

Rennie Harris Puremovement American Street Dance Theater

NUTTIN' BUT A WORD

CHOREOGRAPHER, FOUNDER, & ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

Rennie Harris

RENNIE HARRIS PUREMOVEMENT

STAFF EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Rodney Hill

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR, PRINCIPAL COMPANY MEMBER

Joshua Culbreath

REHEARSAL DIRECTOR, PRINCIPAL COMPANY MEMBER

Emily Culbreath

ADVISORY AND PRODUCTION ASSISTANT, PRINCIPAL COMPANY MEMBER

Phillip Cuttino Jr.,

SENIOR PRINCIPAL COMPANY MEMBER

Fyness Mason

CORE COMPANY MEMBERS

Rachel Snider, Maggie Waller, Angel Anderson

HOODLOCKERS, ASSOCIATE DANCERS

Marcus Tucker, Andrew Ramsey, Richard Evans, Joshua Polk

ASSOCIATE DANCERS

Joshua Archibald, Natasha Markwick, Nicholas Royal

PRODUCTION SUPERVISOR & LIGHTING DESIGNER

Bob Steineck

ABOUT THE PROGRAM

This suite of works challenges the structural integrity of Campbell locking, house, hip-hop, and B-boying. Now that we are a global hip-hop nation, we seem to have become hip-hop/street dance zealots. This purist attitude has stagnated the natural progression of street dance. Simply put, we have become elitist about Hip-hop culture. This elitism is due to this generation's obsession with "keeping it real." The truth of the matter is this generation will never relive my generation's era of original dance. My generation defined the three laws of Hip-hop culture: innovation, individuality, and creativity. At best, they can appreciate it, pay homage to it, and acknowledge it as the foundational era of hip-hop/street dance it was; in doing that, they will tap into their individuality, creativity, and innovation, which in turn ensures progress. The work's title, *Nuttin' But A Word*, was taken from a cultural phrase used amongst Blacks in the United States. The complete phrase is, "You ain't said nothing but a word"; loosely translated, it means, "Your words mean nothing — pay close attention because what I do next will trump anything you have to say." Hip-hop/street dance is progressive by design. There is nothing about the three Laws of Hip-Hop that suggests stagnation. Nothing about these laws indicates that we as practitioners of Hip-hop should only adhere to its foundation; it is quite the opposite. *Nuttin' But A Word* challenges the Hip-hop puritans at every turn and reminds us that we will not evolve as a form without individuality, creativity, and innovation. ~Rennie Harris~

NUTTIN' BUT A WORD

Continuum

Choreography by Rennie Harris

Music: Mixed by DJ Lee Jones

The Word...

Choreography by Rennie Harris

Music: Trinity Ov Me by Osunlade

Unlocked

Choreography by Rennie Harris

Music: Ambient by Raphael Xavier

A Funny Thing Happened

Choreography by Rennie Harris

Music: Man With A Movie Camera by
Cinematic Orchestra

Bent

Choreography by Rennie Harris

Music: Round, Round, Round

by Al Jarreau

A Day In the Life

Choreography by
Rennie Harris Restaged & Reimagined
Music: Sacré The Wine Ode Suite
by Dhafar Youssef

Hood Lockers

Choreography by Rennie Harris and
Hood Lockers
Music: Hood Cesar (artist unknown)

Get Down Or Laydown!

Choreography by: Rennie Harris
Music: Can You Get It by Mandrill

WHO'S WHO & WHAT'S WHAT

CHOREOGRAPHER, FOUNDER, ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

LORENZO 'RENNIE' HARRIS has been called "the most respected — and the most brilliant — hip-hop choreographer in America" by The New Yorker. Recently, The New York Times wrote of Harris's work; Harris, the Hip-hop master who has become one of his generation's most exacting and exciting choreographers- There are two sides to Harris's Rhythmic Wizardry; both are impeccable. Born and raised in an African American community in North Philadelphia, Harris has taught at universities around the country since 15. Advocating for the significance of "street" origins in any dance style, Harris believes Hip-hop expresses universal themes that extend beyond racial, religious, and economic boundaries and one that, because of its pan-racial and global popularity, can help bridge these divisions. In addition, Harris toured with the first Rap tour to cross the country entitled The Fresh Fest, starring Run DMC & Jam Master Jay, LL Cool J, Kurtis Blow, Fat Boys, Salt and Peppa, and many noted pioneers of rap.

