

RENNIE HARRIS *LIFTED*

Program Notes
Fri, Aug 23, 7:30 pm
Sat, Aug 24, 2 pm

Edlis Neeson
Theater



MUSEUM OF
CONTEMPORARY ART
CHICAGO

SUMMER 2019

Celebrate black creativity with music and dance that transform expecta- tions.

FROM THE CURATOR

In the gospel of Rennie Harris, “Movement is how we worship life. It always has been.” That worship comes in many forms—like the interconnected histories of house and gospel music—which shape how people socialize, learn, and find acceptance together. Or by sharing in the work and artistry of making a performance come to life onstage. Rennie is building up a cross-country community, including Chicago performers like Angel Anderson, Jeremy Taylor, and singers from MOSAIC Soul. And this week they rehearsed and broke bread with artists and the generous congregation at historic black Catholic church St. Benedict the African, and connected with students through the Illinois Department of Juvenile Justice. All the while, they shared the creative forms, the uniquely remixed story, and the celebratory vibes of Rennie’s vision.

LIFTED continues our series of August performances that speak to and about Chicago, transform familiar music and dance, and alter our expectations of the experiences black performance can create. All four artists’ works are along different stages of development—some sharing ideas for the first time, some well-seasoned after touring the country, like Rennie’s. The breadth of how black artists make performance is integral to how we all support art that conscientiously engages with this city’s artists, histories, and ideas.

Tara Aisha Willis
Associate Curator, Performance & Public Practice

SUPPORT FOR NEW
WORKS INITIATIVE

Lead support for the
MCA New Works
Initiative is provided by
Elizabeth A. Liebman.

SUPPORT FOR
THIS MCA PROJECT

Deep gratitude to
Yolanda Cesta Cursach
for her early support of
this New Works
Initiative project and
her curatorial work to
bring it to fruition.

Special thanks to Father
Jones and the entire
congregation of St.
Benedict the African
for the warm welcome;
to Phillip Armstrong
and Mosaic Soul for
your open eagerness;
and to Michael Byrd of
the Illinois Youth
Center Chicago and
Heidi Mueller of the
Illinois Department of
Juvenile Justice.

Rennie Harris
LIFTED

The running time for *LIFTED* is 90 minutes with
one intermission.

Choreographer, Director, and Writer	Lorenzo Rennie Harris
Lighting Designer	Bob Steineck
Musical Composer	Raphael Xavier and Darrin M. Ross
Set Designer	Ben Levine
Carpenter	David Knepper
Projections and Visual Designer	David Dowling
Company Manager	Rodney Hill
Choir Director	Joshua Sommerville
Touring Choir	Alonzo Chadwick, Phinizea Chadwick, Trenelle Doyle, and Simone Jordan
Local Choir	Vocalists from St. Benedict the African Catholic Church and MOSAIC Soul, led by Phillip Armstrong
Narrator and Poet	Wadud Ahmad

PLAYERS

Joshua Rev CJ Aunt Tah-tah Uncle Jip Big Poppa Ushers and Homies	Joshua Culbreath Carl Robinson Jr. Tatiana Desardouin Phillip Cuttino Jr. Rodney Mason THE HOODLOCKERS
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DANCERS

Rennie Harris Puremovement American Street Dance Theater (RHPPM)	Katia Cruz, Joshua Culbreath, Phillip Cuttino Jr., Puremovement Tatiana Desardouin, Mai Lê Hô Johnson, and Emily Pietruszka; and Associate Dancers Shira Math and Yuko Tanaka
THE HOODLOCKERS	Richard Evans; Associate Dancers Joshua Polk, Andrew Ramsey, and Marcus Tucker
Also featuring Chicago artists	Angel Anderson and Jeremy Taylor

ABOUT THE WORK

ACT ONE

SCENE 1	GOD’S HOUSE
Music	“Praise Him” by Raphael Xavier
Dancers	Katia Cruz, Joshua Culbreath, Phillip Cuttino, Tatiana Desardouin, Richard Evans, Mai Lê Hô Johnson, Emily Pietruszka, Joshua Polk, Andrew Ramsey, Yuko Tanaka, and Marcus Tucker
Vocals	Local Choir

