

CU ★ PRESENTS

2022-23 Season



Theatre & Dance

UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO BOULDER

AT THE PERFORMANCE

- Please refrain from using electronic devices during the performance. Feel free to view this program on your device at any time prior to the performance, during intermission or after the performance ends.
- Photography and video recordings of any type are strictly prohibited during the performance.
- Smoking is not permitted anywhere. CU Boulder is a smoke-free campus.

CU ★ PRESENTS is the home of performing arts at the University of Colorado Boulder.



Remarkable performances are the heart of **CU Boulder Theatre & Dance**.



*The Department of Theatre & Dance acknowledges that the University sits upon land within the **territories of the Ute, Cheyenne and Arapaho** peoples and are grateful to have the opportunity to be here. Further, we acknowledge the 48 contemporary tribal nations that are historically tied to lands that make up Colorado. We recognize and pay our respects to these Indigenous peoples as traditional stewards of this land and the enduring relationship that exists between Indigenous peoples and their traditional territories. We pay our respects to the ancestors, elders, relations past, present and emerging.*

un[WRAP]

Radical Reimagining

7:30 p.m., Sept. 23-24 and 2 p.m., Sept. 25, 2022

Charlotte York Irey Theatre

This program is part of a guest residency opportunity made possible through The Roser Visiting Artist Endowment.

Rennie Harris Puremovement American Street Dance Theater

Nuttin' but a Word

Choreographer, Founder and Artistic Director

Rennie Harris

Rennie Harris Puremovement

Joshua Culbreath, Phillip Cuttino Jr.,

Emily Pietruzska, Fyness Mason,

Angel Anderson, Rachel Snider,

Maggie Waller

Production Supervisor & Original Lighting Designer

Bob Steineck

Lighting Designer

Peter Jakubowski

Program

Continuum

Choreography by: Rennie Harris

Music by: DJ Lee (mix)

The Word...

Choreography: Rennie Harris

Written by: Osunlade

Music: *Trinity Ov Me*

Unlocked

Choreography: Rennie Harris

Written by: Raphael Xavier

Music: *Ambient*

Bent

Choreography: Rennie Harris

Written by: Al Jarreau

Music: *Round & Round*

A Funny Thing Happened!?

Choreography: Rennie Harris

Written by: Cinematic Orchestra

Music: *Man With A Movie Camera*

A Day In the Life

Choreography: Rennie Harris

Written by: Dhafar Youssef

Music: *Sacré The Wine Ode Suite*

Doubt & Dolo

Choreography: Rennie Harris

Written by: Smokey Norful

Music: *I Need You Now*

Get It!

Choreography: Rennie Harris

Written by: Mandrill

Music: *Can You Get It*

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 term 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. These laws are innovation, individuality and creativity. Nothing about these laws indicates that we as form practitioners 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 innovation, individuality and creativity.

—*Rennie Harris*

Personnel

Rennie Harris, founder

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’ 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 the age of 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, 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.

Rennie Harris Puremovement was founded in 1992 and is responsible for creating the genre known as street dance theater and hip-hop concert dance. *Rome & Jewels* (hip-hop version of *Romeo and Juliet*), the first evening-length work choreographed and directed by Harris, is the longest-touring street dance work in American history, with three Bessie Awards, four Black Theater Alvin Ailey Awards, Herb Alpert Award, Harman Shakespeare Theater Award and Kulu Mele’ African Rooted Dance Award. Harris was voted the most influential person in the last 100 years of Philadelphia.

