

Digital Program
Dance on the Lunar Lawn | Dance Institute of Washington
Wednesday, August 16, 2023, 7 p.m.



Order of the Show

“Nights”

Choreography by: Kahina Haynes
Music Credits: “Cycle of Life” by Rania

Dancers:

Krislyn Rushing, Madison Perrin, Lolo Naylor St. Fort, Hailee Edmonds-Hall, Aniya Bulluck-Thomas

“Sinte”

Choreography by: Lesina Martin
Music Credits: “Sinte” by Bashir Shakur

Dancers:

J'adore Lewis, Morgan Perrin, Sanaia Moore, Lauryn Edwards

Move With Me: Ashanté Green

“Warrioress”

Choreography by: Marcus Johnson
Music Credits: “Guerilla Tactics” by Hans Zimmer

Dancers:

Adelina Diop, Hailee Edmonds-Hall, Sanaia Moore, Morgan Perrin

Intermission

“NINE”

Student Choreography by: Aniya Bulluck-Thomas & Kaleb Bland
Music Credits: “The Groove You Liked” by Savanj Rooms

and

“Blood” by Kendrick Lamar

Dancers:
Aniya Bullock-Thomas, Kaleb Bland, Amina Fenton-Starks

Remarks

“Ascending”

Choreography by: Ashanté Green
Music Credits: “Intro” by DJ LESOUL

Dancer:
Faith Kelly

Closing Remarks and Talkback

Dancers:
Kaleb Bland, Aniya Bulluck-Thomas, Amina Fenton-Starks, Faith Kelly

Artistic Statement

Enjoy an evening of Dance Institute of Washington’s repertoire, featuring our pre-professional dancers. This evening’s works will show various forms of our identity in artistic expression.

The Dance Institute of Washington is the leading dance equity organization in Washington, D.C. DIW’s unique model combines world-class dance experiences with comprehensive subsidized services to improve academic, career, and community opportunities. The Dance Institute of Washington increases the inclusive and diverse representation at every level of the professional ballet and dance industries in Washington, D.C. Through that exemplary effort, DIW impacts racial and economic equity in dance nationally and globally.

Dancers

Kaleb Bland
Aniya Bullock-Thomas
Adelina Diop
Hailee Edmonds-Hall
Lauryn Edwards

Amina Fenton-Starks
Faith Kelly
J'adore Lewis
Sanaia Moore

Lolo Naylor St. Fort
Madison Perrin
Morgan Perrin
Krislyn Rushing

About the Choreographers

Kahina Haynes, Executive Director, is a passionate arts activist and the visionary architect behind DIW’s strategic revitalization following the significant loss of its Founder/Artistic Director, Fabian Barnes. She is an awardee of the 2022 Black Voices for Black Justice Fund, 2022 David Bradt Nonprofit Leadership Award, and 2021 American Express NGen Fellows Award. Prior to her appointment by The Board of Directors, Ms. Haynes worked in program and process evaluation for a number of philanthropic and non-profit organizations including the United Nations (Bureau for Development Policy at UNDP), The Annie E. Casey Foundation, SafeKids Worldwide, and the World Bank Group. Ms. Haynes holds a B.A. from Princeton University with a Minor in African American Studies and a concentration in Dance; as well as a master's degree from Oxford University in Evidence Based Social Intervention.

