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RENNIE HARRIS PUREMOVEMENT

AMERICAN
STREET DANCE
THEATER



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AMERICAN STREET DANCE THEATER

Rennie Harris Puremovement American Street Dance Theater is the leading Street dance theater company in the United States, and for 30+ years has been dedicated to preserving and disseminating Hip-hop aesthetics and Street dance culture through workshops, classes, history, lecture demonstrations, long-term residencies, mentoring programs, and public performances.

With his roots in the inner city, Harris and RHPM present unique stories that are riveting, intimate, and honest. RHPM's mission is to re-educate the public about Hip-hop culture and Street dance through its artistic work, sharing the essence and spirit of Street Dance rather than the commercially exploited stereotype portrayed by the media.

Rennie Harris Puremovement American Street Dance Theater and their infectious brand of movement have toured the globe, including France, Switzerland, South Africa, West Africa, Brazil, Mexico, Canada, Scotland, Japan, China, Kazakhstan, Congo, Italy, Germany, Netherlands, Australia, New Zealand, Columbia, Finland, and Monaco, to name a few. His company has performed for the Queen of England, the Princess of Monaco, and were Ambassadors for the United States of America as part of President Obama's cultural exchange program, Dance Motion USA, and toured Egypt, Jordan, Palestine, Ramallah, Israel, and surrounding countries.

Notably, Harris was recently commissioned to create a piece for the Joyce Theater Production's *Max Roach 100*, an evening of commissioned works celebrating the iconic drummer, composer, and activist Max Roach. Rennie Harris Puremovement American Street Dance Theater premiered "Jim Has Crowed" in April 2024 at the Joyce Theater and ICA Boston.



WHAT'S ON TOUR NOW?

NUTTIN' BUT A WORD REPERTORY SHOW

Nuttin' But A Word is a suite of works that challenge the structural integrity of various street dance styles such as Campbell locking, House, Hip-hop and B-boying. It serves as a reminder that without individuality, creativity, and innovation there cannot be progression of life as we know it.



Casting includes:

- 8 Company Dancers
- 1 Technical Director
- 1 Staff

10 Individuals Total

Run Time: 65 Minutes

Watch
Here!:



LIFTED: A GOSPEL HOUSE MUSICAL FULL EVENING-LENGTH WORK

This Gospel House masterpiece addresses morality, spirituality, and the community that Rennie Harris grew up in through dance, merging the rhythms of House music with the moving vocals of a live gospel choir. "Joyous music and dance" (The Chicago Tribune) abound in this epic Hip-hop narrative.



Casting includes:

- 12 Company Dancers
- 4 Choir Singers
- 1 Technical Director
- 1 Staff

18 Individuals Total

Run Time: 75 Minutes

Watch
Here!:



WHAT'S ON TOUR NOW?

ROME & JEWELS

FULL EVENING-LENGTH WORK

Rennie Harris restages his breakout masterpiece, *Rome & Jewels*, to commemorate the company's 30th Anniversary. This restaged cast involves a mix of original cast members from the *Rome & Jewels* original premiere, as well as current company members,



Casting Includes:

- 15 Dancers
- 2 Deejays
- 1 Technical Director
- 2 Staff

20 Individuals Total

Run Time: 75 Minutes

Watch
Here!:



RENNIE HARRIS FUNKEDIFIED

FULL EVENING-LENGTH WORK



Set against the sound and visual landscape of the Northern Philadelphia community, this 1970 homage is inspired by the political turmoil, poverty, and racism experienced by Rennie Harris in his childhood.

Rennie Harris Funkedified features a live funk band who not only pays homage to the funk music of that era but bring a unique sound and innovative perspective to funk music.

Casting Includes:

- 11 Dancers
- 6 Funk Band Musicians
- 4 Technical Crew

21 Individuals Total

Run Time: 75 Minutes

Watch
Here!:



WHAT'S AHEAD?

AMERICAN STREET DANCER (2025) FULL EVENING-LENGTH WORK



American Street Dancer will explore and honor the contribution of Street dancers to the general field of dance while simultaneously honing in on the most revered and featured movement and aesthetic of Street dance: "Foot-work." *American Street Dancer* will feature 1-3 Tap dancers and Street dance styles from four different prominent American cities, including New York City (Afro-Cuban/Salsa), Detroit, Michigan (Jitting), Chicago, Illinois (Chicago Footwork) and Philadelphia, PA (GQ).

Casting includes:

- 17 Dancers
- 13 Musicians
- 2 Crew Members
- 2 Directors

34 Individuals Total

Run Time: 75 Minutes

The project cast and production will scale down after the Philadelphia premier run at the Rennie Harris Puremovement American Street Dance Theater home theater Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts/Penn Live Arts in March 2025.

Watch
Here!



**SEE WHAT THE COMPANY IS UP TO
IN 2026, WITH A WORLD PREMIER
OF *LOSING MY RELIGION!***



Watch
Here!