SCENE 2:	TESTIMONY
Music	“Turn My Life Around” by Darrin Ross
Dancers	Katia Cruz, Joshua Culbreath, Phillip Cuttino, Tatiana Desardouin, Richard Evans, Mai Lê Hô Johnson, Emily Pietruszka, Joshua Polk, Andrew Ramsey, and Marcus Tucker

SCENE 3	GET DOWN
Music	“Dance Sucka,” edited and mixed by Darrin Ross
Dancers	Joshua Culbreath, Richard Evans, Joshua Polk, Andrew Ramsey, and Marcus Tucker

SCENE 4	DOUBT & DOLO
Music	“I Need You Now” by Smokie Norful
Dancer	Joshua Culbreath
Vocals	Carl Robinson Jr.

INTERMISSION

ABOUT THE WORK

ACT TWO

SCENE 5 GET DOWN OR LAY DOWN

Music "Lost & Turnt Out" by Darrin Ross

Dancers Katia Cruz, Joshua Culbreath, Phillip Cuttino, Tatiana Desardouin, Richard Evans, Mai Lê Hô Johnson, Rodney Mason, Emily Pietruszka, Joshua Polk, Andrew Ramsey, Yuko Tanaka, and Marcus Tucker

SCENE 6 SUNDAY

Music "Amazing Grace," written by John Newton

Dancers Full Ensemble

Vocals Joshua Sommerville with Choir

Duet Alonzo and Phinizea Chadwick

RELATED PROGRAMS

ASL-INTERPRETED PERFORMANCE WITH AUDIO

DESCRIPTION

Sat, Aug 24, 2 pm

OPEN REHEARSAL & COMMUNITY DINNER

Wed, Aug 21

Rehearsal director and performer Joshua Culbreath, Choir Director Joshua Sommerville, and Company Manager Rodney Hill enacted the performance's notions of community building and celebration by engaging in fellowship with local black communities and cultures in a shared dinner and discussion with congregation members and other Chicago-based artists at St. Benedict the African, located in the Englewood neighborhood of Chicago's South Side, after opening their rehearsals to church members to observe.

ST. BENEDICT THE AFRICAN is one of very few Catholic churches to serve a predominately African American community in Chicago. The church was designed by the renowned architectural firm Belli & Belli and features impressive sculpted-wood and stained-glass ornamentation. The church is also home to an impressive collection of religious art, including wood sculptures and paintings commissioned for the space to reflect black spirituality. The MCA is honored to include members of the St. Benedict choir in this performance of *LIFTED*.

PRE-SHOW TALK WITH THE ILLINOIS YOUTH CENTER

Sat, Aug 24

As part of the MCA's commitment to the idea that art can interact with civic efforts, and through an ongoing relationship with the Illinois Department of Juvenile Justice's Youth Centers, members of the *LIFTED* creative team met with a group of incarcerated youth prior to the performance to give them a behind-the-scenes look at how the performance comes together.

SUPPORT FOR THE ARTISTS

Special thanks to the MCA, Laura Faure, Bates College, Philadanco, Community Education Center, and Jamie Merwin for their constant support of the work and vision of Rennie Harris Puremovement.

Rennie Harris's *LIFTED* was made possible by the New England Foundation for the Arts' National Dance Project, with lead funding from the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation and The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation.



ABOUT THE ARTISTS

RENNIE HARRIS (Choreographer/Director/Writer) was born and raised in an African American community in North Philadelphia. In 1992 Harris founded Rennie Harris Puremovement American Street Dance Theater (RHPM), a street dance company dedicated to preserving and disseminating hip-hop culture. Celebrating twenty-five years of street dance theater, Harris's first evening-length work, *Rome & Jewels*, remains the longest touring hip-hop dance theater work in American history, with three Bessie Awards, two Black Theater Alvin Ailey Awards, a Herb Alpert award, and a Lawrence Olivier Award nomination. *Rome & Jewels* has performed for sold-out audiences nationally and internationally. Harris has brought "social" dance styles to the "concert" stage, creating a cohesive dance style that finds a cogent voice in the theater. He was voted one of the most influential people in the last one hundred years of Philadelphia history and has been compared to twentieth-century dance legends Alvin Ailey and Bob Fosse. Awarded the key to the cities of Miami and Philadelphia, Harris was also featured in Rose Eichenbaum's *Masters of Movement-Portraits of America's Great Choreographers* alongside dance legends such as Carmen de Lavallade, Judith Jamison, Fayard Nicolas, and Gregory Hines. Harris was awarded a Master of African American Choreography Medal from the Kennedy Center, is a United States Artists Rose Fellow and a Guggenheim Fellow, and was recognized as a Pennsylvania Artist of the Year by Governor Ed Rendell. His company toured as an ambassador of hip-hop/street dance for Presidents Reagan, Clinton, and Obama.

