

ALVIN AILEY AMERICAN DANCE THEATER

The Pleasure of the Lesson
(World Premiere – 2014)

Choreography: Robert Moses
Music: Robert Moses and David Worm
Costumes: Jon Taylor
Lighting Design: Al Crawford
Rehearsal Assistant: Katherine Wells

Robert Moses

The Pleasure of the Lesson premiered at the Company's 2014 Lincoln Center engagement and marked Robert Moses' first collaboration with Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater. Known for sexy, sophisticated choreography that makes audiences want to dance too, he has created numerous works of varying styles and genres for his highly praised dance company Robert Moses' Kin, founded in 1995 in San Francisco.

His work explores topics ranging from oral traditions in African American culture (*Word of Mouth*, 2002), the life, times, and work of author James Baldwin (*Biography of Baldwin*, 2003), and the dark side of contemporary urban culture (*Cause*, 2004), to the nuanced complexities of parentage and identity (*The Cinderella Principle*, 2010), and the simple joys of the expressive power of pure movement (*Toward September*, 2009). He created his signature solo *Doscongio* in 1998, set to two movements of Chopin's Sonata for cello and piano (op. 65). About the schism in one man's view of himself, the first movement is his moment of public bravura and the second his private realization of the fallacy of that image.



Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater in Robert Moses' *The Pleasure of the Lesson*. Photo by Paul Kolnik



Since 2008, Moses has composed original scores for several of his dances. In addition, Moses has choreographed for film, opera, theater and other dance companies, including: San Francisco Opera (*La Forza del Destino*, 2005), Philadanco, Cincinnati Ballet, African Cultural Exchange (UK), Oakland Ballet, the Lorraine Hansberry Theater, and Olympic Arts Festival, among others.

In 2005, Moses was named Choreographer-in-Residence and Artistic Director of the Committee on Black Performing Arts at Stanford University, where he has been on the dance faculty since 1995. An alumni of California State University, Long Beach and a highly regarded master teacher, Moses has taught on campuses and at festivals throughout the United States, including Bates Dance Festival, Colorado Dance Festival, UC Berkeley, UC Davis, University of Texas, and University of Nevada. He conducts movement and performance workshops internationally, most recently for artists of African descent with State of Emergency Limited in the United Kingdom.

“Robert Moses’ *Lesson* is a pleasure... **Tightly focused**, *The Lesson* finds its subject in the space between the sexes... a delicate dance in which the lightest touch produces arousal, and electricity travels through the body in waves... *The Lesson* is well worth a visit...”

The Star-Ledger

“Truth be told, creatively speaking, revered choreographer **Robert Moses never shies away from boldly taking on new concepts.**”

The Huffington Post