

# ALVIN AILEY AMERICAN DANCE THEATER

## ALL ABOUT AILEY

Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater grew from a now-fabled performance in March 1958 at the 92nd Street Y in New York City. Led by Alvin Ailey and a group of young African-American modern dancers, that performance changed forever the perception of American dance. The Ailey company has gone on to perform for an estimated 23 million people at theaters in 48 states and 71 countries on six continents -- as well as millions more through television broadcasts.

In 2008, a U.S. Congressional resolution designated the Company as “a vital American cultural ambassador to the world,” one that celebrates the uniqueness of the African-American cultural experience and the preservation and enrichment of the American modern dance heritage.

When Mr. Ailey began creating dances, he drew upon his "blood memories" of Texas, the blues, spirituals and gospel as inspiration, which resulted in the creation of his most popular and critically acclaimed work, *Revelations*.

Although he created 79 ballets over his lifetime, Mr. Ailey maintained that his company was not exclusively a repository for his own work. Today, the Company continues Mr. Ailey's mission by presenting important works of the past and commissioning new ones. In all, more than 200 works by over 80 choreographers are part of the Ailey company's repertory.

Before his untimely death in 1989, Alvin Ailey designated Judith Jamison as his successor, and over the next 21 years, she brought the Company to unprecedented success. In July 2011, Ms. Jamison passed the mantle to Robert Battle. In announcing his appointment as Artistic Director, Ms. Jamison stated, “Combining an intimate knowledge of the Ailey company with an independent perspective, Robert Battle is without question the creative force of the future.”

**ROBERT BATTLE**  
**ARTISTIC DIRECTOR**



Robert Battle became Artistic Director of Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater in July 2011 at the personal selection of Judith Jamison, making him only the third person to head the Company since it was founded in 1958. Mr. Battle has a long-standing association with the Ailey organization. A frequent choreographer and artist-in-residence at Ailey since 1999, he has had numerous works performed by Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, Ailey II, and students of The Ailey School. The Company's current repertory includes his ballets *The Hunt*, *In/Side*, and *Love Stories* (a collaboration with Ms. Jamison and Rennie Harris). Mr. Battle's journey to the top of the modern dance world began in the Liberty City neighborhood of Miami, Florida. He showed artistic talent early and studied dance at a high school arts magnet program before moving on to Miami's New World School of the Arts, under the direction of Daniel Lewis and Gerri Houlihan, and finally to the dance program at The Juilliard School, under the direction of Benjamin Harkarvy, where he met his mentor Carolyn Adams. Upon his graduation from Juilliard, Mr. Battle joined the Parsons Dance

Company and danced with them from 1994 to 2001, and he also set his own choreography on that company starting in 1998. Mr. Battle then founded his own Battleworks Dance Company, which made its premiere in 2002 in Düsseldorf, Germany as the U.S. representative to the World Dance Alliance's Global Assembly. Battleworks subsequently performed extensively at venues including The Joyce Theater, Dance Theater Workshop, American Dance Festival and Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival. He has also created new works and restaged his ballets for such companies as Hubbard Street Repertory Ensemble, River North Chicago Dance Company, Koresh Dance Company, Introdans, PARADIGM, and Ballet Memphis. He has regularly conducted residencies at universities throughout the United States and gives master classes around the globe. Mr. Battle was honored as one of the "Masters of African American Choreography" by the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in 2005, and he received the prestigious Statue Award from the Princess Grace Foundation-USA in 2007. In July 2010, he was a guest speaker at the United Nations Leaders Programme in Turin, Italy.