WADUD AHMAD (Narrator/Poet) is an accomplished lawyer, poet, and activist. Ahmad has performed throughout the world and appeared on recordings with artists including The Roots, Jill Scott, Ornette Coleman, Jamaaladeen Tacuma, Jeff Bradshaw, Grover Washington Jr., Marcus Miller, Gerald Veasley, and The Last Poets.

ANGEL ANDERSON (Local dance cast) was born in Ann Arbor, Michigan, and raised in the south suburbs of Chicago. She began dancing at the FieldCrest School of Performing Arts, which has led to her pursuing a career in dance. She is currently a fourth-year student at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign where she is exploring street dance styles and pursuing a dual degree in psychology and dance.

PHILLIP ARMSTRONG (Local choir director) has performed in the Chicago Children's Choir and Lookingglass Theatre's production of *Sita Ram*, debuting the role of God Brahma/King Janaka, and understudying the role of Hanuman. Armstrong has made several appearances as a lead vocalist for the Steve Harvey Gala and for Mayor Rahm Emanuel's inaugurations, and has been featured on Fox News, WGN News, and ABC News. Recently featured, as an alumnus, in the Chicago Children's Choir vinyl record, titled *We All Live Here*, Armstrong supports and encourages the youth to find their voice within their own community. As an educator, he follows in the steps of one of his mentors, Josephine Lee. Armstrong lives to serve and sing through the Gospel. Gospel music and jazz are essential elements of his soul.

ALONZO CHADWICK & ZOULFUL MUZIC (Touring choir) is a vocalist, songwriter, composer, actor, social justice activist, talent scout/recruiter, and artist consultant who has left his mark on Portland, Oregon. As former director/vocal teacher of Self Enhancement Inc., Chadwick has been a reoccurring soloist for the Oregon Symphony. He was instrumental in bringing together some of Portland's finest voices for Rennie Harris's vision to include local singers in his work with communities that have always supported his artistic voice. Chadwick is currently the manager of Black Parent Initiative, CEO of a new nonprofit, Come-Unity Impact, and owner of Zoulful Music Inc.

PHINIZEA CHADWICK (Touring choir) was born and raised in Portland, Oregon. She is married to Alonzo Chadwick and together they have three beautiful daughters, Zae'lyn (8), Zamirah (7), and Zuri (1), and another bundle of joy due in November.

KATIA CRUZ (RHPM dancer) started dancing salsa at the age of nine with Barbara Capaldi at the Atrium Dance Studio in Pennsauken, New Jersey. Two years later she started training in hip-hop dance with Marcus Tucker, cofounder of Face Da Phlave Entertainment, and India Hyman, also of Face Da Phlave. Cruz is a leading member and choreographer of In Da Clutch Entertainment, owned by Kenneth Thomas. She is codirector of In Da Clutch Jr. Division, a children's hip-hop program. Cruz has been a core member of RHPM since 2012.

JOSHUA CULBREATH ("Joshua" and RHPM dancer) was born and raised in Philadelphia, where he started dancing at the age of ten. In middle school, Culbreath joined a dance group called K.R.S. Ent., which won many talent shows and went on to perform on *Showtime at the Apollo* in New York. While with K.R.S. Ent., Culbreath began to train with B-boy Hannibal, founder of 360 Flava. Culbreath is currently a core member of RHPM.

