

music theater  
dance

2019/20  
SEASON

 Cal Performances  
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, BERKELEY



FINALE PERFORMANCE  
**Berkeley/Oakland AileyCamp 2019**

Thu Aug 1, 7pm | ZELLERBACH HALL



## In Memory of Derrick Minter

Derrick Minter was a former dancer and rehearsal director for Ailey II. Involved with AileyCamp since Alvin Ailey and the Kansas City Friends created the program in 1989, he was the modern dance instructor for Berkeley/Oakland AileyCamp from its inception in 2002 through 2017 (with the exception of 2006–08, when he was co-director of AileyCamp Staten Island). A mentor to many, Derrick was incredibly committed, insightful, generous, and loyal.

Derrick passed away on May 11, 2019, and we dedicate tonight's performance to his memory. He will be greatly missed.

—*David W. McCauley*  
*Artistic Director, Berkeley/Oakland AileyCamp*



Jeremy Geffen

Tonight, we celebrate Cal Performances' ongoing engagement with younger members of the community, reminding one and all of UC Berkeley's central role as a rich resource for everyone living in the Bay Area. Since late June, we have welcomed the extraordinary young people of the 2019 Berkeley/Oakland AileyCamp to campus and tonight we eagerly look forward to watching them display their talent. Now at the beginning of their creative lives, they remind us of the continual promise and potential of the performing arts. What a joy it is to have them with us!

At Cal Performances, arts education is central to our mission, and AileyCamp is one of our most important and vital education programs. Indeed, since its founding in 2001, the camp has become fundamental to our contributions to life in the surrounding community. Not so much an arts program as it is a life skills program presented through dance, AileyCamp has already had a profound impact on the lives of more 1,100 Bay

Area youths and their families. I wish I had been fortunate enough to experience such an opportunity when I was growing up.

Of course, there is no shortage of summer music, theater, and academic youth programs. But it is rare to discover a dance camp centered on as dominant a cultural force as the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater. Through the leadership of Alvin Ailey, Judith Jamison, and now Robert Battle, the company stands today as one of the most accomplished, respected, and beloved dance institutions in the world. For our AileyCampers to spend such concentrated time in close contact with the legacy, passion, and purpose of these great artists is nothing less than remarkable.

We extend our thanks to the many generous donors and volunteers who help make AileyCamp possible. Their generous contributions allow us to offer the program to East Bay middle-school students entirely tuition-free. We also thank the many generous people and organizations who supported the entirety of Cal Performances' education and community programs by participating in our highly successful Gala at the Greek last September.

And let me take a moment to single out the contributions of David McCauley, who continues his fine work the camp's artistic director, co-managers Joyce Ting and Erik Lee, and the host of volunteers who have been so busy supporting the current campers over the summer.

Most of all, we honor the accomplishments of the campers themselves. Please join me in applauding their efforts—both this evening and over the past six weeks. They have more than fulfilled their commitment to challenge themselves each and every day, and we congratulate them on their achievement.

Finally, with the new academic year fast approaching, I invite you to join us during our exciting 2019/20 Season. This year's programming celebrates what Cal Performances does best. We'll experience a robust offering of world cultural practices and programs with superstar performers and up-and-coming talent. We'll discover some of the distinctive intellectual and artistic capital that exists right here in the Bay Area—especially at our great university. We'll dive deeply into cornerstone classical music repertoire and enjoy fun and imaginative family programming. And of particular interest to AileyCampers and their families and friends, we'll take full advantage of presenting in Zellerbach Hall, one of America's most renowned dance venues. Audiences will witness dance programming that is both broad and inclusive, performed by some of the finest companies in the world.

Thank you for joining us for tonight's brilliant display of youthful energy, optimism, and—most of all—abundant talent.

All best wishes,

Jeremy Geffen

Executive and Artistic Director, Cal Performances

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2019–2020

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# BERKELEY/OAKLAND AILEYCAMP

## CELEBRATING OUR 18TH YEAR!

“How did the experience of attending AileyCamp inform my understanding of dance, self-expression, and my relationship with myself and others?

