

RENNIE HARRIS PUREMOVEMENT

Artistic director	Rennie Harris
Executive director	Jeri Rayon
Company manager	Rodney Hill
Rehearsal director	Kyle Clark
Production assistant	James Wilcoxson
Technical supervisor/ Lighting designer	James Clotfelter

PROGRAM

Choreography by **Rennie Harris** (unless noted)

SOMETHING TO DO WITH LOVE, VOLUME (1)

“Lost”

Music **Rain (Henderson)**

“Loving Heaven”

Music **Marvin Gaye**, “I Want You,” mixed by **Kenny Dope**

“A Man’s World”

Choreography **Rennie Harris** & **Emilio Austin aka Buddha Stretch**

Music **Viker Duplaix**

“Truth of Heart”

Music **Ayo**

“Nina Pah-Tina’s Troubled Man”

Music **Nina Simone**

Music production **James “JT” Wilcoxson** for IDEAL Productions

—Intermission—

CONTINUUM

Music mixed by **DJ Lee**

Original conception 1997

P-FUNK

Music **Parliament Funkadelic Groove Collective**

Edited by **Darrin Ross**

Original conception 1992

MARCH OF THE ANTMEN

Music **March of the Antman**

Re-written musically by **Darrin Ross** and **Grisha Coleman**

Original composition written and composed by **Dru Minyard**

Original conception 1992

STUDENTS OF THE ASPHALT JUNGLE

Music **Goodmen**

Re-written musically **Darrin Ross**

Original conception 1995

For tour information, please contact:

R. Michael Blanco
Project Director—DanceMotion USASM
BAM
30 Lafayette Avenue
Brooklyn, NY 11217

Tel + 1.718.623.7817



BAM



RENNIE HARRIS PUREMOVEMENT

RENNIE HARRIS PUREMOVEMENT (RHPM), founded in 1992, is steadily advancing beyond its 20th anniversary season. It has emerged as an international hip-hop dance ambassador and thriving senior member in the world of organized hip-hop dance-theater. The company's goal is to provide audiences with a sincere view of the essence and spirit of hip-hop, rather than the commercially exploited stereotypes most often presented by the media.

RENNIE HARRIS (founder, artistic director, choreographer, and director), a North Philadelphia native, founded RHPM based on the belief that hip-hop is the most important original expression of a new generation, with the unique ability to express universal themes that extend beyond racial, religious, and economic boundaries. He is a recipient of a Pew Fellowship in the Arts for Choreography and has received awards from the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts, a Pew Repertory Development Initiative grant, the City of Philadelphia Cultural Fund, and a Philadelphia Dance Projects commission. Harris also received a Bessie Award and was recognized as the Pennsylvania Artist of the Year by Governor Rendell in 2007. He is a Guggenheim Fellow and received an honorary doctorate from Bates College in 2010. In a society where hip-hop is often portrayed as a violent, undisciplined counterculture, RHPM deconstructs popular perceptions of this medium, expanding and challenging the boundaries and definitions of hip-hop in general. As hip-hop continues as the modern generation's medium of expression, RHPM works to honor its history, explore its ideas, and further its contributions to the surrounding community.

BRIAN NEWBY (aka Hannibal) was born in 1986 near Philadelphia. Newby's inspiration to dance came from his younger brother. Dancing at clubs and house parties, Newby attended a long-running event called "The Gathering," where he was challenged to learn breakdancing. He trained steadily for a year and attended his first breakin' event in New York, the "Rock Steady Anniversary." Newby worked with Clyde Evans Chosen Dance Company, was chosen as the opening performance for rap artist Fabolous at Juniata College, and was a breakdance judge for Rhythmic Damage's first annual Jam event in Philadelphia.

