



PHOTO BY CAROL SCHNEIDER

Visiting Artist Series presents

KYLE ABRAHAM/ABRAHAM.IN.MOTION (USA)
Dearest Home

February 23&24, 2018 . 8PM
KOGOD THEATRE
@ The Clarice

ARTIST PARTNER PROGRAM

VAS
VISITING ARTIST SERIES

The Clarice Smith Performing Arts Center's
Visiting Artist Series presents

**KYLE ABRAHAM/
ABRAHAM.IN.MOTION**

Dearest Home (2017)

Join the artists for a conversation after the performance.

Choreography: Kyle Abraham in collaboration with Abraham.In.Motion

Music Composition: Jerome Begin

Lighting & Set Design: Dan Scully

Costumes: Kyle Abraham

Film: Carrie Schneider

Recorded Score: Vivian Yau (vocals), Cyrus Beroukhim, Jennifer Choi, Wendy Lau, Danika Paskvan (musicians)

Performers: Matthew Baker, Kayla Farrish, Tamisha Guy, Catherine Ellis Kirk, Marcella Lewis, Jeremy "Jae" Neal

PROJECT SUPPORT

Dearest Home was commissioned by the Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, The Hopkins Center for the Arts, and with a grant from The O'Donnell-Green Music & Dance Foundation. Additional generous support was provided by the New England Foundation for the Arts' National Dance Project, with lead funding from the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation and the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, Princess Grace Foundation-USA Special Project Grant, and The MAP Fund, supported by the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation and the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation. Public support for *Dearest Home* was provided by The New York State Council on the Arts, and The National Endowment for the Arts. *Dearest Home* was developed during residencies at ASU Gammage, The Hopkins Center for the Arts, University Musical Society, and Yerba Buena Center for the Arts.

The presentation of Kyle Abraham/Abraham.In.Motion was made possible by the New England Foundation for the Arts' National Dance Project, with lead funding from the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation and The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation.

In 2015, I felt full... not in a sense of fulfillment, but rather fullness of rage, sadness and frustration based on the issues we were tackling in our work and the unintentional relevance associated with ways in which these works addressed this country's wrought history. American history is so deeply laced with pain and struggle, that drawing on it as source material began to personally take a toll on me.

As a result, I decided to focus my next work, *Dearest Home*, on themes of Love, Loss and Longing under the assumption that these themes have the potential to heal and or bring people together...forgetting for a moment the eerie serendipitous coincidences that have existed within the 2-year creative processes of all of my previous works.

2012's *Pavement*, for example, which drew its inspiration from W.E.B Dubois' *Souls of Black Folk* and John Singleton's *Boyz N The Hood*, was aimed at addressing police brutality and the active genocide of black families across the country specifically during my adolescence in the early 1990's. Sadly, this work became all the more relevant after the shocking death of Trayvon Martin the same year that *Pavement* was already set to premiere.

With *Dearest Home*, I had no idea that I would lose my mother exactly one year from the previously announced world premiere of this work, or end a relationship with the man I thought I'd marry....all in the same calendar year.

That said, this work is still a healer in many ways.

We've had the great pleasure to take part in a variety of workshops and conversations with community groups across the country on the topics of Love, Longing and Loss. These interactions have led to multi-generational epiphanies, newly formed friendships...and in one case, a marriage proposal.

Thank you to my wonderful collaborators including dancers who were involved in *Dearest Home* at one point or another during the creative process: Vinson Fraley Jr., Keerati Jinakunwiphat, Penda N'diaye, and Stephanie Terasaki. Special thank you to Charlotte Brathwaite and Risa Steinberg for their contributions to the work. And to Sandra Chinn for helping us prepare for every show in both San Francisco and New York. Lastly, we thank you all for sharing your evening with us tonight!

