

Bill T. Jones 25th Anniversary Retrospective: A Conversation with Collaborators

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PHOTO BY TIMOTHY GREENFIELD-SANDERS

JACK H. SKIRBALL CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS
PRESENTS

Bill T. Jones 25th Anniversary Retrospective: A Conversation with Collaborators

CHOREOGRAPHER/ARTISTIC DIRECTOR Bill T. Jones
SCULPTOR/CREATIVE DIRECTOR/SET DESIGNER Bjorn G. Amelan
ASSOCIATE ARTISTIC DIRECTOR Janet Wong
CELLO Christopher Antonio William Lancaster
COSTUME DESIGNER Liz Prince
LIGHTING DESIGNER Robert Wierzel

— BIOGRAPHIES

BILL T. JONES (Choreographer/Artistic Director) won the 2007 TONY Award for Best Choreography with his Broadway debut of the musical hit, *Spring Awakening*, for which he also won the Lucille Lortel Award, the Joseph A. Callaway Award, and an Obie Award. He is the 2005 recipient of the Wexner Prize, the Samuel H. Scripps Award/American Dance Festival Lifetime Achievement Award, and the Harlem Renaissance Award, the 2003 recipient of the Dorothy and Lillian Gish Prize, and a 1994 recipient of a MacArthur Fellowship. He began his dance training at the State University of New York at Binghamton (SUNY), where he studied classical ballet and modern dance. After living in Amsterdam, Mr. Jones returned to SUNY, where he became co-founder of the American Dance Asylum in 1973. Before forming Bill T. Jones/Arnie Zane Dance Company in 1982, Mr. Jones choreographed and performed nationally and internationally as a soloist and duet company with his late partner, Arnie Zane. Mr. Jones' latest work *ChapelChapter* (commissioned by Harlem Stage) received a 2007 Bessie Award in the Creator/Choreographer category. The Bill T. Jones/Arnie Zane Dance Company offices are located in Harlem's Mount Morris Park neighborhood.

BJORN G. AMELAN (Sculptor/Creative Director/Set Designer) was the partner of the late fashion designer Patrick Kelly from 1983 until his passing on January 1, 1990. He moved to the United States in 1993 to begin his collaboration with Bill T. Jones, designing and creating the décor for more than 10 works and special presentations as the company's resident set designer. They include: *We Set; Out Early... Visibility Was Poor* (1996); *Green and Blue* (1997) for the Lyon Opera Ballet; *You Walk?* (1999); *The Table Project* (2000); three contrasting designs for The Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center collaboration, *Verbum, Black Suzanne, and WORLDWITHOUT/IN* (2001). In 1999 he designed *How! Do! We! Do!* for Bill T. Jones and Jessye Norman in conjunction with the Lincoln Center's Great Performers New Visions series. In 2003, he designed Mr. Jones' narrative work, *Reading, Mercy and The Artificial Nigger*, as well as its abstract companion piece, *Mercy 10 x 8 on a Circle*. Mr. Amelan's designs for *Blind Date* and *Another Evening: I Bow Down* are in the company's current repertory. In 2004, he won recognition for *Memory of a Rock: First Move*, his gallery showing of bronze and stone sculptures presented at the Dwight Hackett Gallery in Santa Fe, New Mexico, and played a key role in organizing the "Patrick Kelly Retrospective" at the Brooklyn Museum. Mr. Amelan is the recipient of a 2001 "Bessie" for his designs of *The Breathing Show* and *The Table Project*.

JANET WONG (Associate Artistic Director) was born in Hong Kong and trained in Hong Kong and London. Upon graduation she joined the Berlin Ballet where she first met Bill when he was invited to choreograph on the company. In 1993, she moved to New York to pursue other interests. Ms. Wong became Rehearsal Director of the company in 1996 and Associate Artistic Director in August 2006.

CHRISTOPHER ANTONIO WILLIAM LANCASTER (Cello) is a composer and performing artist living in New York. His live and recorded music is created by the processing of acoustic cello sound through real-time samplers, audio effects and filtering. He composes predominately for Theater, Dance and his band "The Black Sounds". His compositions have been performed at U.C. Irvine; U.C.L.A.; U.C. Berkeley; the Kennedy Center in Washington DC; the Biennale De La Danse, in Lyon; Bellevue Teatret;

_ BIOGRAPHIES (continued)

Kanon Hallen in Copenhagen; the Kaleidoscope Festival and Sergio Porto in Rio de Janeiro; Dance Theater Workshop; Symphony Space; the 42nd Street Duke; the New Victory Theater; Tisch School of the Arts at NYU; the Joyce and Joyce Soho, in New York; and the American Dance Festival at Duke University. Currently Mr. Lancaster is working on commissions from, Staccato Movimento, Palindrome Intermedia, Colleen Thomas, Sean Curran, and making videos for YouTube. He can be contacted at ChrisLancaster@mac.com.