Harris was nominated for a Lawrence Olivier Award (Oscar equivalent). In addition, he’s received a Master of American Choreography medal from the Kennedy Center, the Governor’s Artist of the Year Award, USA Artist Award, Guggenheim, Pew Fellowship, Dance Magazines Living Legend Award (2017), Palm Desert Life Time Achievement award (2019), Doris Duke Choreography Award (2020) and an Andrew W. Mellon Foundation Award (2022). With two honorary doctorates—one from Bates College Lewiston, Maine, and the other from Columbia College Chicago, Illinois—he is also featured alongside dance legends such as Carmen de Lavallade, Judith Jamison, Fayard Nicolas and

Gregory Hines in “Portraits of America’s Great Choreographers” by Rose Eichenbaum. Often compared to Bob Fosse and Basquiat, Harris and his company are most proud to have served as hip-hop ambassadors for former president Barack Obama in the Democratic Republic of Congo, East Asia and in the middle east-touring Egypt, Jordan, Jerusalem and Palestine (2012).

Cast of Dancers

ANGEL ANDERSON is a movement artist from the south suburbs of Chicago. She is a recent graduate from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, where she obtained a Bachelor of Fine Arts in dance and a Bachelor of Science in psychology. She is a M’singha Wuti licensed teacher of the Umfundalai technique. She has recently received her certificate of completion for finishing her first year of the Africa Diaspora Training at Ecole Des Sables in Toubab Dialaw, Senegal. Anderson has worked with choreographers such as C. Kemal Nance, Rennie Harris, Serge Aimé Coulibaly, Alessandra Seutin and Anani Sanouvi. Moving forward, she will study at Rennie Harris University to expand her knowledge of the lineage of street dance culture, the various approaches to teaching street dance forms and somatic practices that focus on injury prevention for street dancers. Her primary interests revolve widely around traditional dances from West Africa, with a close look at how its essence permeates and takes up space in today’s diaspora. Anderson is striving to develop her pedagogy to share with the African continent the version of Africa we have created here in the diaspora.

EMILY PIETRUSZKA is a Colorado native currently residing in New York City. She holds a Bachelor of Fine Arts (*magna cum laude*) from the University of Colorado Boulder. Pietruszka began her street styles training as a core member of Rennie Harris Grassroots Project (RHPPM) in Denver in 2015. She has been teaching in various contexts since graduation, ranging from the Front Range Community College of Thornton, Colorado, to assistant teaching at the Ailey School in New York. Pietruszka is honored to have the opportunity to perform with RHPPM and is excited to continue on her journey of taking risks as a movement artist and forever student.

FYNESS MASON, raised in New York City, is a Temple University (BA) 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, Alvin Ailey theater, Carpenters Center in Long Beach, Joyce theater, Lied Center, Bates Dance Festival, Bryn Mawr College, Wells Fargo Center, New York City SummerStage and Bam Theater. In addition, she's taught classes at Temple University, Bryn Mawr College, Florida State University, Bates Dance Festival and more. Mason teaches classes that incorporate movement from the African Diaspora, as well as hip-hop. Mason has 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 Kariam Welsh. During Mason's hiatus from dance, she went back to school to study occupational therapy assisting. She raised three children with her husband, Steve (resident DJ at WDAS Philadelphia radio station). Recently, Mason 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 CULBREATH was born and raised in Philadelphia where he started dancing at age ten. During his middle school years, Culbreath joined a dance group called KRS Ent., which won many talent shows and performed on the TV show *Showtime at the Apollo* in New York. While dancing with KRS Ent., Culbreath met B-boy Hannibal, owner and artistic director of 360 Flava, and began to train with him. Culbreath is currently a core member of Rennie Harris Puremovement.

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-engaged practice in design and the arts. In addition, Waller is a Fulbright Summer Institute participant, a recipient of the Joan Frazer Memorial Award for Judaism and the Arts, and a published

writer. Waller currently lives in Washington, DC, teaching and making. She is deeply honored to be a member of Rennie Harris Puremovement.

PHILLIP CUTTINO JR., 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 of Rennie Harris Puremovement American Street Dance Theater.

