

RENNIE HARRIS PUREMOVEMENT AMERICAN STREET DANCE THEATER

**CHOREOGRAPHER, FOUNDER
AND ARTISTIC DIRECTOR** Rennie Harris

DANCERS Joshua Culbreath, Emily Pietruzska, Phillip Cuttino Jr., Fyness Mason, Marguerite Waller, Rachel Snider, Angel Anderson, Miyeko Harris, Joshua Archibald, Zakhele Grabowski

MUSIC EDITOR AND PROUCER Darrin M. Ross
PRODUCTION SUPERVISOR AND LIGHTING DESIGNER Julie Ballard

Zellerbach Theatre

Friday, March 22 @ 8 PM
Saturday, March 23 @ 2 PM
Saturday, March 23 @ 8 PM

There will be an intermission.



Rennie Harris in Residence has been supported by The Pew Center for Arts & Heritage. The views expressed are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views of The Pew Center for Arts & Heritage or The Pew Charitable Trusts.

NATIONAL
ENDOWMENT for the **ARTS**
arts.gov

Rennie Harris Puremovement is supported in part by the National Endowment for the Arts.

The Philadelphia Inquirer

Media support for the 23/24 season dance series provided by *The Philadelphia Inquirer*.

PROGRAM

CELEBRATING 30 YEARS

Continuum (1998)

MUSIC MIX DJ Lee Jones

P-FUNK (1993)

MUSIC Parliament Funkadelic

March of the Antmen (1993)

MUSIC Darrin Ross

VOCALS Grisha Coleman and Hot Mouth

Something To Do With Love (2008)

Doubt & Dolo (2017)

MUSIC Darrin Ross

VOCALIST Carl Robinson Jr.

INTERMISSION

The Word (2017)

MUSIC "Trinity Ov Me" by Osunlade

Bent (2017)

MUSIC "Round, Round, Round" by Al Jarreau

A Funny Thing Happened (2017)

MUSIC "Man With A Movie Camera" by Cinematic Orchestra

A Day in the Life (2001, revised 2017)

MUSIC "Sacré (The Wine Ode Suite)" by Dhafar Youssef

Get Down or Lay Down (2017)

MUSIC "Can You Get It" by Mandrill

Students of the Asphalt Jungle (1994)

VOICEOVER Rennie Harris

SOUND DESIGN Darrin Ross

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

Lorenzo “Rennie” Harris (Choreographer, Founder and Artistic Director)

Harris has been called “the most respected — and the most brilliant — hip-hop choreographer in America” by *The New Yorker*. Recently, *The New York Times* wrote that Harris is “the hip-hop master who has become one of his generation’s most exacting and exciting choreographers.” There are two sides to Harris’s rhythmic wizardry; both are impeccable. Born and raised in an African American community in North Philadelphia, Harris has taught at universities around the country since the age of 15. Advocating for the significance of “street” origins in any dance style, Harris believes hip-hop expresses universal themes that extend beyond racial, religious and economic boundaries, and one that, because of its pan-racial and global popularity, can help bridge these divisions. In addition, Harris toured with the first rap tour to cross the country, entitled *The Fresh Fest*, starring Run DMC & Jam Master Jay, LL Cool J, Kurtis Blow, Fat Boys, Salt and Peppa and many other noted pioneers of rap.

Known for bringing social dances to the concert stage and coining the term “Street Dance Theater,” Harris has broken new ground as one of the first hip-hop choreographers to set works on ballet-based companies such as Ballet Memphis, Colorado Ballet, Pennsylvania Ballet, Philadelphia Dance Company (PHILADANCO), Giordano Dance Chicago, Lula Washington Dance Theatre, Cleo Parker Robinson, Dallas Black Dance Theater, Dayton Contemporary Dance Company (DCDC), Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater and more. Harris was the first street dancer commissioned to create an evening-length work on Alvin Ailey American Theater and to serve as a resident artist at the Alvin Ailey School. He’s received three Bessie Awards, five Black Theater Alvin Ailey Awards and the Herb Alpert Award and has been nominated for a Lawrence Olivier Award (UK). He’s also received a Lifetime Achievement Award in choreography (McCullum Theater, 2019). Harris was voted one of the most influential people in the last one hundred years of Philadelphia’s history (*City Paper*). He’s been compared to Basquiat, Alvin Ailey and Bob Fosse.

