



OCT 9-13, 2019

Let 'im Move You: This Is a Formation

jumatatu m. poe & Jermone Donte Beacham

JUMATATU M. POE
ARTISTIC DIRECTION

JUMATATU M. POE
JERMONE DONTE BEACHAM
CHOREOGRAPHY AND STYLING

JERMONE DONTE BEACHAM,
JUMATATU M. POE, LAKENDRICK
DAVIS, MARIA BAUMAN-MORALES,
NIKOLAI MCKENZIE, SANCHEL
BROWN, WILLIAM ROBINSON
PERFORMERS

JUMATATU M. POE
SOUND, TEXT AND VOCAL
COMPOSITIONS

ZEN JEFFERSON
SOUND DESIGN AND DJ
PERFORMANCE

MX. OOPS
VIDEO DESIGN

JUAN "CO-EL" RODRIGUEZ
LIGHTING DESIGN AND TECHNICAL
DIRECTION

PRECIOUS LOVELL
PANEL DESIGN AND COSTUME
CONSULTATION

THOMAS F. DEFRAUNT
PROVOCATION

SHANI AKILAH
ETHICAL ARTISTRY GUIDANCE

ABDUL-ALIY MUHAMMAD
ADDITIONAL WORKSHOP SUPPORT

MARÍA WETHERS
PRODUCING AND TOUR MANAGEMENT

DENISE SHU MEI OF PURPOSE
PRODUCTIONS
WEBSITE DESIGN

TAYARISHA POE
MARKETING AND ARCHIVAL IMAGES

KHALEEL (@KHALEELARTT)
SERIES LOGO

DANAE MOBLEY
PROJECT ZINE DESIGN

Thank you to Yeman Brown for his participation in the creative process of this work. To Gerard Minaya, Johnnie Mercer, Kharis Collins, mayfield brooks, MX, Trinity Dawn Bobo, and Wendell Gray II, thank you for being with us!

Thank you to Black queer youth (younger than us), peers, elders, and ancestors who hold our hands while we practice life alongside others. And thank you to the Black femme innovators, whether in the HBCU stadiums or on the gay club floors, who graced the world with this intricate form.

This is a move. This is a deep spinal curve on top of a high booty. This is a game, and the rhythm is key. This is luminous black and smooth brown and hard yellow skin tones. This is an alien, and that is a fairy. This is a movement; we did not start it. This is a stomp through the floor, and a buck across the universe. This is an invitation for you to amplify the respect, curiosity, and love you find in our shared space. This is exquisitely normal. This is so queer, it's inside out. This is a show for the family, with nudity and sexual themes. This is rigorous beauty. This is a formation.

This Is a Formation is the latest dance performance project in jumatatu m. poe and Jermone Donte Beacham's Let 'im Move You series, a collection of performance and visual works centered around the artists' explorations with the J-Sette form. Formation brings together 7 Black dancers, a DJ, and a lighting designer as performers for the work. Audiences travel within the performance space with relative freedom, sharing the same spaces as performers. Live captured video design elements will focus on close-up capture of the performers for display on hanging panels throughout the space, referencing both hyper-surveillance of Black people's bodies, and pop-star scale megalomania.

Please follow the project on instagram at [@_move_you_](#) for additional performance events that will happen in various historically and/or predominantly Black neighborhoods.

For biographical information on the creative team, please visit:
<https://www.jumatatu.org/formation-bios/>

Let 'im Move You: Intervention

October 9 at 5pm

East Village location TBA via instagram @_move_you_

Part of jumatatu m. poe and Jermone Donte Beacham's decade-long collaborative research into J-Sette performance, *Intervention* activates histories of Black neighborhoods in The Bronx and the Lower East Side, as it uses rhythm and precision as vehicles into subversion and satisfaction. On sidewalks and in alleyways, jumatatu and Donte draw on J-Sette's call-and-response structure to reveal the powerfully singular expression that can emerge within this highly regimented dance. J-Sette originated among drill teams and majorette lines of historically Black southern universities and continues to grab the attention of half-time stadium crowds—while having found a second life, and new political meanings, in the Black gay club scene. Performance routes are announced only hours before their intervention, freeing the performers to agitate the boundaries of propriety and belonging, and confront the historic imaginations and limitations of these spaces.

