

KYLE ABRAHAM / Abraham.In.Motion

Friday, January 27, 2017, 7:30 pm



Jeremy "Jae" Neal and Penda N'diaye in *The Gettin'*. Photo: Ellen Crane Photography

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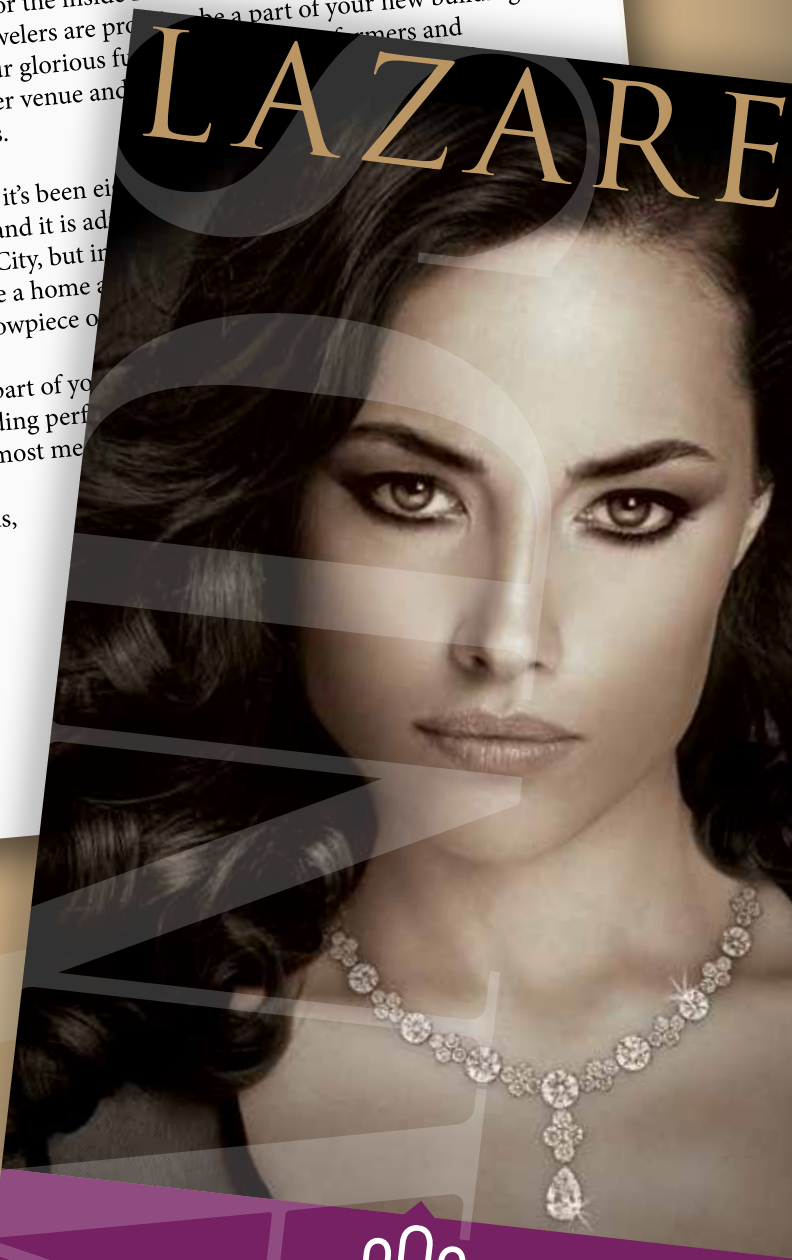
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THE COMPANY

MATTHEW BAKER **TAMISHA GUY**

CATHERINE ELLIS KIRK **MARCELLA LEWIS**

JEREMY "JAE" NEAL **CONNIE SHIAU** **NEHEMIAH SPENCER**



Tamisha Guy in *The Gettin'*. Photo: Jerry and Lois Photography

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THE PROGRAM

THE QUIET DANCE

Choreography: KYLE ABRAHAM

Music: "Some Other Time" composed by LEONARD BERNSTEIN,
played by BILL EVANS

Lighting Design: DAN SCULLY

Costume Design: KRISTI WOOD

Costume Supervisor: KAREN YOUNG

Dancers: CONNIE SHIAU (soloist), MATTHEW BAKER, TAMISHA GUY,
CATHERINE ELLIS KIRK, MARCELLA LEWIS

PAUSE

ABSENT MATTER

Choreography: KYLE ABRAHAM in collaboration with Abraham.In.Motion

Music composed & arranged by: KRIS BOWERS and OTIS BROWN III,
including segments by KENDRICK LAMAR and KANYE WEST