It made me comfortable in my own skin.”

—former AileyCamper Sinorti Iris Stegman

Since 2002, Cal Performances has been home to the original West Coast site of Alvin Ailey’s visionary summer dance program, and one of the very few AileyCamps based on a major university campus.

AileyCamp is a nationally acclaimed, six-week program designed to develop self-esteem, discipline, and a capacity for critical thinking in youths ages 11–14. The AileyCamp curriculum includes daily dance technique classes in ballet, Horton-based modern, jazz, and South African dance. Courses in personal development and creative communication provide vehicles for students to address key issues encountered during the pivotal middle school years, express themselves creatively through other art forms (such as the visual arts and theater), and build intentional understanding of self and community.

The impact of AileyCamp goes far beyond the environs of the UC Berkeley campus. AileyCamp has served more than 1,100 Bay Area middle-school youths and their families. Berkeley/Oakland AileyCamp is administered and fully funded by Cal Performances; all campers receive full-tuition scholarships, meals, uniforms, and dance clothing, and some are provided transportation to and from camp. The Artistic Literacy Committee, a division of Cal Performances’ Board of Trustees, provides oversight, and over the past 18 years, some 250 volunteers have enthusiastically donated their time and talents to the operation of the camp.

Berkeley/Oakland AileyCamp culminates in tonight’s finale performance for members of the community, in which campers demonstrate the skills they have acquired while participating in the program. AileyCampers are excited to show off all that they have learned, and are thrilled to perform before an enthusiastic audience of family and friends, as well as many other supporters of the camp.

The national theme for this summer’s AileyCamp is “Imagination.” Artistic director David McCauley has chosen *Imagine...* as the theme and title of tonight’s performance. The use of this verb creates an active prompt and process, not only for the AileyCamp staff and our Ailey-Campers, but also for you, our audience. It invites us to engage our imaginations—our minds, our hearts, our innermost beings—to initiate a process of transformation, to perhaps create something that never existed before; make something that was dysfunctional functional; and figuratively, walk a mile in someone else’s shoes. The possibilities are endless. This modest verb mediates a certain symmetry between that which is, and that which has not yet come into being.

*Imagine...*



Berkeley/Oakland AileyCamp is funded entirely by gifts to Cal Performances. To make sure that this year's camp is fully funded, and to help ensure that more deserving young people in our local communities are able to participate in this transformative program, please call the Development Office at (510) 642-8653 or visit [calperformances.org/give](http://calperformances.org/give).

Cal Performances and the AileyCampers extend their sincere appreciation to the following individuals, foundations, corporations, and organizations, who made gifts between July 1, 2018 and June 30, 2019 in support of Berkeley/Oakland AileyCamp and Cal Performances' education and community programs.

**2019 BERKELEY/OAKLAND AILEYCAMP AND  
EDUCATION AND COMMUNITY PROGRAMS SUPPORT**

**INSTITUTIONAL PARTNERS**

**\$10,000+**

The Fremont Group Foundation  
Quest Foundation  
The Sato Foundation

**\$5,000 – \$9,999**

The Clorox Company Foundation  
June and Julian Foss Foundation  
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**INDIVIDUAL CONTRIBUTORS**

**\$10,000+**

Anonymous  
Gordon Douglass  
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**\$5,000 – \$9,999**

Rupali Das-Melnyk and Ostap Melnyk  
 Sally Glaser and David Bower  
 Richard and Lorrie Greene  
 Pamela and Elmer Grossman

**\$1,500 – \$4,999**

Anonymous (2)  
 Claire and Kendall Allphin  
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 Teresa and Otis Wong

We also thank the generous donors who support Cal Performances' education and community programs through the Gala at the Greek.

## SPECIAL THANKS TO...

Alvin Ailey Dance Foundation, Inc.