Let 'im Move You: Installation

October 10–13 from 10am –9pm

Abrons Arts Center Upper Gallery

Installation is an open-ended collection of installation works presented alongside performance work in jumatatu m. poe and Jermone Donte Beacham's *Let 'im Move You* series. The works are a combination of media including video projection, audio, and sculpture that consider strategic essentialism and code switching as defense mechanisms and means of survival.

Queer Slow Jam Party

October 12 at 10pm-2am

NO BAR, The Standard, 25 Cooper Sq, New York, NY 10003, USA

Maybe less of a throwback and more of a reclaiming: we are about to transform those memories of high school dances that many of us didn't attend – at least not in the way we wanted to. We are going to welcome the slow jam onto the dance floor, and meet it with a close embrace – maybe just of ourselves, or of a consensual partner... or maybe more than one. Let's get close; feel our wise hips swing into the same dimly lit spaces, hear inhales and exhales from a mouth hovering near our ear, pumping oxygen for a heart rate that's pulsing a bit faster than usual... Let's see what we can get up to way down below 95 bpm. Let's be people dancing up on other people, when we want to and when we are wanted. Let's give our permission for the proximity that we are feeling. Let's be queer and normal and strange and open and close... very close... Sweating to the beat of slow motion.

We will be blessed in the space with the sage musical curations of our own DJ $d\sqrt{\Sigma}\text{C}@K\Sigma$, alongside A²Z, JADALAREIGN, and Prdiva09. Even as we may challenge, tempt, and transgress it, we will honor that slow pulse, the space in it, the complex syncopations, the polyrhythmicity. Choreographers jumatatu m. poe and Donte Beacham will start off the night with a short instruction of some of the close dancing they have been experimenting with in rehearsal, related to the hip swing of the J-Sette march, and the importance of pelvic movement in African-descended dance forms. Throughout the night, the dancers of This Is a Formation will perform brief slow choreographies, and also dance with you...

ABOUT ***This Is a Formation***

Danae Mobley

Danae Mobley is a user experience and visual designer focused on the fields of technology, urban sustainability and education. Danae has experience consulting for local government agencies, community development corporations, and non-profit organizations to help them craft strategies for brand identity, user experience and stakeholder engagement. Danae holds a Masters Degree in Urban Planning from the University of Pennsylvania, where she was also a former lecturer. Danae is currently the owner and managing partner of the consulting firm, Populum Design. <https://danaemobley.com/>

Jermone "Donte" Beacham

Dancing has been in my blood since I can remember. It started off with hip hop dancing for my high school -- I began to recognize my skill and talent. After 4 years of that, I was introduced to the world of J-Sette by women. J-Sette historically refers to Jackson State University's female drill team that began in the 1970s. They "created" the dance style, and thus far have made it a distinctive form of dance. I was interested in this type of dance, but not entirely until I saw a group of males performing it. At that point, I claimed the style for myself and perfected it on my body. Currently, I have my own J-Sette line, Mystic Force, and plan to increase our already considerable renown in this style of dance in our community, and eventually internationally. Previously, I served as co-captain of Dallas' Texas Teasers. I have participated and competed in several events and competitions, including 2 SetteltOff video challenges, Atlanta Pride 2010, Tennessee Classics 2009, and Memphis Pride 2008. In 2015, I was named New Legendary by the Meet Me on the Dance Floor J-Sette council, and have gained many titles since then, such as, Best Dancer and Most Entertaining.

