Hop Co-commission

Kyle Abraham/Abraham.In.Motion

Dearest Home

Post-performance discussions with the artists


Funded in part 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.

Thu • September 21, 2017 • 7 pm
Fri • September 22, 2017 • 8 pm
The Moore Theater • Dartmouth College
Tonight's performance is presented without an intermission.
Program contains nudity.

Dearest Home (2017)
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, Tamisha Guy, Catherine Ellis Kirk, Marcella Lewis, Jeremy “Jae” Neal, Connie Shiau

Artistic Director ....................................................................................................................... Kyle Abraham
Executive Director .................................................................................................................... Joe Stackell
Production Manager .................................................................................................................. Dan Stearns
Company Manager .................................................................................................................... Hillary Kooistra

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.

Generous support for Kyle Abraham/Abraham.In.Motion provided by Emma A. Sheafer Charitable Trust; 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; Mertz-Gilmore Foundation; New England Foundation for the Arts’ National Dance Project with funding from the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation; New York Community Trust; Princess Grace Foundation-USA; The Rockefeller Brothers Fund; The Samuel H. Scripps Foundation; and The Shubert Foundation. Public funding provided by The National Endowment for the Arts and The New York State Council on the Arts with support of Governor Andrew Cuomo and the New York State Legislature.

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.
Choreographer’s Note

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 fraught 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 two-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 1990s. 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, Liz Lerman, Mathew Sandoval 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

About the Artists

Kyle Abraham artistic director, choreographer, 2016 Doris Duke Recipient and 2015 City Center Choreographer in Residence, 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, PA. He continued his dance studies in New York, receiving a BFA from SUNY Purchase and an MFA from NYU Tisch School of the Arts and most recently, an honorary Doctorate in Fine Arts from Washington Jefferson College in 2014. 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
About the Artists continued

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 On The Boards, South Miami-Dade Cultural Arts Center, REDCAT, Philly Live Arts, Portland’s Time Based Arts Festival, Jacob’s Pillow Dance Festival, Danspace Project, Dance Theater Workshop, Bates Dance Festival, Harlem Stage, Fall for Dance Festival at New York’s City Center, Montreal, Germany, Jordan, Ecuador, Dublin’s Project Arts Center, The Okinawa Prefectural Museum & Art Museum located in Okinawa Japan, The Andy Warhol Museum 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 three-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.

In 2011, OUT Magazine labeled Abraham as the “best and brightest creative talent to emerge in New York City in the age of Obama.” Kyle Abraham/Abraham.In.Motion last performed at the Hopkins Center in 2016.

About the Company
The mission of Kyle Abraham/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. AIM 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, visit abrahaminmotion.org.

Matthew Baker dancer hails from Ann Arbor, MI. He received his BFA ('08) in dance from Western Michigan University. In New York City, 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, Baker works with the artistic director and his colleagues to maintain and develop the company’s repertory. Baker was the recipient of a Distinguished Alumni Award from his alma mater in 2014. He joined Kyle Abraham/Abraham.In.Motion in 2011.

Tamisha Guy 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
About the Artists continued

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, Martha Graham, and others. In 2013 Guy graduated with honors from SUNY Purchase College and joined the Martha Graham Company shortly after, and in 2014 joined Kyle Abraham's Abraham.In.Motion. In 2016 Guy was selected as one of Dance Magazine's Top 25 to Watch and she also received the 2016 Princess Grace Award. She joined Abraham.In.Motion in 2014.

Catherine Ellis Kirk dancer is originally from Dallas, TX. 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, Kirk has had the pleasure of working with Danaka Dance and Chihiro Shimizu and Artists, and apprenticing for Sidra Bell Dance NY. Kirk is currently dancing for UNA-Projects, Helen Simoneau Danse, and is thrilled to continue with Abraham.In.Motion.

Marcella Lewis dancer hails from Los Angeles, CA, where she began her dance training at the Lula Washington Dance Theatre at the age of three. 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, Lewis performed works by Doug Varone, Gregory Dolbashian, madboots, Kevin Wynn and Ori Flooman. Lewis 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. She 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, Neal has had the privilege of working with SYREN Modern Dance, Christina Noel Reaves, Catapult Entertainment, Katherine Helen Fisher Dance and Nathan Trice. He joined Abraham.In.Motion in 2011.

Connie Shiau dancer grew up in Tainan, Taiwan. She was accepted into the dance conservatory at SUNY Purchase college in 2008, after training at the high school program at Taipei National University of the Arts. She has had the privilege to work with Gallim Dance, Kevin Wynn Collective and Adam Burrach Dance. Shiau is a recipient of the 2014 Reverb Dance Festival Best Dancer Award. She was also given the title of Honorable Mention for the 2014 Jadin Wong Award for Emerging Asian American Dancer. Shiau has assisted Kyle Abraham in setting new repertory work on Princeton University and Point Park University. She joined Abraham.In.Motion in May 2013.