In addition, Harris has received a Guggenheim Fellowship, PEW Fellowship, a USA Artist of the Year Fellowship, a Governors Artist of the Year Award and is noted as the first street dancer to receive two honorary doctorate degrees from both Bates College (Lewiston, Maine) and Columbia College (Chicago, Illinois). He served as a cultural ambassador for former President Ronald Reagan’s U.S. Embassy Tour in 1986, was invited to the White House by the Clinton Administration in 2001 to share in the recognition of African American artists making a difference in the world and received a medal in choreography from the Kennedy Center. His company, Rennie Harris Puremovement, has performed for such dignitaries as the Queen of England and the Princess of Monaco, and was chosen as one of four U.S. companies to serve as hip-hop cultural ambassadors for President Obama’s Dance Motion USA and toured Israel, Jordan, Ramulah, Egypt, Palestine, Japan, China, Gambia and Kazakstan, to name a few. In 2020, Harris became a recipient of the Doris Duke Artist Award. He was also awarded The Andrew W. Mellon Grant “Building A Legacy of Street Dance” (2022), as well as the Hermitage Greenfield Prize (2023) and the Samuel H. Scripps American Dance Festival Award (2023). Lorenzo “Rennie” Harris is atop the hip-hop heap, its leading ambassador.

Fyness Mason (Senior Principal Company Member)

Mason was raised in New York City and is a Temple University (Bachelor of Arts) and Harcum College graduate. Her hip-hop dance career began with Rennie Harris Puremovement in 2005. Mason has performed nationally and internationally in theatres such as the Kimmel Center, Kennedy Center, Saddlers Wells (London, England), Alvin Ailey Theater, Carpenters Center (Long Beach), Joyce Theater, Lied Center, Bates Dance Festival, Bryn Mawr College, Wells Fargo Center, N.Y.C. SummerStage and Bam Theater. In addition, she's taught classes at Temple University, Bryn Mawr College, Florida State University, Bates Dance Festival and more. Mason teaches classes that incorporate movement from the African Diaspora, as well as hip-hop. Mason has also performed with Face Da Phlave Entertainment, Montazh's all-women hip hop dance company, Flyground with Lela Aisha Jones, Oyin Hardy's Troupe Dada and the late Kariamu Welsh. During her hiatus from dance, she went back to school to study occupational therapy assisting. She raised three children with her husband, Steve Mason (resident DJ at WDAS Philadelphia radio station). Recently, Mason returned to the stage and is ready to share her love for dance with her community. Her goal is uplifting women through hip-hop dance culture with a message that you can do anything you put your mind to and then some.

Joshua Culbreath (Assistant Director, Principal Dancer)

Culbreath was born and raised in Philadelphia, where he started dancing at age 10. During his middle school years, Culbreath joined a dance group called K.R.S. Ent., which won many talent shows and performed on the TV show *Showtime at the Apollo* in New York. While dancing with K.R.S. Ent., Culbreath met B-boy Hannibal, owner and artistic director of 360 Flava, and began to train with him. Culbreath is currently a core member of Rennie Harris Puremovement.

