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DECEMBER 15, 2016

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When Dark Turns Light

Guest director Billbob Brown steers ZUZI! Solstice show in ‘Four Directions’

By Margaret Regan



Billbob Brown, guest director, choreographer and dancer, in ZUZI! 19th Solstice Celebration this weekend

Each year, in the dark of December, ZUZI! Dance stages a Solstice celebration.

The shortest day of the year, with the longest night, Solstice also marks the return of the light, the point in the calendar when the hours of winter sun lengthen and begin to outshine the shadows.

Traditional cultures honor this day (on Wed., Dec. 21, this year), and ZUZI! artistic director Nanette Robinson typically choreographs a concert inspired by folk Solstice practices from around the world.

This year's *The Four Directions*, the 19th edition of the Solstice show, has all the usual ZUZI! components: aerial dance on the trapeze and modern movement on the floor, a mix of professional, community and kid dancers, live musical interludes, and light piercing the darkness.

But for the first time a guest choreographer is directing the show and creating most of the dances.

"I'm having a blast with this show," says Billbob Brown, a Tucson newcomer who's thrilled to have found dance work so quickly in his new home. Brown, who's also a video artist, brings a solid dance resume to the task. A co-founder of the respected Desert Dance Theatre in Phoenix, Brown taught in the dance program at UMass Amherst for 22 years, the

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