Known for bringing social dances to the concert stage and coining the term Street Dance Theater Harris has broken new ground as one of the first Hip-hop choreographers to set works on ballet-based companies such as Ballet Memphis, Colorado Ballet, Pennsylvania Ballet, Philadelphia Dance Company (Philadanco), Giordano Dance Chicago, Lula Washington Dance Theatre, Cleo Parker Robinson, Dallas Black Dance Theater, Dayton Contemporary Dance Company (DCDC) and Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater and more. The first street dancer commissioned to create an evening length work on Alvin Ailey American Theater and to serve as a resident artist at the Alvin Ailey school for dance. He's received three Bessie Awards, five Black Theater Alvin Ailey Awards, Herb Alpert Award, and nominated for a Lawrence Olivier Award (UK). He's also received a Life-Time Achievement Award in choreography (McCullum Theater 2019). Harris was also voted one of the most influential people in the last one hundred years of Philadelphia's history (City Paper), he's been compared to Basquiat, Alvin Ailey and Bob Fosse.

In addition, he's received a Guggenheim Fellowship, PEW Fellowship, a USA Artist of the Year

Fellowship, a Governors Artist of the Year Award, and is noted as the first street dancer to receive two honorary doctorate degrees from both Bates College (Lewiston Maine) and Columbia College (Chicago Ill). He's served as cultural ambassadors for former President Ronald Reagan's US Embassy Tour in 1986 and invited to the White House by the President Clinton Administration to share in the recognition of African American artist making a difference in the world (2001) and received a medal in choreography from the Kennedy Center. Rennie Harris Puremovement has performed for such dignitaries as the Queen of England and the Princess' of Monaco and was chosen as one of four US companies to serve as Hip-hop cultural ambassadors for President Obama's *Dance Motion USA* and toured (Middle-East) Israel, Jordan, Ramulah, Egypt, Palestine, and surrounding countries-as well as Japan, China, Gambia, and Kazakstan to name a few. In 2020 Harris became a recipient of the Doris Duke Artist Award. He was also awarded The Andrew W. Mellon Grant "Building A Legacy of Street Dance" (2022), as well as the Hermitage Greenfield Prize (2023) and the Samuel H. Scripps American Dance Festival Award (2023). Lorenzo "Rennie" Harris is atop the Hip-hop heap, its leading ambassador.

CAST OF DANCERS

ANDREW RAMSEY (Hood Locker) is the co-founder of The Hood Lockers, a funk-style crew based out of Philadelphia/New Jersey and member of Phresh Select Dance Crew of MTV's Randy Jackson presents America's Best Dance Crew. He's trained for 15 years with some of the world leaders, originators and pioneers of street dance, specializing in hip hop, funk styles and house dance (involves a mixture of locking, breakdance, popping and hip hop). Ramsey has worked with artists such as Nas, Madonna, Asher Roth and Nick Cannon, and appeared on BET's 106 & Park, SYTYCD and 6 ABC's Visions. He is currently working with Philadelphia's own, world-renowned Rennie Harris Puremovement American Street Dance Theater.

EMILY CULBREATH Rehearsal Director, Principal Company Member; began dancing professionally in 2015 after graduating with her BFA in Dance from The University of Colorado at Boulder. She began touring with the renowned Hip-Hop theater company, Rennie Harris Puremovement, in 2018. Pietruszka has shown her own work at the "Illadelph" street dance festival, "The Come Together Festival" hosted by Koresh Dance, "Here and Now vol. II" hosted by W.O.R.X, and as a guest choreographer at Franklin & Marshall College (PA) and Georgian Court University (NJ). Emily has taught and guest lectured in various contexts including Mark Morris Dance Group, New Visions for Public Schools, California State University, The Juilliard School, The Ailey School, Princeton University, and Rennie Harris University's street dance certification program. Currently residing in Philadelphia, Emily holds an adjunct faculty position at Franklin and Marshall College and teaches at Philadelphia's own street dance education studio, Urban Movement Arts. She operates her own online personal training business, Embodied by Em, and is the co-founder of Snack Break Movement Arts, a project-based duo that recently won Summer Dance Forever's Theater competition duo category in the summer of 2022.