Juan "Co-eL" Rodriguez

BFA in Dance from Arizona State University, Artist, educator, performer and researcher. Co-eL began his artistic venture at the age of 12 in urban dance, his primary form of study being Breaking or B-Boying. Through a variety of programs and training he began to study other forms including postmodern dance, house, and locking, as well as train as a lighting designer and theatre technician. Currently, Co-eL's work entails the academic and embodied research of both history and aesthetics of urban based dance forms, primarily breaking, as well as researching his own integrative contemporary practice.

ABOUT ***This Is a Formation***

jumatatu m. poe

I am a choreographer, performer, and educator based between Philadelphia and New York City who grew up dancing around the living room and at parties with my siblings and cousins. My early exposure to concert dance was through African dance and capoeira performances on California college campuses where my parents studied and worked, but I did not start formal dance training until college with Umfundalai, Kariamu Welsh's contemporary African dance technique. My work continues to be influenced by various sources, including my foundations in those living rooms and parties, my early technical training in contemporary African dance, my continued study of contemporary dance and performance, and my recent sociological research of and technical training in J-setting with Donte Beacham. I produce dance and performance work with idiosynCrazy productions, a company I founded in 2008 and now co-direct with Shannon Murphy. Previously, I have danced with Marianela Boán, Silvana Cardell, Emmanuelle Hunyh, Tania Isaac, Kun- Yang Lin, C. Kemal Nance, Marissa Perel, Leah Stein, Keith Thomby Gpson, Kate Watson-Wallace, Reggie Wilson, and Kariamu Welsh (as a member of Kariamu & Company). As a performer, I also collaborate with Merián Soto. <http://jumatatu.org/>

khaleel

<https://www.instagram.com/khaleelartt/>

LaKendrick Davis

LaKendrick Davis was born and raised in Greenville, MS. Chief Choreographic Consultant at ChoreoJazzy Elite Productions. LaKendrick began his journey in the arts at a very young age participating in Chorus and Marching Band. Throughout the years, he began to explore other areas of the arts including music composition, cheerleading, baton twirling, and a host of additional talents as he completed his high school and middle school years. LaKendrick began training others in the style of Majorette Dance in 2004-2005 and has become one of the most acclaimed instructors in the southeast today. LaKendrick is lead competitive choreographer for the Sensational Sassettes (Atlanta, GA) and the Atlanta ToXiC All-Stars (Atlanta, GA). LaKendrick has appeared in the YouTube Red Series, "Step Up: Highwater", Jamal Sims' "When The Beat Drops", and Lifetime's "Bring It" just to name a few.

ABOUT ***This Is a Formation***

Maria Bauman-Morales

Maria Bauman-Morales is a Bessie-award-winning Brooklyn-based dance artist and community organizer from Jacksonville, FL. She created her company MBDance (www.mbdance.net) to create honest and bold art from a sense of physical and emotional power, an insistence on equity, and a fascination with intimacy. In particular, MBDance works emphasize the non-linear and linear stories and bodies of queer people of color in performative practices, using dance as the wheel from which multiple other genres including visual art, text, and song are spokes. She draws on her long study of capoeira, improvisation, dancing in living rooms and nightclubs, as well as concert dance classes to embody interconnectedness, joy, and tenacity. Bauman brings some of those same tenets to undoing racism in the arts and beyond with ACRE (Artists Co-creating Real Equity), the grassroots community organizing body she co-founded. Bauman-Morales's art has been celebrated both formally and informally. She is currently one of five national Fellows with the Urban Bush Women Choreographic Center Initiative, as well as being a 2019-20 Gibney Dance in Process resident artist. Bauman-Morales is also a mentor with Queer I Art. Some of the best recognition she has gotten is from teenagers in New Haven's Black and Brown Queer Camp who, upon seeing her dance exclaimed "Oooooooooo! She baaaaad!"