PHILLIP CUTTINO JR. ("Uncle Jip" and RHPM dancer), a Philadelphia native hip-hopper from birth, is skilled in breakin', graffiti, DJ-ing, and rapping. His first performance was at the age of four with his father, a prominent MC and B-boy in the Philadelphia hip-hop scene. He started in a crew called the X-men doing local talent shows and has learned from some of Philadelphia's greats. He has toured throughout the United States and internationally and is a core member of RHPM.

Originally from Switzerland, TATIANA DESARDOUIN ("Aunt Tah-tah" and RHPM dancer) has won many street dance competitions, like Juste Debout in Marseille, France, Just for Laughs in Montreal, and Clash in Session in Copenhagen. She has taught and

judged competitions, including the Pura Calle Festival in Lima, Who's That Lady in Italy, Urban Steady Groove in France, Repräsent Yourself in Switzerland, Flavoured in Austria, and Ladies of Hip-Hop in Detroit and Philadelphia. She is cofounder of Continuum, the first hip-hop company in Switzerland, and of Le Centre Hip-Hop, a hip-hop dance school in Geneva. She is a member of JAIA nonprofit, founder of the hip-hop theater dance company Passion Fruit Dance Company, a core member of RHPM, and teaches hip-hop and house at EXPG NYC.

TRENELLE DOYLE (Touring choir) is a California native who currently sings with various worship teams in Portland, Oregon. Doyle was recently featured on the Bridge City Music's album *Altars*, has worked on various national recording projects, and is currently pursuing a career in entertainment.

RICHARD EVANS (THE HOODLOCKERS) is a dancer, choreographer, and instructor from southern New Jersey. Currently residing in Philadelphia, he gives back to the community by teaching youth and adults at various tristate area dance studios. His professional career started at age eighteen with Face Da Phlave Entertainment. Evans later became a member of THE HOODLOCKERS and has represented the group on- and offstage in battles and workshops throughout the world. Evans's first danced under the direction of Rennie Harris in 2013 in his play *LUV American Style*; he has been an active member ever since.

RODNEY HILL (Company manager) was born and raised in North Philadelphia and entered the hip-hop scene in 1988. He has been featured in many videos for artists such as Boys II Men, Will Smith, and Music Soul Child, among others, and appeared on TV shows such as *R&B Divas: LA*, NBC's *Late Night with Conan O'Brien*, *Soul Train*, NBC's *NFL Under the Helmet*, and BET's *Teen Summit*. He has toured and performed with R&B singers Brave Williams and Julian King, as well as Teddy Pendergrass, Shanice Wilson, Mary J. Blige, 50 Cent, and Philly's



Rennie Harris, *LIFTED*. Photo: Nikki Carrara.



Rennie Harris, *LIFTED*. Photo: Nikki Carrara.

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Program notes
compiled by Laura
Paige Kyber

ABOUT THE ARTISTS (CONT.)

own The Roots. An accomplished teacher and choreographer, Hill has performed and taught in universities and studios across the United States and in France, the Democratic Republic of Congo, East Asia, Egypt, Israel, and Palestine. Currently, he is company manager/director of RHPM, RHAw, and DICE RAW. Hill is currently attending Wilson College in Chambersburg, Pennsylvania, where he is earning a master's degree in choreography.

MAI LÊ HỒ JOHNSON (RHPM dancer) is a dancer, art educator, and curator from France who relocated to Brooklyn in 2009. As a dancer in RHPM, Passion Fruit Dance Company, and Theo Parrish Live Band, Hô Johnson has performed and taught in Japan, Vietnam, Brazil, the Democratic Republic of Congo, and Canada, and across Europe and the United States. She produces a monthly jam session of musicians and street dancers called LayeRhythm, and is director of It's Showtime NYC!, a program providing performance and professional development opportunities to street and subway dancers.

SIMONE JORDAN (Touring choir) was born and raised in Portland, Oregon. Jordan has performed with various artists nationally and currently sings with Kingdom Sound and Embrace Community Choir.

A Portland, Oregon, transplant from South Philly, RODNEY S. MASON ("Big Poppa") won the starring role of "Tony Sinclair" for the Tanqueray worldwide campaign, beating out the Wayans brothers and eight hundred other candidates from the United States and United Kingdom. Serving his country in the Gulf War has informed his work; he often uses spoken-word poetry and rap to create a myriad of unusual and original characters for film, television, commercials, and stand-up comedy appearances. Mason has worked with the Groundlings in Los Angeles and Second City in Chicago; toured the world with RHPM; and is known for his Bessie Award-winning role in *Rome & Jewels*. Currently, he is creating an urban take on *Richard III* called *Dick: A Hip Hop Tragedy*.