DINITA ALISHIA ASKEW began her formal training in modern dance (Horton style) at the age of 15 under the instruction of Faye Snow at Franklin Learning Center High. In 1999, she joined Eleone's second company in *Carols In Color* under the direction of Shawn Lamere Williams and participated in Philadanco's Summer Intensive Training Program in 2000, 2001, and 2002. She continued her studies in modern, ballet, and jazz at the University of the Arts where she earned her BFA in dance. She expanded her knowledge of hip-hop and funk styles and has choreographed and taught various ages and levels and children with special needs. In 2002 she worked with recording artist Jasmin Jai, Mashonda, and Ms. Jade. In 2003, she became the first lady of Illstyle and Peace Productions' *Same Spirit Different Movement* and lead actress in *Things Happen*. She performed with Ron Wood of Zenone Dance Collective in *Poem*, Montazh

Performing Arts Company in *PHRESH* (dancer and choreographer), and Moncell Durden of Mop Top Productions as a dancer and choreographer in *Arne Culturelle Company*. She has performed at APAC, Dance Theater Workshop, and Jacob's Pillow, and taught a residency at the 14th Contemporary Dance Festival in Bytom, Poland.

CRYSTAL FRAZIER is from New Jersey where she began training in dance and gymnastics at the age of six. She earned an associate degree in dance at University of the Arts and is currently on staff teaching styles of jazz. Frazier began her training in hip-hop and became a principal dancer with Rennie Harris Puremovement. Featured in *Dance Magazine*, Frazier has choreographed and performed for the Philadelphia 76ers Dance Team, Fringe Festival, Drexel University, University of the Arts, Encore Danses en Tournée (Canada), Hip Hop Extravaganza (Bermuda), Taipei University of the Arts (Taiwan), Cruzan Dance (St. Croix), Dance Ability (Canada), and more. She has appeared in the movie *Beloved*, the VH1 Fashion Awards with Macy Gray, BET *Comicview*, BET Awards' Opening Act, MTV's *Lip Service* and *Global Groove*. Frazier appeared in the show *Monk*, with hip-hop company Groovaloo in LA, at the NYC/LA Carnival, and in a video with Mike Philips. She toured Italy with Kath Sledge and was a featured dancer/choreographer for Jill Scott's "Big Beautiful Tour." Frazier is an adjudicator for Dancers Inc. Competition and Convention and Dance Quest (Canada). She teaches hip-hop, tap, jazz, lyrical, and Afro-funk to children and adults throughout the world. She is the co-founder of Montazh Performing Arts Company, an all-female dance company based in Philadelphia.

KYLE CLARK is a native of Baltimore City, MD. He began dancing (tap) at the age of 10. He studied at DeVe's Christian School of Performing Arts. By the age of 16, Clark toured most of the continental US, plus the Virgin Islands and Hawaii. In 2002, Clark attended the American Summer Theater Dance Workshop at Hofstra University on Long Island (New York). There, he studied ballet, jazz, and musical theater. That September, he was accepted to the University of the Arts in Philadelphia and began formal training in ballet, modern, and jazz. By the second semester of his freshman year, he joined the second company of the world renowned Philadanco. In 2005, he was accepted into the first company of Eleone Dance Theatre, a modern company in Philadelphia, and was named a principal dancer in 2007. Upon graduation in 2006, Clark also became a member of Rennie Harris Puremovement. He currently dances with both companies and serves as rehearsal director for RHPM.

MELANIE COTTON, a Philadelphia native, started formal dance training at age four at the Ivy Leaf School, studying ballet, jazz, and African dance. Cotton enrolled in the prestigious Freedom Theater School of Performing Arts. There, she studied modern dance (Horton technique), West African (Umfundalai), jazz, and ballet. Cotton studied with the Freedom Theater youth acting program, where she discovered her love for classical and musical theater. She danced and performed in the underground hip-hop scene before studying with



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pioneering hip-hop performers like Buddha Stretch, Tweetie, and “BK” Terry, all with the legendary group Elite Force, and gravitated to funk styles like locking. She studied with Moncell Durden of MopTop dance crew, Rennie Harris, and the creator of locking, Don “Campbell Lock” Campbell. Cotton earned her associate degree in communications theater at Community College of Philadelphia. In 2002 she served as resident choreographer at CCP for theater productions directed by Dr. Ardencia Hall-Karambe. She is a member of the theater fraternity Delta Psi Omega. In 2003 she became a principal dancer and choreographer for Philadelphia’s premier, all-female hip-hop dance crew, Montazh Performing Arts Company, where she continued her training in locking, waking, house, and Caribbean fusion. Recently, Cotton joined Rennie Harris Puremovement, performing and teaching around the world. She works with “Moving Creations: Girls On The Move” as a youth facilitator and a teaching artist.

