

Camille A. Brown & Dancers

Thursday, September 12
Luth Concert Hall
Prior Presents 2024–25

PRIOR
Performing Arts Center

Welcome

Dear friends,

Prolific, rigorous, endlessly inventive: the celebrated Camille A. Brown is a singular figure in contemporary dance. Having performed with companies from Ronald K. Brown/EVIDENCE to Rennie Harris, Brown's choreography for Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, Urban Bush Women, and her own Camille A. Brown & Dancers (CABD), among others, draws from a wide range of African diasporic social and theatrical dance forms. Her impressive trajectory within the dance world is matched by her increasing ubiquity as a director and choreographer for theater, musical theater, and opera. Brown's presence has made a significant mark on those fields, introducing what Melanie George calls "a lexicon of movement and aesthetics, grounded in the history and evolution of African diaspora, that was largely absent from theatrical stages."¹ Brown's appetite for exploring, in the words of Eva Yaa Asantewaa, "how dance urges humans towards freedom, celebration and unity"² extends even further into film and television—and into the community with initiatives like "Every Body Move" and "Social Dance for Social Change."

My first encounter with Brown came at a long-ago workshop for the Off-Broadway musical *Fortress of Solitude*, Brown's initial foray into musical theater. Everything about the happy, anticipatory atmosphere in the room that day was intended to convey "work in progress"—but the *dancing!* It already dazzled. I have come to learn that the qualities on joyful display in that workshop—technical virtuosity, a clear sense of character, and an ability to put disparate traditions in intimate dialogue—are enduring hallmarks of Brown's work. As you will see tonight, another of Brown's talents is making room for the relationship between musicians and dancers to bloom afresh in each performance.

As The Prior Performing Arts Center takes its place at Holy Cross and in the region, we are proud to create space for world-class visiting artists not only to perform or to exhibit, but to *work*. The inquiry-driven mission of higher education suggests that academic arts centers are sites *par excellence* for the development of new artistic work, not least because the creative process has so much in common with the goals of a liberal arts education: experiment, risk, discover, repeat. In this vein, we have been thrilled to offer CABD this week-long technical residency to continue exploring their newest work, *I AM*, in the wake of its recent world premiere.

In turn, the company's work this week has provided other opportunities for discovery, including a student workshop with CABD rehearsal director Mora-Amina Parker; a dialogue between Dance director Jimena Bermejo and Brown; and the engagement of courses from Montserrat seminars to African-American Poetry. The residency has also prompted a new connection with nearby Jacob's Pillow, which premiered *I AM*; and allowed us to deepen relationships with partners like The Village, Worcester's Afrocentric cultural, learning and healing center, and the Worcester YWCA.

I hope you have a wonderful time with Camille A. Brown & Dancers. In the meantime, it's not too soon to begin planning your next visit to The Prior: check out pages 14-15 for the rest of the 2024-25 Prior Presents series; and visit www.priorperformingartscenter.org for our full slate of academic and community programming.

Kyle Frisina
Nancy Savage Skinner Interim Director

¹ Melanie George, "PillowNotes" for Camille A. Brown & Dancers at Jacob's Pillow. July 31, 2024.

² Eva Yaa Asantewaa, "Dance Magazine Honoree: Camille A. Brown." *Dance Magazine*. December 4, 2020.

Program

Excerpt from *ink* (2017)

TURF

Directed and Choreographed by Camille A. Brown in collaboration with the dancers and musicians of CABD

Dancers: Dorse Brown, Mikhail Calliste

About *TURF*

TURF is an excerpt from Camille A. Brown's *ink*, which celebrates the rituals, gestural vocabulary, and traditions that remain ingrained within the lineage of the African Diaspora and reclaims African-American narratives by showcasing their authenticity. The work examines the culture of Black life that is often appropriated, rewritten, or silenced. *TURF* is the response illustrating the Black male rite of passage propelled by "the dab." Two innocents are hit with the reality of navigating being Black men in America while protecting one another through it all.

I AM (2024)

"Every story I create, creates me. I write to create myself." - Octavia Butler

Directed and Choreographed by Camille A. Brown in collaboration with the dancers and musicians of CABD

Dancers: Christian Blue, Dorse Brown, Mikhail Calliste, Brianna Dawkins, Eboni Edwards, Starla Edwards, Alain 'Hurrikane' Lauture, Miki Michelle, Courtney Ross, SeQuoiia, Curtis Thomas

Original music by Frédérique Gnaman, Juliette Jones, Deah Love, Jaylen Petinaud, Monique Brooks Roberts, Martine Mauro-Wade

