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# LINCOLN CENTER PRESENTS

## A.I.M BY KYLE ABRAHAM

SEPTEMBER 25–27, 2025 AT 7PM

ROSE THEATER

**Artistic Director** Kyle Abraham\*\* (he/him)

**Executive Director** Emily Waters (she/her)

**Director of Development** Lesedi Ntsele Stofsky (she/her)

**Producing Director** Vernon Scott (he/him)

**General Manager** Anne Dechêne (she/her)

**Rehearsal Director** Jessica Tong (she/her)

**Production Stage Manager** Meredith Belis (she/her)

**Lighting Supervisor** Dan Stearns (he/him)

**Performers** Jamaal Bowman, Mykiah Goree, Alysia Johnson\*, Faith Joy Mondesire, Destin Morisset, William Okajima\*, Morgan Olschewske, Niya Smith, Keturah Stephen, Gianna Theodore, Olivia Wang, Jayden Williams (swing)

*\*Princess Grace Award Recipient / \*\*Princess Grace Statue Award*

## NOTE FROM ARTISTIC DIRECTOR KYLE ABRAHAM

There's so much to say when reflecting on 20 years of having a dance company in this complicated day and age.

I'm humbled by the hardships and honored that the company is still on an upwards trajectory of something much larger and more impactful than I ever imagined.

This live music program is meant to encapsulate A.I.M's shared journey and love for collaborative artistic expression.

The works on this evening's program are made above all things from love, pride, and history.

From our most recent work on this evening's program, *2x4* (2025), to our 2021 work, *If We Were a Love Song*, set to the music of Nina Simone, to 2014's *The Gettin'*, there is a journey of strife and support.

Created during my tenure as a Resident Commissioned Artist at New York Live Arts from 2012–2014, *The Gettin'* draws inspiration from jazz legend Max Roach's seminal album, *We Insist! Freedom Now Suite*. This album, originally intended to be released in 1963 to mark the centennial of the *Emancipation Proclamation*, was released in the fall of 1960 due to the severity sparked by the sit-ins in Greensboro, NC, and the urgency of the growing civil rights movement in the US and South Africa.

I keep going back to Roach's response when asked about the song, "Freedom Day": *"Freedom itself was so hard to grasp... we don't really understand what it really is to be free."*

In 2025, the questioning of universal freedom is omnipresent. It is as layered and nuanced as the ways in which our personal perception of privilege is unpacked and processed.

As we look back on the murder of Eric Garner referenced in *The Gettin'*, it lands as a haunting reminder of an ongoing struggle for racial equality and continued police violence towards Black and Brown lives.

The conversations and calls to action in 2020 spoke of the horrific murders of George Floyd and Brianna Taylor.

Bringing *The Gettin'* back into our repertory hopefully reminds people that these struggles have in no way disappeared.

In continued response, I created *If We Were a Love Song* to acknowledge and highlight a necessary narrative of Black Love and self-love in hopes of uplifting so many who've felt silenced and discouraged.

The most recent work on this program, *2x4*, is in some ways an ode to form and a hopeful call for unity and support.

I thank you for your support and encouragement over the years. Thank you to all of our collaborators, audiences, administrators, and donors, past and present.

Thank you for helping me bring my dreams to life.

—Kyle Abraham

## PROGRAM

### **2X4 (2025)\***

**Choreography** Kyle Abraham in collaboration with A.I.M

**Music** Shelley Washington

**Music Performed By** Guy Dellacave and Thomas Giles

**Lighting Design** Dan Scully

**Costume Design** Reid Bartelme and Harriet Jung

**Visual Art** Devin B. Johnson

\*2x4 will only be performed 9/25 and 9/27

### **PERFORMERS**

**9/25** Mykiah Goree, William Okajima, Morgan Olschewske, Niya Smith

**9/27** Jamaal Bowman, Mykiah Goree, Morgan Olschewske, Olivia Wang

Shelley Washington, *Big Talk* courtesy of PSNY; *Black Mary* courtesy of People Places Records.

2x4 is co-commissioned in part by Gagosian for Social Abstraction, The Joyce Theater's Stephen and Cathy Weinroth Fund for New Work, The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, and the Moss Arts Center at Virginia Tech. 2x4 was created in part during a residency at the Weitz Center for Creativity at Carleton College in Northfield, Minnesota. Live music for 2x4 made possible by a grant from Omomuki Live Music for Dance.

### **IF WE WERE A LOVE SONG (2021)**

**Choreography** Kyle Abraham in collaboration with A.I.M

Music originally recorded and arranged by Nina Simone

**Performed and arranged by** Otis Brown III, featuring Luther Allison & Liany Mateo

**Vocals** Baby Rose

**Lighting Design** Dan Scully

**Costume Design** Kyle Abraham and Karen Young

### **PERFORMERS**

***Black Is the Color of My True Love's Hair***

**9/25 & 9/26** Jamaal Bowman, Alysia Johnson, Faith Joy Mondesire, Destin Morisset, Morgan Olschewske, Gianna Theodore, Jayden Williams

**9/27** Mykiah Goree, Faith Joy Mondesire, Destin Morisset, William Okajima, Keturah Stephen, Gianna Theodore, Olivia Wang

### ***Keeper Of The Flame\****

**9/25** Jayden Williams

**9/27** Keturah Stephen

\*Keeper Of The Flame will be performed on 9/25 and 9/27

***Little Girl Blue***

Gianna Theodore

**Ne Me Quitte Pas\***

**9/26** Kyle Abraham

*\*Ne Me Quitte Pas* will be performed on 9/26

***Don't Explain***

**9/25 & 9/26** Alysia Johnson, Niya Smith

**9/27** Jamaal Bowman, Mykiah Goree

***Wild Is The Wind***

**9/25 & 9/26** Destin Morisset

**9/27** William Okajima

***Images***

Faith Joy Mondesire

*\*Kyle Abraham's performance of Ne Me Quitte Pas* is dedicated in loving memory to Michéle Pesner, a dedicated supporter of dance, A.L.M. and Abraham's vision. The solo *Images* is dedicated in memory of Patricia Scipio-Brin.