The 2019 Berkeley/Oakland AileyCamp has been hosted by the UC Berkeley Physical Education Program in Hearst Memorial Gymnasium. Cal Performances thanks all involved for their work to make this year's AileyCamp such a success.

Hearst Memorial Gymnasium: Steven Murray,  
 Brent Atkinson, Andrew Park, and Staff

Joe and Carol Neil

Haas Pavilion: Gordon Baines and Staff  
 Theater, Dance, and Performance Studies  
 Department:

Lisa Wymore, Wil Legget, Jean Fitchtencort,  
 and Staff

Carla DeSola

Diamano Coura: Zak and Naomi Diouf

Margaret Beale

Sylvia Lindsey

The Kansas City Friends of Alvin Ailey

Berkeley Unified School District

Oakland Unified School District

*... and those many unsung persons whose generosity to Cal Performances' Berkeley/Oakland AileyCamp is valued beyond measure.*







Thursday, August 1, 2019, 7pm  
Zellerbach Hall

## *Imagine...*

The finale performance of Berkeley/Oakland AileyCamp 2019  
June 24 – August 2, 2019

### PROGRAM

#### *Shards*

(excerpts)

Choreography inspired by Donald Byrd  
Staging: Nasha Thomas, Erik Lee, and David McCauley  
Music: Mio Morales  
Performers: Berkeley/Oakland AileyCamp

#### *Welcoming Speakers*

Jeremy Geffen *Executive and Artistic Director,  
Cal Performances*  
Nasha Thomas *National AileyCamp Director*  
David McCauley *Artistic Director, Berkeley/Oakland AileyCamp*

#### *Rainbow in the Clouds*

(Ballet)

Choreography: Vincent Chavez  
Poetry: Maya Angelou  
Music: "River Flows In You," Yiruma  
Performers: Marvelous Squad

#### *My World*

(Jazz Dance)

Choreography: Ashley Gayle  
Poetry: "Better World," Walter Safar  
Music: "Hot Music," Pal Joey and Soho  
Performers: Poppin' Posse



AileyCamp 2019

*As One*

(Modern Dance)

Choreography: Judy Milner

Music: “Imagine,” John Lennon, arranged by Herbie Hancock, featuring Pink, Seal, and India.Arie

Performers: Amazin’ Africans

*Mauya Mauya: Welcome Welcome*

(African Dance)

Choreography: Julia Chigamba

Music: Traditional

Musicians: Moeketsi Gibe, *djembe*, with Kanukai Chigamba, Gerald Basa, and Delisa Nealy

Performers: Creative Ca\$h

A dance for welcoming people just as they are, including their spirit ancestors and history, inviting everyone to be present in this healing circle—a place for all to be seen and heard, to learn and to be there for each other.

*Imagine...*

Photos: AileyCamp Staff

Videography: AileyCamp Staff

— Finale —

*Emerge*

Choreography: Kimber Amadi, Omi Bahari, Kyra Katagi, and Mulu-Tsega Senshaw

Staging: Erik Lee

Music: “Made For Now,” Janet Jackson

Performers: Berkeley/Oakland AileyCamp

— GROUP C —

**Creative Ca\$h**

Mario Barragan

Jayla D. Bob

Steven Duff

Anya Evans

Cynthia M. Joseph

America Macha

Nevaeh Pittman

Brooklyn Reddic

Zion Rucker

Jacqueline Vera

Cyriah Janae Winters

— GROUP A —

**Amazing Africans**

Yemarej Alexander

Cheyanne Blanson

Jhanai Cotright

Aubrielle Delane-Blue

Aaliyah R. Hamilton

Jalaya Knox

Asmara Larios-Herrera

Lena Simone Moulton

Tai Owens

Michia Smith

Sarah Kamin Sompó

Ava Victoriano

— GROUP M —

**Marvelous Squad**

Alaya Alexander

Johzara Boykins

Taylor Criswell

Laila N. Joseph

Zariah L. Lee

Ravyn Martin

Sana Miller

Cada Charmane Myles

Malik Roberts

Michael Thornton

Madinah Waqia-Alamin

— GROUP P —

**Poppin' Posse**

Nia Adesanya

Kassidy Collins

Amiyah Denard

Zorina Guidry

Nina Marie Leach

Kayleaa Moore

Chaz Myles

Sha'Jha' Odneal-Crumb

Kindal Reddic

Natalie Roberts

Jamaica Rodriguez



Catherine Syversen, hiking in the Grand Canyon; and with her twin sister, Margaret.