Jerome Begin composer, called a “fabulous composer-pianist” and an “unimpeachable” choice of collaborator by The New York Times, has had his works performed throughout the US, Europe and Asia, including a nationally televised performance of his score for Bill T. Jones/Arnie Zane Dance
About the Artists continued

Company for President Obama at the 2010 Kennedy Center Honors. Other dance commissions include works for Hubbard Street Dance, Chicago; The Juilliard School; Brian Brooks Moving Company; Keigwin + Company; Gallim Dance; Sean Curran Company; Sacramento, Richmond and Alabama Ballet, and many others. His music was featured in the PBS American Masters on Bill T. Jones work. Recent projects include: Kwaidan, a large-scale multimedia opera installation based on traditional Japanese ghost stories; NEVEREND, an evening-length dance work for Jin Ju Song-Begin/Da-On Dance; the score of the documentary Flex is Kings; and an album with Chris Lancaster in their synth/cello duo band, Tranimal. Current projects include new works for Brian Brooks Moving Company, Loni Landon Dance Projects. Begin currently serves on the faculty of The Juilliard School.

Carrie Schneider filmmaker is an artist working in performative photography, film, and video. Exhibitions include: The Andy Warhol Museum, Pittsburgh; the Third Azerbaijan Biennial in Baku; Gallery 44, Toronto; Kunsthal Charlottenborg, Copenhagen; Istanbul’s santralistanbul; and The Finnish Museum of Photography, Helsinki. Awards include the Joan Mitchell Foundation Residency Fellowship, and production grants from the Jerome Foundation and the Finnish Center for Media Culture (AVEK). Schneider attended Carnegie Mellon University (BFA 2001), The Art Institute of Chicago (MFA 2007), the Skowhegan School of Painting and Sculpture (2007) and the Finnish Academy of Fine Arts, Helsinki, as a Fulbright Fellow (2008). Currently she is faculty at the International Center of Photography in New York.

Dan Scully lighting & set design is a New York-based lighting and projection designer, and has been designing for Kyle Abraham/Abraham.In. Motion for over ten years, including the full-length evening works Pavement, Live! The Realest M.C., and the Bessie Award-winning The Radio Show. Recent work includes Rocky (Broadway), Jedermann (Salzburger Festspiele), The Orchestra Rocks! (Carnegie Hall) and Another Night (Alvin Ailey). Regional: Trinity Rep, GEVA, Asolo Rep, Cleveland Playhouse, Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival and Two River Theater Company. MFA-NYU/Tisch.

Dan Stearns production manager is a lighting designer, scenic designer and production manager interested in the intersections of dance, theater, music and video. In addition to Abraham.In.Motion, recent collaborations include Jane Comfort and Company, Pavel Zuštiak/Palissimo, LeeSaar The Company, Scott Ebersold, Paul H. Bedard/Theater in Asylum, Tara Ahmadinejad/Piehole and Tami Stronach. He has worked in venues such as BAM, The Joyce, New York Live Arts, La MaMa, Abrons Arts Center, HERE, Dixon Place and 3LD in New York; and internationally from France to Korea and many places in between. He is a graduate of NYU’s Tisch School of the Arts.

Connecting Artists to the Community

While at Dartmouth, Kyle Abraham and members of Abraham.In.Motion met with Dartmouth students in Residential House communities, led workshops for teens in Windsor and White River Junction, taught a public Dance Master Class, presented a Pre-Show Talk entitled Moving Through Memory and participate in post-performance discussions. For more information on Hop Outreach & Arts Education, call 603.646.2010 or visit hop.dartmouth.edu/online/outreach.
**Upcoming Events**

**Film: *Bronx Gothic***

Thu • October 5 • 7:30 pm

Andrew Rossi’s (*Page One*) doc profiles performer Okwui Okpokwasili and her singular stage piece about the experience of being a “brown girl” in America.

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**Malpaso Dance Company**

Thu • January 11 • 7 pm  
Fri • January 12 • 8 pm

Thrilling program from a company at the forefront of Cuba’s emerging contemporary dance scene.

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**Dada Masilo**  
**Giselle**

Fri & Sat • March 30 & 31 • 8 pm

South African choreographer’s searing reinterpretation of classical ballet about betrayal, heartbreak and revenge.

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**Dartmouth Dance Ensemble**  
with Dartmouth Symphony Orchestra

Fri & Sat • May 25 & 26 • 8 pm

In two theaters linked by technology, two ensembles perform a new adaptation of Stravinsky's classic ballet, *Petrushka*.

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