**MUSIC LIST**

**"Black Is the Color of My True Love's Hair"**

**Music** Traditional

**"Keeper Of The Flame" (Performed 9/25 and 9/27)**

Written by Charles Derringer

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**"Ne Me Quitte Pas" (Performed 9/26)**

Written by Jacques Brel

Les Editions Jacques Brel (SABAM) and Warner Chappell Music France SA (SACEM). All rights administered by WC Music Corp.

**"Little Girl Blue"**

Written by Lorenz Hart & Richard Rodgers

Published by Universal Music Enterprises

**"Don't Explain"**

Written by Arthur Herzog Jr. & Billie Holiday

© Songs of Universal, Inc. (BMI)

**"Wild Is The Wind"**

Written by Ned Washington & Dimitri Tiomkin

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## **"Images"**

Written by Nina Simone

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*If We Were a Love Song* was made possible by the National Endowment for the Arts. The work was created in part through a residency at the Pillow Lab at Jacob's Pillow and during a residency at Kaatsbaan Cultural Park and LUMBERYARD, made possible by the Mellon Foundation. The work is commissioned by American Dance Festival with support from the Doris Duke/SHS Foundations Award for New Works.

### **INTERMISSION (9/25, 9/27)\***

*\*9/26 performance will have a brief pause, in place of intermission*

## **THE GETTIN' (2014)**

**Choreography** Kyle Abraham in collaboration with A.I.M

**Music** Robert Glasper's reimagining of *We Insist! Max Roach's Freedom Now Suite*

**Performed by** Otis Brown III featuring Luther Allison & Liany Mateo

**Vocals** Charenee Wade

**Set Design** Glenn Ligon

**Lighting and Video Design** Dan Scully

**Costume Design** Karen Young

**Restaged by** Matthew Baker and Tamisha A. Guy

### **Performers**

**9/25 & 9/26** Jamaal Bowman, Mykiah Goree, Faith Joy Mondesire, Destin Morisset, William Okajima, Keturah Stephen, Olivia Wang

**9/27** Jamaal Bowman, Alysia Johnson, Destin Morisset, William Okajima, Niya Smith, Gianna Theodore, Jayden Williams

*The Gettin'* was commissioned and produced by New York Live Arts through its Resident Commissioned Artist Program, with lead support from the Mellon Foundation. *The Gettin'* is supported, in part, by the New England Foundation for the Arts' National Dance Project, with lead funding from the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation and the Mellon Foundation. *The Gettin'* was developed, in part, through a production residency at On the Boards with support from the National Dance Project, with funding from the Mellon Foundation. Support for *The Gettin'* was also provided to New York Live Arts for the commissioning of this work by the MAP Fund.

## ABOUT THE COMPANY

**A.I.M by Kyle Abraham** has, for nearly two decades, been at the forefront of contemporary dance, becoming one of the most acclaimed touring companies in the world. Celebrating its 20th Anniversary in 2025, the company exemplifies "lush movement, infectious music and magnetic dancers..." as noted by *The New York Times*. A.I.M has been featured in *Vogue* and *Essence*, among many other publications, and was on the April 2025 cover of *Harper's Bazaar*. The company is described as a "postmodern gumbo" with an ardent voice and artistic process informed by robust conversations with people from diverse perspectives. A.I.M is based in Fort Greene, Brooklyn.

For more information, to get involved, or to purchase your A.I.M merchandise, please visit [aimbykyleabraham.org](http://aimbykyleabraham.org). Follow A.I.M on Instagram at @aimbykyleabraham and Kyle Abraham on Instagram at @kyle\_abraham\_original\_recipe

### COMPANY CREDITS

*Artistic Director:* Kyle Abraham (he/him)  
*Executive Director:* Emily Waters (she/her)

### A.I.M BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Kyle Abraham  
Suzanne Hall, Chair  
Cheryl Bergenfeld  
Adrienne Edwards  
Karen Hogan  
Mark A. Leavitt  
Glenn Ligon  
Jennifer Mandelson  
Wendy McCain  
Gary Mezzatesta  
Bebe Neuwirth  
Carrie Schneider  
Stephen Simcock  
Gilda Squire  
Julia Strickland  
Mickalene Thomas

### A.I.M STAFF

*Director of Development:* Lesedi Ntsele Stofsky (she/her)  
*Producing Director:* Vernon Scott (he/him)  
*General Manager:* Anne Dechêne (she/her)  
*Rehearsal Director:* Jessica Tong (she/her)  
*Production Stage Manager:* Meredith Bellis (she/her)  
*Artistic Engagement Manager:* Matthew Baker (he/him)  
*Marketing Manager:* Alexander Diaz (he/they)  
*Development Associate:* Danielle LeBron (she/her)  
*Lighting Supervisor:* Dan Stearns (he/him)  
*Press Agent:* Chris Constable (he/him)  
*Financial Services:* Lucy Mallett (she/her) and Julia Corrigan (she/her), Arts FMS  
*Wardrobe Supervisor:* Miguel Chamberlain (he/him)