## The Catherine F. Syversen AileyCamp Endowment

Celebrating and honoring the life of a truly remarkable woman, the **Catherine F. Syversen Endowment for AileyCamp** has been created by her children, Eric and Catherine Allman, and their spouses, Kirk McKusick and Glenn Snyder.

As a public school classroom teacher, administrator, and mentor, Catherine dedicated her entire career to education. She was always willing to go the extra mile for her students, faculty, parents, and community, demonstrating by example that every experience—at any age—can be an educational opportunity. Most of her working life was spent in Richmond and San Pablo because that is where she felt she was most needed.

After her retirement, Catherine jumped at the opportunity to volunteer with AileyCamp. To no one's surprise, she related well with the campers and displayed an intuitive understanding of how to interact with them. Soon thereafter, she recruited her twin sister, Margaret, to join her in volunteer work for the camp.

Catherine was an intrepid traveler (visiting all seven continents), avid birder, skilled gardener, artist, and volunteer, and she was always up for an adventure. She broke a rib oar-boating down the Colorado River; tore a bicep—at 75—ziplining in Panama; swam in Antarctica; rode elephants, camels, and dogsleds; camped alone in Death Valley; walked through the bush with the locals in Africa; spent a month in China during the SARS epidemic; and even broke up street fights through the sheer force of her will. Catherine was fearless.

There are few people who inhabit all of the items in the AileyCamp daily affirmation each and every day of their life. But Catherine did—she especially never let the word “can’t” define her possibilities.

Catherine F. Syversen was a one-of-a-kind volunteer for Berkeley/Oakland AileyCamp. She cared deeply for the campers and staff, giving remarkable amounts of her time and talents to ensure all were supported. Her positivity and inclusiveness were true examples—for the campers and staff alike—of the spirit of AileyCamp.

**AILEYCAMP 2019**

**Staff**

David W. McCauley, *artistic director*  
Joyce Ting, *co-managing director*  
Erik Lee, *co-managing director*  
Marilyn Stanley, *administrative coordinator*  
Kulwa Apará, *guidance counselor*

**Instructors**

Julie Chigamba, *African dance*  
Judy Milner, *modern dance*  
Vincent Chavez, *ballet*  
Ashley Gayle, *jazz dance*  
Sierra Marie Gonzalez, *personal development*  
Celine O'Malley, *creative communications*

**Accompanist**

Moeketsi Gibe, *African dance*

**Group Leaders**

Kyra Katagi, *Group C*  
Jahniah Omi Bahari, *Group A*  
Mulu-Tsega Senshaw, *Group M*  
Kimber Amadi, *Group P*

**VOLUNTEERS**

David Bellard  
Jacqueline Boggan  
Tom Corrigan  
Amy Cranch  
Beth Crovitz  
Rupa Das-Melnyk  
Melissa Elia  
Shelley Firth  
Marianne Geagea  
Amy Grigsby  
Beth Hurwich

Dawn Kaneshiro  
Lilia Kresin  
Sylvia Lindsey  
Susan Marinoff  
Terez McCall  
Maris Meyerson  
Butler Nelson  
Anne Parker-Shaw  
Linda Schieber  
Carrie Simon

ADMINISTRATION



**David W. McCauley**  
(*artistic director*)

David McCauley began his dance training while a student, first at Wayne State University in Detroit, Michigan, and later at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst. He has trained

in ballet, modern, jazz, and ethnic dancing. As a dancer based in New York City, McCauley spent almost 15 years with the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater as a student, instructor, and performer. He has also performed with the Pearl Primus Dance Company and Omega Liturgical Dance Company. McCauley has been a resident of San Francisco since 1990, and has performed with Wing It! Performance Ensemble and Omega West Dance Company. He has been directing the Berkeley/Oakland AileyCamp since its inauguration in the fall of 2001.



