

## A.I.M BY KYLE ABRAHAM

### DANCER BIOGRAPHIES

**JAMAAL BOWMAN (he/him)** began his dance training at the age of 14 in Maryland, where he was born and raised. In 2021, he graduated from the University of the Arts in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, as a Director's Scholar, under the direction of Donna Faye Burchfield. Over the years he has collaborated with Nora Chipaumire, Tommie Waheed-Evans, Maleek Washington, Helen Pickett, Fana Fraser, Jocelyn Cottencin, Nacera Belaza, and Sidra Bell. In November 2021, Bowman toured with Von Howard Project to Ecuador to perform in the International Living Arts Festival of Loja. Most recently, he has performed as a company member with Kun-Yang Lin/Dancers for their 2021-2022 season. His personal practices are centered around queer Black joy, theater, improvisation, and comedy. He hopes to reshape the future for queer Black people like him, to give them more opportunities to shine. Bowman joined A.I.M by Kyle Abraham in 2022.

**AMARI FRAZIER (he/him)** is a Chicago native and Chicago Academy for the Arts graduate. He earned his BFA in Dance from The Juilliard School, where he performed works by esteemed choreographers, including Sonya Tayeh, Ohad Naharin, Jawole Willa Jo Zollar, Spenser Theberge, and Jermaine Spivey. Frazier has attended summer programs at Alvin Ailey American Dance Theatre, Springboard Danse Montreal, and Nederlands Dance Theatre. He worked with Ballet Collective during the summer of 2021 and has continued collaborating with the company on various projects. Frazier's choreographic skills have been showcased in several Juilliard performances, and he will premiere a new work in April 2023 for Juilliard's Senior Production. Frazier joined A.I.M by Kyle Abraham in April 2023.

**MYKIAH GOREE (he/him)**, a native of Houston, Texas, received his early dance training from Houston Ballet Academy and Kinder HSPVA under the direction of Melissa Bowman and Janie Carothers, respectively. He has attended summer programs with Ballet Austin, BodyTraffic, and Peridance. While at Juilliard, he has performed works by Tiler Peck, Rena Butler, Jamar Roberts, Ohad Naharin, Trisha Brown, Camille A. Brown and Omar Román De Jesús. Mykiah's choreographic work was selected for Juilliard's Choreographers and Composers 2022, MOVE|NYC's summer intensive, Juilliard's Senior Production 2024 and Juilliard's Choreographic Honors. He is a certified Pilates instructor and has served on the Juilliard Black Student Union board. Mykiah is very grateful to all who have built him into the human being and artist that he is today. Mykiah joined A.I.M. by Kyle Abraham in January 2024.

**FAITH JOY MONDESIRE (she/her)** is a Brooklyn-born dancer, model, and writer. She received her formal dance training at Fiorello H. Laguardia High School. She graduated from SUNY Purchase in 2016 with a BFA in Dance and BA in English Literature with a concentration in African American Studies. During her time at Purchase, Mondesire curated a thirty-page research paper on the topic of the Soul and its multifaceted layering in performance, literature, and choreography. She has completed summer programs at the

Dance Theater of Harlem, Alonzo King Lines Ballet, and MOVE|NYC. Mondesire has had the opportunity to perform and work with renowned artists such as Joseph Hernandez, Sidra Bell, Kristen Foote, Melanie Gambino, Kyle Abraham, and Doug Varone. Her work has been featured in Dance Magazine, with her own story, "I'll Never Forget My First Pair of Flesh Tone Tights." Mondesire joined A.I.M by Kyle Abraham in April 2023.

**WILLIAM OKAJIMA (he/him)** Originally from Irvine, California, William Okajima's love for music and dance originated from a young age, growing up in a household full of artists. Will's extensive training began at Orange County School of the Arts, and supplemented his dance training at both Westside Dance Project and Dmitri Kulev Classical Ballet Academy. At just age 13, Will obtained his first professional dance role in Sia's The Greatest music video, and fell in love with the commercial world. Since, he continues to be a part of Los Angeles' vibrant commercial dance scene, featuring in nationwide advertisements (Honda, Apple, Pull & Bear), as well as international campaigns. Most recently, Will traveled to Dubai to feature in the country's latest tourism film. A recent graduate from the USC Gloria Kaufman School of Dance, Will received a BFA in Dance under the guidance of individuals including Kyle Abraham, Bret Easterling, Jermaine Spivey, Jodie Gates and William Forsythe. At Kaufman, Will has performed featured roles in works by Jiří Kylián, Micaela Taylor, Tyce Diorio, Desmond Richardson, Dwight Rhoden and Hope Boykin. Will also received a minor in entrepreneurship through the USC Marshall School of Business. In doing so, Will hopes that his studies of the intersections between dance performance and personal branding will allow him to tackle the demands of the commercial and concert dance world with a uniquely informed academic perspective. Okajima joined A.I.M by Kyle Abraham in 2024.

**DONOVAN REED (they/them)**, a native of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, began their dance training at the age of 16. Soon after, Reed attended college at The University of the Arts where they received their BFA in May of 2016. During their time in college, they participated as an artist in residence at Die Hochschule für Musik und Darstellende Kunst in Frankfurt, Germany. In addition, Reed participated in an independent artist program where their training was extended with the Pennsylvania Ballet. Other studies include PHILADANCO!, Eleone Dance Theatre, and The Rock School for Dance Education. They have performed works by choreographers such as Sidra Bell, Regina Van Berkel, Sharon Eyal, Tommie Waheed-Evans, Beth Gill, Andrea Miller, Tania Isaac, Meredith Rainey, and Helen Simoneau. In 2024, Reed was selected as one of *Dance Magazine's* "Top 25 to Watch". Reed joined A.I.M by Kyle Abraham in 2018.

**KETURAH STEPHEN (she/her)**, a Brooklyn native, began her dance journey at Restoration Youth Arts Academy, where she trained in modern, African and hip hop. She attended Brooklyn High School of the Arts, as well as The Ailey School. She is a graduate of the Conservatory of Dance at SUNY Purchase College. Stephen attended the MOVE (NYC) Young Professionals Program, led by Co-Directors and Co-Founders Chanel DaSilva and Nigel Campbell. Throughout the course of her training, she has worked with and performed works by Earl Mosley, Loni Landon, Roderick George, Trisha Brown, and Antonio Brown.

Stephen appeared in the movie “In the Heights”, under the direction of Ebony Williams in 2019. Stephen joined A.I.M by Kyle Abraham in 2022.

**GIANNA THEODORE (she/her)** Raised in West Palm Beach, Florida, Gianna began her dance training at Ballet East Studio under the direction of Susan Lyle and Chelsea Nasby. Gianna is a graduate of A.W. Dreyfoos School of the Arts, and a three-time YoungArts Merit Scholar/Honorable Mention. She graduated with a BFA in dance from the Ailey/Fordham BFA program Class of 2020. Throughout the course of her training, she has performed works by Robert Battle, Chuck Wilt, and Bradley Shelver. She attended Springboard Danse Montreal, where she performed work created by RUBBERBANDANCE, and Parts & Labour Danse. Gianna has ventured through many cultures and styles of dance, such as house and African, which has helped land her lead roles in music videos. She has also performed professionally with artists such as Ebony Williams, Mark Caserta, Maleek Washington, and Jennifer Archibald. She recently performed during a residency with Helen Simoneau Danse. Gianna joined A.I.M by Kyle Abraham in 2019.

**OLIVIA WANG (she/her)**, originally from Queens, New York, is a first generation Chinese American artist. She has recently graduated with a BFA in Dance from the Conservatory of Dance at SUNY Purchase College. She has trained at The Ailey School, French Academie of Ballet, and was a part of the inaugural class of MOVE|NYC|. Olivia has had the opportunity to perform works by Keerati Jinakunwiphat, Norbert De La Cruz III, Martha Graham, Michiyaya, Nigel Campbell, Kyle Abraham, and Roderick George. Wang has attended summer programs at A.I.M, Martha Graham, MOVE|NYC|, and Hubbard Street. She is an Actors Equity and SAG-AFTRA member. Wang joined A.I.M by Kyle Abraham in 2024.

## **GUEST CHOREOGRAPHER BIOGRAPHIES**

**ANDREA MILLER** (Choreographer, *YEAR*) is a choreographer, creative director, and founder of the internationally renowned multidisciplinary organization GALLIM. A creator and collaborator for dance, film, fashion, and the visual arts, Miller is known for her exploration of the essential elements of human behavior and the alchemy of human expression through the medium of movement and performance.

**Miller is a Guggenheim, Sadler's Wells, New York City Center, and Princess Grace Fellow, and was featured in Forbes as an entrepreneur and leader in the dance world.**

She is the first choreographer to be named Artist in Residence at The Metropolitan Museum of Art, creating two large scale works for The Temple of Dendur and the full 5th floor of The Met Breuer. Her visual art collaborations include a sound, sculpture, and performance installation for Lincoln Center featuring 25 community members processing the pandemic through breath, music, theater and dance, as well as works for The Glass House, Art Basel, Frieze Festival, Grace Farms, Grand Central Station and a film shared by The Guggenheim Museum.

Miller's dance works are **presented by leading institutions and festivals around the world** including Lincoln Center, Kennedy Center, City Center, The Joyce, Jacob's Pillow, BAM, Royal Albert Hall, Sadler's Wells, London Royal Opera House, Théâtre National de

Chaillot, Teatre Grec of Barcelona, Theaterhaus Stuttgart, Canal Madrid, Teatro Nacional de Panamá, DanceHouse Vancouver, Spoleto Festival, and others.

Recent dance commissions include New York City Ballet, Martha Graham Dance Company, Bern Ballet, Noord Nederland Dans, Pennsylvania Ballet, A.I.M, Rambert2, Ailey II, and The Juilliard School. She has created dance for film with celebrated directors including Ariel Schulman and Henry Joost, Xavier Dolan, Ezra Hurwitz, Bat-Sheva Guez and long time collaborator Ben Stamper.

Miller is an Adjunct Professor at Marymount Manhattan College and guest faculty at The Juilliard School, where she is an alumna. Her repertory, creative methodology and dance training have been taught across the country including Marymount Manhattan, The Juilliard School, NYU, UC Kaufman, Harvard, Barnard and others.

Her collaborations in fashion and brands include Hermès, VOGUE, Bergdorf and Goodman, SportsMax, KSwiss, Lacoste, Target, Calvin Klein, Crate & Barrel, SLS Hotels Miami and Las Vegas, and the ministry of tourism of Panama.

Miller serves on the board of Chelsea Factory and The Doris Humphrey Foundation.

**PAUL SINGH** (Guest Choreographer, *Just Your Two Wrists*), earned his BFA in dance from the University of Illinois. He has danced for Gerald Casel, Jane Comfort, Risa Jaroslow, Will Rawls, Douglas Dunn, Christopher Williams, Kathy Westwater, and Faye Driscoll, and was among the inaugural cast of Punchdrunk's American debut of *Sleep No More*. Abroad, he danced in Peter Sellars' production of *The Indian Queen* and for Peter Pleyer (with collaborators Meg Stuart, Sasha Waltz, and Jeremy Wade) in a large-scale improvisation work in Berlin. Singh has had his own work presented at the Judson Church, New York Live Arts, Joe's Pub, Dixon Place, La Mama E.T.C, Center for Performance and Research, and Dock 11 (Berlin). In 2004, his solo piece *Stutter* was presented at the Kennedy Center. Singh has taught contact improvisation around the world, leading intensives and advanced workshops for teacher training and beginners. He teaches varied technique classes (partnering, floor work, contemporary technique, contact improvisation) for Movement Research, Sarah Lawrence College, and Juilliard.

#### CREATIVE TEAM BIOGRAPHIES

**ORLY ANAN** (Costume Designer, *YEAR*) (b. 1987) is a Colombian/Israeli visual artist and art director whose work explores various mystic and spiritual traditions in a distinctive visual language that brings together visual arts, theater, and costume design. Informed by the histories of Surrealism, Bauhaus, and science fiction, Anan creates imaginative performances and installations where shrines, rituals, iconographies and temples of various spiritual traditions connect the viewer with a sense of holiness and sacredness. Exceeding the confines of any specific belief, her work incorporates elements that reflect an interests in Kabbalist mysticism, carnivalesque and masquerade practices, and Afro-Diasporic and Indigenous cosmogonies, among others.