## MEET THE ARTISTS

PHOTO CREDIT: CARRIE SCHNEIDER



### KYLE ABRAHAM

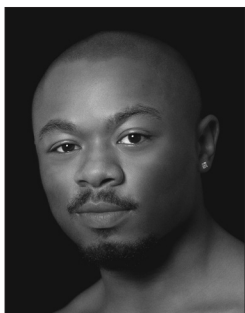
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Kyle Abraham (Founder and Artistic Director, A.I.M. by Kyle Abraham; he/him) has premiered his work to international audiences and acclaim since 2005. Abraham has been profiled in *Document Journal*, *Vanity Fair*, *Ebony*, *Harper's Bazaar*, *Kinfolk*, *O Magazine*, *Paper*, *Surface*, *Vogue & Vogue UK*, and *W Magazine*, among many other publications. He was recently nominated for an Olivier Award for Best New Dance Production (2025 – *An Untitled Love* at Sadler's Wells); Rose Prize for International Dance nominee (2025 – *An Untitled Love*); the proud recipient of two National Dance Critics Awards for Choreography (2024 – *Are You in Your Feelings* | Alvin Ailey Dance Theater and 2025 *Love Letter (on shuffle)* | New York City Ballet); *Dance Magazine* Award (2022); Princess Grace Statue Award (2018); Doris Duke Award (2016), and the MacArthur Fellowship (2013). In addition to performing and developing new works for his company, Abraham has been commissioned by a wide variety of dance companies, including American Ballet Theatre, Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, The National Ballet of Cuba, New York City Ballet, Paul Taylor American Modern Dance, and The Royal Ballet. In 2024, Abraham premiered three new works to much acclaim: the evening-length work, *Cassette Vol. I* in Hamburg, Germany; *Mercurial Son* for American Ballet Theatre in October and in December, *Dear Lord, Make Me Beautiful* at the Park Avenue Armory, which Jennifer Homans of *The New Yorker* called an "Extraordinary Dance Memoir." Abraham has led and curated several performance series, including the Danspace Project (2024 / 50th anniversary season) and Lincoln Center's Summer for the City (2023, 2022), among others. In 2020, Abraham was the first-ever guest editor for *Dance Magazine*. He serves as the Claude and Alfred Mann Endowed Professor in Dance at the University of Southern California Gloria Kaufman School of Dance (2021–). Abraham sits on the advisory board for *Dance Magazine* and Hubbard Street Dance Chicago. He is a member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, The Inaugural Black Genius Brain Trust, and the inaugural cohort of the Dorchester Industries Experimental Design Lab, a partnership between the Prada Group, Theaster Gates Studio, Dorchester Industries, and Rebuild Foundation.



## DANCERS

PHOTO CREDIT: CARRIE SCHNEIDER



### JAMAAL BOWMAN

Jamaal Bowman (he/him) began his dance training at the age of 14 in Maryland, where he was born and raised. In 2021, he graduated from the University of the Arts in Philadelphia, PA, as a Director's Scholar under the direction of Donna Faye Burchfield. Over the years, he has collaborated with Nora Chipaumire, Tommie Waheed-Evans, Maleek Washington, Helen Pickett, Fana Fraser, Jocelyn Cottencin, Nacera Belaza, and Sidra Bell. In November 2021, Bowman

toured with Von Howard Project to Ecuador to perform in the International Living Arts Festival of Loja. Most recently, he has performed as a company member with Kun-Yang Lin/Dancers for their 2021–2022 season. His personal practices are centered around queer Black joy, theater, improvisation, and comedy. He hopes to reshape the future for queer Black people like him, to give them more opportunities to shine. Bowman joined A.I.M by Kyle Abraham in 2022.

PHOTO CREDIT: CARRIE SCHNEIDER



### MYKIAH GOREE

Mykiah Goree (he/him), a native of Houston, TX, received his early dance training from Houston Ballet Academy and Kinder HSPVA under the direction of Melissa Bowman and Janie Carothers, respectively. He attended summer programs with Ballet Austin, BodyTrac, and Peridance. While at Juilliard, he performed works by Tiler Peck, Rena Butler, Jamar Roberts, Ohad Naharin, Trisha Brown, Camille A. Brown, and Omar Román de Jesús. Mykiah's choreographic

work was selected for Juilliard's Choreographers and Composers 2022, MOVE|NYC's summer intensive, Juilliard's Senior Production 2024, and Juilliard's Choreographic Honors. He is a certified Pilates instructor and has served on the Juilliard Black Student Union board. Mykiah is very grateful to all who have built him into the human being and artist that he is today. Mykiah joined A.I.M by Kyle Abraham in January 2024.

PHOTO CREDIT: CARRIE SCHNEIDER



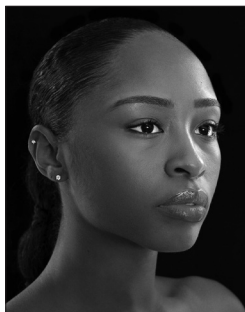
## ALYSIA JOHNSON

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Alysia Johnson (she/her), a native of Dallas, TX, Alysia began her training at Dallas Black Dance Theatre and Booker T. Washington HSPVA under Lily Weiss. She expanded her skills through summer programs at renowned institutions like Joffrey Ballet, Alvin Ailey, LINES Ballet, and Jacob's Pillow. Alysia launched her professional career with Bruce Wood Dance Company before attending The Juilliard School, earning her BFA. She has since taught and choreographed for

institutions including Princeton University, Hubbard Street Dance Chicago, and Jacob's Pillow. In 2021, Alysia received the Princess Grace Honoraria Award for Dance through Hubbard Street, where she was a company member. Known for her versatility, Alysia has been featured in campaigns with Tory Burch and Adidas. She recently joined Boom Crack Dance Company and continues producing genre-bending, community-centered events. Alysia credits her success to the support of her community and her mother, Galen Johnson. Alysia joined A.I.M by Kyle Abraham in January 2025.