RACHEL SNIDER is a Chambersburg, Pennsylvania 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. Snider 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. Snider performed in Hood Nation's D.E.E.T.O.U.R. show at Jacob's Pillow, Ursinus College and York College and supported Tucker's teaching residency at Eastern University. She has taught in Philadelphia for six years at Movemakers Philly and First Position Dance Arts. Snider is excited to continue her dance journey with Rennie Harris Puremovement.

Production Team

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 University Dance Department. Steineck has toured throughout the United States 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 and fundraisers.

PETER JAKUBOWSKI 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 (company manager) Born and raised in North Philadelphia, Rodney entered the hip hop scene in 1988. For more than a decade, Hill has blazed the stages in venues nationally and abroad. He has been featured in many videos for such artists as Boys II Men, Will Smith and Music Soul Child, to name a few. Moving on to perform on TV shows such as *LA R&B Divas*, NBC's *Late Night Show With Conan O'Brien*, *Soul Train*, NBC's *NFL Under The Helmet* and BET's *Teen Summit*. In addition, he has toured and performed with artist R&B singer Brave Williams, R&B Singer Julian King, and others such as "E.V.E.," Teddy Pendergrass, Shanice Wilson, Mary J. Blige, 50 Cent and Philly's own the Roots. An accomplished teacher and choreographer, Hill Hill has had the opportunity to perform and teach in universities and dance studios locally, nationally and internationally, in countries and regions including France, the Democratic Republic of Congo, East Asia, Egypt, Israel, and Palestine. Hill is constantly expanding his horizons and is always working with new artists and exploring new opportunities. company manager/director of Rennie Harris Puremovement and Rennie Harris RHAW, Hill seeks inspiration from his community and family while continuing to educate and inspire others through his hard work, dedication and commitment to hip hop and its culture.

Special Thanks

Text that is bold and underlined is a hyperlink and can be clicked or tapped for more information.

- Doris Harris
- The Harris/Lambert family
- Cobra III
- Franklin “Money” Stewart
- The Step Masters
- The Scanner Boys: the founders Pontzie & Fonzo
- William “Dollar Bill” Harris
- Levi “Brainy” Cooper
- Randy “Glide” Robinson
- Anthony “Germ” Garman (RIP)
- Carl “Snake” Griffin
- Moochie (RIP)
- Day-day
- Sharon
- John “Ponch” Williams
- Anthony Williams
- Carl “Cisco” Ashton
- Gilbert “Shalamar” Kennedy
- Nathaniel “DJ Sly” McCray
- David “Renegade” Ellerbe
- Brandon “Baby Face” Albright
- Darryl “Boogaloo” Wright
- Damon “Flip” Johnson
- Tyrone “Cash” Melvin
- Glen Henson
- LeEllen Friedland
- The Smithsonian Institution
- Folklife Center
- Philadelphia Folklore Project
- Michael Nise & Nise Productions
- Yvette Harris
- Lauren Goetz
- Greg Farnese
- Sal Felliceti
- Heather “Princess” Henderson
- Cora Griffin
- Josephine McCray (RIP)
- Darlene McCray
- Jetta McCray
- Gene McCray
- Mrs. Robinson (RIP)
- Mark Robinson
- Edward Robinson
- Mr. & Mrs. Tully
- Christopher (RIP) and Edward Tully
- Michael Pedretti
- Homer “Skip” Jackson
- Major Jackson
- Community Education Center
- Terry Shockley
- Terry Fox
- Lenny Seidman
- Ooh BOI
- Jay Bright (RIP)
- Darrin Ross
- Randy Gaskins
- Monae Ross
- Joseph Ross
- Mr. and Mrs. Ross
- The Painted Bride (Philadelphia)
- Susan Hess and The Susan Hess Dance Project
- Freedom Theater
- Walter Dallas
- Arthur Hall (RIP)
- Melvin Pernel (RIP)
- Leon Evans (RIP)
- Jay Allison
- Leja Dance Company
- Joan Huckstep
- Dance Teller
- Group Motion
- Manfred Fishbeck (RIP)
- Mrs Cousineau
- Nikki Couineau