Emily Pietruszka (Principal Dancer)

Pietruszka began dancing professionally in 2015 after graduating with her BFA in dance from the University of Colorado at Boulder. She began touring with the renowned hip-hop theatre company Rennie Harris Puremovement in 2018. Pietruszka has shown her own work at the Illadelph street dance festival, The Come Together Festival hosted by Koresh Dance, Here and Now Vol. II hosted by W.O.R.X., and as a guest choreographer at Franklin & Marshall College (PA) and Georgian Court University (NJ). Pietruszka has taught and guest lectured in various contexts including Mark Morris Dance Group, New Visions for Public Schools, California State University, The Juilliard School, The Ailey School, Princeton University and Rennie Harris University's street dance certification program. Currently residing in Philadelphia, Pietruszka holds an adjunct faculty position at Franklin and Marshall College and teaches at Philadelphia's own street dance education studio, Urban Movement Arts. She operates her own online personal training business, Embodied by Em, and is the co-founder of Snack Break Movement Arts, a project-based duo that recently won Summer Dance Forever's Theater competition duo category in the summer of 2022.

Phillip Cuttino Jr. (Advisory and Production Assistant, Principal Company Member)

Cuttino is a Philadelphia native hip-hopper from birth and 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 learned from some Philadelphia greats. He has toured throughout the United States and internationally and currently is a core member, advisor and the director of social media for Rennie Harris Puremovement American Street Dance Theater.

Marguerite Waller (Core Company Member)

Waller is a dancer, choreographer and teaching artist born and raised in Phoenix, Arizona. Heavily involved in the local hip-hop community, she pulls from various dance forms, such as waacking, house, locking, breaking, hip-hop, postmodern contemporary and tap in her performance work, choreography and freestyle/battle practice. She is a graduate of Arizona State University, obtaining a BFA in dance, a minor in justice studies and two certificates in arts entrepreneurship and socially engaged practice in design and the arts. In addition, Waller is a Fulbright Summer Institute participant, a recipient of the Joan Frazer Memorial Award for Judaism and the Arts, and a published writer. Waller lives in Washington, D.C., teaching and making. She is deeply honored to be a core company member of Rennie Harris Puremovement, as well as the company's administrative assistant and grant writer.

Angel Anderson (Core Company Member)

Anderson is a movement artist whose origins are the south suburbs of Chicago. She is an alumna of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign where she obtained her Bachelor of Fine Arts in dance and her Bachelor of Science in psychology. Anderson's interests revolve widely around dances of the African Diaspora, traditional dances from West Africa and the ways in which both can and do exist in a contemporary setting. She is also interested in the hybridization of and dialogue between dances from the African Diaspora and continent. Her research largely examines this and the African retention present inside of street and club dance culture in forms such as house and hip-hop. She has received her certificate of completion for finishing the first year of the Africa Diaspora Training Program at Ecole Des Sables. During her time in Senegal, she trained with artists such as Serge Aimé Coulibaly, Alesandra Seutin, Josepha Madoki and Anani Sanouvi. Alongside being a new core member in Rennie Harris Puremovement performing in works such as *LIFTED*, *Nuttin' But A Word* and *Rome & Jewels*, she is also studying under Rennie Harris University to expand her knowledge on the lineage of street dance and club culture. She is most looking forward to the opportunity to develop her own pedagogy and teaching practice.

Rachel Snider (Core Company Member, Interim Rehearsal Director)

Snider is a Chambersburg, PA native who now resides in Philadelphia. She began training under the direction of Moncell Durden's Keystone Dance Project, performing lecture demonstrations and after-school programs. Snider later met her biggest dance inspiration and mentor, Marcus Tucker, of The Hood Lockers, whom she's trained under for six years. She is an alumna at Jacob's Pillow for Social Dances - Jazz to Hip Hop. Snider performed in Hood Nation's D.E.E.T.O.U.R. show at Jacob's Pillow, Ursinus College and York College, and supported Marcus Tucker's teaching residency at Eastern University. She has taught in Philadelphia for six years at Movemakers Philly and First Position Dance Arts. Snider is excited to continue her dance journey with Rennie Harris Puremovement as one of its newest members.