PHOTO CREDIT: CARRIE SCHNEIDER



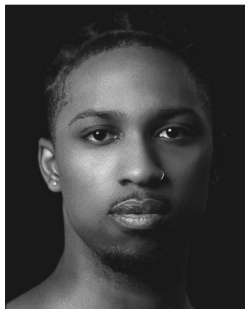
## FAITH JOY MONDESIRE

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Faith Joy Mondesire (she/her), a Brooklyn-born dancer, joined A.I.M by Kyle Abraham in 2023. Her roots in dance started as a liturgical dancer at her local church. Later, she worked with choreographers such as Joseph Hernandez, Sidra Bell, Kristen Foote, Melanie Gambino, Doug Varone, and Abdel R. Salaam and Dyane Harvey (Forces of Nature Dance Theater), among others. She has performed at DanceAfrica (BAM), NJPAC, The Apollo, and elsewhere. *Dance Magazine*

published her feature, "I'll Never Forget My First Pair of Flesh Tone Tights," in 2020. Training: Edge School of The Arts, Brooklyn Dance Project, Restoration Youth Arts Academy, LaGuardia High School, SUNY Purchase, and Alonzo King Lines Ballet Summer Intensive.

PHOTO CREDIT: ALEXANDER DIAZ



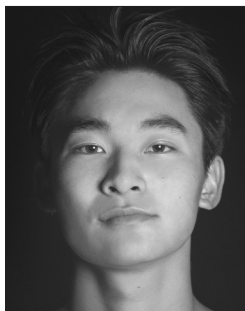
## DESTIN MORISSET

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Destin Morisset (he/him), born and raised in Queens, New York, is a graduate of LaGuardia Arts High School and SUNY Purchase Conservatory of Dance. He has trained at MOVE|NYC and French Academie of Ballet. Destin is a recipient of the 2021 Gregg Burge Award and 2025 Outstanding Senior in Dance at SUNY Purchase. He has performed works by choreographers such as Alvin Ailey, Norbert De La Cruz III, Chanel DaSilva, Greg Lau, Roderick

George, Jie-hung Connie Shiau, LajaMartin, Doug Varone, Kevin Wynn, and Yue Yin. Destin was formerly a company artist with The Dash Ensemble led by Gregory Dolbashian. Morisset joined A.I.M by Kyle Abraham in 2025.

PHOTO CREDIT: CARRIE SCHNEIDER



## WILLIAM OKAJIMA

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Originally from Irvine, CA, William Okajima's (he/him) love for music and dance originated from a young age, growing up in a household full of artists. Will's extensive training began at Orange County School of the Arts, and supplemented his dance training at both Westside Dance Project and Dmitri Kulev Classical Ballet Academy. At just age 13, Will obtained his first professional dance role in Sia's "The Greatest" music video, and fell in love with

the commercial world. Since then, he continues to be a part of Los Angeles' vibrant commercial dance scene, featuring in nationwide advertisements (Honda, Apple, Pull & Bear), as well as international campaigns. Most recently, Will traveled to Dubai to feature in the country's latest tourism film. A recent graduate from the USC Gloria Kaufman School of Dance, Will received a BFA in Dance under the guidance of individuals including Kyle Abraham, Bret Easterling, Jermaine Spivey, Jodie Gates, and William Forsythe. At Kaufman, Will has performed featured roles in works by Jiri Kylian, Micaela Taylor, Tyce Diorio, Desmond Richardson, Dwight Rhoden, and Hope Boykin. Will also received a minor in entrepreneurship through the USC Marshall School of Business. In doing so, Will hopes that his studies of the intersections between dance performance and personal branding will allow him to tackle the demands of the commercial and concert dance world with a uniquely informed academic perspective. Will is a 2025 Princess Grace Award Winner. Okajima joined A.I.M by Kyle Abraham in 2024.

PHOTO CREDIT: CARRIE SCHNEIDER



## MORGAN OLSCHESKE

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Morgan Olschewske (she/her), is a Korean-American movement artist raised in Jacksonville, FL. She began her training at Arts Edge School of Dance and Florida Ballet Conservatory under the direction of Linda Reifsnnyder-Jenkins. She graduated with her Bachelor of Fine Arts in Dance from George Mason University. Throughout her educational and professional career, she has had opportunities to perform works by Doug Varone, Manuel Vignoulle, Robert

Battle, Rena Butler, Sidra Bell, and Antoine Vereecken. Her passion for learning and moving has led her to study at Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival as a part of their Contemporary Dance Ensemble in 2022, A.I.M.'s Summer Intensive in 2023, and Ballet BC's inaugural 44 Summer Intensive. Olschewske joined A.I.M in 2024.

PHOTO CREDIT: ALEXANDER DIAZ



## NIYA SMITH

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Niya Smith (she/her), is an Atlanta, GA native. She began her training at Dancemakers of Atlanta under the direction of Denise Heard Latimer and Lynise Heard. She has attended summer programs with BODYTRAFFIC, Alonzo King Lines Ballet, Complexions Contemporary Ballet, and A.I.M by Kyle Abraham. She received her BFA in dance from the Conservatory of Dance at Purchase College. During her time at Purchase, she performed works by George

Balanchine, Yue Yin, Alvin Ailey, and Kevin Wynn. Niya gives thanks and gratitude to those who have helped shape her into the person and artist she is today. Smith joined A.I.M by Kyle Abraham in 2025.

PHOTO CREDIT: CARRIE SCHNEIDER



## KETURAH STEPHEN

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Keturah Stephen (she/her), a Brooklyn native, began her dance journey at Restoration Youth Arts Academy, where she trained in modern, African, and hip-hop. She attended Brooklyn High School of the Arts, as well as The Ailey School. She is a graduate of the Conservatory of Dance at SUNY Purchase College. Stephen attended the MOVE|NYC Young Professionals Program, led by co-directors and co-founders Chanel DaSilva and Nigel Campbell. Throughout the course of

her training, she has worked with and performed works by Earl Mosley, Loni Landon, Roderick George, Trisha Brown, and Antonio Brown. Stephen appeared in the movie *In the Heights*, under the direction of Ebony Williams in 2019. Stephen joined A.I.M by Kyle Abraham in 2022.