SHIRA MATH (RHPM associate dancer) is from Philadelphia. After graduating from Temple University with a BS in public health, Math took a break from the medical field to pursue dance. Since moving to New York, Math has completed Broadway Dance Center's Professional Semester with a concentration in hip-hop and has trained with some of the best in the field, including Princess Lockeroo, Luam, Jessica Castro, Kumari, Carlos Neto, Miss Vee, Kyle and Dinita Clark, Juan Calderon, and Soo. Her focus includes hip-hop, popping, locking, waacking, house, hustle, street jazz, Latin, and jazz. She has been a backup dancer for artists like Tito Love and Mprynt, a featured dancer on BET's *One Shot*, and in many music videos for artists like Spencer Ludwig, DJ Diamond Kutz, and Stylezz.

Under the direction of Phillip Armstrong and Greg Woods, MOSAIC SOUL VOCAL ENSEMBLE is comprised of nine accomplished Chicago singers and accompanied by a five-piece band. MOSAIC'S original repertoire is rooted in a diverse range of genres including spiritual music, jazz, gospel, soul, funk, and inspirational R&B. MOSAIC exists to bring people of all practices, musical tastes, and personal upbringings together through the richly rooted sounds of uplifting, soulful, and spiritual music.

EMILY PIETRUSZKA (RHPM dancer) holds a BFA from the University of Colorado at Boulder. Pietruszka began her street-styles training as a core member of Rennie Harris's Grassroots Project in Denver in 2015. She has been teaching in various contexts, ranging from the Front Range Community College of Thornton, Colorado, to assistant teaching at the Ailey School in New York.

JOSHUA POLK (THE HOODLOCKERS) is an entertainer, educator, and innovator embodying the modern hip-hop artist as a student of the culture, an advocate of its preservation, and "a sick-wit-it" dancer! Polk has graced the stages

of The Victory Theater in New York City and the African American Museum of Philadelphia; he consistently performs at The Trump Taj Mahal in Atlantic City and guest performs on BET'S *106 & Park*. He's lectured at high schools, colleges, summer camps, and after-school programs. When Polk dances, the showmanship of such historical iconic performers such as Stump & Stumpy, Sammy Davis Jr., and James Brown come to mind. Experience the man who is proclaimed by those in the hip-hop world as the one and only "He Locks"!

ANDREW RAMSEY (THE HOOD LOCKERS) aka "Riot" cofounded THE HOODLOCKERS, a funk-style crew based out of Philadelphia/New Jersey and belongs to "Phresh Select Dance Crew" of MTV's *Randy Jackson presents America's Best Dance Crew*. He trained for fifteen years with some of the world's leading street dance artists, specializing in hip-hop, "funk" styles, and house dance. Ramsey has worked with artists like NAS, Madonna, Asher Roth, and Nick Cannon and appeared on BET's *106 and Park*, FOX's *So You Think You Can Dance*, and ABC's *VISIONS*.

CARL ROBINSON JR.'s ("Reverend") voice has resonated since the age of ten. A graduate of LaGuardia High School of Music and Performing Arts, he has been a part of major productions such as the twentieth anniversary of *Mama I Want to Sing*. Robinson has been a background singer for artists such as Jasmin Sullivan, Shania Twain, Lil' Mo, Karen Clark-Sheard, Donald Lawrence, Richard Smallwood, Kirk Franklin, Fred Hammond, Marvin Sapp, and Wynton Marsalis. He has also been a part of Bishop Nathaniel Townsley's *NightSongs* and *Brooklyn to Bethlehem*. For the past ten years, Robinson has been musical director for Alvin Freeland's *Harlem Christmas* in Vienna. He is prolific in his presentation, has a refreshing and expansive range for a man, and has skills that span beyond his musical capabilities.

DARRIN M. ROSS (Operations director/Producer/Composer/Sound designer/Engineer) has been producing and engineering songs since 1984 with Jam On Productions.