Set and Lighting Design: DAN SCULLY

Costume Design: KAREN YOUNG

Video Design: NAIMA RAMOS CHAPMAN

Dancers: CATHERINE ELLIS KIRK (soloist), MARCELLA LEWIS,
JEREMY "JAE" NEAL, CONNIE SHIAU, NEHEMIAH SPENCER

INTERMISSION

THE GETTIN'

Choreography: KYLE ABRAHAM in collaboration with Abraham.In.Motion

Music: ROBERT GLASPER's interpretation of *We Insist! Max Roach's
Freedom Now Suite*

Set Design: GLENN LIGON

Lighting and Video Design: DAN SCULLY

Costume Design: KAREN YOUNG

Dancers: MATTHEW BAKER, TAMISHA GUY, CATHERINE ELLIS KIRK,
JEREMY "JAE" NEAL, CONNIE SHIAU, NEHEMIAH SPENCER

PROJECT SUPPORT

The Gettin' was commissioned and produced by New York Live Arts through its Resident Commissioned Artist Program, with lead support from The Andrew W. 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 Andrew W. 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 Andrew W. Mellon Foundation. Support for *The Gettin'* was also provided to New York Live Arts for the commissioning of this work by MAP Fund, a program of Creative Capital supported by the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation and The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation.

Absent Matter was commissioned, in part, by Rick Beyer with additional support from a Princess Grace Foundation-USA Special Project grant.

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

KYLE ABRAHAM

2016 Doris Duke Artist Award Recipient and 2015 City Center Choreographer in Residence, Kyle Abraham is a 2013 MacArthur Fellow who 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 and most recently, an honorary Doctorate in Fine Arts from Washington Jefferson College in 2014.

In November 2012, Abraham 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 Bengel of *Vogue* writes, "What Abraham brings to Ailey is an avant-garde aesthetic, an 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." That same year, Abraham was named the 2012 Jacob's Pillow Dance Award recipient and 2012 USA Ford Fellow.

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, and The Andy Warhol Museum and The Kelly-Strayhorn Theater located in his hometown of Pittsburgh, PA.

In addition to performing and developing new works for his company, Abraham. In.Motion, Abraham recently finished touring *The Serpent and The Smoke*, a new pas de deux for himself and acclaimed Bessie Award-winning and former New York City Ballet Principal Dancer Wendy Whelan as part of *Restless Creature* and choreographed for the upcoming feature-length film, *The Book of Henry* with acclaimed director, Colin Trevorrow.

Abraham is currently working on *Dearest Home*, an immersive interactive work for AIM set to premiere at The Yerba Buena Center for the Arts in San Francisco, May 2017 and *Untitled America*, a 3-part commissioned work for the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater set to premiere in December 2016.

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

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

MATTHEW BAKER (Dancer) hails from Ann Arbor, Michigan, where he began movement exploration as a gymnast and soccer player. He crossed state to receive his BFA in dance from Western Michigan University. Once in NYC he worked with Keith Thompson, and as creative assistant to Mark Dendy, before joining Keigwin + Company (K+C) in 2009. In 2012 he coupled with Kyle Abraham/Abraham.In.Motion for *Pavement* and enjoyed creating and performing for both AIM & K+C through 2014 when he began working as Choreographic Associate. Matthew was the recipient of a Distinguished Alumni Award from his alma mater in 2014. He continues to love performing with cherished colleagues; love to friends, family.

