

WallisAnnenberg
Center for the
Performing Arts

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PRESENTS

LULA WASHINGTON DANCE THEATRE

LULA WASHINGTON DANCE THEATRE IS A FOUNDING MEMBER
OF THE INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF BLACKS IN DANCE

STAFF

**FOUNDER &
ARTISTIC DIRECTOR**

Lula Washington

**CO-FOUNDER &
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Erwin Washington

**ASSOCIATE
DIRECTOR**

Tamica Washington-Miller

**TECHNICAL DIRECTOR &
LIGHTING DESIGNER**

Micheal David Ricks

**WARDROBE &
STAGE MANAGER**

Terri James

**REHEARSAL
ASSISTANT**

Michael Tomlin, III

DANCERS

Joshua Joseph Alexander, Queala Clancy, Tehran Dixon, Jasmine Francisco,
Christopher Frazier, Jack Virga-Hall, Krystal Hicks, Adama Ideozu, Saidiya Imari, Michael Tomlin, III

ASSOCIATE DANCERS

Joniece Boykins, Arlondria Sartain,
Thomas Davis

APPRENTICE DANCERS

Danny Guerraro, David Mitchell

PERCUSSIONIST

Marcus L. Miller

**MEMBERS OF THE LWDT YOUTH DANCE ENSEMBLE &
PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOP**

Taylor Agbonkolor, Juquari Baskin, Sania Benton, Malcolm Dunbar, Zenmarah Duruisseau, Siara Gabourel,
Ishaun Jackson, Jolyn Lambey, Kayla Anais McPherson, David Mitchell, Giselle Perez, Solea Powe,
Mayumi Lyn Rhone, Niya Rae Sheppard, Tyler Wilkins

Program A - African-American Male Voices - JANUARY 11, 7:30 pm

Program B - Dances with a Meaning - JANUARY 12, 7:30 pm

Program C - Movement for the Soul - JANUARY 13, 7:30 pm

Bram Goldsmith Theater



Dance @ The Wallis is made possible in part by a
grant from the National Endowment for the Arts

Program A

TEMPORARY SPACES (2017)

CHOREOGRAPHY BY: Anthony Burrell

MUSIC: *Primacy of Numbers* – Phillip Glass and YoYo Ma

COSTUME DESIGN: Anthony Burrell & Evan Wilson

LIGHTING DESIGN: Micheal David Ricks

DANCERS: Saidiya Imari, Krystal Hicks, Christopher Frazier, Michael Tomlin, III

LOVE IS... (2010)

CHOREOGRAPHY BY: Christopher Huggins

MUSIC: Sigur Ros and Wong Kar-Wai

COSTUME DESIGN: Natasha Guruleva

LIGHTING DESIGN: Micheal David Ricks

“AT FIRST SIGHT”

DANCERS: Jack Virga Hall & Tehran Dixon

“FLEETING”

DANCERS: Joshua Joseph Alexander, Michael Tomlin, III & Krystal Hicks [Alternates: Thomas Davis & Jasmine Francisco]

“PAIN”

DANCERS: Queala Clancy [Alternate: Saidiya Imari]

“THE SAME OLD STORY”

DANCERS: The Company

PAUSE

COMMUNION (1994)

CHOREOGRAPHY BY: Donald Bryd

RECONSTRUCTED BY: Jamal Story, Assistant to Donald Byrd

AIDED BY: Nabachwa Ssensalo

MUSIC: Mio Morales

LIGHTING & TECHNICAL DIRECTOR:

Micheal David Ricks

DANCERS: Queala Clancy, Tehran Dixon, Jasmine Francisco, Krystal Hicks, Saidiya Imari

INTERMISSION

THE MOVEMENT (2004)

(EXCERPT)

The Movement recalls the civil rights struggles of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and other leaders.

CHOREOGRAPHY BY: Lula Washington

SPEECH FROM: Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

“LOOK WHERE HE BROUGHT ME FROM”

DANCERS: The Company

“DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR.”

DANCER: Michael Tomlin, III

REIGN (2010)

CHOREOGRAPHY BY: Rennie Harris

MUSIC MIXED AND PRODUCED BY:

James “JT” Wilconson

LIGHTING DESIGN: Micheal David Ricks

DANCERS: The Company, Apprentices & Youth Dancers

OPENING SOLOIST: Krystal Hicks

Program B

THE LITTLE ROCK NINE & THE MOVEMENT (2004)

The Little Rock Nine is a tribute to the nine African-American students who integrated Central High School on September 25, 1957. The Movement recalls the civil rights struggles of such notables as Rosa Parks and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. This work was commissioned by the University of Central Arkansas at Conway, for the 50th anniversary of the Little Rock 9. Lula Washington was born just outside Little Rock.