**MASAZUMI CHAYA**  
**ASSOCIATE ARTISTIC DIRECTOR**



Masazumi Chaya was born in Fukuoka, Japan, where he began his classical ballet training. Upon moving to New York in December 1970, he studied modern dance and performed with the Richard Englund Repertory Company. Mr. Chaya joined Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater in 1972 and performed with the Company for 15 years. In 1988, he became the Company's Rehearsal Director after serving as Assistant Rehearsal Director for two years. A master teacher, both on tour with the Company and in his native Japan, he served as choreographic assistant to Alvin Ailey and John Butler. In 1991, Mr. Chaya was named Associate Artistic Director of the Company. He continues to provide invaluable creative assistance in all facets of its operations. In 2002, Mr. Chaya coordinated the Company's appearance at the Rockefeller Center Christmas tree-lighting ceremony, broadcast on NBC. Mr. Chaya has restaged numerous ballets including Alvin Ailey's *Flowers* for the State Ballet of Missouri (1990) and *The River* for the Royal Swedish Ballet (1993), Ballet Florida (1995), National Ballet of Prague (1995), Pennsylvania Ballet (1996) and Colorado Ballet (1998). He

has also restaged *The Mooche*, *The Stack-Up*, *Episodes*, *Bad Blood*, *Hidden Rites*, *Urban Folk Dance* and *Witness* for the Company. At the beginning of his tenure as Associate Artistic Director, Mr. Chaya restaged Ailey's *For "Bird" - With Love* for a "Dance in America" program entitled *Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater: Steps Ahead*. In 2000, he restaged Ailey's *Night Creature* for the Rome Opera House and *The River* for La Scala Ballet. In 2003, he restaged *The River* for North Carolina Dance Theatre and for Julio Bocca's Ballet Argentina. Most recently, Mr. Chaya restaged *Blues Suite*, *Mary Lou's Mass*, *Three Black Kings*, and Judith Jamison's *Forgotten Time* and *Hymn* for the Company. As a performer, Mr. Chaya appeared on Japanese television in both dramatic and musical productions. He wishes to recognize the artistic contribution and spirit of his late friend and fellow artist, Michihiko Oka.

**ALVIN AILEY**  
**FOUNDER**



Alvin Ailey was born on January 5, 1931 in Rogers, Texas. His experiences of life in the rural South would later inspire some of Ailey's most memorable works. At age 12, he moved with his mother to Los Angeles, where he was introduced to dance by performances of the Ballet Russe de Monte Carlo and the Katherine Dunham Dance Company. His formal dance training began with an introduction to Lester Horton's classes by his friend, Carmen de Lavallade. Horton, the founder of the first racially integrated dance company in the United States, became a mentor for Mr. Ailey as he embarked on his professional career. After Horton's death in 1953, Mr. Ailey became director of the Lester Horton Dance Theater and began to choreograph his own works. In 1954, he was invited to dance in the Broadway musical *House of Flowers*. Mr. Ailey studied dance with Martha Graham, Doris Humphrey, Charles Weidman, Hanya Holm and Karel Shook and also took acting classes with Stella Adler. In 1958, he founded Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater to carry out his vision of a company dedicated to enriching the American modern dance heritage

and preserving the uniqueness of the African-American cultural experience. He established the Alvin Ailey American Dance Center (now The Ailey School) in 1969 and formed the Alvin Ailey Repertory Ensemble (now Ailey II) in 1974. Mr. Ailey was a pioneer of Arts In Education programs, particularly those benefiting underserved communities. Throughout his lifetime, he was awarded numerous honorary doctoral degrees, NAACP's Spingarn Award, the United Nations Peace Medal, the Dance Magazine Award, the Capezio Award and the Samuel H. Scripps American Dance Festival Award. In 1988, he received the Kennedy Center Honor in recognition of his extraordinary contribution to American culture. When Mr. Ailey died on December 1, 1989, *The New York Times* said of him, "you didn't need to have known [him] personally to have been touched by his humanity, enthusiasm and exuberance and his courageous stand for multi-racial brotherhood."