TAMISHA GUY (Dancer), a native of Trinidad and Tobago, began her formal dance training at Ballet Tech, the New York City Public School for Dance under the direction of Eliot Feld. Later she attended Fiorello H. LaGuardia High School, and SUNY Purchase College as a double major in dance and arts management. She has completed summer programs with Complexions Contemporary Ballet, Springboard Danse Montreal, and Nathan Trice and performed works by William Forsythe, Pam Tanowitz, Loni Landon, Mark Morris, and Martha Graham etc. In 2013, Guy graduated with honors from SUNY Purchase College and joined the Martha Graham Company shortly after, and in 2014 joined Kyle Abraham's Abraham.In.Motion. In 2016, Guy was selected as one of *Dance Magazine's* Top 25 to Watch and she also received the 2016 Princess Grace Award.

CATHERINE ELLIS KIRK (Dancer) is originally from Dallas, Texas. After attending Booker T. Washington High School for the Performing and Visual Arts, Kirk graduated with a BFA from New York University Tisch School of the Arts and holds a yoga certification through Mind Body Dancer™. Kirk has completed programs with San Francisco Conservatory of Dance, Gaga Intensive in Tel Aviv, and Springboard Danse Montreal, and had the opportunity to perform works by Fernando Melo, Ohad Naharin, Sharon Eyal, Peter Chu, Andrea Miller, Robert Battle, and Alex Ketley. Upon graduating, Catherine has had the pleasure of working with Danaka Dance, Chihiro Shimizu and Artists, and apprenticing for Sidra Bell Dance NY. Kirk is currently dancing for UNA-Projects, Helen Simoneau Danse, and is thrilled to continue with Kyle Abraham/Abraham.In.Motion.

MARCELLA LEWIS (Dancer) hails from Los Angeles, CA, where she began her dance training at the Lula Washington Dance Theatre at the age of 3. She then continued her studies at the Los Angeles County High School for the Arts (LACHSA). She later received her BFA from the Purchase Conservatory of Dance, where she was awarded the Adopt-A-Dancer Scholarship. While at Purchase, Marcella performed works by Doug Varone, Gregory Dolbashian, madboots, Kevin Wynn, and Ori Flomin. Marcella has completed summer programs at the San Francisco Conservatory of Dance, Hubbard Street Dance, and Alonzo King Lines Ballet, where she was awarded the Homer Avila Scholarship. She joined Abraham.In.Motion in fall 2016.

JEREMY "JAE" NEAL (Dancer) 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 Chaves 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. Neal would like to thank his family and friends for their consistent encouragement and support.

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

CONNIE SHIAU (Dancer) grew up in Tainan, Taiwan. She was accepted into the dance conservatory at SUNY Purchase College in 2008, after training at the high school program at Taipei National University of the Arts. She has had the privilege to work with Gallim Dance, Kevin Wynn Collective, and Adam Burruch Dance. Shiau is a recipient of the 2014 Reverb Dance Festival Best Dancer Award. She was also given the title of Honorable Mention for the 2014 Jadin Wong Award for Emerging Asian American Dancer. Shiau joined Kyle Abraham/Abraham.In.Motion in May, 2013 and has assisted Kyle Abraham in setting new repertory work on Princeton University and Point Park University.

NEHEMIAH SPENCER (Dancer) is a native of Cleveland, OH. It was at the Cleveland School of Arts where he discovered his passion for dance. Throughout many challenges, he stayed focused and later graduated with a B.F.A in dance from The Juilliard School. Upon graduation, Nehemiah went on to dance as a principal with Complexions Contemporary Ballet. He has also worked with renowned artists such as Dianne McIntyre, George Faison, Paul Taylor, Larry Keigwin, Darrell Grand Moultrie, and Robert Battle. This is Nehemiah's first season with Abraham.In.Motion.

NAIMA RAMOS CHAPMAN (Video Design, *Absent Matter*) is an emerging interdisciplinary performing artist and writer born and raised in Brooklyn, New York. She trained at the Alvin Ailey School for dance on scholarship. Afterward she spent some time in Washington, DC, studying at Howard University before transferring and getting her bachelor's at Brooklyn College (CUNY). She spent some time proliferating her musings on politics, pop culture, race, and intersectionality and her work has appeared, in no particular order, on *Huffington Post*, *The Nation*, NPR, *Colorlines*, *Generation Progress*, *Postbourgie*, *Racialicious*, *Saint Heron*, and other digitally circulated publications.