Joshua Archibald (Dancer)

Archibald (also known as "butterfly.god") is a Jamaican-born, Miami-raised multidisciplinary performance artist. Having a background in music production and performance as well as theatrical performance and writing, Archibald received most of his dance training at Miami-Dade College as both a dance major and member of Jubilation Dance Ensemble. Following his studies, he moved to Atlanta, GA, in pursuit of his artistic career utilizing all his experiences and acquired knowledge. Having completed a season with T. Lang Dance Company, Archibald spent two additional years in Atlanta training the rest of his skill set. In that time, he worked with production crews for many local events such as art installations, galleries, live performances, etc., as well as frequently engaging with artists of those respective communities. Since then, he has moved back to Miami to further his development and begin creating work for himself as an independent artist.

Miyeko Harris (Dancer)

Harris is the eldest daughter of Rennie Harris, was born in Philadelphia and began training at the age of eight in Austin, Texas. She later returned to Philadelphia and began her pre-professional training at the Koresh School of Dance where she trained under Melissa Rector, Roni Koresh and Eva Szabo. Harris performed with Koresh Youth Ensemble for three years. Most recently, she performed with Maura Townsend Dance at the 2022 Los Angeles Dance Festival at the Luckman Theatre. Harris is a recent high school graduate and will be attending California State University of Los Angeles with a major in communication disorders. She is excited to be performing with Rennie Harris Puremovement and looks forward to this next chapter in her life.

Zakhele “Swazi” Grabowski (Dancer)

Grabowski is a breaker, tap dancer and musician born in Eswatini, currently living in NYC by way of Mozambique and North Carolina. He is a member of the Dynamic Rockers Crew, Breaking For Gold USA (teen team), Maurice Chestnut's Dance Therapy and the mentee of Nequin in RedBull BC One's Under My Wiiiings program. He is also an alum of the School at Jacob's Pillow tap ensemble (2023). In 2022, Grabowski competed with Team USA in France for the ISF Gymnasidade. He is Breaking For Gold USA's teen team silver medalist for 2023. In September 2023, he won the USA World Kidz Championship breaking battle and will go on to represent the U.S. in the World Finals in Slovenia in the summer of 2024. He is a member of the cast in *We Move In Color* which launched at The Strand Theatre in Boston, was presented privately at The Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C. and is now touring. He has performed at various venues including New York City's Little Island in *Beats, Rhymes and Tap Shoes* and New Jersey Performing Arts Center. Grabowski is thrilled to have the opportunity to perform with Rennie Harris Puremovement and thanks Rennie, Rodney and all the company for welcoming him.

Darrin M. Ross (Sound Design & Musical Direction)

Ross has been producing and engineering songs since 1984 with Jam On Productions. He has recently completed the score for Suzan Lori Parks' *Top Dog/Underdog*. He is also the recipient of a 2001 New York Dance & Performance Award (BESSIE) for his music composition for *Rome & Jewels*. Ross has worked with and established many artists in the industry such as PM Dawn, Newcleus, Aphillyation, 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, Mike Knox and more. In 1992, he formed I.Q. Records and is now directing his own production company, KIA-TIFF. Past collaborations with Rennie Harris include the 1990 co-production of television segments for “Dance Party USA” and “One House Street,” scoring and composition efforts for works set on The Pennsylvania Ballet and The Memphis Ballet and various movies.

Julie Ballard (Lighting Designer, Production Manager)

Ballard is a member of USA829, a professional lighting designer, ETCP-certified electrician and theatrical technician. She is affiliated with IATSE Local 2 and the Actors' Equity Association. Additionally, Ballard is the owner/operator of OverlapLighting Productions, LLC, a freelance production company specializing in lighting design, production/stage management and photography. She has designed for the Charlotte Ballet, Giordano Dance Chicago, Ballet West and Hubbard Street Dance Chicago. Ballard has freelanced for two decades in and around the Midwest, touring regionally, nationally and internationally with Hubbard Street, Pilobolus, Deeply Rooted Dance Theater, The Seldoms and David Dorfman Dance, among others. Theatre audiences have seen her designs in the U.S., across Europe, Siberia and South Africa. Ballard holds degrees in theatre (BA, 1999) and lighting design (MFA, 2004) from Kent State University and the University of Florida, respectively. overlaplighting.com

Rodney Hill (Executive Director)