FYNESS MASON Principal Company Member; was raised in New York City, is a Temple University, B.A., and Harcum College Graduate. Her Hip Hop dance career began with Rennie Harris Puremovement Dance Company in 2005. Mason has performed nationally and internationally in theaters such as the Kimmel Center, Kennedy Center, Saddlers Wells in London, England, Alvin Ailey theater, Carpenters Center in Long Beach, Joyce theater, Lied Center, Bates Dance Festival, Bryn Mawr College, Wells Fargo Center, N.Y.C. SummerStage, and Bam Theater. In addition, she's taught classes at Temple University, Bryn Mawr College, Florida

State University, Bates Dance Festival, and more. Fyness teaches classes that incorporate movement from the African Diaspora, as well as Hip-hop. Fyness has also performed with Face Da Phlave Entertainment, Montazh all woman's Hip Hop Dance Company, Flyground with Lela Aisha Jones, Oyin Hardy's Troupe Dada, and the late Kariamuwelsh. During Fyness's hiatus from dance, she went back to school to study Occupational Therapy Assisting. She raised three children with her husband, Steve Mason (resident D.J. at W.D.A.S. Philadelphia radio station). Recently Fyness returned to the stage and is ready to share her love for dance with her community with the goal of uplifting women through hip hop dance culture with a message that you can do anything you put your mind to and then some.

JOSHUA ARCHIBALD (aka "butterfly.god") is a Jamaican-born, Miami-raised multidisciplinary performance artist. Having a background in music production and performance as well as theatrical performance and writing, Joshua received most of his dance training at Miami-Dade College as both a dance major and member of Jubilation Dance Ensemble. Following his studies, he moved to Atlanta, GA, in pursuit of his artistic career utilizing all his experiences and acquired knowledge. Having completed a season with T. Lang Dance Company, Joshua spent 2 additional years in Atlanta training the rest of his skill set. In that time he worked with production crews for many local events (such as art installations, galleries, live performances etc.), as well as frequently engaging with artists of those respective communities. Since then, he has moved back to Miami to further his development and begin creating work for himself as an independent artist.

JOSHUA CULBREATH Assistant Director, Principal Company Member; was born and raised in Philadelphia, where he started dancing at the age of ten. During his middle school years Culbreath joined a dance group called K.R.S. Ent., which won many talent shows and went on to perform on the TV show *Showtime at the Apollo* in New York. While dancing with K.R.S. Ent., Culbreath met B-boy Hannibal, owner and artist director of 360 Flava, and began to train with him. Culbreath is currently a core member Director of Rennie Harris Puremovement American Street Dance Theater.

JOSHUA POLK (Hood Locker) aka JPeazy is an entertainer, Educator, and Innovator, J. Lee Polk is the embodiment of the modern Hip Hop artist: a student of the culture, an advocate for the preservation of the culture, and in the vernacular of the times, "a sick-wit-it" dancer! A performer in high demand, J. Lee has graced the stages of The Victory Theater in New York City, the African American Museum of Philadelphia, PA, and he is a consistent performer at The Trump Taj Mahal in Atlantic City, New Jersey and a guest performer on BET'S 106 & Park. As a keeper of the flame, he's lectured at High Schools, Colleges, Summer Camps, After School Programs, J. Lee makes the time share! When J. Lee dances the showmanship of such historical iconic performers such as Stump & Stumpy, Sammy Davis Jr., and James Brown come to mind. He dances with his spirit, he dances like no one is watching, and he dances for life! Experience the man who is proclaimed by those in the hip hop world as the one and only 'He Locks'!

MARCUS TUCKER (Hood Locker) aka "Epic" has toured Europe with Kompany Maliki's "Hip- Hop story," directed and performed in his own creation "Heroes," became a member of Funkstylarz UK and performed with UK sensation Pixie Lott. He created his own dance company "Face da Phlave Entertainment", with Andrew Ramsey and Kenneth Thomas and got to fulfill his dream of performing with the world's leading Street Dance Theatre company Rennie Harris Puremovement American Street Dance Theater. Now an active member of RHPM he recently hired to perform for Madonna's private parties and events. Marcus choreographed for "So you think you can dance Malaysia and judged 5 seasons of "Astro's Battleground", Malaysia's first Hip Hop TV show. He's collaborated and danced with Malaysian pop star MiZZ Nina, Colby O'Donnis, Flo Rida, Taboo of Black Eye Peas, Korean K Pop superstar JAY PARK, Melissa Indot, Dennis Lau, Chris Willis, Yalonda Be Cool and Havana Brown.

