



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Contact:** Aviva Davidson  
917-714-2221  
avivabgd@gmail.com

**SITE-SPECIFIC DANCE TAKES OVER THE BRONX**  
**With Works by**  
**LARRY KEIGWIN, JAMES "CRICKET" COLTER,**  
**ARTHUR AVILES, TONI RENEE JOHNSON, AND NI'JA WHITSON ADEBANJO**

Bronx, NY (7/15/14) – On Wednesday, August 13, 2014, at 6:30 pm, Dancing in the Streets will launch **DANCING THROUGH THE BRONX**, a site-specific dance festival that introduces new audiences to contemporary dance while drawing attention to three green spaces in the Bronx. The festival consists of the following three FREE\* performances:

- **Wed, August 13, 6:30 pm / Wave Hill:** Choreographers: **Ni'Ja Whitson Adebajo, James "Cricket" Colter,** and **Larry Keigwin.**
- **Thu, August 14, 4:30 pm / Hayden Lord Park:** Choreographers: **James "Cricket" Colter, Toni Renee Johnson,** and **Larry Keigwin**
- **Sat, August 16, 2 pm / Owen Dolen Park:** Choreographers: **Arthur Aviles, James "Cricket" Colter,** and **Larry Keigwin.**

Although the three performance venues vary greatly in size and topography, all three programs follow the same format: three consecutive 12-minute dances, followed by a cipher (a free-style dance circle with audience participation). All three programs will include two site-adaptive works:

1. A work by **James "Cricket" Colter**, featuring five hip hop dancers who will adapt a broad vocabulary of hip hop styles to each park's terrain.
2. A work by **Larry Keigwin**, featuring 30 performers—six KEIGWIN + COMPANY members and 24 community members of all ages and abilities. Keigwin will train and rehearse the community members using his "Let's Make a Dance," process that demystifies the creative process and prepares non-dancers to perform in public.

Each of the three Bronx choreographers will create, and perform in, a site-specific dance at one of the three performance venues:

- **Ni'Ja Whitson Adebajo** (Wave Hill, 8/13) is creating a duet for herself and a sound artist that integrates ritual performance with the contours and textures of one of Wave Hill's exquisite gardens.
- **Toni Renee Johnson** (Hayden Lord Park, 8/14) is exploring the relationship between passivity and aggression in play in a work that will playfully guide the audience to follow a trio of dancers through different sections of the intimate park.
- **Arthur Aviles** (Owen Dolen Park, 8/16) is resurrecting *Ritual Dance*, a work he created in 2000 to celebrate the completion of a new dance floor at BAAD!'s original location in the American Banknote Building in Hunts Point. 15 dancers will spread out through the park, performing simultaneous solos to the same beat, which they will create by clapping their hands and an occasional shout.

## THE CHOREOGRAPHERS:

- **James “Cricket” Colter** is a world-known, respected professional street dancer. He is a founding member of Rennie Harris Pure Movement, and he performs, choreographs, and teaches at dance festivals worldwide. Cricket danced in the film *Step Up 2 the Streets* and in music videos with Will Smith, Boys II Men, and KRS-1 among others. He recently formed his own company Crazy-Natives with the goal of pushing the limits of hip hop dance and integrating it with other contemporary dance forms.
- **Larry Keigwin** is a native New Yorker and choreographer who has danced his way from the Metropolitan Opera to downtown clubs to Broadway and back. He founded KEIGWIN + COMPANY in 2003; and has since created dozens of works for K+C, as well as for the Royal New Zealand Ballet, The Martha Graham Dance Company, Vail International Dance Festival, *Dancing in the Streets*, and the Broadway musical *If/Then*.
- **Arthur Aviles** is a Bessie Award-winning dance pioneer who rose to international acclaim when he danced with the Bill T. Jones/Arnie Zane Dance Company. Among his many awards, Aviles received the NYC Mayor’s Arts Award for his artistic leadership of BAAD! Bronx Arts Academy for Art and Dance.
- **Toni Renee Johnson** is a performer, choreographer, educator and director. She is the Artistic Director of the Bronx-based Maverick Dance Experience, and is currently the Program Director at Marquis Studios. Johnson creates bold work rooted in social commentary, blood memory and interpersonal relationships.
- **Ni’Ja Whitson Adebajo** is an interdisciplinary artist, writer, and full-time lecturer at Lehman College who has performed and conducted research, residencies, and master classes in Africa, Brazil, Canada and the USA, including at the Apollo, Roulette, and at the Art Institute of Chicago. Whitson Adebajo is a Movement Research Artist in Residence and a performer in the national tour of *River See* written and conducted by Sharon Bridgforth.