Hill was born and raised in the tough streets of North Philadelphia, entering the hip-hop scene in 1988. For more than a decade, Hill has blazed the stages in venues, nationally and abroad. He has been featured in many videos for such artists as Boys II Men, Will Smith and Musiq Soulchild, to name a few. He has also performed on TV shows such as *R&B Divas: Los Angeles*, *Late Night with Conan O'Brien*, *Soul Train*, NBC's *NFL Under the Helmet* and BET's *Teen Summit*. In addition, he has toured and performed with Rennie Harris Puremovement, R&B singer Brave Williams, Julian King, R&B group AAries, Mad Skillz, rapper Eve, R&B legend Teddy Pendergrass, Janet Jackson's DJ Aktive, R&B singer Shanice Wilson, Mary J. Blige, 50 Cent and Philly's own The Roots. An accomplished dancer, choreographer and teacher, Hill has performed and taught at universities and dance studios locally, nationally and internationally in London, Santiago (Chile), Toronto, Bermuda, Monaco, Bogotá, Democratic Republic of Congo, East Asia, Egypt, England, Israel and Palestine. In 2020, Hill graduated from Wilson College in Chambersburg, Pennsylvania, with an MFA in choreography. Hill's inspiration for dance comes from his community and family. He continues to educate and inspire others through his hard work, dedication and commitment to hip-hop and its culture. In January 2022, Hill was sworn in as Councilman for Sharon Hill, Pennsylvania, a suburban community just outside North Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, where he grew up.

RENNIE HARRIS PUREMOVEMENT STAFF

FOUNDER/CHOREOGRAPHER Rennie Harris
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR Rodney Hill
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR Joshua Culbreath
REHEARSAL DIRECTOR Emily Pietruszka
DANCE CAPTAIN/INTERIM A.D. Rachel Snider
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT Marguerite Waller
RH ARCHIVAL DIRECTOR Angelina P. Labate
RENNIE HARRIS UNIVERSITY ASSISTANT Mika Lemoine
RENNIE HARRIS UNIVERSITY DIRECTOR Brittany Williams

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

FOUNDING MEMBERS, ALUMNI AND ASSOCIATE DANCERS Anisa Morgan, Kim Ontaria Wilson, Joni Collins Helton, Chaquita Anderson, Stefan "Target" Walker, Red, Elizabeth Jacobs, Clyde Evans Jr., James "Cricket" Colter, Duane Holland, d. Sabela Grimes, Leslie Rivera, Brandon Albright, Ronald Wood, Rodney Mason, Crystal Frazier, Joey Middleton, Alexa Chmiel, Jules Ulrich, Jennifer "Finesse" Veltre, Prosenjit Kundu, Rodney Hill, Brady Hill, Raphael Xavier, Moncell Durden, Terry Wright, Forrest Web, Joel "Teknyc" Martinez, Richie Soto, Makeda Thomas, Ivan Velez, Tania Isaac, Shayla Tribune, Nina Flagg, Oren Michaeli, Josh Ortiz, Erica Bowen-Olivares, Camille A. Brown, Brandyn "Boog" Scott Harris, Kyle Clark, Dinita Clark, Ryan "Zi" Cliett, Melanie Cotton, Brian Newby, Shafeek Westbrook, Jackie Lopez, Leigh Foaad, Neha Sharma, Courtney Klinger, Samantha Goody, Macca Malik, Kevin S. Rand, Neka Chantol French, Samantha Shepherd, Mariah Tilli, Dave Austin, Sha-chon Kasey, Hussein Zahir, Marcus Tucker, Drew Ramsey, Joshua Polk, Ricky Evans, Davion Brown, Mai Le Ho, Tatianna Desourdin, Uko Tanaka, Kat Cruz, Emiko Sugiyama, Jen Breckenridge, Amy Campion, Pauline Sherrow, Miri Parks, Big Tara and Ephrat Asherie.