- Jorge
- Cousineau
- Esther Cowens
- Lois Fernandez
- Oshunbumi Fernandez
- ODUNDE
- Brigitta Herman
- Roberta Uno
- Brooklyn Academy of Music
- The New Victory 42nd Street Theater
- The Joyce Theater
- Aaron Davis Hall
- Mark Abrams
- Sona and Mr. Mo
- Joe Greer (RIP)
- Jenny Filer
- Tina Heuges
- Laura Faure
- Ellis Finger
- Beth Boone
- Charmaine Warren
- Danni Gee
- Kim Cook
- Janice Marks
- Larry Love
- Erika Randall
- Nii Armah Sowah
- Jesse Manno
- Dave
- Katherine Duhnam (RIP)
- Tony Cade Bambara (RIP)
- Sonya Sanchez
- The Roots
- Jill Scott
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- Dice Raw
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- Tuff Crew
- Carla Perlo
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- Doris Duke Charitable Foundation
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- Dance USA
- The Alan M. Kriegsman Residency
- The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation
- National Dance Project
- National Performance Network
- NEFA

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CONTACT INFORMATION

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Twitter: [@RHPM](https://twitter.com/RHPM)
For more information:
RHPM.org



Theatre & Dance Production Team

Costume Shop

Production Assistants

Mari Beazley, Grace Burner, Emma Donnelly, Celeste Fenton, Payton Godlewski, Maddy Goldberg, Caitlin Johnston, Alida Kress, Katie Marting, Sophia Morris, Carly Peterson, Emily Ray

Practicum Students

Marisa Dinsmoor, Wyeth Doherty, Nikky Haabestad, Clara Hoppe, Mikayla Jassem, Katie Marting, Hayley Parnell, Connor Robertson, Kelsea Sibold

Dance Production

Technical crew

Olivia Allen, Sam Blagg, Devon Beckum, Stephanie Castro Rivera, Alaska Ellis, Devin Garza, Cadence Ryan, Lana Salfiti

Dance Practicum

Olivia Allen, Sam Blagg, Devon Beckum, Stephanie Castro Rivera, Alaska Ellis, Devin Garza, Cadence Ryan, Lana Salfiti

Scenery and electrics

Scene Shop Production Assistants

Olivia Allen, Lily Bergen, Matthias Bolon, Stephanie Castro-Rivera, Nicholas Cozzo, Asher Farr, Rachel Fields, Adam Garb, Nikky Haaberstad,

Marla Kassanoff, Aspen Kimlicko, Isabella Jones, Annika McTamaney, Kyle Lawrence, Hayley Parnell, Sam Morin, Nathan Peterson, Annika Radovcich, Connor Robertson, Kelsea Sibold, Aani Sukumar, Stephanie Talder, Jacob Turner, Madelyn Wible

Production Practicum Students

Emma Donnelly, Leah Doogan, Nicole Gadbery, Nicholas Galvez, Sarah Jeffers, Grace Kohler, Katie Kramer, Annika Radovcich, Ethan Robinson, Adam Schuh, Emma Watson

Lighting Practicum Students

Olivia Allen, Natalie Connelly, Nicolas Galvez, Tyler Hansen, Sarah Jeffers, Sophia Morris, Alessa Oltman, Annika Radovcich



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[un]WRAP

Sept. 23-25

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Dec. 2-3

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Associate Chair

Kevin Rich

Associate Chair of Dance and Director of Dance

Helanius Wilkins

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Lara Maerz

Director of Dance Production

Kate Bashore

Costume Production Director

Ted Stark

Technical Director

Jordan Feeler

Associate Technical Director

Stephen Balgooyen

Production Electrician

Cooper Braun-Enos

Production Audio Technician

CeCe Smith

Music/Accompanist

Coordinator for Dance

Jesse Manno

Assistant Director of Dance Production

Anna Pillot

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Jo Hoagland

Production Bookkeeper

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