—Kyle Abraham

The mission of Abraham.In.Motion is to create an evocative interdisciplinary body of work. Born into hip-hop culture in the late 1970s and grounded in Abraham's artistic upbringing in classical cello, piano, and the visual arts, the goal of the movement is to delve into identity in relation to a personal history. The work entwines a sensual and provocative vocabulary with a strong emphasis on sound, human behavior and all things visual in an effort to create an avenue for personal investigation and exposing that on stage. A.I.M is a representation of dancers from various disciplines and diverse personal backgrounds. Combined together, these individualities create movement that is manipulated and molded into something fresh and unique.

For more information, to get involved, or purchase your AIM merchandise, please visit www.abrahaminmotion.org.

COMPANY CREDITS

Artistic Director: Kyle Abraham

Abraham.In.Motion Board of Directors:

Stephen Simcock (chair), Kyle Abraham (Artistic Director, ex-officio), Cheryl Bergenfeld, Chris Calkins, Glenn Ligon, Bebe Neuwirth, Carrie Schneider, Eric Shiner, Gilda Squire, Julia Strickland

Abraham.In.Motion Staff:

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Production Manager: Dan Stearns

General Manager: Hillary Kooistra

Finance Manager: Lucy Mallett

Choreographic Associate: Matthew Baker

Rehearsal Director: Tamisha Guy

Administrative Assistant: Rebecca Gual

Generous support for Abraham.In.Motion provided by: Engaging Dance Audiences, administered by Dance/USA and made possible with generous funding from the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation; The Fan Fox & Leslie R. Samuels Foundation; The Harkness Foundation for Dance, the Howard Gilman Foundation; Joyce Theater Foundation; Mertz-Gilmore Foundation; New England Foundation for the Arts' National Dance Project, with funding from the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation; New York Community Trust; O'donnell-Greene Music & Dance Foundation; Princess Grace Foundation-USA; The Rockefeller Brothers Fund; The Samuel H. Scripps Foundation; Emma A. Sheafer

Charitable Trust; and The Shubert Foundation. Public funding provided by The National Endowment for the Arts, The New York State Council on the Arts with support of Governor Andrew Cuomo and the NYS Legislature; and the NYC Department of Cultural Affairs in partnership with the City Council.

Abraham.In.Motion is a proud supporter of Dancers Responding to AIDS, which helps ensure that those most in need receive the care and comfort they would otherwise do without. Founded in 1991 by former Paul Taylor Dance Company members Denise Roberts Hurlin and Hernando Cortez, DRA relies on the extraordinary compassion and efforts of the performing arts community to fund a safety net of social services for those in need. Together, we can make a difference for those less fortunate than us. Donate at www.dradance.org/donate.

Support the creation of new work and community outreach!

Contributions may be made payable to:

“Abraham.In.Motion,”
P.O.Box 986, New York, NY 10113

Abraham.In.Motion is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization.
All donations are tax deductible to the full extent allowed by law.

For booking information, contact:

Lotus Arts Management
Sophie Myrtil-McCourty, President
72-11 Austin Street, Suite 371, Forest Hills, NY 11375
Tel: 347.721.8724; email: sophie@lotusartsmgmt.com
website: www.lotusartsmgmt.com

CAMPUS AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT_____

Company members of Abraham.In.Motion taught in several classes this week in the School of Theatre, Dance, and Performance Studies, in addition to presenting a workshop at the LGBT Equity Center as part of their investigation into the themes of “Dearest Home.”

2016 Doris Duke Recipient and 2015 City Center Choreographer in Residence, **KYLE ABRAHAM** is a 2013 MacArthur Fellow who began his dance 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, an honorary Doctorate in Fine Arts from Washington Jefferson College, and is currently serving as a visiting professor in residence at UCLA.

In November 2012, Abraham was named the newly appointed New York Live Arts Resident Commissioned Artist for 2012–2014. Just one month later, Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater premiered Abraham's newest work, *Another Night*, at New York's City Center to rave reviews.

Rebecca Bengal of Vogue writes, "What Abraham brings to Ailey is an avant-garde aesthetic, a original and politically minded downtown sensibility that doesn't distinguish between genres but freely draws on a vocabulary that is as much Merce and Martha as it is Eadweard Muybridge and Michael Jackson."