Musicians: Deah Love, Monique Brooks Roberts, Martine Mauro-Wade

Music Credits: "Beauty" by Dru Hill, "Optimistic" by Sounds of Blackness, "Crush On You" by Lil Kim ft Lil Cease, "Golden" by Jill Scott, "Put Your Hands Where My Eyes Can See" by Busta Rhymes, "Gypsy (La Da Dee) [Homeless] Women" by Crystal Waters, "I'll Be There For You / You're All I Need To Get By" by Method Man ft Mary J. Blige

Lighting and Scenic Designer: David L. Arsenault

Sound Designer: Justin Ellington

Playback Engineering & Synchronization Specialist: Enrico de Trizio

Costume Designer: Ashley Soliman

Projection Designer: Aaron Rhyne

Music Director and Arranger: Deah Love

Music Supervisor: Zane Mark

Lighting Supervisor: Lauren Lee

Rehearsal Director: Mora-Amina Parker

Assistant to Choreographer: Jay Staten

**Casting subject to change*

Homecoming

Existing

Elevation

Throwback #1

Channeling

We Are Black Girls That Can Dance

Throwback #2

Musicians Jam

Rise

Ascension

About "I AM"

Continuing her explorations of Black joy, director and choreographer Camille A. Brown creates a new work for her company, that launches new queries into the possibilities of imagination—and boldly investigates the future. While Brown has often disrupted our understanding of the past, in this new work, she imagines a creative space for cultural liberation—conjuring new ways of being in this world. Pulling from themes found in the "I AM" episode of the HBO series "Lovecraft Country," this new work picks up where *ink* left off by blasting us into the universe where anything is possible and features various dance genres of the African Diaspora.

Funding Credits

Lead commissioning support for *I AM* has been provided by The Joyce Theater, Jacob's Pillow's Joan B. Hunter New Work Commission, the Meany Center for the Performing Arts, The Apollo, and The Prior Performing Arts Center at the College of the Holy Cross. The creation and presentation of *I AM* was made possible with major support from the Mellon Foundation and additional support from the New England Foundation for the Arts' National Dance Project, with lead funding from the Doris Duke Foundation; the Rockefeller Brothers Fund; the Princess Grace Foundation-USA; Masterwork Music and Art Foundation; the Harkness Foundation for Dance; Ford Foundation; the Howard Gilman Foundation, the Shubert Foundation; and The Prior Performing Arts Center at the College of the Holy Cross. Public support was provided by the National Endowment for the Arts; the New York State Council on the Arts, with the support of Governor Kathy Hochul and the New York State Legislature; and the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs.

I AM received creative development time and funding support for residencies through Jacob's Pillow's Pillow Lab (Becket, MA) and the Catskill Mountain Foundation's Orpheum Performing Arts Center (Tannersville, NY). The work also developed at Kaatsbaan Cultural Park (Tivoli, NY), PS21 Center for Contemporary Performance (Chatham, NY), Lake Placid Center for the Arts (Lake Placid, NY), The Ailey Studios, The Joan Weill Center for Dance (New York, NY), and Baryshnikov Arts Center (New York, NY).



FORD
FOUNDATION



About The Company

Camille A. Brown & Dancers (CABD) is a Bessie award-winning, NYC-based dance company that soars through history like a whirlwind. Recognized for blending modern, hip hop, African, tap, and social dance to forge riveting works that ripple with energy, urgency, and powerful theatricality, CABD reclaims Black narratives with historically informed and thought-provoking repertory on race, culture, and identity.

The Company has toured its repertory with live music to 74 cities in the US and internationally. CABD performs for 20,000+ people, and serves 5,000+ engagement participants annually through free community programs that elevate African diaspora aesthetics. In May 2020, CABD launched its **Social Dance for Social Change** virtual school, offering free online artist/scholar lectures by notable speakers and social dance classes, led by Company dancers. To date, the virtual school has 98,000 participants and continues to grow.

In 2022, the Company was thrilled to perform at the Apollo and Joyce Theater in New York City, in a historic two-week celebration of Brown's **Trilogy** of dances on race, culture and identity.

For more information on Camille A. Brown & Dancers, please visit www.camilleabrown.org.

Biographies



Camille A. Brown
Artistic Director & Choreographer

Camille A. Brown is a prolific Black choreographer whose work taps into both ancestral and contemporary stories to capture a range of deeply personal experiences and cultural narratives of African American identity. Through the medium of dance, she is successfully balancing careers in Stage, TV, and Film.

She is the Artistic Director and Choreographer for her company, Camille A Brown & Dancers.

Her trilogy on race, culture, and identity has won accolades: *Mr. TOL E. RANcE* (2012) was honored with a Bessie Award in 2014, and a 2003 Bessie Award nomination for Outstanding Revival; *BLACK GIRL: Linguistic Play* (2015) was Bessie-nominated; and *ink* (2017) premiered at The Kennedy Center, was performed at The Apollo Theater in 2022, and has received critical acclaim.

