



Abraham.In.Motion (United States)

Pavement

Kyle Abraham

March 6. 7. 8, 2014

Théâtre Maisonneuve, Place des Arts

CREDITS

Length: 1 h 10

Choreography Kyle Abraham

In collaboration with Abraham.In.Motion

Dramaturge Charlotte Brathwaite

Editing Advisor Alexandra Wells

Costume Design Kyle Abraham

Scenic/Lighting Designer Dan Scully

Public Programs Developer Maritza Mosquera

Sound Editing Sam Crawford

Video images courtesy of Chris Ivey

Music J.C. Bach, Jacques Brel, Benjamin Britten, Antonio Caldara, Sam Cooke, Colin Davis, Emmanuelle Haïm, Heather Harper, Donny Hathaway, Edward Howard, Concerto Köln, Philippe Jaroussky, Le Cercle De L'Harmonie, Alan Lomax, Ensemble Matheus, Fred McDowell, Hudson Mohawke, Alva Noto, Jérémie Rhorer, Ryuichi Sakamoto, Carl Sigman, Jean-Christophe Spinosi, and Antonio Vivaldi

Performers Kyle Abraham, Matthew Baker, Ayo Janeen Jackson, Chalvar Monteiro, Jeremy “Jae” Neal, Maleek Washington, and Eric Williams

The creation and presentation of *Pavementis* supported by the National Endowment for the Arts in cooperation with the New England Foundation for the Arts through the National Dance Project.

Pavement had its world premiere at The Harlem Stage Gatehouse on November 2-3, 2012.

ABRAHAM.IN.MOTION – 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. 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.

Abraham.In.Motion is a proud supporter of Dancers Responding to AIDS.

KYLE ABRAHAM – BIOGRAPHY

2013 MacArthur Fellow, KYLE ABRAHAM, 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.

In 2012, Abraham was named the 2012 Jacob's Pillow Dance Award recipient and 2012 USA Ford Fellow. In November, he 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."

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 *The Serpent and The Smoke*, a new pas de deux for himself and acclaimed Bessie Award winning dancer and New York City Principle, Wendy Whelan as part of Restless Creature at Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival.

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

PERFORMERS – BIOGRAPHIES

Matthew Baker originates from Ann Arbor, Michigan, where, before launching into the dance world, he began his movement exploration as a gymnast and soccer player. Prior to relocating to New York City, Matthew received his BFA in Dance from Western Michigan University in April 2008. In addition to his work with Abraham In Motion. Matthew dances with Keigwin + Company in NYC. In 2012 you can catch Matthew at such venues as The Kennedy Center, The Joyce, American Dance Festival, Bates Dance Festival, and on the cover of Dance Spirit's Feb Issue. Matthew continues to work with collaborators Liz Riga, and Rachel McKinstry in Launch Movement Experiment. Matthew recently enjoyed assisting Larry Keigwin in choreographing Vogue's *Fashion Night Out: The Show*, New York's largest fashion show in history.

Ayo Janeen Jackson (Dancer) received her BFA at North Carolina School of the Arts. She is a former member of the Bill T. Jones/Arnie Zane Dance Company, Ballet Preljocaj, and original cast of *Spider Man* on Broadway. Ms. Jackson has received both a Chris Helleman Award and a Special Project Grant from the Princess Grace Foundation. She was a dancer for the French star, Mylene Farmer. Ms. Jackson has worked on several projects with Julie Taymor; the movie *Across the Universe* and *Grendel*, an opera directed by Ms. Taymor, choreographed by Angelin Preljocaj and music by Eliot Goldenthal. Ayo also danced for the Greek singer Anna Vissi (choreographed by Mia Michaels), and in the Latin Grammys with Thalia at Madison Square Garden. Ayo is the associate choreographer for *SuperFly The Musical*, directed and choreographed by Bill T. Jones. This year she is worked on the film *Black Nativity*, directed by Kasi Lemmons, danced in the opera *Anna Nicole*, and filmed two episodes of *Boardwalk Empire*.

Chalvar Monteiro a native of New Jersey, began his formal dance training at Sharron Miller's Academy for the Performing Arts. He went on to study at The Ailey School under the direction of Denise Jefferson, and earned a degree in dance from SUNY Purchase Conservatory of Dance. He was a member of Sidra Bell Dance New York, The Kevin Wynn Collection, and Elisa Monte Dance. He has performed works by Judith Jamison, Thaddeus Davis, Paul Taylor, Merce Cunningham, George Balanchine, Doug Varone and Helen Pickett. Chalvar joined the company in June 2010.

Jeremy "Jae" Neal 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, Nathan Trice and now Abraham.In.Motion.