CHOREOGRAPHY BY: Lula Washington

MEDIA: “We Shall Walk Through the Valley in Peace” – The Princely Players; “Traditional Prayer” – The Blue Spring Missionary Baptist Association; “It Had To Be You” – Song by Ray Charles; “I Dream A World” – Poem by Langston Hughes; “The Long Shadow of Little Rock” – Book by Daisy Bates; Speech from Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

“LOOK WHERE HE BROUGHT ME FROM”

DANCERS: The Company

“JEFFERSON THOMAS”

DANCER: Christopher Frazier

“ERNEST GREEN”

DANCER: Jack Virga Hall

“MINNIE JEAN BROWN”

DANCER: Krystal Hicks

“ELIZABETH ECKFORD”

DANCER: Tehran Dixon

“WALK THROUGH THE VALLEY”

DANCERS: Jack Virga Hall, Jasmine Francisco, Christopher Frazier [Alternate: Thomas Davis]

“ROSA PARKS”

DANCER: Saidiya Imari

[Alternate: Tehran Dixon]

“DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR.”

DANCER: Michael Tomlin, III

PAUSE

THERE IS ALWAYS TOMORROW (2016)

“Sometimes people wear rose colored glasses without even knowing it. Sometimes it is an escape from reality. When the glasses come off, they must face the truth of the real world that they are part of.”
- Tamica Washington-Miller.

CHOREOGRAPHY BY: Tamica Washington-Miller

MUSIC: Marcus Lamar Miller

COSTUME DESIGN: Evan Wilson

LIGHTING DESIGN: Micheal David Ricks

DANCERS: Krystal Hicks, Tehran Dixon, Christopher Frazier, Michael Tomlin, III

PAUSE

GLOBAL VILLAGE (2010)

CHOREOGRAPHY BY: Lula Washington

MUSIC: Fela Kuti

COSTUME DESIGN: Lula Washington

LIGHTING DESIGN: Micheal David Ricks

DANCERS: The Company

INTERMISSION

SEARCH FOR HUMANISM (2015)

Humanism is a belief system that stresses the value and goodness of human beings. Too often, we are killed, as if we were not human and as if our lives do not matter. Our lives DO matter. We are human!

CHOREOGRAPHY BY: Lula Washington

MUSIC: Marcus Lamar Miller

COSTUME DESIGN: Lula Washington

DANCERS: Tehran Dixon, Christopher Frazier;

Jack Virga-Hall, Krystal Hicks, Michael Tomlin, III [Alternates: Saidiya Imari & Jasmine Francisco]

PAUSE

WE WORE THE MASK (2006)

This work celebrates the removal of old masks that were once needed to survive in America. Once removed, a new face is revealed full of the vivacity, energy, sensuality, soul, spirit, fire and true beauty that lies within us.

CHOREOGRAPHY BY: Lula Washington

TRADITIONAL MUSIC COMPOSED AND PERFORMED BY: Marcus Lamar Miller

COSTUME DESIGN: Lula Washington

LIGHTING DESIGN: Micheal David Ricks

POEM BY: Paul Laurence Dumber

POEM READ BY: Tamica Washington-Miller

OPENING SINGER: Krystal Hicks

DANCERS: The Company

OPENING SOLOIST: Queala Clancy

Program C

THE LITTLE ROCK NINE & THE MOVEMENT (2004)

The Little Rock Nine is a tribute to the nine African-American students who integrated Central High School on September 25, 1957. The Movement recalls the civil rights struggles of such notables as Rosa Parks and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. This work was commissioned by the University of Central Arkansas at Conway, for the 50th anniversary of the Little Rock 9. Lula Washington was born just outside Little Rock.

CHOREOGRAPHY BY: Lula Washington

MEDIA: “We Shall Walk Through the Valley in Peace” – The Princely Players; “Traditional Prayer” – The Blue Spring Missionary Baptist Association; “It Had To Be You” – Song by Ray Charles; “I Dream A World” – Poem by Langston Hughes; “The Long Shadow of Little Rock” – Book by Daisy Bates; Speech from Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

“LOOK WHERE HE BROUGHT ME FROM”

DANCERS: The Company

“JEFFERSON THOMAS”

DANCER: Christopher Frazier

“ERNEST GREEN”

DANCER: Jack Virga Hall

“MINNIE JEAN BROWN”

DANCER: Krystal Hicks

“ELIZABETH ECKFORD”

DANCER: Tehran Dixon

“WALK THROUGH THE VALLEY”

DANCERS: Jack Virga Hall, Jasmine Francisco, Christopher Frazier [Alternate: Thomas Davis]

“ROSA PARKS”

DANCER: Saidiya Imari

[Alternate: Tehran Dixon]

“DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR.”

DANCER: Michael Tomlin, III

PAUSE

SNOWY DAY (2016)

CHOREOGRAPHY BY: Tamica Washington-Miller

MUSIC BY: Liz Story

SETS & PROPS: Tamica Washington-Miller

DANCERS: Jack Virga-Hall, Danny Guerra,

Joniece Boykins, Jasmine Francisco,

Saidiya Imari, David Mitchell

REIGN (2010)

CHOREOGRAPHY BY: Rennie Harris

MUSIC MIXED AND PRODUCED BY:

James “JT” Wilconson

LIGHTING DESIGN: Micheal David Ricks

DANCERS: The Company, Apprentices & Youth Dancers

OPENING SOLOIST: Krystal Hicks

INTERMISSION

THE MESSAGE (2017)

CHOREOGRAPHY & DIRECTION BY:

Lula Washington and the Dancers

MUSIC BY: Kamasi Washington

COSTUME DESIGN: Lula Washington

LIGHTING DESIGN: Micheal David Ricks

DANCERS/SOLO CREATORS:

Tehran Dixon, Christopher Frazier,

Krystal Hicks, Michael Tomlin, III

OPEN YOUR EYES (2016)

CHOREOGRAPHY BY: Lula Washington

MUSIC: Earth, Wind & Fire

COSTUME DESIGN: Evan Wilson & Lula Washington

LIGHTING DESIGN: Micheal David Ricks

“NEW WORLD SYMPHONY”

DANCERS: The Company

“FANTASY”

DANCERS: Krystal Hicks,

Jasmine Francisco, Saidiya Imari

“DEVOTION”

DANCERS: Christopher Frazier

& Michael Tomlin, III

“SEPTEMBER”

DANCERS: Krystal Hicks,

Jasmine Francisco & Jack Virga-Hall

“KEEP YOUR HEAD TO THE SKY”

DANCERS: The Company



LWDT’s Youth Dance Ensemble and in an annual Youth Dance Recital in June; a Summer showcase in August; a Dance All Day Festival in October; and an annual Kwanzaa Festival in December. Many LWDT Company dancers received their start in dance at the LWDT school. Lula grooms her young dancers through local performances, sometimes with the professional company.



LULA WASHINGTON (Founder/Artistic Director/Choreographer) grew up in the Nickerson Gardens Housing Projects in Watts, CA. She was inspired to dance after a teacher took her to see the Alvin Ailey dance company at UCLA. She later applied to study dance at UCLA but was rejected for being too old, at age 22, to start dance training. She appealed that decision and was admitted. She earned a Bachelors and Masters degree in dance at UCLA and became one of UCLA's most successful dance graduates. After graduation she formed her successful international touring dance company and her inner city dance school. Her choreography moved one prominent *New York Times* dance critic to call Lula "a gifted original." Her choreographic work is known for its passion, its bold willingness to tackle important social issues and to advocate for the humanistic treatment of all people. While still a student, Lula danced in the Academy Awards telecast and in the films *Funny Lady* with Barbra Streisand, *Sgt. Pepper with the Bee Gees*, and *King Kong*. Lula later choreographed *The Little Mermaid* movie and James Cameron's film, *Avatar*, along with the *Mission To Mars* project for NASA. Along with her dance company, Lula maintains a community-based dance school in South Los Angeles that offers affordable dance training year round for inner-city youth. Her work was honored by the Minerva Award, given by former California First Lady Maria Shriver; the UCLA Chancellor's Award in Community Service; and the Delta Sigma Theatre Trailblazer Award at their 2015 national convention in Houston, Texas. In June 2018, Lula Washington and her husband, Erwin, will share the Dance USA/Los Angeles Conference Host Committee's Champion Award for the impact of their company and its work in Los Angeles and across the nation. Lula Washington is a member of the Founding Five women who established the International Association of Blacks In Dance. She remains a Board Member and hosted the annual IABD conference four times, most recently Jan. 23-28, 2018 in Los Angeles.