In 2022, she made her Broadway directorial debut for the Broadway revival of *for colored girls who have considered suicide/when the rainbow is enuf*, making her the first Black woman to direct and choreograph a Broadway play since Katherine Dunham in 1955. The production received seven Tony Award nominations including Best Direction of a Play and Best Choreography for Brown. The New York Times proclaimed the production "triumphant." She also received the 2023 Broadway Black Award for Best Direction. Within the same season, Brown became the first Black artist at The Metropolitan Opera to direct a mainstage production, co-directing alongside James Robinson on Terence Blanchard's *Fire Shut Up in My Bones* (2021), which she also choreographed. *Fire* was triumphantly brought back to the MET again this 2024 spring season. Also at The Metropolitan Opera, she choreographed *Porgy & Bess* and Terence Blanchard's *Champion*. Brown's first musical for theater was *The Fortress of Solitude* directed by Daniel Aukin, written for stage by Itamar Moses, and with music & lyrics by Michael J. Friedman. For *Fortress*, she received a Lortel nomination for Outstanding Choreographer. She received the Audelco Award for Choreography for *Much Ado About Nothing* at Shakespeare in the Park. Her Broadway choreography debut was with *A Streetcar Named Desire*, followed by the Tony Award-winning musical, *Once on This Island*. Brown has been nominated for four Tony awards including for *Choir Boy*, *for colored girls who have considered suicide/when the rainbow is enuf*, and *Hell's Kitchen* - with music and Lyrics by Alicia Keys. For *Hell's Kitchen*, she also received her fourth Drama Desk nomination and won The Chita Rivera Award for Outstanding Choreography.

Brown's film and TV work includes *Harlem* (seasons 1 & 3, Amazon Prime), *Ma Rainey's Black Bottom* (Netflix); Emmy award-winning *Jesus Christ Superstar Live* (NBC); *New Year's Eve in Rockefeller Center* (NBC), and Google Arts & Culture (*ink*).

Brown has received numerous awards including ISPA's Distinguished Artist, The Dance Magazine Award, Emerson Collective Fellow, Guggenheim, Doris Duke Artist, Audelco, Princess Grace Statue Award, Jacob's Pillow Award, and New York City Center fellow, USA Jay Franke & David Herro Fellow, Emerson Fellow, TED fellow, and Kennedy Center's Next 50. Other awards include a Ford Foundation Art of Change Fellowship and the Obie Award for Sustained Achievement in Choreography. Most recently she was honored at the New York Dance Lab Honors and received the Transformative Award from Harlemstage.

Brown's early training began at Bernice Johnson's Cultural Arts Center, Devore Dance Center, and Fiorello LaGuardia High School. She received her BFA from The University of North Carolina School of the Arts. After graduation, she joined Ronald K. Brown/EVIDENCE, A Dance Company, where she danced from 2001-2006.

During her time with the EVIDENCE, critics proclaimed Brown was,

"a stunner when she danced with Ronald K. Brown/EVIDENCE" - Fjord Review

"a powerhouse dancer with expansive reach and bravura." -Maura Keefe

"the most startling discovery was Camille A. Brown, a pixie-ish powerhouse with the determined air of a high priestess."

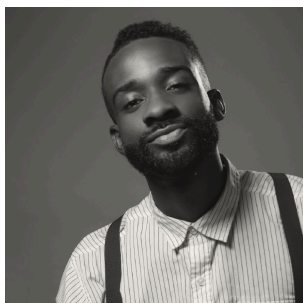
She was a guest artist with Dianne McIntyre in 2008 and Rennie Harris in 2009. Her first commission as a choreographer was from Hubbard Street II in 2002, followed by opportunities to share her work with Ailey II, Urban Bush Women, Philadanco, and Ballet Memphis and at the DanceNow Festival and the Harlemstage's E-moves series among other opportunities. In 2006, Judith Jamison invited her to choreograph on the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater. She went on to dance in her own work (*The Groove to Nobody's Business*) as a guest artist in 2008 and set two more works on the Ailey company-*The Evolution of a Secure Feminine* in 2010 and *City of Rain* in 2019. In 2023, she received two honorary doctorates from The University of North Carolina School of the Arts and Drew University respectively.

Her company premiered the highly anticipated new piece, *I AM*, at Jacob's Pillow this summer. Camille A. Brown & Dancers will perform *I AM* at Arizona State University on October 26 and at The Joyce Theater from February 5-9, 2025. This fall, she will also return to Broadway for the revival of *Gypsy* directed by George C. Wolfe and starring Audra McDonald.