**Joyce Ting**  
(*co-managing director*)

Joyce Ting holds a BA and MA in music (vocal performance) from Wheaton College (IL) and Boston University, as well as a master's degree in education (middle school humanities) from Lesley University. She debuted with Boston Lyric Opera as La Charmeuse in Massenet's *Thaïs*, went on to sing in multiple productions with BLO, and performed in Opera Boston's Boston-based premiere of Osvaldo Golijov's *Ainadamar*. Ting is a graduate of Luna Dance Institute's SI program, and has also taken part in the Alameda Department of Education's Integrated Learning Specialist Program. She has also been a middle school humanities teacher, teaching artist, and arts administrator. Most recently, Ting served as program director at zSharp. She loves traveling the world with a team of global music educators as part of the Glocal Collective. Ting is delighted to be part of the Ailey family and the work of developing young people through dance and the arts.



**Erik Lee**  
(*co-managing director*)

Erik Lee was born and raised in Oakland. He began his dance journey performing and choreographing hip hop routines at the age of 16. Lee received his formal dance training

in modern dance, earning his BA in dance performance studies from UC Berkeley in 2010. Since 2009, he has danced with Covenant Worship Center's Worship in Arts Ministry (WAM). Lee has served as artistic director of WAM since 2014. In 2011, he joined Dimensions Dance Theater, where he continues to work as a company member. Lee also has served as a mentor for 10 years and as a program director for four years in the Berkeley Scholars to Cal program at Stiles Hall. He recently graduated with a master's degree in dance from Mills College.



**Marilyn Stanley**  
(*administrative coordinator*)

Marilyn Stanley holds a double major in English and dramatic art/dance from UC Berkeley. This launched her on a journey fueled by the conviction

that the arts should be a part of everyday life for everyone. For the past 16 years, she has worked with Bay Area arts organizations including the Julia Morgan Center for the Arts, Glitter and Razz Productions, Shotgun Players, Oakland Ballet Company, and the California Arts Council. Stanley has, at various times, been a stage manager, costume and props designer, actor, box office aficionado, administrator, playmaker, bookkeeper, videographer, and poet. Currently she holds the coordination of the artistic literacy department at Cal Performances in her tiny but mighty hands.



**Kulwa Apará**  
(*guidance counselor*)

Kulwa Apará is an artist, educator, and community health advocate, passionate about the intersections between historical trauma and mental health. Apará is committed to using the ancient wisdom of cultural arts as a tool to enhance and advance mental health outcomes in marginalized communities. A twin and a practitioner of the African diasporic arts, she is an accomplished professional dancer of Congolese, Senegalese, Afro-Cuban, Afro-Puerto Rican, and Afro-Brazilian traditions. Apará received her training in international health and development at UC Berkeley, and her master's degree in biomedical science at the University of Northern Colorado. She is honored and privileged to serve the conjoined health and artistic needs of Bay Area youth and families. Fluent in English, Spanish, and Portuguese, Apará also possesses a working knowledge of Arabic. She is elated to be a part of the dynamic vision of the Berkeley/Oakland AileyCamp.