Maleek Washington was born in the Bronx, New York, and at seven years old was introduced to dance at Broadway Dance Center and the Harlem School of the Arts. After attending Laguradia High School for Performing Arts, Maleek continued his education at The Boston Conservatory while performing with the Commonwealth Ballet and working with Complexions. He attended Jacob's Pillow for two consecutive years and has collaborated with CityDance Ensemble, touring to over 8 countries with them. Recently Maleek attended SpringBoard Danse where he was able to join Jose Navas's Company Flak for a season of European tours. In addition, he has interacted with choreographers such as Azure Barton, Helen Pickett, Michael Utoff, Milton Meyers, Yuriko Takata, and Tim Rushton of the Danish Dance Theater. This is Maleek's first season with Abraham in Motion.

Eric Williams is a movement researcher, educator and expresser. He began his professional training at the HARID conservatory under the tutelage of Oliver Pardina and Svetlana Osiyeva. He continued his studies at the University of South Florida. There he studied with Michael Foley, Gretchen Ward Warren and John Parks while performing works by such artists as Donald McKayle, Rick McCullough, Bill T. Jones and Doug Varone. Since his conferral from that school, Eric's exploration of dance has taken him to New York City. While there he has had the pleasure of working with such artists as Jennifer Muller/The Works, Cherylyn Lavagnino and Darcy Naganuma. This is Eric's first season with Abraham.In.Motion.

COLLABORATORS – BIOGRAPHIES

Dramaturge

Charlotte Brathwaite, a native of Toronto, Canada, is a freelance director whose works in theater and performance have been presented in New York and internationally in Mexico, the Netherlands, Germany, Austria, India, the West Indies and Croatia. Recently, she directed the workshop production of *Woman Bomb* at the Baryshnikov Arts Center; *The Coming...* at the Living Theater; *Kleopatra: The Dead Don't Bite* with Naturaleza Humana and the Aarshi Theater Company in Kolkata, India; *Smile Orange* by Trevor Rhone at the Little Carib Theatre in Trinidad, West Indies; *American Schemes* by Radha Blank at New York City Summerstage; Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, and *A Streetcar Named Desire* by Tennessee Williams. She holds an MFA from Yale School of Drama and is recipient of the Julian Milton Kaufman Prize for Directing and a Princess Grace Foundation George C. Wolfe Award.

Editing Advisor

Alexandra Wells toured the world and formed lasting partnerships with Rudolf Nureyev and Patrick Dupont as principal dancer of the Ballet National de Nancy. Following her performing career, she returned to the United States first as rehearsal director with Ballet Hispanico and then as faculty member of l'École Supérieure de Danse du Québec.

In 2002 she co-founded *Springboard Danse Montréal* with Susan Alexander. The mission of this project is to connect emerging artists to job opportunities while providing professional companies with dancers. In 2009 Alexandra designed the *Movement Invention Project* in NYC, under the umbrella of NJDTE. Its focus is on collaborative and improvisational skills. Since 1998, Ms. Wells has been a full-time faculty member at The Juilliard School in New York City. In 2012 she was recognized for her entrepreneurial work with *Springboard Danse Montreal* in the Juilliard Convocation.

Scenic / Lighting Designer

Dan Scully is a New York based lighting and projection designer, and has been designing for Kyle Abraham and 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 Festspeile), *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.

Public Programs Developer

Maritza Mosquera, artist community-transformation partner, has developed, organized, and presented new practices in arts education and artist-led community collaborations with several organizations including: Chicago Arts Partners in Education, Finding History in Ourselves, Dialogues for Democracy, and the Andy Warhol Museum. She has taught in various schools and universities across the country including University of Pennsylvania, Temple University and Perspectives and Noble Academies. Mosquera is currently developing community engagement programs for Kyle Abraham/Abraham.In.Motion's *Pavement*, presenting dialogue programs for *Word of God* at The Warhol Museum, and teaching with the TALLprogram, Pittsburgh. Mosquera has received grants from the Mid-Atlantic Arts Foundation, The National Endowments for the Arts, The Ford Foundation, and The Multi-Cultural Arts Initiative for her own work, which she exhibits internationally. She received an MFA from University of Pennsylvania and BFA from Maryland Institute College of Art. She studied at Skowhegan School of Painting in Maine.

Sound Editor

Sam Crawford completed both his B.A. in English and A.S. in Audio Technology at Indiana University in 2003. A move to New York City led him to Looking Glass Studios where he worked on film projects with Philip Glass and Björk. His recent sound designs and compositions have included works for the Bill T. Jones/Arnie Zane Dance Company (Venice Biennale, 2010), Yin Mei Dance (Beijing, 2010), Jennifer Nugent, and David Dorfman Dance. He currently resides in Brooklyn where he works as a freelance composer, designer, and engineer. He also plays lap steel and banjo in the groups Bowery Boy Blue (Brooklyn) and Corpus Christi (Rome).