María Wethers

María Wethers is an Independent Creative Producer and Curator based in NYC since 1997. As a Curator she conceived and created the three-week performance series "Gathering Place: Black Queer Land(ing)" at Gibney Dance and curated for the Queer NY International Arts Festival (2016 & 2015) and Out of Space @ BRIC Studio for Danspace Project (2003-2007). Her writing includes Configurations in Motion: Curating and Communities of Color Symposium publications, organized by Thomas DeFrantz at Duke University (2016 & 2015); UnCHARTed Legacies: women of color in post-modern dance in the 25th Anniversary Movement Research Performance Journal #27/28 (2004). María is also a Bessie Award winning performer (Outstanding Performance with Skeleton Architecture, 2017).

Mx. Oops

Mx. Oops is a New York-based artist with a focus on multimedia performance, urban dance, and queer mysticism. Their work centers hybridity, combining: dance, video design, costume, and rap. A certified yoga instructor (500hr RYT) and practitioner of Thai Yoga Massage, they are also trained in various forms of energy healing. Mx. Oops has toured across the United States, Europe, Asia, and Africa. Mx. Oops studied dance and religion at the George Washington University and completed an Integrated

ABOUT ***This Is a Formation***

Media Arts MFA at Hunter College. They currently teach in Lehman College's Dance (BA) and Multimedia Performing Arts (BFA) Programs part of the City University of New York. www.mxoops.com

Nikolai McKenzie Ben Rema

Born in St. Andrew, Jamaica, and raised in the American South, Nikolai is a movement artist, improviser, actor, and teacher whose work and research deal with the tectonic plates of race/history/class/ sexuality/ language politics/ patriotism, and how these facets of identity inherent in the queer immigrant experience physically and emotionally manifest. A graduate of the BFA in Dance and Choreography Program at Virginia Commonwealth University in Richmond, VA, Nikolai's choreography has been performed in Richmond, VA, and Norfolk, VA, Washington, D.C., and Philadelphia. Some performance highlights include the works of Banning Bouldin, Aszure Barton, Robert Battle, Ohad Naharin, jumatatu m. poe, Adam Barruch, and Christian Von Howard. Over the last three years, Nikolai has had the pleasure of performing as a company member and collaborator with Kun-Yang Lin/ Dancers in Philadelphia, but is currently freelancing and creating new works.

Precious Lovell

Precious Lovell is an artist + designer + maker and educator. She holds a BFA in Fashion Design and a Master's Degree in Art and Design with a Fibers and Surface Design concentration. Her socio-cultural creative practice explores the narrative potential of cloth and clothing through textile and garment-based art. Her mixed-media pieces often integrate traditional textile techniques with newer technologies and when appropriate, incorporate non-textile objects essential to her story-telling process. The cultural significance, narrative, aesthetic and technical qualities of traditional textiles and clothing, particularly those of the African Diaspora, heavily influence her work. She has traveled to 44 countries researching and collecting indigenous textiles and clothing. Precious' work has been exhibited in the US and internationally. <https://www.preciousdlovell.com/>

PURPOSE Productions

PURPOSE Productions supports artists and organizers in the mothering of PURPOSE-full work that seeks to unify and develop our world community. Founded by A. Nia Austin-Edwards, PURPOSE Productions works with individuals and institutions to collaboratively bring visions to fruition through strategic consulting, marketing, management, support for families, and more. Named after the Swahili translation of the name Nia, PURPOSE Productions grounds itself in the principles of Kwanzaa, an African

ABOUT *This Is a Formation*

American holiday celebrating the fruits of ancestral, communal, and individual labor.

