

ALVIN AILEY AMERICAN DANCE THEATER

D-Man In The Waters (Part I)
(1989, revised 1998)
(Ailey Company Premiere—2013-14 Season)

Choreography: Bill T. Jones
Restaged by: Janet Wong
Music: Felix Mendelssohn, Octet for Strings in E-flat major, Op. 20 (1825)
Costumes: Liz Prince
Lighting: Robert Wierzel

This dance is dedicated to Demian Acquavella.

Bill T. Jones's joyful tour-de-force, *D-Man in the Waters* is a true modern-dance classic and a New York Dance and Performance ("Bessie") Award-winning work. It is a celebration of life and the resiliency of the human spirit that embodies loss, hope and triumph. Set to Mendelssohn's Octet for Strings in E-flat Major, Op. 20 (1825), the work is one of the finest examples of the post-modern aesthetic and was featured in PBS's landmark film *Dancing in the Light: Six Dances by African-American Choreographers*. *D-Man in the Waters* is dedicated to Demian Acquavella. Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater first performed choreography by Bill T. Jones in 1983 when Alvin Ailey invited him to create *Fever Swamp* on the Company.



Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater in Bill T. Jones's *D-Man in the Waters (Part I)*. Photo by Paul Kolnik.

"*D-Man in the Waters* radiates the clarity of love. High-spirited yet with an undercurrent of trouble... Jones translates Mendelssohn's youthful extremes... as wide-eyed inventiveness."

The Financial Times

"*D-Man* is the kind of piece that sets audiences cheering..."

The New York Times

"...Bill T. Jones has gone from experimental downtown artist to two-time Tony winner."

The Washington Post

Bill T. Jones



Jones choreographed and performed worldwide with his late partner, Arnie Zane, before forming the Bill T. Jones/Arnie Zane Dance Company in 1982, for which he has created more than 140 works. Bill T. Jones is the recipient of numerous recognitions, including the Kennedy Center Honors; Tony Award (*FELA!* and *Spring Awakening*); Obie Award; the 2010 Jacob's Pillow Dance Award; the 2005 Wexner Prize; the 2005 Samuel H. Scripps American Dance Festival Award for Lifetime Achievement; the 2003 Dorothy and Lillian Gish Prize; and the 1994 MacArthur "Genius" Award. In 2011, Jones was named Executive Artistic Director of New York Live Arts.

Felix Mendelssohn

Mendelssohn (3 February 1809 – 4 November 1847) was a German composer, pianist, organist and conductor of the early Romantic period. Recognized early as a musical prodigy, Mendelssohn wrote symphonies, concerti, oratorios, piano music and chamber music. His best-known works include his Overture and Wedding March for *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, the *Italian Symphony*, the *Scottish Symphony*, the overture *The Hebrides*, his mature Violin Concerto, and his String Octet in E-flat major, Op. 20, which was composed by Mendelssohn at the age of 16 and was the first work which showed the full power of his genius. In 1843, Mendelssohn founded The Leipzig Conservatoire (now the University of Music and Theatre Leipzig), the oldest university school of music in Germany.

D-Man In The Waters (Part I)

Music Credit Information

Music: **String Octet in E-flat major, Opus 20** (1825)

Composed by: Felix Mendelssohn

Performed by: The Guarneri String Quartet with The Orion String Quartet

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