**JUDITH JAMISON**  
**ARTISTIC DIRECTOR EMERITA**



Judith Jamison joined Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater in 1965 and quickly became an international star. Over the next 15 years, Mr. Ailey created some of his most enduring roles for her, most notably the tour-de-force solo *Cry*. During the 1970s and '80s, she appeared as a guest artist with ballet companies all over the world, starred in the hit Broadway musical *Sophisticated Ladies*, and formed her own company, The Jamison Project. She returned to Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater in 1989 when Mr. Ailey asked her to succeed him as Artistic Director. In the 21 years that followed, she brought the Company to unprecedented heights – including two historic engagements in South Africa and a 50-city global tour to celebrate the Company's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Ms. Jamison is the recipient of numerous awards and honors, among them a prime time Emmy Award, an American Choreography Award, the Kennedy Center Honor, a National Medal of Arts, a "Bessie" Award, the Phoenix Award, and the Handel Medallion. She was also listed in "The *TIME* 100: The World's Most Influential People" and honored by First Lady Michelle Obama at the first White

House Dance Series event. As a highly regarded choreographer, Ms. Jamison has created many celebrated works, including *Divining* (1984), *Forgotten Time* (1989), *Hymn* (1993), *HERE . . . NOW*. (commissioned for the 2002 Cultural Olympiad), *Love Stories* (with additional choreography by Robert Battle and Rennie Harris, 2004), and *Among Us (Private Spaces: Public Places)* (2009). Ms. Jamison's autobiography, *Dancing Spirit*, was edited by Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis and published in 1993. Ms. Jamison continues to dedicate herself to asserting the prominence of the arts in our culture, and she remains committed to promoting the significance of the Ailey legacy – using dance as a medium for honoring the past, celebrating the present and fearlessly reaching into the future.

**MATTHEW RUSHING**  
**REHEARSAL DIRECTOR AND GUEST ARTIST**



Matthew Rushing was born in Los Angeles, CA. He began his dance training with Kashmir Blake in Inglewood, CA and later continued his training at the Los Angeles County High School for the Arts. He received a Spotlight Award and was named a Presidential Scholar in the Arts. He trained at The Ailey School and later became a member of Ailey II, where he danced for a year. During his career, Mr. Rushing has performed as a guest artist for galas in Vail, Colorado, as well as in France, Russia, Canada, Austria, and Italy. He has performed for presidents George H. Bush, Bill Clinton, George W. Bush, and Barack Obama, as well as at the 2010 White House tribute to Judith Jamison. During his time with the Company he has choreographed two ballets: *Acceptance In Surrender* (2005), a collaboration with Company members Hope Boykin and Abdur Rahim-Jackson, and *Uptown* (2009), a tribute to the Harlem Renaissance. He is a 2010 recipient of the Dance Magazine Award. Mr. Rushing

joined the Company in 1992 and became Rehearsal Director in June 2010.

*All Photos by Andrew Eccles.*

*Headshot of Alvin Ailey by Eric N. Hong.*

## WHO'S WHO IN THE COMPANY

**GUILLERMO ASCA** (Rego Park, NY) or "Moe," as he is affectionately known, graduated from LaGuardia High School of the Performing Arts. He was a scholarship student at The Ailey School and danced with Ailey II, Ballet Metropolitan de Caracas, Ballet Hispanico, Dance Compass, Shapiro & Smith and Footprints Dance Project. In 2010, he performed at the White House tribute to Judith Jamison. Mr. Asca joined the Company in 1994.



**CLIFTON BROWN** (Goodyear, AZ) trained at various schools including Take 5 Dance Academy, Ballet Arizona, New School for the Arts and The Ailey School, where he was a student in the Ailey/Fordham B.F.A. Program in Dance. Mr. Brown is a recipient of a Donna Wood Foundation Award, a Level 1 ARTS award given by the National Foundation for Advancement in the Arts, and was a 2005 nominee in the U.K. for a Critics Circle National



Dance Award for best male dancer. In 2007, Mr. Brown received a "Bessie" Award in recognition of his work with the Ailey company. He has performed with Earl Mosley's Diversity of Dance and as a guest artist with the Miami City Ballet. In 2010, he performed at the White House tribute to Judith Jamison. Mr. Brown joined Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater in 1999 and is currently a Guest Artist with the Company.