TAMICA WASHINGTON-MILLER (Associate Director/choreographer) is Associate Director and designated Next Generation leader of the Lula Washington Dance Theatre (LWDT). She serves as LWDT'S Director of Programs and Community Outreach. She also helps oversee the Lula Washington Youth Ensembles and its' Company Training Group. Tamica is a resident choreographer for LWDT. Her work, *Message For My Peeps*, was chosen for the

Music Center *Moves After Dark* Program at Disney Hall. Tamica serves on the Board of Directors for the International Association of Blacks In Dance. She collaborates with her husband, composer and musician Marcus L. Miller, to create artistic projects that include spoken word, vocals, and social commentary with jazz, world, and audio-engineered music. Washington-Miller's movement style is an organic blend of traditional modern and jazz dance, with hip-hop and vernacular flavors and the traditional dances of the African diaspora. She was nominated by the 2008 NAACP Local Theater Awards committee for best choreography on "Gilgamesh" at the Boston Court Theatre. She choreographed *Hippolytos*, the inaugural production at the Barbara and Lawrence Fleischman Theater at the Getty Villa in Malibu. She assisted Lula Washington in the staging and choreography for James Cameron's film *Avatar* and played the motion capture body for the film's Queen mother Mo'at. She set choreography on *Cuttin' Da Mustard* starring Keisha Knight Pulliam, "Moesha," "The Parkers," and "The Steve Harvey Show." Tamica holds a Bachelor's in dance from UCLA. She studied at the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theatre and with scores of prominent artists. She danced leading roles with LWDT as a company dancer and now performs leading character roles, some of which involve singing or spoken words.



ERWIN WASHINGTON (Co-founder/Executive Director) co-founded Lula Washington Dance Theatre with his wife, Lula, and has served as the organization's executive leader since 1980. Erwin holds a certificate in Executive Leadership for Non-Profit Organizations from Stanford University; a Master of Fine Arts degree in Screenwriting from UCLA; a Bachelor of Arts Degree in English and Playwriting from UCLA; and an Associate of Arts degree in Journalism from Los Angeles City College. Over a period of 20 years Erwin worked as a staff writer at *Time Magazine*; the *Washington Post*; the *Los Angeles Times*; the *Daily News* and a number of other publications. In 1988 he shifted his focus to the dance company where he writes grants, books tours, and handles financial management, general administration, and media relations, among other things. Erwin has written a half dozen stage plays and musicals which have been produced and he has seen just as many of his television scripts produced on network television. He has won numerous awards for writing. He co-founded Los Angeles Black Playwrights and was active in the Black Writers Committee of the Writers Guild of America. He served on the Boards of Directors for

the Western Arts Alliance and the Dance Resource Center of Los Angeles. Erwin has been a public speaker; a grant panelist; and a frequent mentor for people working in the arts.



MARCUS L. MILLER (Resident composer/Percussionist) is a multi-talented artist/percussionist based in Southern California. Artistic director of the Afro-Persian Experience; the Marcus L. Miller Ensemble; and the performance art ensemble Freedom Jazz Movement and band leader of the percussion ensemble Project World Drum, Marcus also serves as musical director for Lula Washington Dance Theatre and is president of his record label, Universe Soul Records. Miller is the founder and director of the Young Drummers of Los Angeles. He has recorded and released eleven CDs for his label and written music for several independent films and documentaries including *Movement With a Meaning*, *Beyond the Echo of the Drum*, *Love and Other 4-Letter Words*, and *My Girlfriend's Back*. He has written tracks for the 20th Century Fox DVD release of "Avatar the Last Airbender." Since beginning his professional music career in 1995, Miller has toured internationally and nationally with such artists as Ben Harper, The Watts Prophets, Sheila E., Ashanti, and BoujouBumBastick. As of 2006, Marcus has performed with the Lula Washington Dance Theatre. This collaboration of Black American music and Black modern dance continues to redefine and reflect a unique "Black American cultural perspective." In 2015, Marcus and Freedom Jazz Movement headlined the 12th annual Vladivostock International Jazz Festival in Vladivostock, Russia. During 2015 he also worked with Panoply, a collaboration of musicians, dancers, poets, and visual artists, to develop new technology that bridges and advances the presentation of these artistic mediums. Currently, Marcus is working on a new world music project with Mehdi Bagheri. The duo, M&M, features the Persian Kamanche and Miller's unique percussion kit.