ROBERT GLASPER (Composer, *The Gettin'*) grew up in Houston, Texas, playing piano in church at the age of 12 to accompany his mother who was a gospel, jazz, and R&B singer. He went on to sharpen his prodigal chops at the Houston High School for the Performing Arts and New School University in NYC, allowing his developing affinity for pop, hip-hop, and rock to inform his musical sensibilities. Glasper has released two acclaimed acoustic jazz trio albums on Blue Note Records before he captured his unique duality with 2009's *Double-Booked*, which juxtaposed his acoustic trio and hip hop-infused Experiment band. RGX's 2012 breakout, *Black Radio*, won Best R&B Album at the 2013 GRAMMY Awards. RGX upped the ante with *Black Radio 2* (2013).

GLENN LIGON (Set Design, *The Gettin'*) lives and works in New York. Ligon received a Bachelor of Arts from Wesleyan University in 1982 and attended the Whitney Museum Independent Study Program in 1985. His text-based, conceptual works have been featured in solo shows at the Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, Washington, DC; the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art; the Walker Art Center, Minneapolis; the Studio Museum in Harlem; and the Power Plant, Toronto. A major retrospective of his work, *Glenn Ligon: AMERICA*, opened at the Whitney Museum of American Art in New York in 2011 and travelled nationally.

DAN SCULLY (Lighting Design, *The Quiet Dance*; Set & Lighting & Video Design, *Absent Matter*; Lighting & Video Design, *The Gettin'*) is a New York based lighting and projection designer, and has been designing for Kyle Abraham/Abraham.In.Motion for over ten years, including the full-length evening works *Pavement*, *Live! The Realist M.C.*, and the Bessie Award winning *The Radio Show*. Recent work includes *Rocky* (Broadway), *Jedermann* (Salzburger

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

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.

DAN STEARNS (Production Manager) is a lighting designer, scenic designer, and production manager interested in the intersections of dance, theater, music, and video. In addition to Abraham.In.Motion, recent collaborations include Jane Comfort and Company, Pavel Zuštiak/Palissimo, LeeSaar The Company, Scott Ebersold, Paul H. Bedard/Theater in Asylum, Tara Ahmadinejad/Piehole, and Tami Stronach. He has worked in venues such as BAM, The Joyce, New York Live Arts, La MaMa, Abrons Arts Center, HERE, Dixon Place, and 3LD in New York; and internationally from France to Korea and many places in between. He is a graduate of NYU's Tisch School of the Arts.

KRISTI WOOD (Costume Design, *The Quiet Dance*) Design credits: David Dorfman Dance *Come, and Back Again*, Kyle Abraham/Abraham.In.Motion *Live! The Realist MC*, *How We Process* with Camille A. Brown, August Wilson Dance Ensemble *Time Stands Still* (concert), *The Way of Water* (film), and *Peel* (film). Costume Production: The Metropolitan Opera (current Assistant Costume Production Supervisor for New Operas). Broadway: *War Horse* (original Broadway cast Principal Dresser), *A Chorus Line* (Broadway Revival Production Wardrobe Supervisor). Dance: *Jacob's Pillow* (Wardrobe Supervisor), Les Ballet Trockadero de Monte Carlo (Wardrobe Supervisor and Diva Specialist). TV: *America's Next Top Model* (Set Dresser), *All My Children* (Set Continuity), and *Damages* (Set Continuity). Ms. Wood also designs and tailors couture gowns for elite drag queens. She would like to dedicate her work to her father, Joseph Earnest Wood (1956-2007).

KAREN YOUNG (Costume Design, *Absent Matter*, *The Gettin'*) creates costumes for dance, performance and contemporary art that have been seen in theaters and museums internationally. Recent projects include Wendy Whelan's *Restless Creature*, Third Rail Projects highly acclaimed immersive show *Then She Fell*, and teaching at the Rhode Island School of Design. Design work for dance includes: the Martha Graham Dance Company, Brian Brooks, Armitage Gone! Dance, American Ballet Theatre, Morphoses, Dusan Tynek, Pam Tanowitz, and Keigwin + Company, among many others. Design for video art includes: David Michalek's *Slow Dancing*, Matthew Barney's *Cremaster 5* and *Cremaster 1*, Toni Dove's *Lucid Possession*, and Eve Sussman's *89 Seconds at Alcazar*. karenyoungcostume.com.

