Beautiful Human Lies

Rennie Harris Grass Roots Project
Director/Choreography: Lorenzo “Rennie” Harris

“For some time now, I have wanted to create a street dance theater company on the West Coast. My first thought was to create it in Los Angeles, but the timing wasn’t right. I see myself as an organic type of dude when it comes to creating, and I feel I need to pay attention to things like timing and synergy. While teaching at CU, it occurred to me to possibly create a professional company that was specifically connected to the University of Colorado Boulder and the community it serves. In 2013, I recognized the time was right to launch the company. I recruited professional street dancers and dancers from other genres in Denver to join dancers from CU, and all the dancers trained together in my vocabulary for one year. In 2014, we began to create works based on the vocabulary taught. I feel I have a great combination of elder statesmen and women with the inspiration and vigor of the younger dancers. This combination will also serve as a link between academia and professional street dance theater for the students of CU and community of Colorado. By addressing poignant social issues of our community at large Rennie Harris Grass Roots will disseminate Hip Hop dance and culture through its choreographic works and educational programs.”

—Rennie Harris

The Current

April 15-17, University Theatre
Tickets $18 and up

“The Current” showcases the varied works of CU dance faculty and guest artists, including Faye Driscoll, a Bessie Award-winning choreographer and director who investigates new forms of theatrical experience. Driscoll is the recipient of a 2013 Guggenheim Fellowship and a 2013 Creative Capital Performing Arts Award.

colorado.edu/theatredance

Open Space

March 4-6, Irey Dance Theatre
Tickets $14 and up

Curated by CU Dance Connection students.

Presented by The University of Colorado Boulder Department of Theatre & Dance
Beautiful Human Lies

“A suite of works inspired by personal abuse I experienced and witnessed as a child. In addition, it reflects my current state of consciousness and my struggle to develop spiritually.”

— Rennie Harris

Program

Who Am I
Music:
Speak your mind (Immortal Technique)
Third Eye (Rennie Harris & Raphael Xavier)
Omnipotent Creature (Millie Heckler)
Tahitian Rain (Coco Rosie)

Complicated
Music:
By Your Side (Coco Rosie)
He, hey heh (Raphael Xavier)

WHAT-DAH??!
Music:
Made You Look (NAS)
Animal (Dice Raw)
On the Marks (Bonobo)
Recurring (Bonobo)

Window
Music:
First Snow (Emancipator)

I Want You
Music:
Take Me To My Love (Ralph Gum Main Mix)

Seasons
Music:
Bang Bang (Nico Vega)

Stuck
Music:
Super Power (Be'yonce)

I Can’t!
Music:
L’ Ange Aveugi (Dhafer Youssef Sacre)

A Day In The Life
Music:
The Wine- (Dhafer Youssef Sacre)

Lorenzo “Rennie” Harris
(Founder, Artistic Director, Choreographer and Director)

“the Basquiat of the US. Contemporary dance scene,” Lorenzo Rennie Harris has literally embodied the history of hip-hop dance.

— London Times

Lorenzo Rennie Harris has brought these “social” dances to the "concert" stage, creating a cohesive dance style that finds a cogent voice in the theater. At the turn of the century alongside Princess Grace Kelly and Dr. Julius Evring, Harris was voted one of the most influential people in the last one hundred years of Philadelphia history. He’s been compared to twentieth-century dance legends, Alvin Aleny and Bob Fosse. Awarded 3 Bessie Awards, 3 Alvin Aleny Black Choreographers Awards, an Ethnic Dance Award, the Herb Alpert Award in the Arts for choreography as well as nominated for an Lawrence Olivier Award (UK). In addition he has received the coveted "Philadelphia Rocky" award, Governors Artist of the year Award and the United States artist award for choreography, and voted one of Philadelphia’s Creative Ambassadors in 2010. He also received an honorary doctorate in the Arts and Humanities (Bates College) and has recently received his 2nd Honorary Doctorate in the Fine Arts from Columbia College (Chicago). Touring Egypt, Jordan, Palestine and surrounding countries, Rennie Harris served as 1 of 4 Ambassadors for the United States as part of President Obama’s cultural exchange program Dance Motion USA, which was lead by former Secretary of the State Hillary Clinton. He and his company Rennie Harris Puremovement and their infectious brand of movement have pioneered a new genre Hip Hop Dance Theater. Dr. Lorenzo “Rennie” Harris is atop the Hip Hop heap - its leading ambassador.

