

ALVIN AILEY AMERICAN DANCE THEATER

The Winter in Lisbon (1992 / New Production – 2016)

This work is dedicated to the memory of Gary Deloatch.

Choreography: Billy Wilson
Restaged by: Masazumi Chaya
Music: Charles Fishman and Dizzy Gillespie
Costumes: Barbara Forbes
Lighting: Chenault Spence

The Winter in Lisbon is a sizzling, sensuous ballet celebrating four decades of Dizzy Gillespie's brilliant music. Choreographed in 1992 by **Billy Wilson**, and restaged for the 2017 centennial of Dizzy Gillespie's birth, the work pays tribute to Mr. Gillespie, the consummate jazz musician, creating an atmosphere in which the dancers challenge, tease and romance against a backdrop of rhythm and color.

Wilson's exuberant, playful ballet was conceived in celebration of Gillespie's birthday after Artistic Director Emerita Judith Jamison was approached by the musician's management to create a dance for his music. Confident in Wilson's ability to blend his eclectic ballet and modern dance training with the boisterous sound of Gillespie's music, Jamison commissioned him to bring the project to life. "It's a celebration of life," explains Masazumi Chaya, who last restaged the work in 2010 for Ms. Jamison's final City Center Season. "It's fun, it's full of energy, it's about life going on."

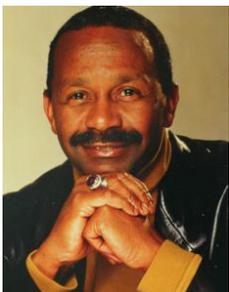


AAADT' in Billy Wilson's *The Winter in Lisbon*.
Photo by Paul Kolnik.

Praising the original production in 1992, the Associated Press characterized it as "a joyful dance that gives an emotional lift," and critics and audiences across the country agreed. Wilson's dreamscape gives the full company of Ailey dancers a chance to dazzle in a glamorous suite of dances that range from a sultry love duet to a rowdy challenge to the thrilling Latin-inspired finale.

*"The Winter in Lisbon [is] an onstage party with **rhythm, color and surprises.**"*
The New York Times

*"The Winter in Lisbon sparkled ...**sultry and slinky, snazzy and cool, and all-around lowdown and hot.** Dancers slid and rolled through easy going pirouettes, fan kicks, and hip thrusting turns... Both **sexy and fun, it showed off easy virtuosity.**"*
DC Metro Theater Arts



Billy Wilson.
Photo by Alexis Wilson

Billy Wilson

Internationally-known choreographer and director, Billy Wilson, studied ballet with Antony Tudor and Karel Shook. He appeared on Broadway in *Bells Are Ringing* and *Jamaica*, and in the original London production of *West Side Story*. He was associated with the dance departments of Brandeis University, the National Center of Afro-American Artists and was an Associate Professor at Carnegie Mellon University's School of Drama. In addition to choreographing the award-winning children's television show, *Zoom*, Mr. Wilson choreographed Broadway's *Odyssey*, *Bubbling Brown Sugar* and directed and choreographed *Guys and Dolls*. He received numerous honors for his work, including two Emmy Awards and three Tony Award nominations. Billy Wilson died in August 1994.

John Birks “Dizzy” Gillespie

Gillespie (1917-1993), was an American jazz musician, bandleader, singer and composer, remembered by many as one of the greatest jazz trumpeters of all times. Born in Cheraw, South Carolina, Gillespie began playing piano at age four and received a scholarship to study music at the Laurinburg Institute in North Carolina. He went on to play with the Teddy Hill Band and the Cap Calloway Orchestra, and started writing big band music, most notably for Ella Fitzgerald’s orchestra. Known for his light-hearted personality, Gillespie ushered in the era of Be-Bop along with Charlie Parker, and carried on the traditions of Afro-Cuban, Afro-American and Latin Jazz. During his long career, Gillespie toured Africa, the Middle East and Latin America under the U.S. State Department’s sponsorship, and performed for President Carter and Shah of Iran at The White House. For his tremendous talent and contributions to the music world, Gillespie received many awards including: Grammy Lifetime Achievement Award (1989), National Medal of the Arts from President Bush (1989), Kennedy Center Honors Award (1990), National Association of Recording Arts and Sciences Lifetime Achievement Award (1989), and fourteen honorary degrees, including Ph.D. Rutgers University (1972) and Ph.D. Chicago Conservatory of Music (1978).



John Birks “Dizzy” Gillespie. Photo from Dizzygillespie.com

The Winter in Lisbon Music Credit Information

Song: Opening Theme

Written by: Charles Fishman
Arranged by: Slide Hampton
Re-orchestrated by: Ted Nash

Song: San Sebastian

Written by: Dizzy Gillespie
Arranged by: Slide Hampton
Transcribed by Christopher Crenshaw

Song: Lisbon

Written by: Dizzy Gillespie
Arranged by: Slide Hampton
Transcribed by: Christopher Crenshaw

Song: Manteca

Written by: Dizzy Gillespie and Chano Pozo
Arranged by: Gil Fuller
Transcribed by: Mark Lopeman