**KIRVEN JAMES BOYD** (Boston, MA) began his formal dance training at the Boston Arts Academy and joined Boston Youth Moves in 1999 under the direction of Jim Viera and Jeannette Neill. He also trained on scholarship at the Boston Conservatory and as a scholarship student at The Ailey School. Mr. Boyd has danced with Battleworks Dance Company, The Parsons Dance Company and Ailey II. He performed at the White House tribute to Judith Jamison in 2010. Mr. Boyd joined the Company in 2004.



**SEAN A. CARMON** (Beaumont, TX) began his dance training under Bonnie Cokinos with guidance from Lucia Booth and Eva LeBlanc. He was a member of Elisa Monte Dance and is a graduate of the Ailey/Fordham B.F.A. Program in Dance. Mr. Carmon was an original cast member of the 2010 revival of *La Cage Aux Folles* on Broadway and was also a cast member of the Broadway production of *The Phantom of the Opera*. As an assistant to



Christopher L. Huggins, he appeared as a guest artist with the International Dance Association in Italy and with the Cape Dance Company in South Africa. Mr. Carmon joined the Company in 2011.

**HOPE BOYKIN** (Durham, NC) is a three-time recipient of the American Dance Festival's Young Tuition Scholarship. She attended Howard University and while in Washington, DC she performed with Lloyd Whitmore's New World Dance Company. Ms. Boykin was a student and intern at The Ailey School. She was assistant to the late Talley Beatty and an original member of Complexions. Ms. Boykin was a member of Philadanco and received a New York Dance and Performance "Bessie" Award. In 2005, Ms. Boykin choreographed *Acceptance in Surrender* in collaboration with Abdur-Rahim Jackson and Matthew Rushing for Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater. Most recently she choreographed *Go In Grace* with award-winning singing group Sweet Honey In The Rock for the Company's 50th anniversary season. Ms. Boykin joined the Company in 2000.

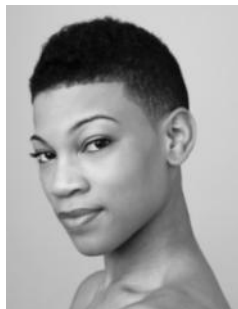


**SARAH DALEY** (South Elgin, IL) began her training at the Faubourg School of Ballet in Illinois under the direction of Watmora Casey and Tatyana Mazur. She is a 2009 graduate of the Ailey/Fordham B.F.A. Program in Dance. Ms. Daley has trained at institutions such as The Kirov Academy, National Ballet School of Canada, The San Francisco Conservatory of Dance and intensives such as Ballet Camp Illinois and Ballet Adriatico in Italy. She is a recipient of a Youth American Grand Prix Award and an ARTS Foundation Award. Ms. Daley has performed works by Alvin Ailey, Kyle Abraham, Camille A. Brown, Donald Byrd, Christopher L. Huggins, Judith Jamison, Jessica Lang and Ohad Naharin. She was a member of Ailey II for two seasons. Ms. Daley joined the Company in 2011.





**GHRAI DeVORE** (Washington, DC) began her formal dance training at the Chicago Multicultural Dance Center and was a scholarship student at The Ailey School. She has completed summer programs at the Kirov Academy, Ballet Chicago, Deeply Rooted Dance Theater, American Ballet Theatre, and Alonzo King's Lines Ballet. Ms. DeVore was a member of Deeply Rooted Dance Theater 2, Hubbard Street 2, Dance Works Chicago, and Ailey II. She is the 2009-2010 recipient of the Dizzy Feet Foundation Scholarship and was a 2010 nominee for the first annual Clive Barnes Award. Ms. DeVore joined the Company in 2010.



**RENALDO GARDNER** (Gary, IN) began his dance training with Tony Simpson and is a graduate of Talent Unlimited High School. He attended the Emerson School for Visual and Performing Arts and studied with Larry Brewer and Michael Davis. Mr. Gardner was a scholarship student at The Ailey School, has trained on scholarship at Ballet Chicago and Deeply Rooted Dance Theater, and had an internship at the Martha Graham School of Contemporary Dance. In 2008, he received second place in modern dance from the National Foundation for Advancement in the Arts and received the Dizzy Feet Scholarship in 2009. Mr. Gardner has worked with choreographers that include Gary Abbot, Donald Byrd, George Faison, Christopher L. Huggins, Kevin Iega Jeff and Troy Powell. He was a member of Ailey II and joined the Company in 2011.