ANTHONY BURRELL (choreographer) is a Philadelphia-born Creative Director, Choreographer, and Actor. He is seen as the creative force on E! Entertainment for *Mariah's World*, Mariah Carey's Vegas Residency *1 to Infinity*, *Sweet Sweet Fantasy Tour* *Un-Silent Night Christmas*, and *All I Want for Christmas* at the Beacon Theater. Anthony is part of the artistic team behind Beyonce's 2017 Grammy's Performance, her Super Bowl 50 halftime show,

MTV Music Awards (2016), Country Music Awards (2016), The Formation World Tour, and countless music videos. He has won an MTV Video Music Award for 'Best Choreography' in Beyonce's 'Formation' and was also nominated for 'Best Choreography' in Beyonce's 'Sorry'. Anthony's recent film credits include *Lemonade*, *Bad Grandpa*, *Jack Ass 4*, and *Leave It On the Floor*. Anthony has danced with Philadanco, Eleone, Koresh, Prism Dance Theater and Lula Washington Dance Theatre. Anthony was also a two-time gold medalist and the 1998 National Gold Medalist for the NAACP ACT-SO competition in the category of Dance. While attending University of the Arts, Anthony was hand selected by Artistic Director Emeritus Judith Jamison to join Ailey II and The Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater. As a principle dancer, he has performed in the Master Work *Revelations* for President Barack Obama and the first family. In addition to his successful career, Anthony dedicates himself to dance education and philanthropy as the Founder and Director of Breaking Barriers Summer Dance Intensive and Project AB. He continues to build his artistry and work towards creating a legacy in entertainment, arts, and education.



DONALD BRYD (choreographer) 's career has been long and complex and his choreographic and theatrical interests are broad. *The New York Times* describes him as "a choreographer with multiple personalities ... an unabashed eclectic." It continues, "Yet he does more than hop like a magpie from style to style, taking any subject matter and imagery he finds along the way that strike his fancy. His unruliness is accompanied by a love of order. Mr. Byrd, like him, is preoccupied with harmony and disruption." Yet he is also known for creating lovely valentines to 19th Century classical repertory including *The Harlem Nutcracker* (1996) and *The Sleeping Beauty Notebook* (2005), as well as imaginative choreographic tributes to jazz legends and composers including *In A Different Light* (2000) set to the lesser known piece of Duke Ellington, *Burlesque* (2002) created to early recordings of Louis Armstrong, and *Jazz Train* (1998) to commissioned scores by Vernon Reid, Geri Allen, and the late great Max Roach. These works along with *The Harlem Nutcracker* with its score by Duke Ellington/Billy Strayhorn and David Berger were critical and audience successes and toured extensively. Mr. Byrd, a TONY-nominated (*The Color Purple*) and Bessie Award-winning (*The Minstrel Show*) choreographer, became Artistic Director of Spectrum Dance Theater in December 2002. From 1978 - 2002, he was Artistic Director of

Donald Byrd/The Group, a critically acclaimed contemporary dance company, founded in Los Angeles and later based in New York, that toured extensively, both nationally and internationally. He has created over 100 modern and contemporary dance works for his own groups as well as for the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, Dayton Contemporary Dance Company, and Philadelphia Dance Company (Philadanco), among others; and has choreographed for classical companies, including Pacific Northwest Ballet, The Joffrey Ballet, Dance Theater of Harlem, Aterballetto, Maggio Danza di Firenze, and Oregon Ballet Theater.



RENNIE HARRIS (choreographer) choreographed *Reign* for Lula Washington Dance Theatre in 2010 to celebrate the company's 30th anniversary. He is a pioneer in performing, choreographing, teaching and bringing the African-American dance form hip-hop to a worldwide audience. Raised in an inner-city community on the north side of Philadelphia in the United States, Harris started dancing hip-hop at a young age. He began teaching classes and workshops at age 15, and has since taught at schools and universities across the United States. Harris toured internationally with the Fresh Festival, the first organized hip-hop tour in the United States, starring Run DMC, Fatboys, Curtis Blow and Whodini. He has also worked with Kool Moe Dee, West Street Mob, Salt'n'Pepe and other noted hip-hop stars. In 1992, Harris founded Rennie Harris Puremovement (RHPM), a troupe made up of young African-American male dancers. RHPM was Harris' way of bringing street dance to the concert stage, and to a broader audience. The company has toured internationally and offers workshops, classes, lecture-demonstrations, dance residencies, mentoring programs and public performances. RHPM premiered Harris's creation, *Rome and Jewels* in 2000. The work re-visions Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet* in a hip-hop context, combining dance, theatre and rap. It won a 2001 Bessie Award (officially the New York Dance and Performance Awards) for choreography.