Since 2013, PURPOSE has supported dance artists such as Adia Tamar Whitaker and Marjani Forte-Saunders, theater artists such as Ella Turenne and Latonia Phipps, organizations such as 651 ARTS and STooPS, and initiatives such as Paloma McGregor's Dancing While Black and Camille A. Brown's The Gathering, among others. This work is rooted in an Africanist aesthetic alongside Black Feminist value systems, and our community embodies diverse cultures, genres, and experiences. <http://www.purposeproductions.org/>

Sanchel Brown is a performer/choreographer/actress and founder of The Queenz Collective, originally from Baltimore, MD. Her performance highlights include World of Dance Philadelphia 2018, The Kimmel Center's 2018 Jazz residency, Let 'Im Move You: This is a Formation, Urban Bush Women (Apprentice), and Theatre Horizon's Black Nativity (Barrymore Win!). Most recently, her talent has been featured in a commercial for RUNA, an all natural energy drink as well as Davido's Coming to America Concert. Her choreography highlights include Theatre Horizon's "The Color Purple" Regional PREMIERE (Barrymore Nominated for Outstanding Choreography/Movement), Yale Drama's "Dreamgirls", and her self-produced shows "Ode to Black Wombman" and "Home to Homeland". Sanchel currently teaches her original "Afro-Club" dance class weekly in NYC and at Urban Movement Arts in Philadelphia.

Shani Akilah

In January of 2016 Shani Akilah visioned and created the Black and Brown Workers Cooperative (BBWC)--a collective that is now 400 workers strong in Philadelphia. The BBWC has successfully changed the power structure in the Philadelphia gayborhood by ousting former LGBTQ liaison to the mayor, Nellie Fitzpatrick, organizing with and unionizing Mazzoni workers, as well as impacting city wide policy.

Tayarisha Poe

Tayarisha Poe creates complex portraits of young people of color in her multisensory work that blends film, photography, and prose across media platforms. "My stories seek to show young people of color that they can choose how to define themselves, and they can shape their world," she says. Poe's forthcoming debut feature film, *Selah and the Spades*, began as an online series of photographs, short films, prose, and web design, telling the story of a charismatic black teenager in a fictional Pennsylvania

ABOUT ***This Is a Formation***

town. The project marked Poe as one of Filmmaker Magazine's "25 New Faces of Independent Film" in 2015 and was recently further developed at the Sundance Screenwriter's Lab. Poe is a 2016 Knight Foundation Sundance Fellow and has been awarded grants from the Cinereach Foundation and Leeway Foundation. She holds a BA in film and literature from Swarthmore College and has been a filmmaking instructor at Scribe Video Center since 2013. <http://www.tayarishapoe.com/>

Thomas F. DeFrantz

Thomas F. DeFrantz received the 2017 Outstanding Research in Dance award from the Dance Studies Association. He is Professor at Duke University, and director of SLIPPAGE: Performance, Culture, Technology, a research group that explores emerging technology in live performance applications. Books: *Dancing Many Drums: Excavations in African American Dance* (2002), *Dancing Revelations Alvin Ailey's Embodiment of African American Culture*(2004), *Black Performance Theory*, co-edited with Anita Gonzalez (2014), *Choreography and Corporeality: Relay in Motion*, co-edited with Philipa Rothfield (2016). Creative: *Queer Theory! An Academic Travesty* commissioned by the Theater Offensive of Boston and the Flynn Center for the Arts; *fastDANCEpast*, created for the Detroit Institute for the Arts; *reVERSE-gesture-reVIEW* commissioned by the Nasher Museum in response to the work of Kara Walker, January, 2017. Convenor, *Black Performance Theory*, and *Collegium for African Diaspora Dance*. Curation: *afroFUTUREqu##r* with niv ACOSTA at Jack, October, 2015; *National Black Arts Festival Dance Focus*, 2015. Teaching: *American Dance Festival*, *ImpulseTanz*, the *New Waves Dance Institute*, as well as MIT, Stanford, Yale, NYU, Hampshire College, and the University of Nice. Musical score, *past-carry-forward* for *Dance Theatre of Harlem*, 2013. He convenes the *Black Performance Theory* working group. In 2013, working with Takiyah Nur Amin, he founded the *Collegium for African Diaspora Dance*, a growing consortium of 200 researchers. In 2015 he created a tap work "tell me a secret" for students at Washington University in St. Louis, and in 2016 he created a contemporary improvisational work "...but are we good now?" for the students at Columbia College Chicago; in 2017 he created the tap work "... how could I have known?" for students at Connecticut College. DeFrantz believes in our shared capacity to do better, and to engage our creative spirit for a collective good that is anti-racist, anti-homophobic, proto-feminist, and queer affirming.