PHOTO CREDIT: CARRIE SCHNEIDER



## GIANNA THEODORE

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Raised in West Palm Beach, FL, Gianna (she/her) began her dance training at Ballet East Studio under the direction of Susan Lyle and Chelsea Nasby. Gianna is a graduate of A.W. Dreyfoos School of the Arts and a three-time YoungArts Merit Scholar/Honorable Mention. She graduated with a BFA in dance from the Ailey/Fordham BFA program Class of 2020. Throughout the course of her training, she has performed works by Robert Battle, Chuck Wilt, and Bradley Sheller. She

attended Springboard Danse Montreal, where she performed work created by RUBBERBANDANCE, and Parts & Labour Danse. Gianna has ventured through many cultures and styles of dance, such as house and African, which has helped land her lead roles in music videos. She has also performed professionally with artists such as Ebony Williams, Mark Caserta, Maleek Washington, and Jennifer Archibald. She recently performed during a residency with Helen Simoneau Danse. Gianna joined A.I.M by Kyle Abraham in 2019.

PHOTO CREDIT: CARRIE SCHNEIDER



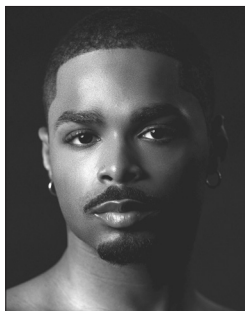
## OLIVIA WANG

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Olivia Wang (she/her), originally from Queens, NY, is a first-generation Chinese American artist. She has recently graduated with a BFA in Dance from the Conservatory of Dance at SUNY Purchase College. She has trained at The Ailey School, French Academie of Ballet, and was a part of the inaugural class of MOVE|NYC. Olivia has had the opportunity to perform works by Keerati Jinakunwiphat, Norbert De La Cruz III, Martha Graham, Michiyaya, Nigel Campbell, Kyle

Abraham, and Roderick George. Wang has attended summer programs at A.I.M., Martha Graham, MOVE|NYC, and Hubbard Street. She is an Actors Equity and SAG-AFTRA member. Wang joined A.I.M by Kyle Abraham in 2024.

PHOTO CREDIT: ALEXANDER DIAZ



## JAYDEN CHRISTIAN WILLIAMS

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Jayden Christian Williams (he/him) is a dance artist from Brooklyn, NY. Jayden is also a graduate of LaGuardia Arts High School and a recent graduate of Point Park University, where he earned his BFA in dance with a concentration in modern. In 2018, he joined MOVE|NYC's Young Professionals Program under the direction of Nigel Campbell and Chanel DaSilva. Williams has trained at the French Academie of Ballet and has received scholarships to train with Ballet

Hispanico, Complexions Contemporary Ballet, and Movement Invention Project. In 2023, Jayden performed in the restaged work *Flight* by Jae Man Joo at the Joyce Theater. Williams has performed works by Mike Tyus, Jae Man Joo, Houston Thomas, Manuel Vignouille, Martha Nichols, Penny Saunders, Paul Taylor, Juel D. Lane, Annabelle Lopez Ochoa, Roderick George, Rennie Harris, and Karla Puno Garcia. Williams joined A.I.M by Kyle Abraham in 2025.

## CREATIVE TEAM BIOGRAPHIES

### LUTHER S. ALLISON

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"He's reamplifying the tradition of jazz piano and he's lifting up a legacy that's the foundation for many people" —*New York Times*. Accomplished multi-instrumentalist Luther S. Allison (Musician, *The Gettin'; If We Were a Love Song*) has set himself apart as one of the most in-demand artists in jazz today. The Charlotte, NC native is recognized for his blues-based, gospel inspired playing with deep roots in the tradition of bebop and soul music. Upon completion of his masters in music in 2019, Allison began a consistent international touring career on both instruments supporting the likes of Jazzmeia Horn, Helen Sung, Samara Joy, Rodney Whitaker, Etienne Charles, The Baylor Project, and Ulysses Owens Jr. Rated 4.5 stars by *Downbeat*, Allison's debut album, *I Owe It All To You* was described as "a portrait of a straight-ahead pianist who seems to have no weak points in his arsenal" —*Downbeat*. Allison is also featured as a sideman on numerous projects—notably the GRAMMY Award Winning single, "Tight," supporting vocalist Samara Joy. In addition to his work as a bandleader and sideman, Allison is a consummate educator and curator—having operated as Adjunct Jazz Faculty (4 years) and Chair of the Percussion Department (2 years) at The Calhoun School in New York City. Moreover, Allison has curated and music directed performances in conjunction with both the Louis Armstrong Museum and the National Jazz Museum in Harlem in New York, NY. As a composer, Allison has already begun to leave an indelible mark, leading to him being commissioned by Wynton Marsalis to compose an original work for the esteemed Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra. Alongside his achievements as a musician/composer/music director, Allison is featured as both an actor and recorded musician on Maggie Gyllenhaal's upcoming film *The Bride*, contributing on screen along with several recorded tracks for the film score. Luther Allison is a proud YAMAHA artist.