That same year, Abraham was named the 2012 Jacob's Pillow Dance Award recipient and 2012 USA Ford Fellow.

Abraham received a prestigious Bessie Award for Outstanding Performance in Dance for his work in *The Radio Show*, and a Princess Grace Award for Choreography in 2010. The previous year, he was selected as one of *Dance Magazine's* 25 To Watch for 2009, and received a Jerome Travel and Study Grant in 2008.

His choreography has been presented throughout the United States and abroad, most recently at Fall for Dance Festival at New York's City Center, Lincoln Center, Brooklyn Academy of Music, The Joyce Theater, The Los Angeles Music Center, Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival, Théâtre de la Ville, Maison de la Danse,

Tanz Im August, On The Boards, Danspace Project, Dance Theater Workshop, Bates Dance Festival, Harlem Stage, Montreal, Italy, Germany, Sweden, France, Jordan, Ecuador, Dublin's Project Arts Center, The Okinawa Prefectural Museum & Art Museum located in Okinawa Japan, The Andy Warhol Museum, The Byham and The Kelly-Strayhorn Theater in his hometown of Pittsburgh, PA.

In addition to performing and developing new works for his company, Abraham.In.Motion, Abraham recently premiered *Untitled America*, a 3-part commissioned work for the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater and finished touring *The Serpent and The Smoke*, a new pas de deux for himself and acclaimed Bessie Award-winning and former New York City Ballet Principal Dancer Wendy Whelan as part of *Restless Creature* and choreographed for the upcoming feature-length film, *The Book of Henry* with acclaimed director, Colin Trevorrow.

Abraham is currently touring *Dearest Home*, an immersive interactive work for AIM which premiered at The Yerba Buena Center for the Arts in San Francisco, May 2017.

In 2011, *OUT Magazine* labeled Abraham as the "best and brightest creative talent to emerge in New York City in the age of Obama".

MATTHEW BAKER (Choreographic Associate & Dancer) hails from Ann Arbor, Michigan. He received his BFA ('08) in dance from Western Michigan University. In NYC, he worked with such choreographers as Mark Dendy and Keith Thompson before joining Keigwin + Company, under the Artistic Direction of Larry Keigwin and co-founder Nicole Wolcott, from 2009 - 2014. As Choreographic Associate for AIM, Matthew works with the Artistic Director and his colleagues to maintain and develop the company's repertory. Matthew was the recipient of a Distinguished Alumni Award from his Alma Mater in 2014. Matthew joined Abraham.In.Motion in 2011.

KAYLA FARRISH (Dancer) was born and raised in Raleigh, North Carolina. She graduated from the University of Arizona in 2013 summa cum laude, and was granted the Gertrude Shurr Award for excellence in modern dance and passionate dancing. Since moving to New York, she's had the opportunity to work with wonderful choreographers including Punchdrunk Sleep No More, Helen Simoneau Dance, Kate Weare Company, Nicole Von Arx and Artists, Rashaun Mitchell and Silas Reiner, Aszure Barton and Artists, Gallim Dance, Chris Masters Dance, and others. She has also premiered her own photography, film, and dance work through various opportunities, such her work as a Chez Bushwick Artist in Residence. Kayla joined Abraham.In.Motion in 2017.

TAMISHA GUY (Rehearsal Director & Dancer), a native of Trinidad and Tobago, began her formal dance training at Ballet Tech, the New York City Public School for Dance under the direction of Eliot Feld. Later she attended Fiorello H. LaGuardia High School, and SUNY Purchase College as a double major in dance and arts management. She has completed summer programs with Complexions Contemporary Ballet, Springboard Danse Montreal, and Nathan Trice and performed works by William Forsythe, Pam Tanowitz, Loni Landon, Mark Morris, and Martha Graham etc. In 2013 Guy graduated with honors from SUNY Purchase College and joined the Martha Graham Company shortly after. In 2016 Guy was selected as one of Dance Magazine' Top 25 to Watch and she also received the 2016 Princess Grace Award. Tamisha joined Abraham.In.Motion in 2014.