## THE PARKS:

- **Wave Hill** is a 28-acre public garden and cultural center in the Bronx overlooking the Hudson River. Historic Wave Hill House was built as a country home in 1843 by William Lewis Morris and has since been home to Theodore Roosevelt, Mark Twain, and Arturo Toscanini, among others. Its spectacular grounds include lush lawns; aquatic, herb and wild gardens; vine-covered pergolas; woodland trails and a broad variety of perennial and annual flowers.
- **Hayden Lord Park** is a small park that was inspired by Gaudi’s artwork in Barcelona’s Park Güell. Located between two Bronx Pro buildings, the park has transformed a formerly under-utilized urban space into an oasis for community gatherings, art making, and quiet contemplation.
- **Owen Dolen Park** is the hub of the re-burgeoning Westchester Square. It is located on the site of the historic Village Green, which was the center of the thriving 17<sup>th</sup> century Westchester Village.

## PRESENTING PARTNERS:

**Dancing in the Streets** presents FREE adventurous, community-based, public dance performances in unexpected places. Since moving to the South Bronx in 2011, Dancing in the Streets is applying its 30-year legacy towards developing free public programs in the Bronx that expand the cultural conversation, nurture artists, build community, and reclaim, revitalize, and draw attention to the borough’s unknown architectural, natural, and cultural treasures.

For **DANCING THROUGH THE BRONX**, Dancing in the Streets is forging an innovative and

replicable model of cross-sector partnerships that: a) nurture choreographers' creative processes; b) integrate artistic innovation with community engagement and; c) promote the Bronx as a viable and affordable area for living, business, commerce, and the arts. The presenting partners for **DANCING THROUGH THE BRONX** are:

- **BAAD! The Bronx Academy of Arts & Dance:** In October 2013, BAAD! moved from Hunts Point to the chapel of St. Peter' Episcopal Church in Westchester Square, where it is continuing its 15-year legacy of nurturing and presenting the work of established and emerging artists with a special focus on work by and about women, people of color, and the LGBTQ community.
- **Bronx Pro Real Estate Management** is a family-run property management and ownership company in the Bronx that specializes in high quality, green, affordable housing for low and moderate income households. It has been the driving force behind the creation and maintenance of Hayden Lord Park.
- **Wave Hill** is one of 33 New York City-owned cultural institutions. An oasis of serenity, it explores human connections to the natural world through programs in horticulture, education and the visual and performing arts.
- **Westchester Square BID (Business Improvement District)** is a non-profit corporation whose property owners, merchants, and residents join forces to improve the quality of life of the neighborhood through street cleaning/snow removal services, graffiti removal, addition of street furniture, and various community beautification projects. The key to its success are the community events, including free public performances taking place throughout the year.

**DANCING THROUGH THE BRONX** is sponsored by Bronx Pro Real Estate Management, and has received generous support from the National Endowment for the Arts, the Mertz Gilmore Foundation, and Con Edison.

###

**DANCING IN THE STREETS**

555 Bergen Avenue, 3rd Floor, Bronx, NY 10455

t. 917-714-2221

[www.dancinginthestreets.org](http://www.dancinginthestreets.org)