### REID BARTELME and HARRIET JUNG

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Reid Bartelme and Harriet Jung (Costume Design, *2x4*) met in 2009 while pursuing fashion design degrees at the Fashion Institute of Technology in New York. They started designing collaboratively in 2011 and have focused their practice primarily on costuming dance. They frequently design costumes for works by Pam Tanowitz, Kyle Abraham, and Justin Peck. They have devised costume-centric performances for commissions from the Museum of Art and Design and the Guggenheim Museum in New York City. In 2023 they made their Broadway design debut with Bob Fosse's *Dancin'*. Reid and Harriet have

completed research fellowships at NYU Center for Ballet and the Arts and the New York Public Library for the Performing Arts. They continue designing costumes and sets for dance productions around the world while expanding the scope of their practice outside the theater.

## OTIS BROWN III

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Grammy-nominated drummer Otis Brown III (Musician, *The Gettin'; If We Were a Love Song*) is committed to honoring tradition while pushing the boundaries of genre. Having grown up in Newark, NJ to the sounds of jazz, gospel, funk, and rhythm and blues, Otis believes music is a vessel for spiritual catharsis, storytelling, and advocacy. In his stellar career as a first call musician, he has recorded and toured with the likes of artists such as Herbie Hancock, Joe Lovano, Esperanza Spalding, Terence Blanchard, Robert Glasper, Somi, Gretchen Parlato, Kurt Elling, and many others. Having played with a literal "Who's Who" in the music world, he has also been a frequent collaborator in the world of modern dance. His most recent collaboration was with the Alvin Ailey American Dance theater for a new work titled *Finding Free* by Hope Boykin. He has previously worked with Kyle Abraham and A.I.M on the company's works *The Gettin'* with Robert Glasper, and *Absent Matter*, where he was co-composer of the music along with Oscar Award-winning composer Kris Bowers. Otis is also a bandleader in his own right. He released his critically acclaimed debut album *The Thought of You* on the Blue Note/Revive Music record label and the highly anticipated follow-up will be released in 2026.

## GUY DELLACAVE

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Guy Dellacave (Musician, *2x4*) is a classical saxophonist based in New York City. He holds both a Bachelor's and Master's degree from the Manhattan School of Music, where he studied under Dr. Paul Cohen. A passionate advocate for contemporary music, Guy has premiered numerous works across a range of genres, from solo pieces to orchestral compositions, many of which have been written by composers of his generation. As a member of the New York-based Vision Quartet and the bass clarinet choir Delicious Bass, Guy actively engages with new music, utilizing these platforms to explore innovative repertoire. He is equally adept in both contemporary and traditional saxophone works, earning awards for his chamber performances from the Fuchs Foundation and Pierrot Festival. In addition to his chamber work, Guy has performed with prominent ensembles such as the Greater Bridgeport Symphony, Park Avenue Chamber Symphony, Brooklyn Symphony Orchestra, New York Wind Orchestra, and Danse Theater Surreality.



## ROBERT GLASPER

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Robert Glasper (Composer, *The Gettin'*) is the leader of a new sonic paradigm with a career that bridges musical and artistic genres. To date, he boasts five Grammy wins and 15 nominations across nine categories, an Emmy Award for his song for Ava Duvernay's critically hailed documentary *13th* with Common and Karriem Riggins, and a Peabody Award for his Composition of *Mr. Soul!* His work and accolades bridge all aspects of the music business, from live touring to film scoring, composing, and producing. Evolution is his hallmark. Glasper's breakout crossover album *Black Radio* changed the face of the genre and set a new expectation for what popular music could be. The album won him the Grammy for best R&B album and established him as the musician of choice for some of the world's most iconic artists; notably playing keys throughout Kendrick Lamar's *To Pimp a Butterfly*, winning another Grammy for the elastic track "These Walls." The ongoing *Black Radio* series has since become Glasper's calling card, upholding a place at the heart of a trailblazing community: from long-time sonic brothers Mos Def and Bilal, to legends including Ledisi, Lupe Fiasco, Kanye West, Jill Scott, and Erykah Badu. Glasper's eternal pursuit to further his sound has been consistent in challenging and transforming his creative horizons across the board. Whether producing a remix album with Kaytranda or as a bandleader, Robert consistently defies the limits of the genre. This is evident in a portfolio that ranges from his acoustic jazz trio; which simultaneously defies and elevates the traditional idiom by uniting it effortlessly with electronics from visionary DJ Jahi Sundance, to August Greene; a collaboration with Common + Karriem Riggins, to R+R=Now; a supergroup at the crossroads of hip-hop and jazz. In the past year, Glasper has released three diverse albums under his exclusive deal with Apple Music. The holiday album *In December* features artists such as Cynthia Erivo and Andra Day, while *Let Go* offers a calming, soulful experience that helps listeners find their center. *Code Derivation* merges jazz and hip-hop, with each track presented in two versions—one in jazz, and the other flipped by a producer. The track "Say Less" was flipped by Glasper's son, Riley. *Code Derivation* has been nominated for a 2025 Grammy in the Best Alternative Jazz Album category.

## THOMAS GILES

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Thomas Giles (Musician, *2x4*), described as "breathtaking" (*New York Music Daily*), "insanely clever" (*ClassicFM*, United Kingdom), and "full of crystalline clarity" (*Südkurier*, Germany), performs the music of our time with tireless curiosity, imagination, and unwavering conviction. To date Giles has premiered more than 250 new works—many of which are dedicated to him. He has enjoyed working closely with many leading composers from Meredith Monk to Charles