William Robinson

William Robinson is from Washington D.C., son to parents Patricia and Maurice Robinson Jr. He attended college at The University

ABOUT *This Is a Formation*

of the Arts, graduating in 2008. He is a current performer with idiosynCrazy productions, Brian Sanders' Junk, and Cardell Dance Theatre.

Zen Jefferson / dø√Σ Ç@KΣ

Zen Jefferson is a Swiss American performer, DJ and Bessie nominated sound collage artist based in Berlin. In 2006, he graduated with a BFA in dance from the Juilliard School and since worked in creative collaboration with artistic endeavors that have taken him around the world exploring movement, sound & energy as tools of explorative connection and transformation. His collaborations and practice interrogate the intersections of racial politics within performance, ritual and healing that seek to disrupt the imperialist white supremacist capitalist patriarchy, using the body, sound and community as a transformative vessel for collective & inter - celestial immersion.

Let 'Im Move You FUNDING

The creation of *Let 'im Move You: This Is a Formation* was made possible 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 Pew Center for Arts & Heritage, Philadelphia; The MAP Fund, supported by the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation and the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation; National Performance Network/Visual Artists Network (NPN/VAN) Creation & Development Fund co-commissioned by Painted Bride Art Center in partnership with Bates Dance Festival, Arthur Aviles Typical Theatre DBA BAAD! Bronx Academy of Arts and Dance, Abrons Arts Center/Henry Street Settlement, Contemporary Arts Center Cincinnati, Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago, Dance Place, PICA (Portland Institute for Contemporary Art), and NPN/VAN; Independence Foundation; and the Sacatar Foundation.

The development of *Let 'im Move You: This Is a Formation* was made possible, in part, by the Maggie Allesee National Center for Choreography at Florida State University. Production residency funded by the New England Foundation for the Arts' National Dance Project, with funding from The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation. Additional production support and residency provided by EMPAC / Experimental Media and Performing Arts Center, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, Troy, NY. Additional residency support provided by Duke University by way of Slippage, and South Dallas Cultural Center.

This engagement of *Let 'im Move You: This Is a Formation* is made possible through the ArtsCONNECT program of Mid Atlantic Arts Foundation with support from the National Endowment for the Arts.



ABOUT ABRONS

Abrons Arts Center is a home for contemporary interdisciplinary arts in Manhattan's Lower East Side neighborhood. A core program of the Henry Street Settlement, Abrons believes that access to the arts is essential to a free and healthy society. Through performance presentations, exhibitions, education programs and residencies, Abrons mobilizes communities with the transformative power of art.

Abrons Arts Center values freedom of expression and creativity, ever striving to provide creative communities with a space that celebrates diversity of thought and experience. Abrons aims to be an anti-oppressive home to people from all backgrounds and does not discriminate on the basis of race, national or ethnic origin, citizen status, ancestry, age, religion, disability, sex or gender identity. As definitions of expression and inclusion evolve, Abrons is committed to continually revising this statement in collaboration with our communities.

Indigenous Land Acknowledgment

Abrons Arts Center is situated on the Lenape island of Manhahtaan (Mannahatta). We pay respect to Lenape peoples and ancestors past, present, and future, and acknowledge our reliance on the land and waters of Lenapehoking, the Lenape homeland. We offer our care and gratitude to Lenapehoking, and are committed to resisting colonialism through the support of Indigenous-led programming and Indigenous artistic practices.

You are welcome here.

Support neighborhood businesses! As a thank you for supporting our programming, we're offering discounts to some of our favorite Lower East Side hangouts. For more information, click on abronsartscenter.org/plan-your-trip/dining-and-attractions. And get a discount when you bring this program!



Abrons Arts Center at Henry Street Settlement

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