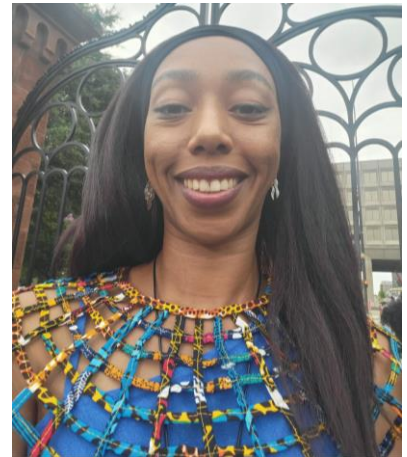




Marcus Johnson is a native of Washington D.C. who has been studying and training rigorously in professional dance for 12 years. Marcus is trained in Ballet, Modern, African, and Hip Hop and started professionally training at Duke Ellington School of The Arts. Following his tenure at Duke Ellington, Marcus was chosen to tour in China for an international dance conference. He has performed with Sting and Paul Simon, toured in Los Angeles, where he also kept up his training. Marcus has been teaching dance for about 7 years at the Dance Institute of Washington, where he's had the pleasure of instilling all that he has learned through the years to the next generation. Marcus believes it is very important to be versatile and adaptive in this field – "it enhances your capability as a young dancer". Marcus is grateful for the experience of inspiring the next

generation to come; to mold great, strong and disciplined dancers at the Dance Institute of Washington and to impact and change the lives of children through the Art of Dance. Marcus is also experienced in the ins and outs of programming and stage productions. While he may often teach, you can also find him in meetings working hard alongside of DIW's Creative Director.

Lesina Martin is a native of Detroit, MI. She graduated from Howard University in 2003 with a B.A. in African Studies. While there, she co-founded NSAA Dance ensemble - the University's first campus organization for African dance and drumming. Also during her time at Howard, she joined Farafina Kan under the direction of Mahiri Keita-Edwards - son and protégé of Mamady Keita. In 2004, she appeared on Moustapha Bangoura's instructional video series Tinkanyi (1 and 2). For ten years, she taught outreach throughout the Washington, D.C. area with Traditional Expressions, a program designed to teach African folkloric studies (dance, music, song) as youth arts enrichment. She entered the classroom full-time teaching Social Studies in 2014, and is now a Teaching Artist and Co-Director of Farafina Kan Junior Company. Over the years, Lesina has traveled to West Africa on several occasions to study traditional folklore in Guinea, Senegal, Gambia, Ghana and Cote D'Ivoire.



A native of Ft. Washington, Maryland, **Ashanté Green** studied dance at the Dance Institute of Washington (DIW) where she trained in many styles of dance beginning at the age of seven. She simultaneously danced in the Dance Theatre of Harlem's Pre-Professional Residency program at the Kennedy Center for 11 years, working closely with the company's then Artistic Director, Arthur Mitchell. Additionally, Ashanté studied under Debbie Allen, performing in her play, *Pepito's Story*, in 2002. Ashanté attended high school at the Baltimore School for the Arts, and in May 2014 received a BFA degree in dance from Shenandoah University where she was featured as a soloist in many works and was the recipient of the Outstanding Performance in Dance Award and the Elizabeth Weil Bergmann Choreography Award. Ashanté continued her education at Shenandoah University and received a Master of Science degree in Performance Arts Leadership and Management in the spring of 2015. After graduating, Ashanté returned to The Dance Institute of Washington to work under the

late Fabian Barnes. She currently serves as the Creative Director and is also one of the lead

choreographers, training students in Ballet, Modern, and Afrocentric movement. In December 2020, Ashanté was featured in a short dance film sponsored by the Washington Performing Arts and Mars Arts DC. Ashanté has also been featured in Dance Teacher Magazine twice. Her choreography placed third in the Ensemble Category at YAGP's 2017 Regional Semi-Finals and the Senior Men's Contemporary Division in 2018. Ashanté's choreography was also selected to be performed at the International Association of Blacks in Dance 31st Annual Conference and Festival in 2019. In February 2021, Ashanté created and directed "Our Spiritual Journey", a full-length dance production, for DIW that took viewers on a journey through Black diasporic history, culture, and ancestry.

Learn more about the Dance Institute of Washington:

[Website](#) | [Instagram](#) | [YouTube](#)

[Watch *Encore: The Documentary*](#), a short film featuring past collaborations between the Dance Institute of Washington and Hillwood