SPECIAL THANKS TO The Scanner Boys! Fonzo, Ponzy, Moochie, Anthony "Germ" Garmen, Randy "Sir Glide" Robinson, William "Dollar Bill" Harris, Tone, Ponch, Day-day, Sharon, Lenard "TreeMan" Daniels, Carl "Snake" Griffin, Carl "C-Note" Ashton, Gilbert "Shalamar" Kennedy, Dave "Renegade" Ellerbe, Pyscho, Donald "China Man" Gonzalez, Chachi, Captain Crunch, Paul-paul, Danny "Diaper Dan", Meech, Dalhia, Regina "Gigi" Brown, Darryl "Boogaloo" Wright, Kevin "Wildstyle" Johnson. Spooney and T-Slim from the Break Boys, Force Four, Pop A Long Kids, Suga, Frank "Money" Stewart, Ms Josephine McCray, Cora Griffin, Ms Robinson, Group Motion, Manfred Fischbeck, Brigitta Herman, Helmut and Brenda Gottschild, Dance Teller, Susan Hess, Terry Shockley, Painted Bride, Lenny Seidman, Laurel Raczka, Major Jackson, Michael Pedritti, Michael Nise, Yvette Harris, Lauren Luongo-Goetz, Greg Farnese, Barbie Block and the cat who most influenced my work, Homer Jackson.

COMPANY MANAGERS/AGENTS, DIRECTORS, PRODUCTION MANAGERS, ADMINISTRATIVE AND ARTISTIC COLLABORATING TEAM Brian Mengini, Mark Abrams, Tina Hughes, Jenny Filer, Darrin Ross, Steve Broome, Jerri Rayon, Kim Cook, Duane Holland, Rodney Hill, Andy Schmit, James Clotfelter, Bob Steineck, Julie Ballard, Joshua Culbreath, Phil Cuttino, Rachel Snider, Emily Pietruszka, Jodi Kaplan, Harold Norris, Tommy Kriegsmann, Ann and Cathy, Global Talent.

ADDITIONAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS Joan Myers Brown and the Philadelphia Dance Company. Koresh Dance Company, Leon Evans, Jaye Alison, Robert Burden, Author Taylor, the Dance Department at the University of Colorado at Boulder, Pew Charitable Trust, Dance Advance, Penn Pat, Doris Duke Charitable Foundation, Ford Foundation, Guggenheim, Dance USA, The Alan M. Kriegsmann Residency, The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, National Dance Project, National Performance Network and NEFA for over thirty years of support.

Rennie Harris thanks his children, Brandyn Scott Harris, Avery Mark Tyler Harris, Miyeko Urvashi Rennie Harris and Victoria Marie Harris, and his siblings, William Temple Harris, Burton Talbot Harris, Patrick Quintin Harris (R.I.P.), Tracy Veness Harris, Takada Monique Harris and James Bruce Harris for their unwavering love. He thanks his partner in love Anusha Lakshmi Kedhar and her family, Chandrika and Sanjay Kedhar. Last but definitely not least, he thanks his mother, Doris Teresa Harris, without whom he would not be the man he is today.

NEWMUSIC
USA

nefa
NEW ENGLAND FOUNDATION FOR THE ARTS

THE
ANDREW W.
MELLON
FOUNDATION



TOLL THE BELL

A Cry for Peace

Toll the Bell is a year-long focus bringing greater awareness to the gun violence epidemic affecting our city and the entire country.

With a range of related programs including performances by 23/24 season artists-in-residence, the **Negro Ensemble Company** and **Rennie Harris Puremovement**, Toll the Bell culminates with a major **city-wide sound installation**. At 1 PM on June 7, National Gun Violence Awareness Day, there will be a prolonged period of bell ringing and other community-driven sound making across the city and beyond. A collaboration with Penn's Office of the Chaplain, Interfaith Philadelphia, Partners for Sacred Places and many faith-based organizations and other partners, this event serves as a warning and a sonic device to disrupt the environment for Philadelphians, inviting them to stop and reflect on this tragic issue.

PENNLIVEARTS.ORG/TOLLTHEBELL