CATHERINE ELLIS KIRK (Dancer) is originally from Dallas, Texas. After attending Booker T. Washington High School for the Performing and Visual Arts, Kirk graduated with a BFA from New York University Tisch School of the Arts and holds a yoga certification through Mind Body Dancer™. Kirk has completed programs with San Francisco Conservatory of Dance, Gaga Intensive in Tel Aviv, and Springboard Danse Montreal, and had the opportunity to perform works by Fernando Melo, Ohad Naharin, Sharon Eyal, Peter Chu, Andrea Miller, Robert Battle, and Alex Ketley. Upon graduating, Catherine has had the pleasure of working with Danaka Dance, Chihiro Shimizu and Artists, and apprenticing for Sidra Bell Dance NY. Kirk is currently dancing for UNA-Projects, Helen Simoneau Dance, and is thrilled to continue with Abraham.In.Motion, which she joined in 2013.

MARCELLA LEWIS (Dancer) hails from Los Angeles, CA, where she began her dance training at the Lula Washington Dance Theatre at the age of 3. She then continued her studies at the Los Angeles County High School for the Arts (LACHSA). She later received her BFA from the Purchase Conservatory of Dance, where she was awarded the Adopt-A-Dancer Scholarship. While at Purchase, Marcella performed works by Doug Varone, Gregory Dolbashian, madboots, Kevin Wynn and Ori Flooman. Marcella has completed summer programs at the San Francisco Conservatory of Dance, Hubbard Street Dance and Alonzo King Lines Ballet, where she was awarded the Homer Avila Scholarship. Marcella joined Abraham.In.Motion in 2016.

JEREMY "JAE" NEAL (Dancer) was born and raised in Michigan and received his training from Western Michigan University. There, he performed in professional works such as Strict Love by Doug Varone, Temporal Trance by Frank Chavez and Harrison McEldowney's Dance Sport. Since relocating to New York Jeremy has had the privilege of working with SYREN Modern Dance, Christina Noel Reaves, Catapult Entertainment, Katherine Helen Fisher Dance, and Nathan Trice. Jeremy joined Abraham.In.Motion in 2011.

Artists lead complicated lives. They collect material for new work, they often teach and engage with community groups and they are always developing their craft.

In **SIDE NOTES**, we are providing good reads and fun facts to give you a sense of who our visiting artists are and what makes them do what they do. Contributing writers include students, faculty, staff and alumni from the extended Clarice family.



ABRAHAM.IN.MOTION

On Wednesday evening, dancers from Abraham.In.Motion conducted a workshop for people identifying as LGBTQ here on campus. The workshop was designed two years ago when ideas started coming together for Kyle about the piece now called Dearest Home.

Now that the completed work is touring, the company is presenting a version of that original workshop in communities around the country. The workshop invites participants to recall, contemplate, and discuss their experiences of love, longing, and loss through a series of activities, including writing love letters, mapping memories of love through guided visualization and drawing, creating love mixtapes, and more.

The workshop on Wednesday was attended by 15 people of all ages, all of whom are in attendance at tonight's performance. They will participate in the post-performance reflection and Q&A and then a reception hosted by members of the company will culminate their immersive experience into this material.

Pre-performance workshops are supported by Engaging Dance Audiences (EDA), administered through Dance/USA and made possible with generous funding from the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation. Kyle Abraham/Abraham.In.Motion is a grant recipient for the EDA funding. Special thanks to Sika Wheeler in the LGBT Equity Office here at UMD for her help to organize this experience for the UMD community.

ABOUT THE ARTIST PARTNER PROGRAM

THE ARTIST PARTNER PROGRAM at The Clarice curates a multi-arts performance with regional, national and international artists and creative innovators program dedicated to creating performance and learning opportunities for students and our community through artist residencies workshops, master classes, K-12 student matinees and artistic exchange. We believe artists can be a catalyst for community change, leadership and empowerment.

As part of a major public research university, the Artist Partner Program is committed to the creation and investigation of new work and new ways of participating in the performing arts.