Jay Staten (Assistant to Choreographer), originally from Washington DC, received his dance training at the Duke Ellington School of the Arts. He holds a BFA from Marymount Manhattan College and has been an associate choreographer for productions like Toni Stone and the revival of *Fire Shut Up in My Bones* at the Metropolitan Opera and the Lyric Opera of Chicago. Jay has showcased his talent as a soloist on Broadway in productions like *After Midnight*. His dance career includes dancing with Philadanco!, Donald Byrd's Spectrum Dance Theatre, and Camille A. Brown and Dancers. Jay has also made television appearances on shows like NBC's *Smash* and *Amici* on Italian TV. He served as dance captain for *Dreamgirls* at Dallas Theatre Center, Bill T. Jones's *Superfly The Musical*, and opera's *Malcolm X*. Additionally, he has participated in workshops for productions like *Shuffle Along* and *Radio City Spring Spectacular*.

Mora-Amina Parker (Rehearsal Director) Ms. Mora-Amina Parker began working with Camille A. Brown in 2009, and currently serves as rehearsal director. Prior to her work with Ms. Brown, Ms. Parker was an esteemed member of Savage Jazz Dance Company, Dallas Black Dance Theater, and Philadanco. In addition to her commitment to her dance creation, staging and performance, Ms. Parker is a PhD. candidate drafting her dissertation, *The Expressive Life-Worlds of Talley Beatty's Choreographies: Embodiments of Afropessimism and Afrofuturism*.

CABD Dancers



Dorse Brown At the age of 7, Dorse Brown began his dance career in his hometown of Little Rock, AR. He graduated from the University of Memphis and appeared on the 5th season of *So You Think You Can Dance*. He is so honored to have danced with the Dayton Contemporary Dance Company from 2011- 2015. Brown has been contracted with Royal Caribbean Cruise line and Norwegian Cruise Lines as a soloist. He was selected for the Bronzlens Film Festival and the Emerging Black Choreographer Incubator. This is his third season with Camille A. Brown and Dancers.



Christian Blue is a Performance Artist currently based in New York City. Originally from Phoenix, AZ, Blue grew up dancing in the competition circuit until receiving a full merit scholarship from The University of Arizona School of Dance, where he earned a BFA in Dance with recognition of exceptional performance in the modern dance style. Since graduating in 2020, Blue has toured internationally with Parsons Dance, performed in the historic "racial barrier breaking" opera *Fire Shut Up in My Bones* at the Metropolitan Opera, and has shown his own work around the world in gallery settings such as The Shed in NYC and at Venice Biennale. Blue is happy to share his artistry with CABD for the premiere of Camille's newest work: *I AM*.



Mikhail Calliste Born in the Islands of Trinidad and Tobago, Mikhail Calliste never thought dance would become a paramount within his life. Surrounded by a cultural amalgamation, Calliste's fascination with movement sparked at a young age. Inspired by Carnival and traditional dances that showcased the island's rich history, his "why" was discovered. Little did Mikhail know, this stepping stone would expose him to a limitless world. Moving to New York, Calliste discovered worlds of artistic opportunities, allowing him to experiment with movement near to his routes. With an unyielding passion, Calliste is driven to explore his artistic expression to its greatest levels.



Brianna Dawkins is a dance artist and choreographer from Prince George's County, Maryland. She trained at The Washington Ballet at the ARC and Suitland High School. She recently graduated from George Mason University with a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Dance Performance and Choreography with a minor in Arts Management. She has attended Deeply Rooted Dance Theater and Jacob's Pillow summer programs on scholarship. Her choreographic works were presented at the International Association of Blacks in Dance and the Young Choreographer's Festival. She has worked with Debbie Allen, Amanda Standard, Hope Boykin, Mora-Amina Parker, and Roger Jeffery. She has performed in works choreographed by Robert Battle, Kyle Abraham, and Camille A. Brown.



Eboni LaTay Edwards is a versatile dancer, choreographer, actor, and educator with a dynamic stage presence that has captivate audiences across the U.S. and Japan. She made her Broadway debut at age 7 in *Billy Elliot the Musical*, working with Stephen Daldry and Elton John. Eboni performed with The Alison Owusu Experience Dance Company, Bambara African Drum and Dance Ensemble, and Thioissane West African Dance Institute. A recent graduate from The Ohio State University with a BFA in Dance and a BA in Psychology, she has educated artists at Patternz Summer Camp, Empowering Young Voices, and NJ public schools.



Starla Edwards, a versatile Dancer and Choreographer from Birmingham, Alabama, is driven by an unwavering dedication to artistic expression. Armed with a BFA in Dance and a minor in Arts Management from George Mason University, she has refined her craft with acclaimed artists, performing works by Andonis Foniadikis, Larry Keigwin, Lucinda Childs, Hope Boykin, and Camille A. Brown. Currently a dancer/storyteller with Camille A. Brown & Dancers, Starla's passion for choreography and involvement in creation processes fuel her ambition to inspire future generations through her vibrant artistry.



Alain "Hurrikane" Lauture, born in Haiti, is a performer and educator. His training includes Rhapsody James' "Motivating Excellence" along with various training schools in NYC like Peridance, and Broadway Dance Center. Now widely known in the underground scene for his impact as a "Locker", Hurrikane carries his skills throughout his work in the industry, performing with artists like Janet Jackson, and Madonna, while also immersing himself in Broadway plays like *Skeleton Crew* and *Hippest Trip; A Soul Train Musical*. He currently dances for Latasha Barnes' *The Jazz Continuum*, and has been dancing with Camille A. Brown and Dancers for a year.



Courtney Ross hails from New Orleans, LA. Courtney earned her B.F.A., with honors, from The Ailey School/Fordham University. She has toured with Ailey II and later, Ronald K. Brown/EVIDENCE. She has performed closely with Jon Batiste and Jemel McWilliams on the UNEASY National tour. Other credits include Associate Choreographer of the Broadway revival of *1776* (Choreographed by Jeffrey Page), *Porgy and Bess* (Metropolitan Opera), 2023 Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade (NBC), 2016 VMAs: *Beyoncé* (MTV). Courtney joined CABD in 2019. She gives thanks to God, her family, and chosen tribe for the unwavering support!



Michelle "Miki" Scott Thank you for being here (smile). I am a multifaceted artist dedicated to heart-centered connection. From solo backpacking trips, to meditation and study with Indigenous Tribes, I follow my joy and move closer to freedom through it! As a versatile performer, my credits span Theater, Stage, TV, & Film including Rihanna, Jon Batiste, Taylor Swift, Apple, Gap, The Metropolitan Opera, New World Stages, *The Get Down*, & *Blues Clues*, among others. Sharing this work of love with you is a great privilege! I hope it inspires you to connect to the truth of who you are! A phenomenal being, complete and divine!



SeQuoia San Francisco native SeQuoia is a multi-talented actor, choreographer, percussionist, rapper, and vocalist. He recently appeared in Oya Mae's *Packages O' The Things We Deliver* and co-developed *De Mangangá: An Afro-Brazilian Musical* at the San Francisco Bay Area Theatre Company's New Roots Theatre Festival in 2023. SeQuoia has also performed in the world premiere of *Hippest Trip-The Soul Train Musical*, the Metropolitan Opera's *Champion*, the film *Freaky Tales*, and Camille A. Brown & Dancers' *I AM*. He self-produced and released two EPs, *Project 23* and *Sometimes We Forget to Dance*.



Curtis Thomas is a performer, educator, and creative consultant originally from New Orleans. With a performing career that has spanned both concert dance and theater, he has worked with artists such as Banning Bouldin, David Dorfman, Kayla Farrish, and Margot Gelber as well as in the cast and creative team of the hit musical *Waitress*. Most recently Curtis has danced in the Metropolitan Opera's productions of *Carmen* and *Fire Shut Up In My Bones* co-directed and choreographed by Camille A. Brown. Curtis is also a creative and curricular consultant working with data scientists, choreographers, and young learners to merge the worlds of computer programming, education, and dance.

CABD Musicians



Deah Love's (Music Director, Arranger, Pianist) most recent endeavors include: MD/composer/arranger, *I AM*, CABD company, MD/arranger for Tony award-nominated Broadway revival of Ntozake Shange's *For Colored Girls* (Booth Theater). Former music director for the Tony Award winning musical *The Wiz*, (LCP). *Ain't Misbehavin'* (vocal designer, GEVA), Min. Of Worship & Fine Arts, Bethany Baptist Church (Brooklyn, NY) resident artist at the historical Minton's Playhouse Jazz Club, music/creative team *Marian Anderson: The Musical*, MD, *Dorothy Dandridge: The Musical*, Norwegian Cruise Lines (creative consultant, audition accompanist). Assistant MD/pianist for *Marie and Rosetta* (Atlantic Theater), with features on *The Harry Connick Jr. Show*, and *Random Acts of Flyness* (HBO).



Monique Brooks Roberts (Violin) has recorded and performed for renowned artists such as Lizzo, Alicia Keys, Common, Jill Scott, Busta Rhymes and many more. In addition to her achievements as a violinist, Monique has showcased her talents as a composer for short films. Film that have been presented at film festivals across the country. Her solo album, *Free*, released on January 31, 2020, soared to #12 on the iTunes R&B/Soul Charts, showcasing her prowess as a solo artist. Currently, Monique entralls audiences with Wondersmith Entertainment, Camille A. Brown & Dancers, and her solo performances, leaving an indelible mark on the world of soul and jazz fusion.



Martine G. Mauro-Wade (Drummer) recently returned to Broadway as the drum set substitute for Alicia Keys' 13-time Tony-nominated musical, *Hell's Kitchen*. He debuted on Broadway in 2022 with director/choreographer Camille A. Brown's 7-time Tony-nominated revival of *for colored girls who have considered suicide/when the rainbow is enuf*. Martine has held staff positions with NYU Tisch, Purchase College Conservatory of Dance, and the José Limón Dance Foundation. A graduate of The Collective School of Music's "Drummers Collective," Martine earned his Bachelor of Music in Jazz Studies from Purchase College. Mentors include Peter Retzlaff, Ian Froman, and Kenny Washington.