**ANTONIO DOUTHIT** (St. Louis, MO) began his dance training at age 16 at the Center of Contemporary Arts under the direction of Lee Nolting and at the Alexandra School of Ballet. He also trained at North Carolina School of the Arts, the Joffrey Ballet School, San Francisco Ballet and the Dance Theatre of Harlem School. After graduating from high school in 1999, Mr. Douthit became a member of Dance Theatre of Harlem where he appeared in featured roles in the ballets *South African Suite*, *Douglas*, *Concerto in F*, *Return* and *Dwight Rhoden's Twist*. He was promoted to soloist in 2003. He also performed with Les Grands Ballets Canadiens de Montréal. Mr. Douthit joined the Company in 2004.



**VERNARD J. GILMORE** (Chicago, IL) began dancing at Curie Performing and Creative Arts High School in Chicago and later studied at the Joseph Holmes Chicago Dance Theatre with Harriet Ross, Marquita Levy, and Emily Stein. He attended Barat College as a dance scholarship recipient and received first place in the all-city NAACP ACT-SO Competition in Dance in 1993. He studied as a scholarship student at The Ailey School and was a member of Ailey II. In 2010, he performed at the White House tribute to Judith Jamison. Mr. Gilmore is an active choreographer for the Ailey Dancers Resource Fund, and has choreographed for Fire Island Dance Festival 2008 and Jazz Foundation of America Gala 2010; he also produced the Dance of Light Project in January 2010. Mr. Gilmore is a certified Zena Rommett Floor-Barre® instructor. He continues to teach workshops and master classes around the world. Mr. Gilmore joined the Company in 1997.



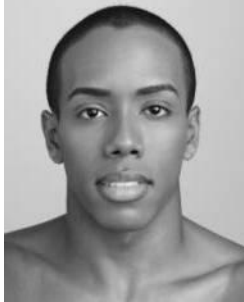
**BELEN ESTRADA** (Lawrence, MA) began her formal dance training at the Boston Arts Academy, where she graduated as valedictorian. She has been closely mentored by Earl Mosley and danced with Camille A. Brown & Dancers for three years, during which time she performed at The Joyce Theater, Jacob's Pillow and the Dancers Responding to AIDS' annual events *Dance from the Heart* and *The Fire Island Dance Festival*. Ms. Estrada was an apprentice for Ronald K. Brown/Evidence, A Dance Company, and has performed with Lula Washington Dance Theater, Nathan Trice and Roger C. Jeffrey. She assisted Matthew Rushing with his ballet *Uptown* for the Ailey company in 2009. Ms. Estrada joined the Company in 2011.



**JACQUELINE GREEN** (Baltimore, MD) began her dance training at the Baltimore School for the Arts under the direction of Norma Pera, Deborah Robinson and Anton Wilson. She is a graduate of The Ailey/Fordham B.F.A. Program in Dance. Ms. Green has attended summer programs at Pennsylvania Regional Ballet, Chautauqua Institution, Earl Mosley's Institute of the Arts and Jacob's Pillow. She has performed works by a variety of choreographers, including Elisa Monte, Helen Pickett, Francesca Harper, Aszure Barton, Earl Mosley and Michael Vernon. In November 2009, Ms. Green was the recipient of the Martha Hill's Young Professional's Award and the Dizzy Feet Scholarship in 2010. She was a member of Ailey II and joined the Company in 2011.



**DANIEL HARDER** (Bowie, MD) began dancing at Suitland High School's Center for the Visual and Performing Arts in Maryland. He is a recent graduate of the Ailey/Fordham B.F.A. program in dance where he was awarded the Jerome Robbins/Layton Foundation Scholarship and participated in the Holland Dance Festival with the School and as a member of the Francesca Harper Project. After dancing in the European tour of *West Side Story*, Mr. Harder became a member of Ailey II. He joined the Company in 2010.