MAGGIE WALLER is a dancer, choreographer, and teaching artist born and raised in Phoenix, Arizona. Heavily involved in the local hip hop community, she pulls from various dance forms, such as Waacking, House, Locking, Breaking, Hip Hop, Postmodern Contemporary, and Tap, in her performance work, choreography, and freestyle/battle practice. She is a recent graduate of Arizona State University, obtaining a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Dance, a Minor in Justice Studies, and two Certificates in Arts Entrepreneurship and Socially Practice in Design and the Arts. In addition, Maggie is a Fulbright Summer Institute Participant, a recipient of the Joan Frazer Memorial Award for Judaism and the Arts, and a published writer. Maggie currently lives in Washington, D.C., teaching and making. She is deeply honored to become one of Rennie Harris Puremovement's newest dancers.

ANGEL ANDERSON is a movement artist whose origins are the south suburbs of Chicago. She is an alumna of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign where she obtained her Bachelor of Fine Arts in Dance and her Bachelor of Science in Psychology. Anderson's interests revolve widely around dances of the African Diaspora, traditional dances from West Africa and the ways in which both can and do exist in a contemporary setting. She is also interested in the hybridization of and dialogue between dances from the African Diaspora and continent. Her research largely examines this, and the African retention present inside of street and club dance culture in forms such as House and Hip Hop. She has received her certificate of completion for finishing her first year of the Africa Diaspora Training Program at Ecole Des Sables. During her time in Senegal, she trained with artists such as Serge Aimé Coulibaly, Alesandra Seutin, Josepha Madoki, and Anani Sanouvi. Alongside performing as a new core member in Rennie Harris Puremovement in works such as LIFTED, Nuttin' But A Word, and Rome and Jewels, she is also studying under Rennie Harris University to expand her knowledge on the lineage of street dance and club culture. She is most looking forward to the opportunity to develop her own pedagogy and teaching practice.

NATASHA "IVORY" MARKWICK is a dancer, choreographer, and fitness instructor with a strong emphasize in the freestyle element of dance. She has trained extensively in Hip Hop and Modern Dance, but found her artistic home in styles such as House, Hip Hop, Afrobeat and Waacking. She began dancing in 2007 in Denmark, where she's from, learning from some of the pioneers in Hip Hop and House. In 2012 she moved to New York City and has since then been mentored by Sekou Heru, Dance Fusion, and later became part of Dance Fusion Family. She was also a part of a touring Step company, Soul Steps, which throughout the year would perform all over the country, that later led to a residency and work in progress musical. Aside from being in the club and battle scene, she has also interested in the commercial world and loves being behind the camera. Not only as a choreographer but shadowing and assisting choreographers such as Eddie Morales & Bam Bam on industry events and music videos. Natasha has performed, choreographed and taught throughout South America, The Caribbean and Europe, as well as in New York. Her credits cover NYC Knicks, Madonna, Mr. Vegas, Nike, Puma, Jagermeister, African Entertainment Awards, MTV, and DK Talent Live Show to name a few. On a weekly basis she teaches fitness classes as well as dance classes for both adults and kids.

PHIL CUTTINO JR. Advisory and Production Assistant, Principal Company Member; is a Philadelphia native hip-hopper from birth, is skilled in breakin', graffiti, DJ-ing, and rapping. His first performance was at the age of four with his father, a prominent MC and B-Boy in the Philadelphia hip-hop scene. He started in a crew called the X-men doing local talent shows and learned from some Philadelphia greats. He has toured throughout the United States and internationally and currently is a core member, advisor and the director of social media of 'Rennie Harris Puremovement American Street Dance Theater.