Creative Team

David L. Arsenault (Lighting & Scenic Design), previously collaborated with CABD on *ink*. As a designer and associate in theatre, opera, and dance, David's work has been seen on Broadway, Off-Broadway, regionally, and internationally. Regional credits include designs at the Kennedy Center, Bay Street Theatre, Kitchen Theatre Company, Geva Theatre, Hangar Theatre, Northern Stage, and George Street Playhouse. Broadway associate work includes *The Color Purple* (2015 Tony-winning revival and tour), *Les Liaisons Dangereuses*, and *King Charles III*.

Justin Ellington (Sound Designer) Award winning sound designer Justin Ellington is pleased to join Camille A Brown & Dancers in this beautiful piece titled *I AM*. Justin provided sound design for *ink* and has served as pianist for *BLACK GIRL: LINGUISTIC PLAY*. Broadway credits include: *JaJa's African Hair Braiding*, *The Cottage*, *Ohio State Murders*, *Topdog/Underdog*, *for colored girls who have considered suicide/when the rainbow is enuf...*, *Clyde's*, *Pass Over*, *Other Desert Cities*. Justin has been awarded by the American Society of Composers and Publishers as well as the Recording Academy for his work in the recording industry. A passionate educator, Justin has served as an artist-in-residence at Princeton, NYU, Southern Methodist University. Justin is currently on the faculty of Yale University as a lecturer in sound design. Justin is a proud member of the American Society of Composer and Publishers, United Scenic Artist local 829, and Kobalt Music Group.

Aaron Rhyne (Projection Designer) designs include BROADWAY: *for colored girls who have considered suicide/when the rainbow is enuf...*, *The Sound Inside*, *Anastasia*, *A Gentleman's Guide to Love and Murder*, *Bonnie and Clyde*. TV: *Hasan Minhaj: The King's Jester*. OPERA: *The Thirteenth Child* (Santa Fe Opera), *The Ghosts of Versailles* (LA Opera), *La Traviata* (Wolftrap), *Florencia en el Amazonas* (Florida Grand, Opera Colorado). DISNEY: *Frozen*, *Beauty and the Beast*, *The Little Mermaid*, *Tangled*, and multiple other productions for Disney Cruise Lines, Parks and Resorts, BALLET: *Septime Webre's The Wizard of Oz*, *The Sun Also Rises* (Washington Ballet).

Ashley Soliman (Costume Designer) is based in NYC and was selected as one of Broadway Women's Fund 2023 "Women to Watch on Broadway". *I AM* marks her debut with Camille A. Brown & Dancers. Credits: *David* (AMT Theater), *The Cunning Little Vixen* (Curtis Institute), *Angel Island* (BAM & Beth Morrison Projects), *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (MSM), *REDEEMED & Your Name Means Dream* (CATF), *Double Helix* (Bay Street Theater), *The Rake's Progress* (Juilliard), *Do You Love The Dark?* (The Alliance), *Sweet Potato Kicks The Sun* (Santa Fe Opera). As ACD: *Coal Country* (The Public, des. Jessica Jahn). Local 829 member.

Enrico de Trizio (Playback Engineering and Synchronization Specialist) is an Italian-made, NYC-based award-winning composer, sound designer, music producer, and electronic music designer. His genre-bending work has been featured worldwide, from the Museo Nacional de Bellas Artes in Cuba to Franco Dragone's *Splendor* in Wuxi, China, and on Broadway in Tony-winning shows such as *Dear Evan Hansen*, Alicia Keys' *Hell's Kitchen* and *The Outsiders*. Apple describes him as "part of a new wave of electronic music designers that have changed the way Broadway sounds."

Zane Mark (Music Supervisor) is a composer, orchestrator and arranger with credits in a wide range of musical venues in addition to his distinguished Broadway career. He co-wrote the Tony and Grammy-award nominated music for the award-winning musical *Bring In 'Da Noise, Bring In 'Da Funk*. Some of his other Broadway credits include *Mrs Doubtfire The Musical*, *The Cher Show*, *Holler If You Hear Me*, *Motown The Musical*, *Pippin*, *Leap of Faith*, *All Shook Up*, *Dirty Rotten Scoundrels*, *Never Gonna Dance* and *The Full Monty*. Mark served as the Associate Musical Supervisor for NBC's *The Wiz*, *Live* as well as dance music arranger for *Annie Live*. Mark also was a musical contributor for the Civil Rights Museum in Atlanta, the play *Smart People* and the films *Rosenwald*, *The Dancer Chronicles* and HBO's *Lackawanna Blues*.