CHRISTOPHER L. HUGGINS (choreographer) is a former member of the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater. After leaving Ailey, he danced briefly with Lula Washington Dance Theater before turning to choreography. Christopher has created three ballets for Lula Washington Dance

Theatre: *Joy Joy* (1988, his first ballet ever); *On The Edge* (2005); and *Love Is...* (2010). Originally from Boston, Massachusetts, Huggins trained under Andrea Herbert Major, Danny Sloan, and Martha Gray. He attended SUNY Purchase and The Julliard School, and was a fellowship student at The Ailey School. Huggins has worked as a guest artist, master teacher and choreographer for dance companies throughout the United States, Europe, Japan, and Korea. He has taught countless master classes and workshops at universities and dance institutions including Howard University, Spelman College, and University of the Arts in Philadelphia. Huggins has created ballets for the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theatre, Dallas Black Dance Theatre, Ailey II, Philadanco, Cleo Parker Robinson Dance, Broadway Dance Center of Tokyo, Oslo Dance Ensemble in Oslo, Norway and many others. He is a 2002 and 2008 recipient of the Ira Aldridge Award for Best Choreography from the Black Theatre Alliance in Chicago for his work *Enemy Behind the Gates* and *Pyrokinesis*. He also worked on several projects for Disney in Orlando, Florida. Huggins is a silver medalist from the Seoul International Contemporary Dance Competition, resident choreographer at Duke Ellington High School for the Arts in Washington, D.C., and Artist-in-Residence for The Ailey School. In 2009, Huggins choreographed the *50th Anniversary Opening Night Gala* for the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater. Huggins has been a faculty member at The Ailey School.



JAMAL STORY (choreographer & dancer) 's dance beginnings came under Adrian Wilson and the Oui Geometer Company in Los Angeles. At age 15 he began studying under Lula Washington, who ushered him into her adult company during his late teens. He toured with Lula Washington Dance Theatre for several years. Undecided about his career path, Jamal began earning two degrees at Southern Methodist University, in both Dance Performance and TV/Radio Communications. While there, Dallas Black Dance Theater and Fort Worth/Dallas Ballet opened up their doors for replacements and guest artists. Never one to leave his roots behind, Jamal continued his close ties to Lula by joining the company for various touring dates. After college, Jamal danced with Donald Byrd/theGroup, Madonna's 2001 "Drowned World Tour," *Complexions* and as an aerialist and dancer with Cher's "Living Proof: The Farewell Tour." Immediately thereafter, he was called back into the studio with Donald Byrd to help discover the movement for the history-making Broadway show,

The Color Purple; where he spent the duration of its run as a dancer and assistant dance captain. An avid choreographer, Jamal has set works on several companies, has taught as a full time professor and interim at the University of Missouri Kansas City, and sits on the NY Board of SAG-AFTRA as co-chair of the union's National Dance Committee. In addition to his dance captainship on Cher's "Dressed to Kill Tour," Jamal continues his advocacy for educating young artists about the changing landscape of dance. Jamal has written two books.



JOSHUA ALEXANDER (Dancer) was born and raised in Columbia, SC, where he began dancing at his local elementary school. To further his education and passion for dance, he auditioned for Columbia City Jazz Dance Company at the age of seven and was accepted with open arms. At age 17, he began choreographing for his studio and became a regular part of the teaching staff as Assistant Choreographer. Alexander graduated from Dreher High in 2011 and received a full scholarship to the University of South Carolina's dance program. After college, Joshua toured with the Bad Boys Of Dance; and danced in Season 6 of the "Glee" Television Series and for NBC's "Hairspray Live". Joshua teaches gymnastics at the Fox Studio of Dance and Gymnastics. He began working with Lula Washington Dance Theatre in 2017.



QUEALA CLANCY (Dancer) is a native of Pittsburgh, PA. Queala studied dance at The Pittsburgh High School for the Creative and Performing Arts (CAPA), Civic Light Opera of Musical Theatre (CLO), Pittsburgh Ballet Theater (PBT) and Dance Alloy as a scholarship recipient. She is a graduate of Wright State University holding a B.F.A. in Liberal Arts and has performed with X-pressions Dance Company and The Dayton Contemporary Dance Company (DCDC I & II), and in Don Arden's *Jubilee*. She made her debut with Lula Washington Dance Theatre (LWDT) in 2007. Queala co-directed the Youth Ensemble at Jeraldine's School of the Dance in Dayton, Ohio. She has taught at Omega Baptist Church, DCDC I & II, Wright State University, Smag Dance Collective, the Ohio Dance Festival, South Dayton Dance Theater and at The Rock Center for Dance. She is a 2004 recipient of the MCACD Individual Artist Fellowship, the 2005 OAC Choreography Fellowship and the 2007 Josie. Queala spent nearly two years in Las Vegas dancing with Cirque de Soleil's *Zumanity* show. After

leaving that production she returned to Lula Washington Dance Theatre.



