

**STREET
DANCE
ACTIVISM**
GLOBAL DANCE MEDITATION
**FOR BLACK
LIBERATION**



AUGUST 21

Street Dance Activism: GESTURE

Session Description:

This integration workshop invites us to access rhythm and embodied ritual as tools to unleash subjugated knowledge. Join us as we use Gesture to affirm, actively witness, and conspire together forging toward active liberation. *What ancestral and generational gestures do our bodies carry?* Gesture works as code; often embodied codes are legible and visible to those who know, this knowing is a blueprint.

Dr. Dominique C. Hill reminds us that this week is, "dedicated to remembering knowledge and insights that come from the cosmos, that come from nature, that come from all the elements, that come through the people who have passed through this world before us and now sit in a cellular level in our bodies."

The collective reminds us that we are not alone nor have we ever been alone. We are moving and gesturing toward a *new*, with the spirit and power of the 'Us' that is ancestral, that is collective, and that is everlasting.



Nia-Amina Minor is a movement artist and dance educator based in Seattle. Her work has many disciplinary points of interest focusing on the body and what it carries. Through performance and teaching, Nia-Amina converses with black realities and investigates the intersections of movement, memory, and rhythm. Whether on stage, in the studio, or in the streets, Nia-Amina approaches movement as a site for collective gathering. Originally from South Central Los Angeles, Nia-Amina studied at the Debbie Allen Dance Academy, holds a BA from Stanford University, and a MFA from the University of California, Irvine. She is a co-founder of No)one Art House, a multi-disciplinary collective based in Los Angeles. From 2014-2017, Nia-Amina performed as well as curated programming and workshops for the collective under the guiding philosophy: "Not the Efforts of One." In 2016, she joined Spectrum Dance Theater under the direction of Donald Byrd where she currently holds the position of Company Dancer and Community Engagement Artist Liaison. Nia-Amina has performed in acclaimed works such as *A Rap on Race*, *Shot*, and *Strange Fruit* receiving a Seattle Dance Crush Award for her performance in *Shot*. Nia-Amina is grateful to work in solidarity and share in the collective power of the Street Dance Activism team for the 28 Day of Global Dance Meditation.

Bernard Brown is a performing artist, choreographer, educator, scholar and arts activist who situates his work at the intersection of blackness, gender, and sexuality. A Lester Horton Award and Westfield Emerging Artist Award recipient, Bernard has performed with distinguished artists and companies including Lula Washington Dance Theatre, David Rousseve/REALITY, TU Dance, Shapiro & Smith Dance, Doug Elkins Dance Company, Donald McKayle, Rennie Harris, Kamasi Washington, Vincent Patterson, Rudy Perez, Nike, and was invited to perform with Mikhail Baryshnikov in Robert Wilson's "Letter to a Man" with choreography by Lucinda Childs. Brown earned his MFA from UCLA's Department of World Arts and Cultures/Dance and BFA from SUNY Purchase. As artistic director of Bernard Brown/bbmoves, a social justice dance theater company, Brown's choreography has been presented with acclaim in Los Angeles, San Francisco, Chicago, Dallas, Minneapolis, Phoenix and New York City. The work is often described as thoughtful, captivating, and powerfully exquisite. He is published in the peer-reviewed dance journal, *Dancer-Citizen*, with a recent publication in *The Activist History Review* in 2020. He has presented his scholarship on blackness, queerness and post-modern dance at conferences across the US. Bernard has been featured in the *New York Times* and *Los Angeles Times* for his activism. He is an Assistant Professor of Dance at Sacramento State University and a Certified Dunham Technique Instructor candidate. The *Los Angeles Times* has called him "...the incomparable Bernard Brown..."