**Vincent Chavez**  
(*ballet*)

Vincent Chavez was born and raised in Albuquerque (NM), where he grew up competing on the local rodeo circuit. Once he chose ballet over broncos, he received his formal dance education and training from Dance Theater Southwest (Albuquerque), Ballet Hispanico (New York), the Academy of Nevada Ballet Theatre (Las Vegas), and Alonzo King LINES Ballet Training Program (San Francisco). As a result of his strict training and creative educational experiences, Chavez was chosen to perform with leading dance companies including Robert Moses' Kin, Oakland Ballet Company, Dance Theater of SF, Menlowe Ballet, Nevada Ballet Theatre, and New Mexico Ballet Company. Chavez's artistry has earned him the opportunity to work with renowned choreographers including Robert Moses, Graham Lustig, Michael Lowe, Garrett+Moulton, James Canfield, Gregory Dawson, Christopher Huggins, Molissa Fenley, Val Caniparoli, and Amy Seiwert. Chavez works independently as a San Francisco Bay Area dance artist, teaching, choreographing, collaborating, and performing throughout the United States. In recent years, he has received commissions to choreograph works highlighting his strong sense of family for Oakland Ballet Company, the Silicon Valley Dance Festival, and the Festival of Latin American Contemporary Choreographers.

## AILEYCAMP INSTRUCTORS



**Julia Chigamba**  
(*African dance*)

Julia Chigamba grew up within the rich cultural traditions of Shona music and dance in southern Africa. She is the daughter of the highly respected (Gwenyambira) Sekuru Chigamba and a longtime member of Mhembero, the Chigamba family dance and *mbira* ensemble. Trained at the National Dance Company of Zimbabwe, Chigamba came to United States in 1999. In 2000, she established the Chinyakare Ensemble, the Kumusha Foundation, and the Tsuru Collection African-inspired clothing line in Oakland.





**Judy Milner**  
(*modern dance*)

Judy Milner trained at the Ailey School in New York, where she began her professional career as a dancer. She has performed around the world with artists including Aretha Franklin,

Anita Baker, The O'Jays, Luther Vandross, Gladys Knight, Heavy D, Allyiah, Mary J. Blige, and Janet Jackson. Milner has a bachelor's degree in dance education and a master's degree in curriculum and instruction. She is CPR- and mental health-certified as well as certified to teach English language learners. Milner is currently a dance teacher and program manager at Silver Creek High School and Dance Theatre International dance studios in San Jose.



**Ashley Gayle**  
(*jazz dance*)

Ashley Gayle graduated from UC Irvine, where she earned a BFA in dance performance (with a minor in business management). Since moving back home to the Bay Area, she has

performed with Alayo Dance Company, PUSH Dance Company, LV Dance Collective, David Herrera Dance Company, Mix'd Ingrdnts, and Urban Jazz Dance Company. Co-director of Visceral Roots Dance Company, Gayle regularly teaches youth and adults throughout the Bay Area.



**Celine O'Malley**  
(*creative communication*)

Celine O'Malley is a performance storyteller, educator, and writer, passionate about the use of all forms of art and expression for personal development and social engagement. She holds a

bachelor's degree in peace and conflict studies, with a focus on expressive arts for therapy and activism, from Hampshire College, and a dual bilingual multiple-subject and single-subject teaching credential from Chico State University. O'Malley's background as an educator includes work in special education, bilingual education in California, and internationally in Peru and Colombia, as well as in alternative settings including work with homeless and formerly incarcerated youth. Her passion for storytelling has led her to work as a teaching artist for many years and she has piloted various programs in English and Spanish, developing youth voices and community and leadership skills using the art and tradition of storytelling and creative expression. After serving as a Fulbright Scholar at the National University in Bogotá, Colombia, this past year, she is excited to return to working with middle schoolers and exploring expression through the arts.