Wuorinen to the American indie-rock duo Wye Oak. Recent premieres include works by Augusta Read Thomas, Chris Dench, and Nicola LeFanu. His growing body of solo repertoire hones a fascination with simultaneity and the multilimbic capacities of a single wind performer. Giles is a founding member of Telos Consort—a flexible new music quintet comprised of two saxophones, violin, cello, and piano. He is a regular guest performer with top ensembles including the Grammy-winning Experiential Orchestra, Alarm Will Sound, London's Royal Opera, New York City Opera orchestra, Opera Parallèle, Contemporaneous, and ensembles Signal, MISE-EN, Échappé, Metropolis, as well as the internationally renowned PRISM and Raschèr Saxophone Quartets. He has appeared at Carnegie Hall, Lincoln Center, Constellation Chicago, SFJAZZ, and abroad at Bachfest Leipzig, Heidelberg Kulturzentrum, Münster Musikhochschule, Szczecin International Saxophone Festival, Utrecht Bartholomeus Gasthuis, and the Cité de la Musique de Strasbourg. In 2022, Giles was a prizewinner at the prestigious Walter W. Naumburg International Saxophone Competition. A devoted teacher, Giles is Artist-Teacher of Saxophone at the Longy School of Music of Bard College in Cambridge, MA. He has been a guest on campuses across the nation, including The Juilliard School, Harvard, Princeton, University of Miami's Frost School of Music, the Hartt School, and UC Davis. He has held residencies at the Arts Academy of Szczecin (Poland), Landesgymnasium für Musik in Dresden (Germany), and as orchestral saxophonist for the National Music Festival, 2013–2017.

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## DEVIN B. JOHNSON

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Devin B. Johnson (Visual Art, 2x4) (b. 1992, Los Angeles) obtained his BA in Fine Arts from the California State University of Channel Islands (2015) and received a Masters of Fine Arts at Pratt Institute (2019). In addition to being named a 2023 Artist-in-Residence for Fountainhead, Miami, he was selected as an Artsy Vanguard (2022), named to Forbes 30 Under 30 Art and Design (2022) list, was included in Cultured's "Young Artists 2021," and was one of 16 artists from around the world selected for the inaugural year of the Black Rock Senegal residency (2020). His work is collected by Hammer Museum, LA; Los Angeles County Museum of Art; Museum of Contemporary Art, LA; Pond Society, Shanghai; Rubell Museum, Miami; Columbus Museum of Art; Longlati Foundation, Shanghai; and many others. Exhibitions include *Ritual of Welcome*, Nicodim Gallery, LA (2024, solo); *Black Rock Senegal*, Harvey B. Gantt Center for African-American Arts + Culture, NC (2024); *Social Abstraction*, curated by Antwaun Sargeant, Gagosian, LA and Hong Kong (2024); *The Ballad of the Children of the Czar*, Galeria Nicodim, Bucharest (2024); Samantha Joy Gro, Devin B. Johnson, Katherina Olschbaur, Nicodim, NY (2023); *Forms*, Jerrey Deitch and Gagosian, Miami (2023); *Galeria Nicodim, Bucharest: 10 Years*, Galeria Nicodim, Bucharest (2023); *PRESENT '23*, Columbus Museum of Art, Columbus (2023); Ritornellos,

Nicoletti Contemporary, London (2023); *MATERNITY LEAVE: NONE OF WOMEN BORN*, Nicodim in collaboration with the Green Family Art Foundation, Dallas (2023); Joshua Hagler, Devin B. Johnson, Nicola Samori, Hugo Wilson, Nicodim, LA (2023); *Night Owl*, Massimo de Carlo (2022); Dak'Art Biennial, Dakar, Senegal (2022); *Between Ground and Sky*, Nicodim, NY (2022, solo); *My Heart Cries, I Set Out an Oering for You*, Nicodim, LA (2021, solo); *Long Walk*, Galeria Nicodim, Bucharest (2021, solo); *Melody of a Memory*, Nicodim, LA (2020, solo); *When You Waked Up the Bualo*, Nicodim, LA (2020); *Hollywood Babylon: A Re-Inauguration of the Pleasure Dome*, Jeffrey Deitch, Nicodim, *AUTRE* Magazine, LA (2020); *Atmosphere of Certain Uncertainty*, Residency Gallery, Inglewood (2019, solo); and *Incognito*, ICA LA (2019).

## GLENN LIGON

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Glenn Ligon (Set Design, *The Gettin'*) is an artist living and working in New York. Throughout his career, Ligon has pursued an incisive exploration of American history, literature, and society across bodies of work that build critically on the legacies of modern painting and conceptual art. He earned his BA from Wesleyan University (1982) and attended the Whitney Museum Independent Study Program (1985). In 2011, the Whitney Museum of American Art held a mid-career retrospective, *AMERICA*, organized by Scott Rothkopf, that traveled nationally. Important solo exhibitions include *Glenn Ligon: All Over the Place*, The Fitzwilliam Museum at the University of Cambridge, England (2024); *Post-Noir*, Carre d'Art, Nîmes (2022); *Call and Response*, Camden Arts Centre, London (2014); and *Some Changes*, Power Plant Center for Contemporary Art, Toronto (traveled internationally) (2005). Select curatorial projects include *Grief and Grievance*, New Museum, New York (2021); *Blue Black*, Pulitzer Arts Foundation, St. Louis (2017); and *Encounters and Collisions*, Nottingham Contemporary and Tate Liverpool, England (2015). Ligon's work has been shown in major international exhibitions, including the Venice Biennale (2015, 1997), Berlin Biennial (2014), Istanbul Biennial (2019, 2011), and Documenta XI (2002).

## LIANY MATEO

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Named one of *Downbeat* Magazine's 25 for the future, Liany Mateo (Musician, *The Gettin'*; *If We Were a Love Song*) has traveled across the globe performing, touring, and teaching music. Influenced by a mix of hard-hitting straight-ahead swing, Free Avant Garde, and music with deep pocket groove. Mateo is the bassist for Arturo O'Farrill's *Legacies* album recorded on Blue Note records. Mateo was also featured on the PBS television show "NEXT at the Kennedy Center", as a featured artist introduced as Christian McBride's protege. She has performed with musicians such as Regina Carter, Geoffrey Keezer, Herlin Riley,

Carl Allen, Steve Wilson, Fay Victor, and Brandee Younger. She holds a jazz degree from the esteemed Michigan State University and a Master's degree from the Berklee Global Jazz Institute. In 2023, she won the esteemed "Next Jazz Legacy" Award and grant through New Music USA, led by Terri Lyne Carrington. You can find her playing across NYC's most notable venues such as Dizzy's, Smalls, The Jazz Gallery, The Django, and Mezzrow. In 2024, she was selected for the National Jazz Museum in Harlem's Curatorial Fellowship, programming events at the globally recognized museum.