**VIEW FULL ONESHEETS
AND TECHNICAL RIDERS
FOR ALL SHOWS HERE.**

View
Here!



EDUCATION & OUTREACH

The goal of Rennie Harris Puremovement American Dance Theatre is to empower youth through history, embodied movement, and dialogue surrounding the roots, power, and politics behind Hip-hop culture's origins. Characterized as a contemporary indigenous form, Street Dance encompasses the diverse and rich African American traditions of the past, while simultaneously presenting the voice of a new generation through its ever-evolving interpretations of dance. We seek to give the student a deeper sense of self, purpose, and individual power as they engage in our educational programs.



Students will develop their voices through this dynamic and holistic approach to learning the history of Street Dance and Hip-hop culture.



RHPM's Next Generation company, affectionately known as RHAW (Rennie Harris Awe-Inspiring Works), is designed and structured to focus on youth & city culture. RHAW's goal is to encourage youth by demonstrating discipline and focus through Hip-hop and Street dance theater performance, and outreach programming.

Outreach Programs Available:

- School Show Performance with a Post-Show Discussion with the Company (50 minutes + 10 minutes talkback, Ages pre-K & up.)
- History of Hip Hop Lecture Demonstration Program (50 minutes + 10 minutes talkback.)
- Master Classes & Workshops (75 minutes! Ages 10 & up.)
- Virtual Lecture and Interactive Study (75 minutes. Ages 10 & up.)

A representative from your school or community center can work with Rennie Harris Puremovement's Executive Director, Rodney Hill, to create a customized education & outreach residency package unique to the needs of your community, including any and all of the above offerings! Please inquire for more information.

View RHPM education & outreach in action:



View full RHPM education & outreach offerings here:



Dr. Lorenzo “Rennie” Harris is a leading ambassador for Hip-hop. Harris grew up entrenched in Hip-hop culture in all its forms — music, dance, and language. Harris brings social dances to the concert stage, creating a cohesive dance style that finds a cogent voice in the theater, all while developing works that challenge audiences’ expectations about Hip-hop and Street dance. Harris’s artistic philosophy reflects a deeper understanding of people that extends beyond racial, religious, and economic boundaries, and he believes that Hip-hop can help bridge these divisions. Harris’s work encompasses the diverse and rich traditions of the past, while simultaneously presenting the voice of a new generation through its ever-evolving interpretations of dance.

Lorenzo “Rennie” Harris is considered the pioneer of Street dance theater and a choreographer internationally known for creating a cohesive dance style, both staunchly rooted in and expanding the boundaries of Hip-hop, that finds a cogent voice in the theater. Born and raised in an African American community in North Philadelphia, in 1992, he founded Rennie Harris Puremovement American Street Dance Theater, the first and longest-running hip-hop and street dance theater company dedicated to preserving and disseminating hip-hop culture and bringing these dance forms to the traditional stage. In 2012, Rennie Harris Puremovement was chosen to be part of DanceMotion USA, the Obama Administration’s U.S. Department of State cultural exchange program produced in partnership with the Brooklyn Academy of Music, as one of four companies to serve as citizen-diplomats to tour Egypt, Israel, Palestinian territories and Jordan.

Voted one of the most influential people in the last 100 years of Philadelphia history, Harris has been recognized with many awards and prizes, including a Mellon Foundation grant, a Doris Duke Artist Award in the dance category, Scripps/American Dance Festival Award for Lifetime Achievement (the first Hip-hop artist to be granted this award), a Hermitage Greenfield Award in Dance and Choreography (the first Hip-hop artist to be granted this award), a Guggenheim Fellowship in Choreography, three Bessie Awards, three Alvin Ailey Black Choreographers Awards, a Pew Fellowship in the Arts for Choreography, a Master of African American Choreography Medal, a United States Artists Fellowship, the Kulu Mele’ African Rooted Dance Award, the Herb Alpert Award in the Arts for Choreography, a nomination for a Lawrence Olivier Award (U.K.), a “Philadelphia Rocky” award, Governor’s Artist of the Year Award, a USA Fellowship and was voted one of Philadelphia’s Creative Ambassadors in 2010. He received two honorary doctorates in the Arts and Humanities from Bates College and in the Fine Arts from Columbia College Chicago.



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AMERICAN STREET DANCE THEATER



*Learn More & Book Rennie Harris Puremovement
American Street Dance Theater at Your Theater, School, or Venue!*

CONTACT INFORMATION

PO Box 1254
Sharon Hill, PA 19079

rhpm.org

BOOKING INFORMATION

Rodney Hill

Executive Director

rodneyhill@rhpm.org

(267) 236-4097

Marguerite Waller

Company Manager

rhpm.adm@gmail.com



Book a meeting with RHPM Executive Director, Rodney Hill:

