

ALVIN AILEY AMERICAN DANCE THEATER

Four Corners **(Ailey Company & World Premiere – 2013)**

Choreography: Ronald K. Brown

Music: Carl Hancock Rux, Rahsaan Roland Kirk, and Yacoub

Costume Design: Omotayo Wunmi Olaiya

Lighting Design: Al Crawford

Assistant to the Choreographer: Arcell Cabuag

Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater returned to Lincoln Center in June 2013 after a decade absence with a world premiere by celebrated choreographer **Ronald K. Brown**. ***Four Corners***, set to the music of Carl Hancock Rux, along with various artists, brings to life the vision of four angels standing on the four corners of the earth holding the four winds. Drawing inspiration from the lyrics of Rux's "Lamentations," ***Four Corners*** trails eleven dancers as they rise to seek a life of peace on the "mountaintop," a powerful and hope-filled journey of tribulation, devotion, and triumph.

Ronald K. Brown is renowned for his signature blend of modern dance and West African idioms in works that often stimulate deeper examinations of issues of spirituality, community responsibility and liberation. ***Four Corners*** was Brown's first collaboration with the critically-acclaimed Carl Hancock Rux, but it is his fifth work set on Ailey's extraordinary dancers, who have become known as inspiring interpreters of his unique dance storytelling.



AAADT's Belen Pereyra-Alem, Glenn Allen Sims, Linda Celeste Sims, and Matthew Rushing in Ronald K. Brown's ***Four Corners***.
Photo by Paul Kolnik.

"...you see dancers fulfilling their potential and choreography performed with backbone."

The New York Times

"...able to give the virtuosic dancers of Alvin Ailey American Dance Theatre works as powerful as their technique...his compositions are hard to resist."

The New Yorker

"...spectacular...continues the trend confirming Brown as one of today's most important dance makers...The dance is magnificently layered."

The Star-Ledger

"*Four Corners*' is where I want to live...The movement is deeply influenced by African dance, not only in its shapes but in its hypnotic rhythms: suspension, then release on the beat with a serpentine undulation...creates a community whose motherly leader (on opening night, the astounding Linda Celeste Sims) rocks us into a state of bliss."

Chicago Tribune



Ronald K. Brown.
Photo by Basil Childers.

Ronald K. Brown

Brooklyn-born Ronald K. Brown has created and presented dances since 1985, with his NY-based company Evidence, to promote understanding of the human experience in the African Diaspora through dance and storytelling. Brown's choreography has been performed by a wide variety of dance companies, including Dayton Contemporary Dance Company, Philadanco, and Ailey II. For Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, he has created the world premieres *Grace* (1999), *Serving Nia* (2001), *IFE/My Heart* (2005), and *Dancing Spirit* (2010), which was a special tribute to Judith Jamison. Brown has worked with and learned from Jennifer Muller/The Works, Mary Anthony Dance Theater/Phoenix, Bessie Schonberg, Ann Carlson, and Judith Jamison.

He is the recipient of numerous awards including a New York Dance and Performance Award (Bessie), National Endowment for the Arts Choreographers Fellowship, a New York Foundation for the Arts Fellowship, a John Simon Guggenheim Fellowship, the American Dance Festival Humphrey/Weidman/Limon Award, Black Theater Alliance Award, and fellowships from the Edward and Sally van Lier fund.

In addition, Brown was named Def Dance Jam Workshop Mentor of the Year in 2000. In 2003, he received an AUDELCO (Black Theatre Award) for his choreography *Crowns: Portraits of Black Women in Church Hats*, originally produced by the McCarter Theater and presented off-Broadway in 2003. In fall 2006, Brown received The United State Artists Rose Fellowship. He was one of only four choreographers of 50 artists to receive the inaugural award. In 2012, Brown received a Fred and Adele Astaire Award for his outstanding choreography in "The Gershwin's Porgy and Bess."



Carl Hancock Rux. Scott Groller
Courtesy of Calarts Photography.

Carl Hancock Rux

Carl Hancock Rux is an award-winning poet, playwright, novelist, essayist and recording artist. Rux's critically acclaimed debut CD, *Rux Revue* (Sony Music), was voted one of the top ten alternative music CDs of 1998 (The New York Times). *Apothecary Rx*, released in 2002 to similar plaudits, features Rux's preacher vocals on "Lamentations" with a blend of four-string bluegrass guitar licks, dance beats and Cuban style congas. In 2013, he released his long-awaited fourth studio album, *Homeostasis*, produced with Hamilton "Fitz" Kirby, and featuring guests like Nona Hendryx, Vijay Iyer, Vernon Reid, Ben Tyree, Martha Redbone and Dave "Smoota" Smith.

Rux has also worked as a writer and frequent guest performer in dance, collaborating with Marlies Yearby's *Movin' Spirits* Dance Theater, Urban Bush Women, Jane Comfort & Co., Bill T. Jones/Arnie Zane Dance Company, the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater and Martha Clark. Rux received a BESSIE© award for his direction of the Lisa Jones/Alva Rogers dance musical, *Stained*.

Rux originated the title role in the folk opera production of *The Temptation of St. Anthony*, directed by Robert Wilson with book, libretto and music by Bernice Johnson Reagon, which had its official world premiere at the Paris Opera, Garnier, and its American premiere at the Brooklyn Academy of Music. His film credits include *The Grand Inquisitor* (as The One) directed by Tony Torn, *Brooklyn Boheme* (documentary) and *Migrations* directed by Nelson George; *The Revolution Will Not Be Televised: a film About Gil Scott-Heron* (documentary) among others. Rux is the subject of the Voices of America television documentary, *Carl Hancock Rux, Coming of Age*, recipient of the CINE Golden Eagle Award. Rux co-wrote and narrated the radio documentary, *Walt Whitman; Songs of Myself*, awarded the New York Press Club Journalism Award for Entertainment News. To mark the 10th anniversary of 9/11, WNYC's the Greene Space commissioned Rux to create and perform a spoken word piece meant to be a mosaic of remembrance of this historical event titled: *A City Reimagined: Voices of 9/11 in Poetry and Performance*.

Rux is the author of the novel, *Asphalt*, the OBIE Award winning play, *Talk*, and the Village Voice Literary prize-winning collection of poetry, *Pagan Operetta*. He is the recipient of several awards including the Herb Alpert Prize, NYFA Prize, NYFA Gregory Millard Fellow, and NEA/TCG Artist-in-Residency Fellow. He is currently working on his new novel and has written the book and lyrics for the opera *Mackandal*, premiering in the fall of 2013.

Four Corners

Music Credit Information

Song: Shadow Interlude

Music and Lyrics: Carl Hancock Rux, co-written by Vinicius Cantuaria
Published by: Manrux Music (BMI), Tucuma Publishing (BMI)
Produced by: Stewart Lerman and Carl Hancock Rux

Song: Lamentations

Music and Lyrics: Carl Hancock Rux, music contribution by Ron Trent
Published by: Manrux Music (BMI), Ron Trent Music (ASCAP)
Produced by: Stewart Lerman and Carl Hancock Rux

Song: Volunteered Slavery

Music: Rahsaan Roland Kirk

Song: Da Na Ma

Music: Yacoub

Song: Da Na Ma (Manoo Remix)

Music: Yacoub