

ALVIN AILEY AMERICAN DANCE THEATER

Another Night World Premiere (2012)

Choreography by Kyle Abraham

Music composed by Dizzy Gillespie performed by Art Blakey & The Jazz Messengers

A Night in Tunisia from the album A Night in Tunisia

Costumes by Naoko Nagata

Lighting by Dan Scully

This season's World Premiere ballet *Another Night* was created by in-demand young American choreographer Kyle Abraham, who recently received the 2012 Jacob's Pillow Dance Award honoring outstanding, visionary dance artists. *Another Night* innovatively fuses the many dynamic facets of American dance, from hip hop to ballet, and showcases the artistry and versatility of the Ailey dancers. The work for ten dancers is set to Art Blakey & The Jazz Messengers rendition of one of **Dizzy Gillespie's** seminal compositions, *A Night in Tunisia*. Kyle Abraham has a unique affinity for Mr. Blakey, as they both hail from Pittsburgh, a locale that has deeply inspired the fabric of Abraham's life's work.

Abraham's diverse background in classical music, visual art, and various dance forms lends depth and originality to his multi-faceted choreography. Artistic Director Robert Battle commented, "Kyle Abraham is someone I've known and watched for quite some time. His work is provocative, with a diverse dance vocabulary that embodies a variety of traditions and styles. It is the right time for him to create a new work on the dancers of Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater and I'm proud to be able to provide this platform for him."

The New York Times praised Abraham's ability to craft links between disparate movement styles. Reviewing a solo piece (excerpted from his larger work *Live!*) that Abraham performed for the 2010 DanceNow festival, Roslyn Sulcas wrote: "Mr. Abraham is a protean performer, mutating with slippery ease among styles (ballet, breaking, voguing all get a look) and personae..." The new work is being created with the support of commissioning funds from New York City Center and the Hopkins Center for the Arts at Dartmouth, in celebration of the Center's 50th Anniversary.

"... Abraham's category-defying choreography, which makes a leap in originality and expressiveness..."

-Brian Seibert, *The New Yorker* – Dec. 12, 2011

"... you'll be too absorbed in the lush movement, infectious music and magnetic..."

-Siobhan Burke, *The New York Times* – Dec. 11, 2011

"...the pervasive movement style is so bold and even fearless that you might not spot the intricacy of the choreography..."

-Lewis Segal, *The Los Angeles Times* – Oct. 20, 2011

"... Kyle Abraham is the biggest choreographic force coming out of Pittsburgh and has taken a prominent place as a must-see choreographer on the New York scene..."

- Jane Vranish, *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette* – Dec. 22, 2011

Kyle Abraham

Kyle Abraham, professional dancer and choreographer, began his training at the Civic Light Opera Academy and the Creative and Performing Arts High School in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. He continued his dance studies in New York, receiving a BFA from SUNY Purchase and an MFA from NYU Tisch School of the Arts.

Recently, Mr. Abraham received the 2012 Jacob's Pillow Dance Award, which honors outstanding, visionary dance artists. Over the past few years, Abraham has received tremendous accolades and awards for his dancing and choreography including a 2010 Bessie Award for Outstanding Performance in Dance for his work in The Radio Show along with a 2010 Princess Grace Award for Choreography, a BUILD grant and an individual artist fellowship from the New York Foundation for the Arts, a Jerome Foundation Travel and Study Grant, a Pennsylvania Council for the Arts Fellowship and in 2009 was honored as one of Dance Magazine's 25 To Watch.

Abraham was heralded by OUT Magazine as one of the "best and brightest creative talent to emerge in New York City in the age of Obama." His choreography has been presented throughout the United States and abroad, most recently at Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival, Danspace Project, Dance Theater Workshop, Bates Dance Festival, Harlem Stage, Fall for Dance Festival at New York City Center, Montreal, Germany, Ireland, Japan and The Andy Warhol Museum in his hometown of Pittsburgh, PA.

As a performer, Abraham has worked with acclaimed modern dance companies including Bill T. Jones/Arnie Zane, Dance Company, David Dorfman Dance, Nathan Trice/Rituals, and The Kevin Wynn Collection. In addition to performing and developing new works for his company, Abraham.In.Motion, Abraham also teaches his unique approach to post-modern dance in various schools and studios throughout the United States.

Art Blakey

Arthur "Art" Blakey (October 11, 1919 – October 16, 1990) was an American Grammy Award-winning jazz drummer and bandleader whose brand of bluesy, funky hard bop was and continues to be profoundly influential on mainstream jazz. Along with Kenny Clarke and Max Roach, he was one of the inventors of the modern bebop style of drumming. His career spanned six decades, including more than 30 years with his band, Art Blakey and the Jazz Messengers which included many young musicians who went on to become prominent names in jazz. The band's legacy is not only known for the music it produced, but as a proving ground for several generations of jazz musicians. Blakey was inducted into the Jazz Hall of Fame in 1982, the Grammy Hall of Fame in 2001, and was awarded the Grammy Lifetime Achievement Award in 2005.