**MEGAN JAKEL** (Waterford, MI) trained in ballet and jazz in her hometown. As a senior in high school, she spent a year dancing with the City Ballet of San Diego. In 2005, Ms. Jakel was an apprentice and rehearsal director for the Francesca Harper Project. She graduated with honors in May of 2007 from The Ailey/Fordham B.F.A. Program in Dance. Ms. Jakel has performed works by choreographers David Parsons, Debbie Allen, Thaddeus Davis, Hans van Manen, and Dwight Rhoden. She was a member of Ailey II and joined the Company in 2009.



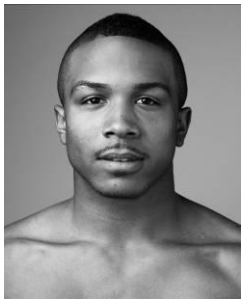
**DEMETIA HOPKINS** (Orange, VA) began her dance training at the Orange School of Performing Arts under the direction of her uncle Ricardo Porter and Heather Powell. She has also studied with the National Youth Ballet of Virginia, Virginia School of the Arts, the Summer Dance International Course in Burgos, Spain, The Rock School, and Dance Theatre of Harlem School. Ms. Hopkins graduated with honors from the Ailey/Fordham B.F.A Program in Dance in 2009. She was recently selected as a recipient of a Leonore Annenberg Fellowship in the Arts. Ms. Hopkins was a member of Ailey II and joined the Company in 2010.



**YANNICK LEBRUN** (Cayenne, French Guiana) began training in his native country at the Adaclam School under the guidance of Jeanine Verin. After graduating high school in 2004, he moved to New York City to study at The Ailey School as a scholarship student. Mr. Lebrun has performed works by choreographers Troy Powell, Matthew Rushing, Debbie Allen, Scott Rink, Thaddeus Davis, Nilas Martins and Dwight Rhoden and danced with the Francesca Harper Project *Modo Fusion*. He was named one of *Dance Magazine's* "25 to Watch" in 2011. Mr. Lebrun was a member of Ailey II and joined the Company in 2008.



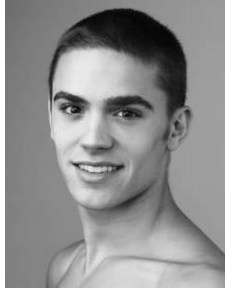
**MICHAEL JACKSON, JR.** (New Orleans, LA) began his dance training at age 16 at the Duke Ellington School of the Arts in Washington, DC under the direction of Charles Augins. He became a member of Dance Theatre of Harlem Dancing through Barriers Ensemble in 2005. In 2006, he joined Dallas Black Dance Theatre and in 2008 joined Philadelphia Dance Company (PHILADANCO), where he also worked as Artistic Director of D3. He has performed works by Christopher L. Huggins, Arthur Mitchell, Milton Myers, Rennie Harris and Gene Hill Sagan. Mr. Jackson joined the Company in 2011.



**ALICIA GRAF MACK** (Columbia, MD) trained at Ballet Royale Institute of Maryland under Donna Pidel and attended summer intensives at the School of American Ballet and American Ballet Theatre. Prior to dancing with Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater from 2005 to 2008, Ms. Mack was a principal dancer with Dance Theatre of Harlem and a member of Complexions Contemporary Ballet. In addition to several galas and festivals, she has guest performed with Alonzo King's LINES Ballet and with André 3000 and Beyoncé at Radio City Music Hall. She is the recipient of the Columbia University Medal of Excellence and Smithsonian Magazine's Young Innovator Award. Mack graduated *magna cum laude* with honors in History from Columbia University and received an M.A. in Nonprofit Management from Washington University in St. Louis. She is also a guest writer for several nationally distributed dance publications. Most recently, Ms. Mack served as a Visiting Assistant Professor of Dance at Webster University in St. Louis. Ms. Mack rejoined the Company in 2011.



