

ALVIN AILEY AMERICAN DANCE THEATER

Dancing Spirit

(2009, New Production 2023)

Choreography: Ronald K. Brown

Rehearsal Associates: Arcell Cabuag, Matthew Rushing

Music: Duke Ellington, Wynton Marsalis, Radiohead, War

Costumes: Omotayo Wunmi Olaiya

Lighting: Clifton Taylor

Fabric Dyeing of Costumes: Shayee Awoyom

Happy Birthday, Judith Jamison!

Ronald K. Brown pays tribute to Judith Jamison's profound influence with a moving work that echoes the title of Jamison's autobiography, *Dancing Spirit*. Set to music by Duke Ellington, Wynton Marsalis and War, Brown's evocative choreography uses movement from Cuba, Brazil and the United States to conjure dancing spirits who embody Jamison's elegance, dignity and generosity.

"Watching the dancers spread throughout the stage, you keenly feel his choreography as a three-dimensional art..."

- *The New York Times*

"... good enough to blindside us." - *The Financial Times*



Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater in
Ronald K. Brown's *Dancing Spirit*.
Photo by Paul Kolnik.

Ronald K. Brown



Ronald K. Brown.
Photo by Basil Childers.

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 Gershwins' Porgy and Bess."

Generous support for this new production of *Dancing Spirit* was received from an Anonymous supporter, Judith McDonough Kaminski & Joseph Kaminski, Sarah and Bill Morgan New Words Endowment Fund, Dr. Crawford Parker, and the Kansas City Friends of Alvin Ailey through the generosity of its donors.

Dancing Spirit Music Credit Information

“The Single Petal of a Rose” by Duke Ellington, performed by Stefon Harris, Derrick Hodge, Louise Dubin, courtesy of Sony Music Entertainment, by arrangement with Sony Music Licensing.

“What Have You Done?” by Wynton Marsalis, performed by Wynton Marsalis, Victor Goines, Wycliffe Gordon, Douglas Wamble, Reginald Veal, Herlin Riley and Eric Lewis, by arrangement with Boosey & Hawkes, Inc on behalf of Wynton Marsalis Enterprises, Inc (WME) doing business as Skaynes Music, copyright owner.

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“Tsotsobi – The Morning Star (Children)” by Wynton Marsalis, performed by Wynton Marsalis, Yacub Addy, Odadaa!, and the Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra, by arrangement with Boosey & Hawkes, Inc on behalf of Wynton Marsalis Enterprises, Inc (WME) doing business as Skaynes Music, copyright owner.

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“Flying Machine (The Chase)” © S. Allen, H. Brown, M. Dickerson, L. Jordan, C. Miller, L. Oskar and H. Scott, performed by same under name “War”, courtesy of Far Out Music, a division of Universal Polygram International