TEHRAN DIXON (Dancer) is a Chicago native. A graduate of The Hartt School, she received her BFA in dance performance with an emphasis in ballet pedagogy. Tehran has also branched into musical theatre performing in *Troubled Island* with the South Shore Opera Company & *Brigadoon* with Chicago's Goodman Theater. Tehran was also affiliated with Chicago Dance Crash and performed as a soloist with Joel Hall Dancers. Tehran joined Lula Washington Dance Theatre in 2014. In addition to dancing with the Company, Tehran teaches dance in the LWDT School and she has been an assistant to Lula in teaching dance at the Santa Clarita School District and other locations. Tehran has danced in China with Daniel Ezralow and in numerous videos and special projects.



JASMINE FRANCISCO (Dancer) was born and raised in Houston, Texas, where she started her dance training at the age of three in various art magnet schools. There, she began training in ballet, modern, jazz, contemporary, tap, pointe and composition until she graduated from The High School of Performing and Visual Arts in 2012. She also participated in Westbury High School's Blue Diamonds Drill Team in her senior year. Jasmine attended Point Park University in the Conservatory of Performing Arts receiving her B.F.A. with a concentration in the Modern Dance. During her time at Point Park, she had the opportunity to train under teachers such as Garfield Lemoniun, Jason McDole, Ruben Graciani, Dana Arey, Susan Stowe, Doug Bentz, Judith Leifer-Bentz, Maria Slutiak, Ron Tassone and performed works by Garfield Lemoniun, Ori Flomin, Bennyroyce Royon, Troy Powell, Ron Hudson, Terrance Marling and MADBOOTS and as an understudy for Jessica Lang. Jasmine began work with Lula Washington Dance Theatre in 2016.



CHRISTOPHER FRAZIER (Dancer) holds a BFA in Modern Dance Performance from the University of Oklahoma, OK. He has performed as a dancer with the Cleo Parker Robinson Dance Ensemble, the Dallas Black Dance Theatre, the Hartel Dance Group, the Kalidroscope Dance Company and the R.A.C.E. Company at the University of Central Oklahoma.

His credits include dancing in a commercial for the Oklahoma City Thunder basketball team, the independent film *Frankie and the Pirate* and in Oklahoma's Six Flags production *Red Hot Country*. Christopher has choreographed numerous productions at Oklahoma University where he was a frequent lead dancer in numerous theatrical and dance productions. He joined Lula Washington Dance Theatre in 2015.



ADAMA IDEOZU (Dancer) was born in Los Angeles, CA and began dancing at age 4 at the Lula Washington Dance Theatre. She joined the company after high school and went on to tour with the company internationally and stateside. She's a graduate of the L.A. County High School for Performing Arts and SUNY Purchase College where she obtained her BFA in Dance with a minor in Psychology. Her additional training includes Alvin Ailey American Dance Theatre, Alonzo King's Lines Ballet and Hubbard Street Dance, Chicago. Adama has been seen in *Nutcracker Swings* by Donald Byrd, excerpts from *Sweet Fields* by Twyla Tharp, *Angelitos Negros* by Donald McKayle, *Casa De La Secas & Beloved* by Lester Horton as well as a few industrial National Commercials and smaller independent films. Adama is an NAACP Act-50 Silver place National award winner. Actress, dancer, singer and aspiring psychologist, Adama teaches dance at the Lula Washington Dance Theatre school and shares love through her art!



SAIDIYA IMARI (Dancer) danced as a company member with Cleo Parker Robinson for nearly six years where she performed leading roles by world famous choreographers including Donald McKayle, Milton Myers and Rennie Harris. Saidiya is a dance lover who grew up in South Carolina before traveling to the Midwest to become an apprentice at Dayton Contemporary Dance Company for a year, and then relocating to Denver. She is a graduate of Howard University where she earned a degree in dance performance. She joined Lula Washington Dance Theatre in 2016. She performs with the company and works as a substitute teacher in the school.



KRYSTAL HICKS (Dancer) was born in Norfolk Virginia and was raised in Cleveland Ohio. She began dancing at the age of 5 years old. She started out at her church doing praise dancing. She began her formal training at the Cleveland School of the Arts under the direction of Terence Greene. There, she trained in Modern, Ballet, Jazz, and Hip-Hop. After graduating High School, Krystal continued her training with the August Wilson Center Dance Ensemble in Pittsburgh, PA. While there, she continued her dance training. In July of 2013 Krystal moved to Los Angeles to study with Lula Washington, whom she had admired since middle school. In 2014 Krystal became a company member of Lula Washington Dance Theatre. While with Lula, Krystal has also done commercial dancing including a commercial for Old Navy; a video with artists Remy Ma and Chris Brown; and tours to China and across US with rising singing stars.