**MICHAEL FRANCIS McBRIDE** (Johnson City, NY) recently graduated magna cum laude from the Ailey/Fordham B.F.A. Program in Dance. He began his training at the Danek School of Performing Arts and later trained at Amber Perkins School of the Arts in Norwich, NY. In addition to The Ailey School, Mr. McBride attended Earl Mosley's Institute of the Arts for two consecutive summers. He was also the assistant to choreographer Earl Mosley



when he set the piece *Saddle UP!* on the Company in 2007. Mr. McBride joined the Company in 2009.



**KANJI SEGAWA** (Kanagawa, Japan) began his modern dance training with his mother, Erika Akoh, and studied ballet with Kan and Ju Horiuchi at Unique Ballet Theatre in Tokyo. In 1997, Mr. Segawa came to the U.S. under the Japanese Government Artist Fellowship to train at The Ailey School.

Mr. Segawa is a former member of Ailey II from 2000-2002 and Robert Battle's Battleworks Dance Company from 2002-2010. He worked extensively with choreographer Mark Morris from 2004-2011, repeatedly appearing in Mr. Morris's various productions, including as a principal dancer in John Adam's *Nixon in China* at Metropolitan Opera. He has also worked with Jennifer Muller/The Works, Azure Barton's Azure and Artists and Jessica Lang Dance. Mr. Segawa joined the Company in 2011.

**RACHAEL McLAREN** (Manitoba, Canada) began her formal dance training at the Royal Winnipeg Ballet School. After graduating high school, she joined the Toronto cast of *Mamma Mia!* Ms. McLaren moved to New York to study at The Ailey School as a scholarship student and later joined Ailey II. She has performed works by Karole Armitage, Dwight Rhoden, Francesca Harper and Nilas Martins. Ms. McLaren joined the



Company in 2008.

**BRIANA REED** (St. Petersburg, FL) began her dance training at the Academy of Ballet Arts and The Pinellas County Center for Arts. She then studied at The Ailey School as a scholarship student. In 1997, Ms. Reed graduated from The Juilliard School and became a member of Ailey II. In 2010, she performed at the White House tribute to Judith Jamison. Ms. Reed joined the Company in 1998.



**AISHA MITCHELL** (Syracuse, NY) received her primary dance training at the Onondaga Dance Institute, Dance Centre North and with Tony Salatino of Syracuse University. She studied at North Carolina Dance Theatre, Lines Ballet School, The Joffrey Ballet School and The Ailey School as a scholarship student. Ms. Mitchell is a graduate of the Ailey/Fordham B.F.A. Program in Dance and was a member of



Ailey II. She performed works by choreographers Alonzo King, Dwight Rhoden, Debbie Allen, Seán Curran and Nacho Duato. Ms. Mitchell was a bronze medalist at the 2001 NAACP National ACT-SO competition. She joined the Company in 2008.

**SAMUEL LEE ROBERTS** (Quakertown, PA) began his dance training under the direction of Kathleen Johnston and attended The Juilliard School. He performed in the first international show of Radio City Christmas Spectacular in Mexico City and danced with the New York cast from 1999-2004. Mr. Roberts performed during the award ceremony at the 2002 Salt Lake City Winter



Olympics, worked with Corbin Dances and Keigwin and Company and was a founding member of Battleworks Dance Company. In May of 2006, Mr. Roberts was named *Dance Magazine's* "On the Rise" Dancer. He also performed several roles in Julie Taymor's *Across the Universe* and the original opera *Grendel*. Mr. Roberts joined the Company in 2009.

**AKUA NONI PARKER** (Kinston, NC) began her ballet training at the age of three and moved to Wilmington, DE at age twelve to continue her professional training at the Academy of the Dance. In 2000, she joined Dance Theatre of Harlem, where she danced lead roles in *Agon*, *Giselle*, and *The Four Temperaments*. Thereafter she danced with Cincinnati Ballet and Ballet San Jose. Ms. Parker has had the opportunity to perform around the world



and had the pleasure of working with legendary icons Fredric

**RENEE ROBINSON** (Washington, DC) began her training in classical ballet at the Jones-Haywood School of Ballet. She was the recipient of two Ford Foundation scholarships to the School of American Ballet and was awarded full scholarships to the Dance Theatre of Harlem School and The Ailey School. She performed at the White House State Dinner in 2003 in honor of the President of Kenya, Mwai Kibaki, and at the White House tribute to Judith Jamison in 2010. Ms. Robinson was a member of