He recently scored Suzan Lori Parks's *Top Dog/Underdog*. He is also the recipient of a 2001 Bessie Award for his musical composition for *Rome & Jewels*. Ross has worked with and established many artists in the industry, including PM Dawn, Newcleus, Aphilliation, Ram Squad, Tuff Crew, Doug E. Fresh, King Britt, ZHANE, Helen Bruner, Jungle Brothers, Kim Waters, Todd Terry, The Roots, Bahamadia, Dee Dee Sharp, Gamble, No Question, AZ YET, Victor Duplaix, Bowser, Rampage, Brother Peace, Major Figgas, Grisha Coleman, Leon Evans, and Mike Knox. In 1992, he formed I.Q. Records and now directs his own production company, KIA-TIFF. Past collaborations with Rennie Harris include the 1990 coproduction of television segments for *Dance Party USA* and *1 House Street*. His scoring and composition efforts are seen in works for The Pennsylvania Ballet, The Memphis Ballet, and in various movies.

JOSHUA SOMMERVILLE (Touring choir director) is a singer, pianist, composer, music director, and graduate of Towson University's School of Music. He started learning how to play the piano and singing at age five and became a professional musician/choir director at fourteen. He has worked with the late director of the Harlem Boys Choir, Dr. Walter Turnbull, Dr. Ysaye Barnewell of Sweet Honey and the Rock, and Dr. Stanley Thurston of the Washington Performing Arts Society Children Gospel. Founder and director of three singing groups, Sommerville created the "Emptiness Workshop," which brings awareness, love, and knowledge to the self.

BOB STEINECK (Lighting designer/Production manager) is the resident lighting designer for Texture Contemporary Ballet, Pittsburgh Playwright's Theatre, Mercyhurst University Dance Department, Rennie Harris's Puremovement and RHAw, Pittsburgh Festival Opera, and Raphael Xavier Company. Steineck has toured the United States and abroad with both Rennie Harris companies, Reed Dance, Squonk Opera, the Lyon Opera Ballet, Sankai Juku, Phoenix Dance Company, Kirov Ballet Academy, and

the American tour of *Stars on Ice*. Television and film credits include *A Gathering of Sons* for Pittsburgh Festival Opera, the *DIZZY GILLESPIE Allstar Big Band* for A&E Cable, the *SPYRO GYRA* concert for PBS, and *JOHNNY A TRIO* by Warner Bros. Publications. Recent lighting designs include the world premiere of *A Gathering of Sons* commissioned by Pittsburgh Festival Opera and two nationally touring productions of *Point of Interest* for Raphael Xavier. Other designs include *Boundless* for Texture Contemporary Ballet, *In the Company of Ghosts* for Adrienne Wehr and Frank Ferraro, and *Xerxes* and *Sweeney Todd* for Pittsburgh Festival Opera.

YUKO UKO SNOWBUNNY TANAKA (RHPM associate dancer) was born in Japan, moved to New York to search for the roots of hip-hop culture, and was trained by legendary hip-hop dancer/choreographer/instructor Buddha Stretch of Elite Force Crew.

Chicago native JEREMY TAYLOR (Local dance cast) is a BFA dance student at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign where he has performed choreographies by Melanie Bales, C. Kemal Nance, Rebecca Netti-Fiol, and others. He was recently the artistic director for Dance2XS UIUC, is currently the president of MVMNT Dance Community, and the creator of MVMNT Dance Collective. Taylor's work emerges from a confluence of visual art, theater, and street and commercial dance as he seeks to merge urban/street styles with African Diasporic forms.

MARCUS TUCKER (THE HOODLOCKERS) aka "Epic" toured Europe with Kompany Malikhi's "Hip-Hop story," directed and performed in his own creation *Heroes*, became a member of Funkstylez UK, and performed with UK sensation Pixie Lott. He created his own dance company, Face da Phlave Entertainment, with Andrew Ramsey and Kenneth Thomas and is fulfilling his dream of performing with Rennie Harris Puremovement. He was recently hired to perform for Madonna's private parties and events. Tucker choreographed for *So You Think You Can Dance Malaysia*, and judged five seasons of *Astro's Battleground*, Malaysia's first hip-hop TV show. He's collaborated and danced with Malaysian pop star MiZZ Nina, Colby O'Donniss, Flo Rida, Taboo of the Black Eyed Peas, Korean K-Pop superstar JAY PARK, Melissa Indot, Dennis Lau, Chris Willis, Yalonda Be Cool, and Havana Brown.