Production Team

Lauren Lee (Lighting Supervisor) is a Brooklyn based lighting designer. Recent credits include *The Anatomy of Melancholy* (The Doxsee Theater), *The Memory Of* (The Wild Project), *N/A* (Assistant, The Mitzi E. Newhouse Theater), and *The Fires* (Assistant, Soho Rep). Lauren holds a BFA in Lighting Design and Technology from the University of North Carolina School of the Arts.

Robert McIntyre (Production Stage Manager) is originally from Scranton, Pennsylvania and works all over the northeast region in PA, MA, upstate NY, and NYC freelancing in theater and dance. Robert holds a B.S. Dual Degree in business management and technical theater from East Stroudsburg University of PA, where he graduated in 2012. He has had the opportunity to intern at Williamstown Theatre Festival and Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival, where he has served as the Production Coordinator for their Inside/Out Series. Robert has been the stage manager for Stephen Petronio Dance Company, TAKE Dance, Gallim Dance, Encompass New Opera Theatre, Keely Garfield Dance, and Damage Dance. Recently, he lit The Student Company and Dance for PD at Mark Morris Dance Group.

Camryn Stafford (Company Manager) hails from Dallas, TX where she credits the beginning of her dance education to Dallas Black Dance Theater and Booker T. Washington HSPVA. Camryn is a graduate of Princeton University and is a NYC-based dancer, choreographer, teacher, and company manager. Camryn has studied dance at Dallas Black Dance Theater, the Alvin Ailey School, the Dance Theatre of Harlem, the San Francisco Conservatory of Dance, and the Joffrey Ballet School. Camryn has held positions with the Dance Institute of Washington, A.I.M by Kyle Abraham, the Joffrey Ballet School, and the Misty Copeland Foundation.



The Lighting and Scenic Designer is represented by United Scenic Artists, Local USA-829 of the IATSE.

Camille A. Brown & Dancers is a 501 (c)3 non-profit organization. Donations are greatly appreciated and may be made payable to CABD, INC and mailed to:

CABD, Inc./Camille A. Brown & Dancers
PO Box 340600, Jamaica, NY 11434
or online at: www.camilleabrown.org

Camille A. Brown & Dancers Staff

Camille A. Brown - **Founder & Artistic Director**
Dr. Michelle Ramos - **Executive Director**
Joseph P. Viglotti - **Director of Artistic Planning & Producing**
Leticia D. Baratta - **Director of Finance and Operations**
Michelle Rivera - **Director of Community Engagement & Education**
Catherine Williams - **Development Officer**
Gwendolyn Baum - **Social Media Manager**
Malaika Holder - **Every Body Move Program Associate**
Patrice Golbourne - **Administrative Assistant**
Mora-Amina Parker - **Rehearsal Director**
Camryn Stafford - **Company Manager**
Robert McIntyre - **Production Stage Manager**
Alex Fetchko - **Lighting Supervisor**

Thank you to the Camille A. Brown & Dancers' Board of Directors.

For more information on Camille A. Brown & Dancers, please visit www.camilleabrown.org

CONTACT

For Booking Camille A. Brown & Dancers

Concert Dance Agent
Margaret Selby Selby/Artists Management
262 West 38th Street, Suite 1701
New York, NY 10018
mselectby@selbyartistsmgmt.com
212/382-3260

Michael Moore, Michael Moore Agency
Commercial Manager
Michael@michaelmooreagency.com
212-221-0400

Joe Machota, Creative Artists Agency
Commercial Agent
+212-277-9000

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Camille A. Brown (Artist Page)
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The Prior Performing Arts Center

An uncommon commons for transformative experiences with the arts

2024–25 Prior Presents Season

Prior Presents is the keystone of the Prior Performing Arts Center's public-facing programming, merging thrilling live events by visiting artists with robust educational and outreach activities. Defined by exceptional artistic quality, interdisciplinary impulses, and the potential to spark both wonder and reflection, this annual series celebrates artistic risk-taking and the exchange of ideas and perspectives from around the globe. Short- and long-term visiting artist residencies include performances, artist talks, installations, workshops, and experiential learning opportunities for Holy Cross students and the greater Worcester community.

The internationally acclaimed artists of the 2024–25 season embody our vision for artist residencies at the Prior Performing Arts Center. Their performances and lectures offer an exhilarating complement to the creativity and innovation of emerging student artists and Holy Cross faculty and staff also featured in our season this year.

Upcoming Prior Presents Events

Johnny Gandelsman, violin | *This Is America*

From Grammy Award-winning violinist and producer Johnny Gandelsman, *This Is America* celebrates America's rich cultural tapestry as seen through the perspectives of contemporary US-based composers, offering a vivid counterpoint to the idea that this land can be understood through any singular, dominant point of view.