Special Thanks From Rennie Harris:
This program is dedicated to his mother Doris Teresa Harris, to Cleo Parker Robinson, Erika Randall, Gesel van Warmerdam, and surrounding countries, Rennie Harris served as 1 of 4 Ambassadors for the United States as part of President Obama’s cultural exchange program Dance Motion USA, which was lead by former Secretary of the State Hillary Clinton. He and his company Rennie Harris Puremovement and their infectious brand of movement have pioneered a new genre Hip Hop Dance Theater. Dr. Lorenzo “Rennie” Harris is atop the Hip Hop heap - its leading ambassador.

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Grass Roots Project Team

Founder/Choreographer......................Lorenzo “Rennie” Harris
Production Manager.........................Mark O’Maley
Lighting & Production Designer..........Kathryn Lawrence
Assistant Lighting Designer.............Kathryn Lawrence
Company Manager.........................Orndie Geary
Development................................Mecca Khadidjah Madjoun
Interns..............................................Olivia Dwyer, Devan Herbert, Aneilah Williams
Contact: Lorenzo.Harris@me.com or 267.455.3022

Scenery and Electrics

Technical Assistants
Ashley Arvola, Greg Baker, Caleb Bay, Peter Russian, Nate Christensen, Bryna Cooper, Chas Crawford, Jimmy DiGiovanni, Forrest Fowler, Jordan Hamm, Probie Madson, Anna-Marie Monzon, Reid Otto, Zach Perioux, Amy Richards, Laura Sandler, Jake Siemian, Erich Thibodaux, McKenna Warren, Jared Wold, Christie Howley

Scenery and Electrics Practicum Students

Costumes
Costume Shop Employees
Casey Dean, Erika Daun, Olivia Dwyer, Zoe Garrison, Sasha Georges, Paige Olson, Samantha Paul, Natalie Reutmann, Leroy Russell, Rida Todd, Liz Williamson, Mary Willingham, Connie Phillips, Hannelore Roffing, Kate Tara, Indra Wang, Misha Zimmerman

Costume Practicum Students
Ashley Arvola, Chas Crawford, Kelani Fuqua, Nana Haberman, Rachel Kois, Ana Langmead, Erin Locooco, Harry James Roxby, Amy Richman, Brandon Smart, Michael Tandy, Erich Thibodaux, Vanessa Weinagarten, John Wittbrodt

Dance Production Technical Crew
Colt Irvin, Taylor King, Kathleen Lawrence, Caroline Rhoads, Lorien Russell, Brandon Smart, Gabriela Whitcomb, Christina Woody

Dance Production Practicum Students

Grass Roots Project Dancers
Larry Southall
DeAndre Carroll
Katie Swenson
Kevin O’Keefe
Millie Heckler
Emily Pietruzka
Kara Nicole Turner
Ron “Future” Jules

Production Team

Director of Dance Production..................Iren Court
Assistant Technical Director...............Colt Irvin
Stage Manager...............................Gabrielle Whitcomb
Assistant Stage Manager..................Alexandria Marcus
Lightboard Operator.......................Kathryn Lawrence
Soundboard Operator......................Rachael Jordan
Projection Operator.......................Caroline Rhoads
Deck Chief.................................Saylor King
Wandrie Head..................................Alekia Brown

Theatre & Dance Department staff
Department Chair................................Bud Coleman
Director of Dance..............................Erika Randall
Production Coordinator..................Connie Lane
Assistant to the Production Coordinator.....Kevin Crowe
Theatre Technical Director....................Kerry Crisp
Director of Dance Production..............Iain Court
Assistant Dance Technical Director.........Colt Irvin
Lighting, Sound & Projections Advisor.....Jason Banks
Costume Design Advisor....................Markus Henry
Scenic Design Advisor.......................Brice Berenger
Scene Shop Foreman.........................Stephen Balguyong
Costume Production Director...............Tod Stark
Business Manager.............................Stacy Witt
Program Coordinator.........................Sharon Van Boven
Graduate Program Assistant.................Patricia Pape
Outreach Coordinator.........................Peg Porsick
Academic Advisor............................Kyle Nadir
Assistant to Costume Production Director..Amanda Herrera
Costume Stock/Rental Manager..............Mary Willingham
Costume Tech Lab Assistant..................Samantha Paul
Dance Events Coordinator...................Roryson Conz
Dance Video Recording/Archivist.........Rachel Dodson
Loft Production Coordinator.................Will Lewis
Front of House Manager......................Hady Kay Kamminga-Pack
House Managers..............................Samantha Sahars, India Wanaboo, Samm Weaver