A rising figure in the Latin American contemporary art scene, Anan has recently exhibited her work at the Venice International Art Fair (Venice, 2023), Museo Marco (Monterrey, 2023), Museum of Museums (Seattle, 2022), MUTEK Festival (CDMX, 2022), Festival Grec

(Barcelona, 2022), and Art Basel (Miami, 2020). Interdisciplinary in nature, Anan's practice has reached far and wide, including independent artistic projects, such as EIN SOF (MUBI premiered) and El ombligo como centro cósmico, as well as collaborations with notable Latin American musical artists such as Zoé's León Larregui, Bomba Estéreo, Sotomayor, and Lido Pimienta. Her unique practice has gained the attention of major publications including Forbes, Art Observed, Elle, Architectural Digest, and artnet.

**FRÉDÉRIC DESPIERRE** (Music Composition, *YEAR*) is a French artist based in London since 2011. Alongside his career as a dancer and rehearsal director for Hofesh Shechter Company, he has developed himself as a music composer and a DJ as “Golden Ratio”. His compositions, mostly dedicated to dance performances, allowed him to collaborate with various choreographers such as Andrea Miller for her work “SAMA”, as well as large scale works by Hofesh Shechter Company. Frédéric Despierre’s music is a blend of multicultural influences, atmospheric soundscapes, and club culture inspired percussive grooves.

**REID AND HARRIET** (Costume Designers, *MotorRover*) Harriet Jung and Reid Bartelme met in 2009 while pursuing fashion design degrees at the Fashion Institute of Technology in New York. They started designing collaboratively in 2011 and have focused their practice primarily on costuming dance. In 2015 they were commissioned by the Museum of Art and Design in New York to develop a costume-centric performance work and have since devised two performances at the Guggenheim Museum to shed light on collaborative practice in design and dance. Reid & Harriet Design has completed research fellowships at NYU Center for Ballet and the Arts and the New York Public Library for the Performing Arts. They continue designing costumes and sets for dance productions around the world while expanding the scope of their practice outside the theater.

**DAN SCULLY** (Lighting Designer) is a New York-based lighting and projection designer. He has been the resident lighting designer for A.I.M by Kyle Abraham since its founding, including designs for the full-length evening works *Pavement*, *Live! The Realist M.C.*, and the Bessie Award-winning *The Radio Show*. Recent dance work includes designs for the New York City Ballet, Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, BODYTRAFFIC, Hubbard Street Dance Chicago, and Misty Copeland, among others. Theater and concert credits include *Rocky* (Broadway), *Jedermann* (Salzburger Festspeile), *The Orchestra Rocks!* (Carnegie Hall), and *Peter and The Wolf* (John Lithgow / Carnegie Hall). Regional: Trinity Repertory Company, Geva Theatre Center, Asolo Repertory Theatre, Cleveland Playhouse, Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival, and the Two River Theater Company. MFA NYU Tisch School of the Arts.

**KAREN YOUNG** (Costume Design, *Just Your Two Wrists & If We Were Love Song*) is a New York-based costume designer who has designed clothes for many of A.I.M by Kyle Abraham’s works including *An Untitled Love*, *Drive*, *The Gettin’*, *INDY*, *Meditation: A Silent Prayer*. Other recent work with Kyle Abraham includes costume design for his creations for the Royal Ballet, Alvin Ailey, and Paul Taylor. Young also recently designed Keerati Jinakunwiphat’s “Fortuitous Ash” for New York City Ballet as well as costumes for new

works with the Martha Graham Dance Company, Pacific Northwest Ballet, Alejandro Cerrudo, Brian Brooks, Lucinda Childs, Pontus Lidberg, Troy Schumacher, Sonya Tayeh, Miami City Ballet, Hubbard Street Dance Chicago, Ballet Basel, Acosta Danza Cuba, and Malpasos Dance Company. [karenyoungcostume.com](http://karenyoungcostume.com)

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For booking information, contact Lotus Arts Management, Sophie Myrtil-McCourty, President, at 72-11 Austin Street, Suite 371, Forest Hills, NY 11375. Tel: 347.721.8724; email: [sophie@lotusartsmgmt.com](mailto:sophie@lotusartsmgmt.com); website: [www.lotusartsmgmt.com](http://www.lotusartsmgmt.com)