RACHEL SNIDER is a Chambersburg, PA native who now resides in Philadelphia. She began

training under the direction of Moncell Durden's Keystone Dance Project, performing lecture demonstrations and after-school programs. Rachel later met her biggest dance inspiration and mentor, Marcus Tucker, of The Hood Lockers, whom she's trained under for six years. She is an alumnus at Jacob's Pillow for Social Dances - Jazz to Hip Hop. Rachel performed in Hood Nation's D.E.E.T.O.U.R. show at Jacob's Pillow, Ursinus College, and York College and supported Marcus Tucker's teaching residency at Eastern University. She has taught in Philadelphia for six years at Movemakers Philly and First Position Dance Arts. Rachel is excited to continue her dance journey with Rennie Harris Puremovement as one of its newest members.—

RICKY EVANS (Hood Locker) is a dancer, choreographer, and instructor from Southern New Jersey. Currently residing in Philadelphia, he uses his talents to give back to the community by teaching the youth and adults at various dance studios within the tri-state area. His professional career started at the age of 18 with Face Da Phlave Entertainment, and from there opportunities opened up for him as a performer and instructor. Ricky later became a member of The Hood Lockers and represented this group on stage and off stage in numerous battles and workshops throughout the world. Ricky's first opportunity to dance under the direction of Rennie Harris came in 2013 in his play, LUV American Style, an active member ever since.

NICHOLAS "LUFFY" ROYAL was born and raised in Brooklyn, NY, was influenced by the urban arts at a very young age. Adopting the hip hop era of the 90's/00s with his West Indian upbringing, he fused these cultures into his own unique form of expression. This was done by mixing different styles with Krump as his main Skill. Luffy spent years battling representing Krump and is now ready for the stage. Recently he's spent a year in Violetta Galagarza's KR3ts where he learned new styles and techniques and also was able to perform at rolling loud for Shenseea. Featured in music videos such as artists like Casanova, Mickael Marabou's music Luffy is also featured in Once Again (soon to be released). Multi-talented Luffy is also a rapper, actor and model. Using dance as his main attraction, as artist Luffy is constantly evolving, taking his crafts and skillset to the next level every opportunity he gets.

BOB STEINECK (Lighting Designer, Production Manager) has design credits that include concerts, ballet, modern dance, opera, and theatre. He is currently the resident lighting designer for ReedDance, Texture Contemporary Ballet, Carnegie Stage, and Mercyhurst Univ. Dance Dept. Mr.Steineck has toured throughout the U.S. and abroad with such Companies as Rennie Harris' PureMovement & R.H.A.W., Reed Dance, Squonk Opera, the Lyon Opera Ballet, Sankai Juku, PhoenixDance Company, Kirov Ballet Academy and the "America Tour" for Stars on Ice. Television/Video/DVD credits include the DIZZY GILLESPIE Allstar Big Band for A&E Cable, the SPYRO GYRA concert for PBS, Lindy & Loon for Maria Del Rey, and JOHNNY A TRIO by WarnerBros. Publications. He has designed several corporate events & fundraisers.

Bob is a lighting designer and clay artist based in Las Vegas. He is the production manager and resident designer for the Koresh Dance Company and The Snowy Range Summer Dance Festival. He also is a Resident Lighting Designer for Nevada Ballet Theatre and Production Manager for Choregus Productions in Tulsa, OK. He holds a Master's degree from Temple University and has taught at several colleges and Universities. He is the co-owner of Clay Arts Vegas, a clay studio, gallery, and supply. He teaches hand building and manages the gallery season. He is happy to be working with Rennie Harris Puremovement.

RODNEY HILL is a North Philadelphia native, burst onto the Hip-hop scene in 1988, igniting stages worldwide for over a decade. He has toured with an impressive roster of artists, including Boys II Men, Will Smith, E.V.E, 50 Cent, The Roots, Teddy Pendergass, Shanice Wilson, Brave Williams, Julian King and Mary J. Blige, to name a few. Internationally Rodney has toured France, Democratic

Republic of Congo, East Asia, Egypt, Ramulah, Israel, Palestine as a US Ambassador of Hip-Hop for President Obama and Secretary of State Hilary Clinton's Dance USA. In addition, he has graced television screens on shows such as Soul Train, NFL's Under the Helmet (NBC), Teen Summit (BET) and Late Night Show with Conan O'Brien (NBC), and has performed and taught at universities and dance studios nationally and internationally. With a master's in dance from Wilson College Rodney Hill has recently become a Councilmen of Sharon Hill Borough in Sharon Hill PA and is currently the Executive Director of Rennie Harris Puremovement Inc and its subsidiary companies such as Rennie Harris R.H.A.W. Rodney Hill continues to inspire and educate others through his dedication and commitment to Hip-hop and its culture.

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