MICHAEL TOMLIN III (Dancer) is a California native. He first began dancing with Lula Washington Dance Theatre (LWDT) in 2007 after initially training at the Debbie Allen Dance Academy. He left LWDT in 2009 to pursue his college degree and graduated from California Institute of the Arts with a BFA in Dance and a minor in Math. After graduation, Michael moved to Japan and worked for Tokyo Disney in the stage production *Mystic Rhythm*. After living in Japan for 3 years, he began a new chapter back in the states and returned to dance with LWDT. In addition to dancing, Michael teaches in the LWDT school. He gives honor to Jesus Christ and thanks his family for their love and support.



JACK VIRGA-HALL (Dancer) started out training as a martial artist, but early on discovered musical theater. He soon honed his skills for dancing, singing, and acting. Working for an entertainment company throughout high school, Jack decided to continue his education with the California Institute of the Arts, founded by Roy & Walt Disney. His studies focused on dance and music, introducing him to the director of Ken Dance Company, the first professional company he toured with. After working with several companies and performing across the country, Jack started a non-profit of his own, Our Dancing Stars Productions (ODSP). ODSP aims to bring the joy of dance to affected youth,

giving them a chance to express themselves through the arts. Jack also worked as a teacher with Star Education, a long established non-profit organization where he sharea his love of dance, music, and martial arts with young impressionable minds. Jack joined Lula Washington Dance Theatre in 2009.

ASSOCIATE DANCERS



JONIECE SORAYA BOYKINS (Dancer) attended LACHSA, Los Angeles County High School for the Arts and graduated in June 2014 with honors as a gold seal bearer achieving a 3.5 and above grade point average, and earning achievement awards in math and science. She has danced at LWDT, Lula Washington Dance Theater since the age of 11, first as a member of the Youth Dance Ensemble, then the Professional Dance Intensive and now as an Apprentice. During her high school years she had the privilege to dance at the Ford Theater, Rose Bowl Parade, the Emmys, Netherlands Dans Ballet pre-show, Space Shuttle Endeavor showcase, APAP/NYC, IABD Conferences and in Hangzhou, China. Joniece studied at the Ailey Summer Intensive 2014. She is a student at SUNY Purchase, New York, working toward a BFA in dance. She studies ballet, modern, contemporary, dance production, and acting. "JoJo" as she is adorningly known, is striving to pursue a career as a Dancer.



THOMAS DAVIS (Dancer) was born April 12th, 1992. He grew up in Estes Park Colorado where he started performing from a very early age. Throughout the 18 years that he spent there he studied acting, singing, and dance which was the dearest to him. He trained mainly in tap dancing and clogging. In 2010, Davis moved to Los Angeles to study at AMDA College and Conservatory of the Arts where he received his BFA in Performing Arts Dance Theater. While at AMDA, he studied modern, ballet, jazz, tap, hip hop, contemporary, and Broadway styles of dance. After graduating he continued studying dance over the summer at the Debbie Allen Dance Academy. Davis was then cast in the interactive horror show *Delusion the Mask of Mortality* where he did stunt work for 3 of the characters in the show. Davis joined the Lula Washington Dance Theatre as an apprentice at the end of 2013. He is excited to be part of LWDT and can't wait to see where this next chapter of his career leads him.



DANNY GUERRA (Dancer) started his training at 19, in Denver Colorado, through the Cleo Parker Robinson Dance Training Group. He went on to apprentice the company before relocating to Chicago to work with Deeply Rooted Dance Theatre's E.M.A. Then worked with Joel Hall's Dancers before coming to Los Angeles. He began as an apprentice with Lula Washington Dance Theatre in 2016.



ARLONDRIAH "LONNIE" LENYÁ SARTAIN (Dancer) is a professional, dancer, actress, and a published print, runway, & underwater model hailing from New Orleans, LA. She has extensive training in ballet, tap & jazz, horton, contemporary/modern, hip hop African & silks. Arlondriah has performed at the Lincoln Center in New York, the Shrine Auditorium, Ford Amphitheater, Orpheum Theater, Globe Theater, and Club Nokia in Downtown Los Angeles. Diving into the musical theater world Arlondriah performed in 3D Theatrical's 2015 production of Disney's *Tarzan* the musical, and was a performing Jewel in the cabaret dinner theater show, *Teatro Martini* in Buena Park, CA. Arlondriah has worked as a company apprentice and later as an associate dancer for Lula Washington Dance Theatre since 2015.