ABOUT 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.

For more information, to get involved, or purchase your AIM merchandise, please visit www.abrahaminmotion.org.

COMPANY CREDITS

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Rehearsal Director: Tamisha Guy
Rehearsal Assistant: Jeremy "Jae" Neal
Education Assistant: Connie Shiau
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Generous support for Kyle Abraham/Abraham.In.Motion provided by The Fan Fox & Leslie R. Samuels Foundation, The Howard Gilman Foundation, Mertz-Gilmore Foundation, New York Community Trust, Princess Grace Foundation-USA, The Rockefeller Brothers Foundation, and The Samuel H. Scripps Foundation. Public funding provided by The National Endowment for the Arts, New England Foundation for the Arts' National Dance Project with funding from the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation, and The New York State Council on the Arts with support of Governor Andrew Cuomo and the New York State Legislature.

Abraham.In.Motion is a proud supporter of Dancers Responding to AIDS, which helps ensure that those most in need receive the care and comfort they would otherwise do without. Founded in 1991 by former Paul Taylor Dance Company members Denise Roberts Hurlin and Hernando Cortez, DRA relies on the extraordinary compassion and efforts of the performing arts community to fund a safety net of social services for those in need. Together, we can make a difference for those less fortunate than us. Donate at www.dradance.org/donate.

Support the creation of new work and community outreach! Contributions may be made payable to "Kyle Abraham/Abraham.In.Motion," P.O.Box 986, New York, NY 10113. Abraham.In.Motion is a non-profit tax-exempt organization, and all donations are fully deductible to the extent allowed by law.