Thu Sep 26 @ 7:30 PM

Aimee Nezhukumatathil

A free public lecture from New York Times–bestselling poet and essayist whose environmentally attuned work explores how we live in a world she finds rich with wonder.

Thu Oct 3 @ 6:00 PM



Scan to purchase tickets and learn more about our schedule of upcoming presentations.

Mfoniso Udofia's *Sojourners* | Pop-up from The Huntington Theatre

A young Nigerian couple arrives in Houston looking to earn their degrees and bring insights back to their home country. But Abasiama is soon forced to choose between the Nigerian Dream and her obligations as a matriarch. A pop-up production brought to The Prior by the Huntington Theatre as part of Boston's nine-part celebration of playwright Mfoniso Udofia, originally from Central Massachusetts. Free tickets courtesy of the Boston Mayor's Office.

Tue Nov 19 @ 7:00 PM

Julia Keefe Indigenous Big Band with Mali Obomsawin

Led by celebrated vocalist Julia Keefe (Nez Perce), The Julia Keefe Indigenous Big Band is an ensemble of Native and Indigenous jazz musicians from across Indian Country. Opening act by Mali Obomsawin (Odanak First Nation), an award-winning bassist, songwriter, and composer whose debut album "Sweet Tooth" has received international acclaim.

Fri Nov 22 @ 7:30 PM

August Wilson's *Two Trains Running* | The Acting Company

As their neighborhood changes in unpredictable ways, a beloved Pittsburgh diner owner and his customers seek work, love, and justice in this heartfelt and hilarious play. *Two Trains Running* is the 1960s chapter of acclaimed playwright August Wilson's American Century Cycle, a decade-by-decade saga of African American life in the 20th century.

Mon Feb 10 @ 7:00 PM

Jha D Amazi of MASS Design

A free public lecture from the head of the Public Memory and Memorial Lab at the pathbreaking MASS Design Group. The lab's projects honor the experiences and cultures of communities historically underrepresented in our memorial landscape, with works including *The Embrace* in Boston and the National Memorial for Peace and Justice in Montgomery, Alabama.

Tue Mar 18 @ 6:00 PM

Sphinx Virtuosi | *American Form/s*

A journey through classically-framed infusions of soul, bluegrass, jazz, blues, and rag from the dynamic and inspiring chamber orchestra Sphinx Virtuosi, *American Form/s* is a co-production with Music Worcester.

Sun Mar 30 @ 4:00 PM



Scan to purchase tickets and learn more about our schedule of upcoming presentations.

Prior Performing Arts Center Staff

Ethan Bates, Arts Marketing & Communications Manager
Marta Beyer, Manager of Artistic and Engagement Initiatives
Evan Crocker, Event & Front of House Manager
Morgan Fitzpatrick, Office Coordinator
Matthew Freije, AV Assistant
Kyle Frisina, Nancy Savage Skinner Interim Director
Christine Goguen, Costume Shop Manager
Katrina Lewonczyk, Manager of Operations & Administration
Stephen McGonagle, Technical Director
Judi Olson, Costume Shop Assistant
Phillip O'Toole, Director of Production
Betsy Pierce, Assistant Technical Director
Brian Saia, Audio Supervisor
Brenda Shepard, Senior Production Technician

Prior Performing Arts Center Student Staff

Evan Ali, Anna Brown, Emma Butler, Emma Coonan, Ethan Courcelle, Brendon Curtis, Brandon Curtis, Gabriellie De Gouveia, Laurel Deneen, Maggie Dewald, Amy Diaz-Rivera, Julia Divine, Despina Drosinos, Gracyn Epstein, Adele Feldberg, Shane Fitzpatrick, Audrey Forman, Caitlyn Fox, Emily Fox, Nadia Frempong, Kyle Gove, Emmett Griffin, Piper Guiney, Daniel Hickey, Alejandro Irizarry, Patrick Jacobs, Lily Jaramillo, Karamo Kaba, Morgan Kane, Mary Grace Kelly, Nicole Khawl, Jackson Knoll, Joshua Love, Irene Mandile, Eugene Mantilla, Foster Martinuk, James McCarthy, Molly McCracken, Maggie McCracken, Sydney McDonald, Emily McHugh, John Mondì, Camila Müller-Juez, Monique Narvaez, Fiona Nelson, Nohemi Neri, Vanessa Nolan, Brigit O'Connell, John O'Keefe, Elise O'Neill, Regina Palladino, Sarah Park, Ester Paw, Catalina Powderly, Nuala Reynolds, Jacob Ryan, Natalia Salinas, Eliza Simpson, Wesley Smith, Livia Smolizza, Alyshia Solomon, Sophie Sundaram, Paige Thomson, Sebastian Torres, Melina Valencia, Victor Walsh, Xiaoyi Wang, Marquis Wilson, Atiya Woolman

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