The Artist Partner Program has three primary missions:

To supplement and extend the academic learning and investigation of the classroom for UMD students;

To provide artistic and cultural opportunities as part of the UMD experience for students, faculty, staff, alumni and university friends;

To enhance and develop the artistic and cultural ecology of the community that surrounds and supports the university.

Visit theclarice.umd.edu/app for more info.

UPCOMING VISITING ARTIST SERIES PERFORMANCES

ST. LAWRENCE STRING QUARTET (CANADA)

THU, MAR 1 . 8PM

This world-class chamber ensemble brings every piece of music to the audience in vivid color.

LINDA MAY HAN OH GRP (MALAYSIA/AUSTRALIA/USA)

THU, MAR 8 . 7PM & 9PM

MILKBOY ARTHOUSE

Though the bass rarely takes center stage, in this jazz performance, Linda Oh showcases the instrument's funky, soulful potential.

CYRO BAPTISTA & BANQUET OF THE SPIRITS (BRAZIL)

FRI, MAR 16 . 8PM

MILKBOY ARTHOUSE

A wild, unstoppable world beat percussive band featuring international musicians and spontaneous dance breaks!

RENÉ MARIE (USA) **EXPERIMENT IN TRUTH**

THU, MAR 29 . 7PM & 9PM

MILKBOY ARTHOUSE

This GRAMMY-nominated vocalist borrows various elements of folk, R&B and even classical and country to create a captivating style uniquely her own.

600 HIGHWAYMEN (USA)

THE FEVER

WED, APR 4 - FRI, APR 6 . 8PM

SAT, APR 7 . 2PM

This theatrical piece, performed in collaboration with the audience, examines how we care for people in light of a continuing legacy of violence and cruelty.

SIRIUS QUARTET (USA)

THU, APR 19 . 8PM

MILKBOY ARTHOUSE

This inventive contemporary quartet's forward-thinking, multi-genre approach includes collaborations in post-rock, avant-jazz and electronic music.

AAKASH ODEDRA (UK/INDIA)

RISING

WED, MAY 9 . 8PM

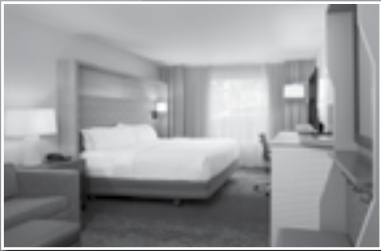
Rooted in traditional Indian dance, Aakash Odedra's style is graceful, provocative and unflinching. Featuring solo pieces from the UK's most thrilling choreographers.



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UPCOMING PERFORMANCES

February 23

**MISS, UNDERSTAND ME AND
WESTON SMITH**

with Tild, Copes

February 24

AMATEUR STAND-UP COMEDY NIGHT

February 25

BLACK GUY FAWKES

with The Milestones, Gage Rhodes, Ocean Childe

March 1

ELIZABETH ACEVEDO

TOTUS Spoken Word Experience's Mixed Monologues

March 2

US AND US ONLY

with Pet, Chaz Monroe, DOKI DOKI JEFF

March 3

ECHOHEART EP RELEASE SHOW

with Better Homes, Pixel Face, Echo 2 Locate,
Flying Jacob



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APP Visiting Artists Third Coast Percussion engage with K-12 students during a special matinee performance.



NURTURE THE FUTURE OF THE ARTS

We believe artists can be catalysts for community change, leadership and empowerment.

This season, our Visiting Artists will:

- **CREATE** opportunities for young audiences to experience live performances and creative conversations through the K-12 School Partner Program
- **ENHANCE** our understanding of the world through Do Good Dialogues, exploring social justice and the ways the human spirit informs art
- **SUPPORT** creation and development of new work by UMD students through master classes, coaching and performances of their work by visiting artists
- **ENGAGE** students through intimate, unplugged performances in residence halls throughout the year, creating connections through art, food, and shared experiences

Immerse yourself in a world of artistic discovery with our 2017-2018 visiting artists and strengthen the future of the arts by making your gift today.

To support the Visiting Artist Series visit theclarice.umd.edu/make-gift. Or call 301.405.4517.

THE CLARICE

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