LIZ PRINCE (Costume Designer) has worked extensively with Bill T. Jones since 1990 designing for his company as well as his productions on: Boston Ballet, Berlin Opera Ballet and Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater. She recently designed costumes for Goodspeed Musicals' version of *Pippin*, directed by Gabriel Byrne. Other work includes designing for: Doug Varone (Doug Varone and Dancers, Jose Limon Dance Company, Dayton Contemporary Dance Company), Trey McIntyre (American Ballet Theater; Washington Ballet; Pennsylvania Ballet; PHILADANCO, Houston Ballet), Mark Dendy (Dendy Dance, Pacific Northwest Ballet, Dortmund Theater Ballet), Mikhail Baryshnikov's White Oak Dance Project (Meg Stuart, Lucy Guerin), Tamar Rogoff (Claire Danes), PILOBOLUS, Neil Greenberg, Jane CompPort, Bebe Miller, Ralph Lemon, Arthur Aviles, Larry Goldhuber, David Dorfman and LAVA. Her costumes have been exhibited at: The New York Public Library for the Performing Arts, Cleveland Center for Contemporary Art and Snug Harbor Cultural Center. Ms. Prince received a 1990 New York Dance and Performance Award for costume design.

ROBERT WIERZEL (Lighting Designer) has worked with artists from diverse disciplines and backgrounds in theatre, dance, new music, opera and museums, on stages throughout the country and abroad. He has a long history (21 years) with choreographer Bill T. Jones and his company, the Bill T. Jones/Annie Zane Dance Company. A selection of the many projects with the company include *Blind Date*; *Another Evening*; *Bow Down*; *Still/Here*; *We Set Out Early*; *Visibility Was Poor*; *"You Walk?"*; *Last Supper at Uncle Tom's Cabin*; *The Promised Land*; and *How To Walk An Elephant*. Other works with Bill T. Jones include projects at the Guthrie Theatre, Lyon Opera Ballet, Deutsche Opera Ballet (Berlin), Boston Ballet, Boston Lyric Opera, the Welsh dance company *Diversions*, and London's *Contemporary Dance Trust*. Other dance collaborations include choreographers Trisha Brown, Doug Varone, Donna Uchizono, Larry Goldhuber, Heidi Latsky, Sean Curran, Melissa Fenely, Susan Marshall, Margo Sappington, Alonzo King and Joann Fregalette-Jansen. Opera companies of Paris (Garnier); Tokyo; Seattle; Toronto; Montreal; Vancouver; San Francisco; Boston; San Diego; Houston; Washington; Minnesota; Virginia; Miami; Portland; Omaha; Chicago; Glimmerglass Opera; and many productions at New York City Opera. Other credits- Broadway: David Copperfield's *Dreams and Nightmares*. Regional: A.C.T; Arena Stage; Shakespeare Theatre DC; Hartford Stage; Long Wharf Theatre; Goodman Theatre; The Guthrie; Mark Taper Forum; Berkeley Rep; Milwaukee Rep; Chicago Shakespeare; Westport Country Playhouse, among many others. Mr. Wierzel is currently on the Faculty of New York University's Tisch School of the Arts.



"Some choreographers are born dancemakers whose genius manifests in the steps themselves. And some choreographers are geniuses who just happen to choose dance for their primary mode of expression. Bill T. Jones is of the latter variety, and the dance world is fortunate to have him."

— Rachel Howard, SF Chronicle

__ JACK H. SKIRBALL CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS

www.skirballcenter.nyu.edu

The Skirball Center is the premier venue for the presentation of cultural and performing arts events for NYU and lower Manhattan. The programs of the Skirball Center reflect NYU's mission as an international center of scholarship, defined by excellence and innovation and shaped by an intellectually rich and diverse environment. Since 2003, the 860-seat Center has provided a unique venue for enhancing a sense of community while continuing the Greenwich Village traditions of creativity and artistic discovery with a broad range of compelling performance events at affordable ticket prices. Led by Executive Producer Jay Oliva (President Emeritus of New York University) and Director Michael Harrington, a natural and vital aspect of the Center's mission is to build young adult audiences for the future of live performance.

__ UPCOMING EVENTS



Dana Tai Soon Burgess & Co.: Hyphen and Mixed Repertoire

MARCH 11

A critically acclaimed performance, *Hyphen* "looks at the experience of being a hyphenated American — Asian Americans but also other ethnic Americans and multi-racial Americans," says artistic director and choreographer Dana Tai Soon Burgess. "Does the hyphen connect or separate our hybrid identities? There's definitely a struggle going on; commonality is a difficult process in a multifaceted America."



DanceBrazil

MARCH 19-22

DanceBrazil, from Bahia, under the artistic direction of Jelon Vieira, presents four performances of *Inura* at the Skirball Center with choreography by frequent DanceBrazil guest artist Carlos Dos Santos and a commissioned score by Cuban-born composer and conductor Tania León, with *Ritmos* (2008), Vieira's homage to Capoeira, the Afro-Brazilian martial art unique to his home state of Bahia, and the Samba, Brazil's iconic popular dance.

__ HOW TO BUY TICKETS

ONLINE www.skirballcenternyu.edu

BY PHONE 212.352.3101

IN PERSON

NYU Skirball Center's Shagan Box Office
566 LaGuardia Place (at Washington Square South)
Hours: Tuesday – Saturday, 12 - 6 PM

DISCOUNTS

Discounts are available for all NYU students, faculty, staff and alumni. See www.skirballcenternyu.edu for details. Limit of two tickets per event. Valid ID cards are required. Discounts may not be combined.

TERMS OF SALE

All single ticket sales are final. There are no refunds and no exchanges. All artists and dates are subject to change. Ticketing fees may apply.

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