisles of a local Akron library, where Moore-Dunson found himself moved to tears and invited into a conversation with his wife that he had never had before — about her grandmother's battle with dementia.

Inspired by the story's ability to spark dialogue about a sensitive subject and capture the emotional realities of memory loss, Moore-Dunson set off on a two-year journey that would take him across the country, where he spoke to audiences about the power of remembrance.

"[The] national tour has shown me just how deeply this story resonates with people from all walks of life. But bringing it to PBS Western Reserve feels especially powerful because it allows us to break the boundary of the theater," said Moore-Dunson. "Not everyone can make it to a live performance — especially caregivers or families supporting loved ones who can't easily leave home. By sharing this work through local public media, we're coming to them."

Following its May 13 broadcast premiere, "The Remember Balloons" will be available to stream on-demand via the PBS Western Reserve website, the free PBS app, and YouTube.

Asked about what dance uniquely brings to the story, Moore-Dunson replied, "When we're talking about memory, love and loss, especially something as tender and complex as Alzheimer's, sometimes movement speaks louder than dialogue. Dance allows us to show the emotions that live between the lines: the quiet strength of a caregiver, the confusion of forgetting, or the joy of remembering, even for a moment."

Viewers are encouraged to share their reactions to the special with PBS Western Reserve on social media platforms including Facebook, Instagram, Linked In or X.

About PBS Western Reserve

PBS Western Reserve is the brand name of Northeastern Educational Television of Ohio, Inc., a 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation. PBS Western Reserve empowers Northeast Ohio and Western Pennsylvania through the impact of accessible public media and educational services to foster connection and lifelong learning, presenting to the region cultural, scientific and artistic programming for awareness and enjoyment; local storytelling and access to trusted regional, state and national public affairs; experiential opportunities and community outreach for people of all ages; and educational initiatives that support the healthy development of our youth.

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