## BABY ROSE

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Baby Rose (Vocals, *If We Were a Love Song*) makes healing music for the aimless and heartbroken. The Grammy-nominated singer/songwriter and producer's uniquely rich voice naturally lends itself to her powerful, smoke-filled ballads lamenting lost loves and broken futures. "I make music to help myself get through things," she says. The piercing honesty and vulnerability she brings to her lyrics in turn helps others process their feelings and find a place of healing. For Rose, it's a journey that's still ongoing. "If I'm going to leave anything behind, it's going to be getting people back to themselves," she says. "As I get back to myself, it's a constant reset: Remember who you are, remember who you want to be." Growing up in Washington, DC, the artist born Jasmine Rose Wilson first realized the power of her voice by reading aloud original poems at family gatherings. Despite being bullied for her lower vocal register throughout her childhood and teen years, she ultimately found comfort in songwriting and singing while playing her piano, inspired by the likes of Nina Simone, Billie Holiday, and Janis Joplin—strong women who also possessed unique voices.

## DAN SCULLY

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Dan Scully (Lighting Design, *2x4*, *If We Were a Love Song*, *The Gettin'*; Video Design, *The Gettin'*) is a New York-based lighting and projection designer. He has been the resident lighting designer for A.I.M. by Kyle Abraham since its founding, including designs for the full-length evening works *Pavement*, *Live! The Realdest M.C.*, and the Bessie Award-winning *The Radio Show*. Recent dance work includes designs for New York City Ballet, Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, BODYTRAFFIC, Hubbard Street Dance Chicago, and Misty Copeland, among others. Theater and concert credits include *Rocky* (Broadway), *Jedermann* (Salzburger Festspiele), *The Orchestra Rocks!* (Carnegie Hall), and *Peter and the Wolf* (John Lithgow / Carnegie Hall). Regional: Trinity Repertory Company, Geva Theatre Center, Asolo Repertory Theatre, Cleveland Playhouse, Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival, and the Two River Theater Company. MFA NYU Tisch School of the Arts.

## RISA STEINBERG

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Risa Steinberg (Artistic Advisor) has been an active member of the dance community for more than 35 years as a performer, teacher, re-constructor of the works of José Limón, and mentor to young and emerging choreographers. She has traveled the world performing and teaching extensively. She was born in New York City and graduated from The Juilliard School earning a Bachelors of Fine Arts. A former principal dancer with the José Limón Dance Company, Bill Cratty Dance Theater, Annabel Gamson, Anna Sokolow's Player's Project, Colin Connor, and American Repertory Dance Company of Los Angeles, Steinberg has also been a guest artist with choreographers including Wally Cardona, Seán Curran, and DanzaHoy of Caracas, Venezuela. She has been on faculty at The Juilliard School since 2001, and she held the position of Associate Director of Juilliard Dance from 2008-2016. She was a dance panelist for the New York State Council on the Arts and sits on the Artists Advisory board for the José Limón Dance Foundation and is on the selection committee of The Bessies. Steinberg was a cast member of *Sleep No More*.

## CHARENEE WADE

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Charenee Wade (Vocals, *The Gettin'*), first runner-up in the 2010 Thelonious Monk Vocal Competition and award-winning, critically acclaimed vocalist, arranger, educator, and composer from New York City, has excited audiences all over the world with her ingenuity and vibrancy through her artistry. Recipient of the 2017 Jazz at Lincoln Center Millennial Swing Award, Wade has worked with notable artists including Wynton Marsalis, Terri Lyne Carrington, Christian McBride, Winard Harper, Eric Reed, Jacky Terrason, Curtis Lundy, Robert Glasper, and Kyle Abraham (MacArthur Fellow). Wade's current CD, *Oering: The Music of Gil Scott-Heron and Brian Jackson*, is a powerful re-interpretation of the poet's musical library, which features notable artists including Lonnie Plaxico, Marcus Miller, Stefon Harris, Malcolm-Jamal Warner, and Christian McBride (spoken word).

## KAREN YOUNG

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Karen Young (Costume Design, *If We Were a Love Song*, *The Gettin'*) is a New York-based costume designer who has designed clothes for many of Kyle Abraham and A.I.M.'s works. For A.I.M. by Kyle Abraham, she designed the costumes for *An Untitled Love*, *Cassette Vol.II*, *The Gettin'*, *Drive*, and *INDY*. Recent projects with Kyle Abraham include his ballets *When We Fell* for New York City Ballet, *Mercurial Son* for American Ballet Theater, *Are You in Your Feelings?* for Alvin Ailey American Dancer Theater, and *The Weathering* for The Royal Ballet.

Her costume design work is also in the repertoires of the Martha Graham Dance Company, Paul Taylor Dance Company, Acosta Danza Cuba, Miami City Ballet, and Ballet Basel, as well as in works by choreographers Alejandro Cerrudo, Brian Brooks, Lucinda Childs, Richard Move, Sonya Tayeh, and Pontus Lidberg. Collaborations with contemporary visual artists include costume design for the video works of Eve Sussman, Matthew Barney, Michelle Handelman, and David Michalek. [karenyoungcostume.com](http://karenyoungcostume.com)

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