LEIGH FOAAD (aka Breeze-Lee) was exposed to dance at an early age. His vocabulary ranges from ballet to hip-hop. He currently teaches in Los Angeles and takes pride in teaching the history and culture of hip-hop to today’s youth. He has toured nationally and internationally with John Tesh as the first and only featured hip-hop dancer. He choreographed and was featured in the PBS special *Alive: Music & Dance*, as well as setting choreography across the US. He has worked with Rennie Harris Puremovement since 2005 and is grateful for all the opportunities. As a leader and member of Versa-Style Dance Company, he shares the knowledge, importance, and passion of hip-hop culture.

RODNEY S. HILL, born and raised in North Philadelphia, entered the hip-hop scene in 1988. For more than a decade, Hill has performed in venues nationally and abroad. He has been featured in music videos for Boys II Men, Will Smith, Music Soul Child, EVE, and more. In addition he has toured and performed with artists such as Teddy Pendergrass, Shanice Wilson, Mary J. Blige, 50 Cent, and the Philly Roots crew, to name a few. He has performed on TV shows such as *Soul Train*, *Showtime at the Apollo*, Conan O’Brien, NBC’s *NFL: Under the Helmet*, and BET’s *Teen Summit*. Hill is an accomplished teacher and choreographer at universities and dance studios nationally and internationally. He is the company manager/director of Rennie Harris Puremovement and Rennie Harris RHAW.

JOEL MARTINEZ, (aka Teknyc), was born and raised in Santurce, Puerto Rico. He credits an early interest in b-boying to his older brother Willy, who in the mid-1980s was one of the top b-boys in Puerto Rico. Teknyc’s first interest was boxing. In 1993–94, he won two Golden Gloves as an amateur boxer with a record of 16-0. In 1995, Teknyc joined dance crew the Skill Methodz Crew from Tampa, FL. Today, with its unique approach to dance deeply rooted in its fundamental form, it is one of the most influential crews in the b-boy

scene across the US, Europe, South America, and Asia. In 2003 and 2009, Skill Methodz won the UK B-boy Champs, and won the 2010 title in Rome’s Fluido Jam. In 2011 Teknyc received the coveted Spy Award, an annual award given by the legendary Rock Steady Crew to b-boys and b-girls who uphold the dance and culture to its highest degree of integrity. Teknyc has appeared in the feature film *Step Up 3D* and performed with Missy Elliot, Busta Rhymes, Nas, and the Black Eyed Peas, among others. Teknyc also appears in the film *Planet B-boy* (2012 release).

SPECIAL THANKS:

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Sponsored in part by: Philadelphia Dance Company



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ABOUT DANCEMOTIONUSASM

Examining, sharing, and exploring the American modern dance experience with international audiences, DanceMotion USASM is a program of the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs of the US Department of State, produced by BAM (Brooklyn Academy of Music).

From March to June 2012, four dance companies are making month-long tours, each to a different region of the world: Rennie Harris Puremovement (Egypt, Israel, Palestinian Territories—West Bank); Seán Curran Company (Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Turkmenistan); Jazz Tap Ensemble (Democratic Republic of Congo, Mozambique, Republic of Congo, Zimbabwe); and Trey McIntyre Project (China, Korea, Philippines, Vietnam).

US Embassies are partnering with leading cultural, social service, and community-based organizations and educational institutions to host unique residencies that create opportunities for engagement and exchange. Public performances are complemented by master classes, lectures, demonstrations, workshops, media outreach, and exchanges with in-country artists. In an effort to connect broadly and vitally, special outreach is being made to disadvantaged and underserved youth. Educational and contextual materials further extend the scope of the project. Visit DanceMotionUSA.org

PARTNERS

US Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs promotes mutual understanding between the United States and other countries through international educational and exchange programs. Through its Cultural Programs Division, the Bureau supports a variety of cultural exchange programs that support US foreign policy, foster America's artistic excellence, and demonstrate America's respect and appreciation for other cultures and traditions.

BAM's mission is to be the home for adventurous artists, audiences, and ideas, engaging both global and local communities. Its enduring purpose is to provide a distinctive environment in which its audiences may experience a broad array of challenging and enriching cultural programs. Based in Brooklyn, New York, BAM is the oldest performing arts center in the USA and celebrates its 150th anniversary through 2012. Visit BAM.org

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