

ALVIN AILEY AMERICAN DANCE THEATER

Shelter

(1988 / New Production – 2017)

Choreography: Jawole Willa Jo Zollar

Restaging: Masazumi Chaya

Music: Junior “Gabu” Wedderburn and Victor See Yeun

Text: Hattie Gossett, Carl Hancock Rux, Laurie Carlos, Paloma McGregor and Jawole Willa Jo Zollar

Costumes by: Terri Cousar

Lighting: Susan Hamburger

Rehearsal Assistants: Maria Bauman, Jamié Dzandu, Marjani Forté, Paloma McGregor, Samantha Speis, Bennalldra Williams

Shelter, a passionate statement about the physical and emotional deprivation of homeless people, returns to the Ailey stage 25 years after first being performed by the Company. Set to an inventive score which incorporates poetry by Hattie Gossett and Laurie Carlos – and updated spoken word by Zollar and Paloma McGregor to reflect recent events – this dramatic work delivers the compelling message that the poverty of individuals will inevitably lead to the destitution of all humanity.

“‘Shelter,’ choreographer **Jawole Willa Jo Zollar’s 1988 work on homelessness, remains relevant... addresses the physical and emotional deprivation of homeless people** — more broadly, the **effects of displacement** and the **resilience people must have in order to survive.**”

The Atlanta Journal-Constitution

“... a **wake-up call about homelessness**, in several senses. It’s rougher and rawer than much of the Ailey repertory, and the **company’s women perform it with astonishing force.**”

The New Yorker

“*Shelter*, a picture of near despair among people on the outskirts of society, **has the emotional depth, heat and conviction so present in the best of Mr. Ailey’s works.**”

Washington Times

“It is an **intensely moving** and **passionate** piece for six women...”

New York Post

“Zollar’s *Shelter* is a stunning departure from the Ailey tradition and a **superb addition to the Ailey repertory.**”

The Boston Herald



AAADT in Jawole Willa Jo Zollar’s *Shelter*.
Photo by Paul Kolnik.



Jawole Willa Jo Zollar.
Photo by Urban Bush
Women

Jawole Willa Jo Zollar

From Kansas City, Missouri, Jawole Willa Jo Zollar trained with Joseph Stevenson, a student of the legendary Katherine Dunham. After earning her B.A. in dance from the University of Missouri at Kansas City, she received her M.F.A. in dance from Florida State University. In 1980 Jawole moved to New York City to study with Dianne McIntyre at Sounds in Motion. In 1984, Jawole founded Urban Bush Women (UBW) as a performance ensemble dedicated to exploring the use of cultural expression as a catalyst for social change. In addition to 34 works for UBW, she has created works for Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, Philadanco, University of Maryland, Virginia Commonwealth University and others. In 2006 Jawole received a New York Dance and Performance Award (Bessie) for her work as choreographer/creator and was designated a Master of Choreography by the John F. Kennedy Performing Arts Center in 2005. As an artist whose work is geared towards building equity and diversity in the arts Jawole was awarded the Arthur L. Johnson

Memorial award by Sphinx Music at their inaugural conference on diversity in the arts. In 2013, Jawole received the Doris Duke Performing Artist Award and honorary degrees from Tufts University and Rutgers University. Recently, Jawole received the 2016 Dance Magazine award, the 2016 Dance/USA Honor Award and the 2017 New York Dance and Performance Bessie Award for Lifetime Achievement.

This production of *Shelter* was made possible with major support from American Express.

Shelter
Music and Text Credit Information

“Between a Rock and a Hard Place at the intersection of Reduced Resources and Reverberating Rage” by Hattie Gossett, vocals by Carl Hancock Rux.

“Elmina Blues Opus 3 (Pigin Drum Song)” by Carl Hancock Rux.

“Belongo” by Laurie Carlos, vocals by Carl Hancock Rux.

“Endangered Species” drawn from various news sources.

Texts performed by Carol Hancock Rux with drumming by Junior “Gabu” Wedderburn.

“Are You Listening” by Paloma McGregor and Jawole Willa Jo Zollar.

Text performed by Jawole Willa Jo Zollar. Percussion performed by Victor See Yuen.