**Sierra Marie Gonzalez**  
(*personal development*)

Sierra Marie Gonzalez is an Oakland-based teaching artist who utilizes acting, film production, poetry, rapping, youth mentoring, workshop facilitating, and community activism to inspire and promote personal and community wellness. Her professional experience includes collaborating with community arts organizations such as La Peña Cultural Center (Berkeley), Z Space (San Francisco), Berkeley Community Media, Kaiser Permanente's Educational Theatre (Oakland), Word for Word (San Francisco), Girl Wrights (San Francisco), Bi-Jingo (Global), Soul Speaks (Stockton, Chicago), Youth Arts (San Francisco), and Sara's Circle (Chicago). Gonzalez is the cofounder of The Collective, an organization that utilizes community, the arts, and various "wholistic" wellness events and projects to support the mental, emotional, and spiritual evolution of urban communities. She seeks to expand her impact by collaborating with organizations, artists, community advocates, and educators who share her passion for utilizing the arts as a means of creating social, cultural, political, and spiritual progress.

## AILEYCAMP GROUP LEADERS



**Kimber Amadi**  
(*Group P*)

Kimber Amadi attended UC Berkeley, graduating two years ago with a major in theater and performance studies. Since then, she has worked in property management while expanding her knowledge of the legal field, but joy and fulfillment has come through her involvement with Ailey-Camp. Returning for her second year, Amadi is excited to teach the benefits of artistic expression and discipline to today's campers. She will be continuing her education by pursuing a master's degree in teaching, working to remove the stigma of performance art in education and ensure arts education is accessible to everyone, regardless of age or background.



**Kyra Katagi**  
(*Group C*)

Kyra is a recent graduate of UC Berkeley, having majored in dance (with a minor in education). Born in San Francisco and raised in Tokyo, her bicultural roots heavily inform her choreography and practice. When not dancing, Katagi likes to watch musicals, play video games, and embroider.



**Jahniah Omi Bahari**  
(Group A)

Jahniah Omi Bahari is a choreographer, dancer, teacher, musician, herbalist, and fashion designer from Oakland. She is passionate about cultivating safe spaces for creative expression, especially for youth. Her art is dedicated to learning and teaching our ancestral knowledge of health and healing from within, through food, dance, music, painting, and more. Bahari has studied forms of movement such as west and east African, Afro-Brazilian, Haitian, Afrobeat, Indian, modern jazz, freestyle hip hop, and lyrical contemporary. She has taught dance and fashion for the Oakland Leaf Project, Oakland Peace Camp (2014), and Ascend K-8 (2015). Bahari's work has included choreography for *Ceremony* (2016), *Sprint* (2018-19), and *Protection Shields* (2018). She believes that art is freedom. Much gratitude and light.



**Mulu-Tsega Senshaw**  
(Group M)

Mulu-Tsega Senshaw hails from Washington (DC), and began her training in West African dance at the age of 16 at Dance Place, under the instruction of Coyaba Dance Theater. In 2013, she joined the hip-hop dance company Illstyle & Peace Productions in Philadelphia while continuing her studies. After moving to the Bay Area, Senshaw continued her education at Laney College, the Malonga Casquelord Center for the Arts, and Alonzo King LINES Ballet. She has performed at events and festivals such as Dance Africa DC (2012-14), Dance Africa Philadelphia (2014), and Collage des Cultures Africaines (2016-18). This coming fall, Senshaw will continue her dance studies at San Francisco State University, after working abroad for a semester at the Edna Manley College of the Visual & Performing Arts in Kingston, Jamaica.



**Moeketsi O. Gibe**  
(*accompanist, African dance*)

A percussionist, musician, and dancer, Moeketsi O. Gibe grew up in post-apartheid South Africa, encountering remnants of apartheid that included a broken education system that was not tailored for all children. He studied African music and dance at the University of Cape Town in South Africa, obtaining his performers diploma and working with artists from all over the African continent. Since moving to the United States in 2006, Gibe has worked as a teaching artist for Bay Area organizations including Destiny Arts Center, Attitudinal Healing Connection (AHC), and Get Empowered. An active performing artist with Zulu Spear Band of South Africa and Chinyakare Ensemble (music and dance of Zimbabwe), Gibe also toured the US in 2013-14 with Zuma Zuma, an African acrobatic music and dance production. His philosophy is based on the African proverb "Motho ke moth ka Batho," meaning "A person is person because of the people."

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