



# UNIVERSITY OF SAINT JOSEPH

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## UNIVERSITY OF SAINT JOSEPH ANNOUNCES IMPLEMENTATION OF PAY-IT-FORWARD EVENTS

**Arts Events FREE for All Audiences through Generous Community Support**



WEST HARTFORD, Conn. (Oct. 14, 2018) – The University of Saint Joseph’s (USJ) Autorino Center for the Arts is introducing its Pay-It-Forward campaign, a donation-based initiative to bring arts and culture events to wider audiences by hosting free performances on select dates. The Pay-It-Forward performances for the current 2018-2019 *USJ Got Soul* season are *WET: A DACamented Journey*, *FREQUENCY*, and *Al-Qalb – The Heart*.

Pay-It-Forward events are free of charge, made possible by prior gifts of generosity. Gifts are received through on-site donations and on the Autorino Center’s webpage ([autorino.usj.edu](http://autorino.usj.edu)). Pay-It-Forward events are possible from donations of all sizes.

Pay-It-Forward Events:

Friday, Oct. 26, 2018

***WET: A DACamented Journey*** is the autobiographical account of Alex Alpharaoh, born Anner Alfaro Cividanis, an American in every sense except on paper. This one-man show meshes theatrical performances, music, visuals, and heart-wrenching spoken word, examining the mental, emotional, and psychological hardships Alpharaoh endures while navigating a broken U.S. immigration system, all so he can remain in Los Angeles – the only home he has ever known. Don’t miss a powerful and personal look at the urgent, timely question of what it truly means to be a U.S. citizen.

Friday, Feb. 8, 2019

**FREQUENCY**, a breathtaking fusion of hip-hop music, movement, and storytelling, is a celebration of youth and the next generation of hip-hop dancers from our region. Performed by 860 MVMNT, an all-styles street dance collective, FREQUENCY uses hip-hop, house dance, b-boy, voguing, documentary video, and live music to display the raw, intense energy of urban street dance culture and how hip-hop is used as an artistic means of expression that uplifts the spirit and reflects the identities and dreams of its listeners.

Friday, April 12, 2019

The hip-hop dancer and choreographer of *We're Muslim, Don't Panic* returns to USJ to create a brand-new piece! "***Al Qalb***" is an Arabic word for "heart," with the root word meaning "something that turns around, something that changes easily." *Al Qalb* is a movement piece based on the poetry of Rumi, exploring the mysticism of the heart and its importance in the human quest for the divine. The performance is followed by a panel and audience discussion moderated by Kenneth Long, Ph.D., professor of Political Science at USJ.

If you have any questions about the Pay-It-Forward initiative or need assistance with your ticket transaction, please call the Frances Driscoll Box Office at 860.231.5555.

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*The University of Saint Joseph (USJ) offers a wide range of coeducational undergraduate, graduate, and certificate programs that combine a professional and liberal arts education with opportunities for mentored research, community service, clinical field work, and internships. Programs are taught on the University's two campuses in West Hartford and Hartford, Connecticut; at off-campus locations throughout the state; and online. Founded in 1932 by the Sisters of Mercy, the University of Saint Joseph offers degrees with value and values. To learn more, view our website at [www.usj.edu](http://www.usj.edu).*

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