



CREATING COMMUNITY

Arts & Culture

by Artist Yvette Michele Booth



FORT LAUDERDALE, FL, Continuing its work to cultivate South Florida's dance community, Broward Cultural Division, in partnership with the Nova Southeastern University, College of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences and the Department of Performing and Visual Arts, launches its Broward Dance Coalition Initiative with a high-powered, inspirational experience with the renowned Dr. Rennie Harris. This program targets both the dance and hip hop communities in Broward County and is open to all others throughout South Florida.

Lorenzo "Rennie" Harris (Artistic Director, Choreographer and Director) led the birth of a nation in dance. "During the late '70's and early '80's' my nephews tried break dancing, spinning and bending their bodies in the hallway of our home during family gatherings. We egged them on to copy the street style dance called Hip Hop and break dancing. A roar of family applause would always meet them in celebration of the try. Not knowing then that is in fact the birth of a nation in dance."

Harris' mastery of dance, its athletics and perfecting the art form started at the age of 15. This lifetime of hard work and diligence has donned him with an honorary doctorate degree from Bates College in Lewiston, ME, the now Dr. Lorenzo "Rennie" Harris and past Guggenheim Fellow is atop the hip hop dance heap – its leading ambassador.

Harris has taught workshops and classes at many schools and universities including University of the Arts, UCLA, Columbia College and Bates College. He is a 1996 recipient of the Pew Fellowship in the Arts for Choreography and has received awards from the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts, a Pew Repertory Development Initiative grant, the City of Philadelphia Cultural Fund and 1996 Philadelphia Dance Projects commission. Harris was voted one of the most influential people in the last one hundred years of Philadelphia history and has been compared to 20th-century dance legend Alvin Ailey and Bob Fosse. He was also nominated for the Laurence Olivier Award and has been awarded the Herb Alpert Award in the Arts. His group of dancers and their infectious brand of movement have toured around the globe.

Harris is well versed in the vernacular of hip hop, which includes the various techniques of B-boy (misnomer "break dancing"), house dancing, stepping and other styles that have emerged spontaneously from the urban, inner cities of America like the North Philadelphia community in which he was raised. He has brought these "social" dances to the "concert" stage, creating a cohesive dance style that finds a cogent voice in the theater. He is a powerful spokesperson for the significance of "street" origins in any dance style. Intrigued by the universality of hip hop, he seeks inspiration from other forms and performance art.



Broward county gives us an up close and personal opportunity whether we are dancers or lovers of the dance to be a part of a master class and lecture series. You can be a part of this master opportunity. The class and lecture series are being held at:

Nova Southeastern University, Don Taft University Center Performance Theatre, 33301 College Avenue, Fort Lauderdale, 33311

Wednesday, Nov.11th 6 - 7PM - MASTER CLASS Performance Theatre Don Taft University Center For University Students and School Board of Broward County Dance Educators Class FULL 7 - 8PM - COMMUNITY DIALOGUE Performance Theatre Don Taft University Center Open to the Public, Room 309 Seating is limited to 175 RSVP

For more information contact Grace Kewl at 954-357-7869



ART on AIDS & HIV *South Florida has Highest AIDS Rates in USA.*

Artist of all ages have a message to share in helping this epidemic that is affecting our community.

Experience **OWNING UP**, the new, powerful and moving multimedia exhibit that tells the stories of HIV+ Millennials through portraits and stories in their own words about facing the HIV/AIDS epidemic. On opening night, join us and enjoy the opportunity to meet some of the inspiring young people who are a part of this groundbreaking presentation.

OPENING RECEPTION
Friday, November 20, 2015 from 7-9PM
 World AIDS Museum and Education Center located at
 1201 NE 26th Street Suite 111
 Wilton Manors, FL 33305

<http://www.worldaidsmuseum.com>

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