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Friday, May 2, 2014

Town Hall: Lincoln Center Education, Next Stage

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When: Friday, May 2, 2014, 6:00-7:30 p.m.

Where: Clark Studio Theater, 165 West 65th Street, NY, NY

Lincoln Center Education launches *Next Stage*, a new discussion series aimed at early-to mid-career artists in the fields of theater, dance, music and visual arts. The high-profile artists selected to moderate will focus on the intersection of an artist's academic and artistic pursuits and how they go hand in hand, creatively, financially, and otherwise. The dance discussion on Friday, May 2nd will be moderated by the Artistic Director of Dance Theatre of Harlem, Virginia Johnson, and will include Camille A. Brown, Sean Curran, and Abdul Latif. The evening is presented in partnership with Dance/NYC.

[Discover more about the series.](#)

Artist Bios

Seán Curran was a leading dancer with the Bill T. Jones/Arnie Zane Dance Company and an original member of the New York cast of "STOMP!" He currently serves as co-Chair of the Department of Dance at Tisch School of the Arts/New York University. The Seán Curran Company has appeared at such venues as the Duke on 42nd St, the Joyce Theatre, Jacob's Pillow, and Dance Theatre Workshop. Curran has choreographed and/or directed for Metropolitan Opera, New York City Opera, and on Broadway. In 2012, Seán Curran Company was chosen by DanceMotion USA (produced by the Brooklyn Academy of Music) to perform and teach throughout Central Asia as cultural ambassadors of the US State Department. Seán was awarded a New York Dance and Performance "Bessie" Award as a performer, and was recently nominated as a choreographer.

Camille A. Brown is a prolific choreographer who has achieved multiple accolades and awards for her daring works. Ms. Brown is a two-time Princess Grace Award recipient (Choreography & Works in Progress Residency), a two-time recipient of NEFA's National Dance Project Production Grant, the recipient of the 2014 Joyce Award with DANCECleveland, and a 2014 New York City Center Choreography Fellow. She was also the 2013 recipient of The International Association of Blacks in Dance Founders Award, the prestigious Princess Grace Award (Choreography), the Mariam McGlone Emerging Choreographer Award (Wesleyan University), and the 2012 City College of New York Women & Culture Award. Informed by her music background as a clarinetist, she creates choreography that utilizes musical composition as storytelling investigating the silent space within the measure, and filling it with mesmerizing movement.

Camille A. Brown's choreography and dynamic performances have led her to receive a Bessie nomination for Best Performance in her work, *The Evolution of a Secured Feminine*, and a Best Choreography nomination from the Black Theater Arts Alliance for her debut work set on the Ailey company, *The Groove To Nobody's Business*, and was among the first cohort of fellows for Ailey's New Directions Choreography Lab. Dance companies that have commissioned her work are: Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, Philadanco, Urban Bush Women, Complexions, Ailey II, Ballet Memphis, TU Dance, and Hubbard Street II, among others. Camille and her dancers have performed at major dance venues around the country including The Joyce Theater, Bates Dance Festival, WhiteBird Dance, and Jacob's Pillow. Her works have been performed at The Kennedy Center, The Apollo, Brooklyn Academy of Music, Madison Square Garden, and New York City Center. She was the Choreographer for Saverio Palatella's line, *Whole-garment 3D*, for New York Fashion Week in 2008. A graduate of the LaGuardia High School of the Performing Arts, Ms. Brown earned a B.F.A. from the University of North Carolina School of the Arts. From 2001-2007 she was a member of Ronald K. Brown's Evidence, A Dance Company, and was a guest artist with Rennie Harris' Puremovement, and Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater (2008 and 2011). A career highlight for Camille was being named choreographer for the Broadway revival of *A Streetcar Named Desire* in 2012, along with the Off-Broadway musical production, *Soul Doctor*. She also choreographed a production of *Pins & Needles* in 2011 presented by The Foundry Theater. Ms. Brown recently choreographed William Shakespeare's *The Winter's Tale*, for The McCarter Theater in Princeton, NJ, and is the Movement Consultant for *Myths of the Jailhouse Gods* (working title) in development with poet-playwright Marcus Gardley and The Foundry Theatre. *The Fortress of Solitude* – a new musical, featuring her choreography, recently debuted at the Dallas Theater Center in March and will be at The Public Theater this Fall. Camille is also working on a new work with her company – currently titled, *Black Girl*, which will premiere in 2015.

Abdul Latif – "Dulie Dules" -- graduated from Wesleyan University, double majored in the College of Social Studies and Theater, with also a concentration in Dance; wrote his Honors Thesis on the Socio-Economic Development of The Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater Foundation. Choreographed the hit music video *Off The Books* with award winning director Chris Robinson and the Opening Ceremonies of the Special Olympics. He received his Masters Degree from NYU's Tisch School of the Arts with a concentration in choreography and direction. While in graduate school Abdul choreographed for multi-platinum recording artists Cynthia Torres and Deborah Cox. He then became a member of Donald Byrd's contemporary ballet company, The Group, and later performed with Jennifer Mullers contemporary modern company, The Works. Abdul appeared on Broadway in Julie Taymor's *The Lion King*, and *Hairspray*, directed by Jack O'Brien. He has choreographed and directed for Equity Union, Broadway Cares' 20th Anniversary Easter Bonnet Event at The New Amsterdam Theater, Gypsy of The Year at the Neil Simon Theater and Broadway Bares at The Roseland Ballroom. He conceived and choreographed *Kaleidoscope* for the St Jude Foundation at the Madison Avenue Armory. Abdul was a two time ACT-SO National Arts Competition winner in the categories of Contemporary Voice, Dance, Drama and Oration. He has twice been a special guest speaker of The Archdiocese of New York for the National Inner-City Scholarship Fund by invitation of both Cardinal O'Connor and Cardinal Egan, presenting on the merits of its educational funding. In 2005 he was granted an audience with Pope Benedict XVI at the Cologne, Germany World Youth Summit, where he was specially selected to represent his country. He has been an Architect of the Future Grant Nominee, a Robert Wilson - Watermill Foundation Semi-Finalist. In the summer of 2012 Abdul was selected to be in residence at Ballet Hispanico's Instituto Coreografico and was specially invited to perform at The

Fendafor Festival in Brazil, where he received the Artist Distinction Award. In 2013 finished his fellowship at Lincoln Center Education with the NEXT Project.

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