Judith Jamison in 2010. Ms. Robinson was a member of

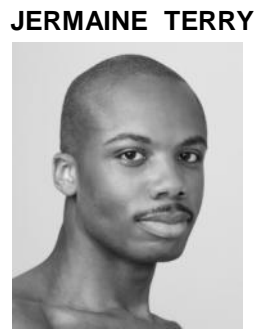


Franklin and Geoffrey Holder. She joined the Company in 2008.



**KELLY ROBOTHAM** (New York, NY) studied dance at New World School of the Arts, where she graduated with an award for most improved dancer. Ms. Robotham trained as a scholarship student at The Ailey School and Dance Theater of Harlem. She is a graduate of The Juilliard School, where she worked with choreographers David Parker, Adam Houghland, Johannes Wieland, Azsure Barton, Camille A. Brown and Robert Battle. Ms. Robotham has also performed works by José Limón, Martha Graham, Mark Morris and Jerome Robbins. In 2009, she was selected from The Juilliard Dance Division to participate in a cultural exchange tour to Costa Rica and soon after became an apprentice with River North Chicago Dance Company. Ms. Robotham was a member of Ailey II and joined the Company in 2011.

Ailey II and joined the Company in 1981.



**JERMAINE TERRY** (Washington, D.C.) began his dance training in Kissimmee at James Dance Center. He graduated cum laude with a B.F.A. in Dance Performance from the University of South Florida, where he received scholarships for excellence in performance and choreography. Mr. Terry was a scholarship student at The Ailey School and a member of Ailey II, and he has performed with Buglisi Dance Theater, Arch Dance, Dance Iquail and Philadanco. Mr. Terry joined the Company in 2010.

**GLENN ALLEN SIMS** (Long Branch, NJ) began his classical dance training at the Academy of Dance Arts in Red Bank, NJ. He attended The Juilliard School under the artistic guidance of Benjamin Harkavy. In 2004, Mr. Sims was the youngest person to be inducted into the Long Branch High School's Distinguished Alumni Hall of Fame. He has been seen in several network television programs including "BET Honors," "Dancing with the Stars" and "The Today Show." In 2010, Mr. Sims taught as a master teacher in Ravenna, Italy for "Dance Up Ravenna," sponsored by International Dance Association (I.D.A), and performed in the White House tribute to Judith Jamison. He has performed for the King of Morocco, and is a certified Zena Rommett Floor-Barre® instructor. Mr. Sims joined the Company in 1997.



**MARCUS JARRELL WILLIS** (Houston, TX) began his formal training at the Johnston Performing Arts Middle School, the High School for the Performing and Visual Arts and Discovery Dance Group in Houston, Texas. At age 16, he moved to New York City and studied at The Ailey School as a scholarship student. Mr. Willis is a recipient of a Level 1 ARTS award given by the National Foundation for the Advancement in the Arts and has received scholarships to many schools including the Juilliard School. He was a member of Ailey II and also worked with Pascal Rioult Dance Theater, Dominic Walsh Dance Theater and Tania Pérez-Salas Compañía de Danza. Mr. Willis joined the Company in 2008.



**LINDA CELESTE SIMS** (Bronx, NY) began her dance training at Ballet Hispanico School of Dance and is a graduate of LaGuardia High School of the Performing Arts. In 1994, Mrs. Sims was granted an award by the National Foundation for Advancement in the Arts. She has been highlighted in the "Best of 2009" list in *Dance Magazine*, and has performed as a guest star on "So You Think You Can Dance," "Dancing with the Stars" and "The Today Show." She has also made guest appearances at the White House tribute to Judith Jamison, Youth America Grand Prix, Vail International Dance Festival, and galas in Budapest and Vienna. Mrs. Sims joined the Company in 1996, and was named Assistant to the Rehearsal Director in June 2010.