RAPHAEL XAVIER (Musical composer) is an award-winning artist from Wilmington, Delaware. A self-taught practitioner, he is credited with the resurrection and growth of the breaking community in Philadelphia since 1996. Xavier is a Pennsylvania Fellow of the Arts in folk and traditional forms, the 2011 Susan Hess Modern Dance Choreographers Project recipient, and has been funded by the Independence Foundation and Pennsylvania Council on the Arts. He is a 2016 United States Artist Fellow and a 2016 Guggenheim Fellow. As a professional breaker/dancer for the last fifteen years, he works in a variety of fields including music, photography, and film, which he incorporates into his choreography and dance. His work has been presented at the Kennedy Center, Dance Theater Workshop, The Wilma Theater, and Painted Bride Arts Center, to name a few.



UPCOMING PERFORMANCES

Fri, Aug 30, 7:30 pm

Thurman Barker and Ben LaMar Gay
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Two generations of Chicago-born composers share an evening honoring the history and future of music experimentation—and the city itself.



Thurman Barker. Photo: Jeanne Sager.

Sat–Sun, Sep 14–15 and 21–22,
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Dinner and a Show



Asparagus with chilled mussel vinaigrette and tarragon raita. Photo: Neil Burger.

Transform your performance experience into an evening out. Marisol offers a \$45 seasonally inspired prix fixe menu exclusively for MCA event ticket holders.*

Book your table at marisolchicago.com or call 312-799-3599.

*Menu does not include tax or gratuity. Please allow at least 75 minutes before showtime.

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ACCESSIBILITY INFORMATION

Select performances include open-captioning, sign-interpretation, listening devices, or are relaxed sensory.

Please call 312-397-4010 in advance to reserve seats and inclusive services.

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Lead support for the 2019–20 season is provided by Elizabeth A. Liebman.

Generous support is provided by Lois and Steve Eisen and The Eisen Family Foundation, Ginger Farley and Bob Shapiro, the Martha Struthers Farley and Donald C. Farley Jr. Family Foundation, Susan Manning and Doug Doetsch, Ock Ju Noh, Sharon* and Lee Oberlander, and Carol Prins and John Hart/The Jessica Fund.

Additional support is provided by Ms. Shawn M. Donnelley and Dr. Christopher M. Kelly, Nicholas and Nancy Giampietro, Anne L. Kaplan, and D. Elizabeth Price and Lou Yecies.

The MCA is a proud member of the Museums in the Park and receives major support from the Chicago Park District.

*Enact Chair as of
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MUSEUM OF
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ABOUT ENACT

MCA performances are supported by Enact, a group of MCA donors dedicated to supporting the museum's renowned performance programs.

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ABOUT MCA PERFORMANCES

As an internationally renowned institution devoted to contemporary culture, the Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago is committed to presenting the most thought-provoking visual and performing arts of our time. The MCA commissions and presents theater, dance, and music by leading artists from Chicago and around the world, holding performances in spaces throughout the museum, including the three-hundred seat Edlis Neeson Theater.

The MCA's groundbreaking performances are an integral part of the museum's cutting edge, multidisciplinary programming. Along with exhibitions and public programs, MCA performances welcome visitors to experience the work and ideas of living artists and find their own civic voices.

PARKING

Validate your ticket at the coat check for \$12 parking in the MCA garage (220 E Chicago Ave) and the Bernardin garage (747 N Wabash Ave). The \$12 parking is limited to six hours on the date of performance.

LOST AND FOUND

To inquire about a lost item, call the museum at 312-280-2660. Unclaimed articles are held for thirty days.

SEATING

Please switch off all noisemaking devices while you are in the theater.

Patrons are seated at the management's discretion. Food and open beverage containers are not allowed in the seating area.

REPRODUCTION

Unauthorized recording and reproduction of a performance are prohibited.

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