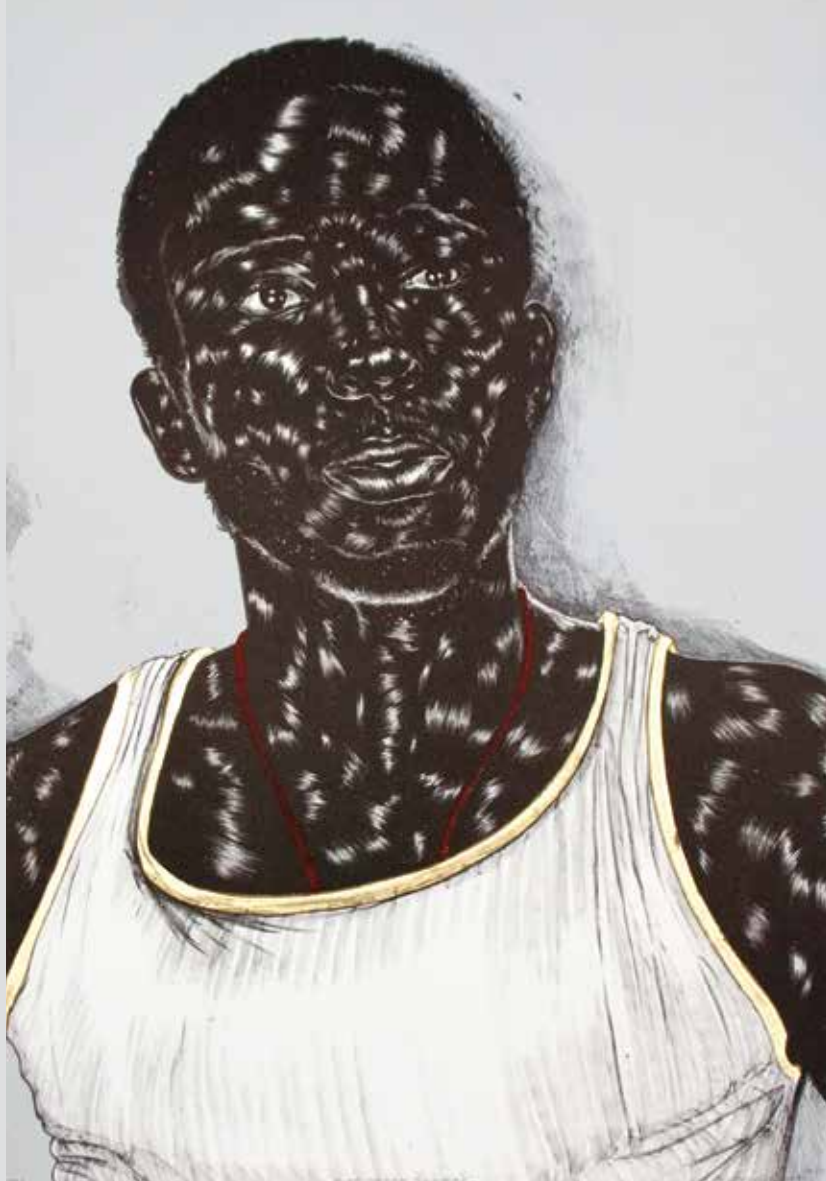
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Toyin Ojih Odutola
(American, born in Nigeria, 1985–)
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Four-color lithograph with gold leaf
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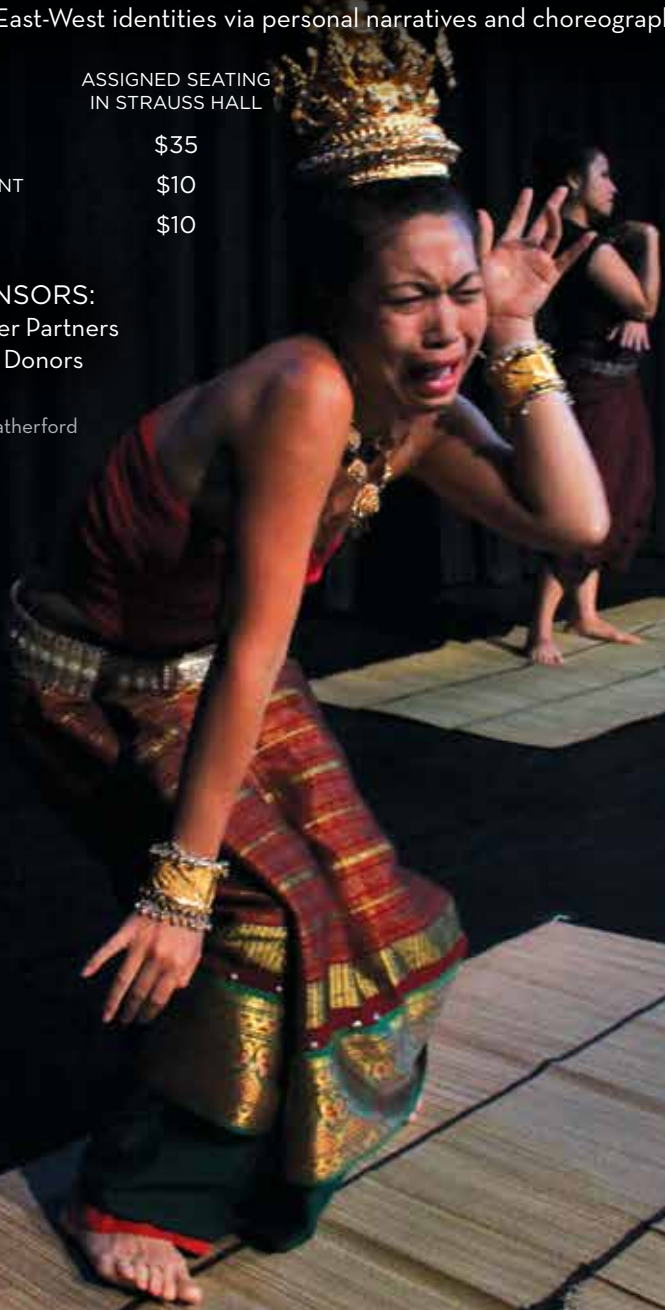
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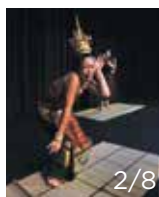
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2/8

1/31-2/5 *The Sound of Music*

2/8-9 *Soil*, conceived by Michael Sakamoto

2/11 The Ying Quartet with Billy Childs

2/16 Tanya Tagaq in concert with *Nanook of the North*

2/25-26 *MAMMA MIA!*



3/3-4

3/3-4 Circus Oz

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