

ALVIN AILEY AMERICAN DANCE THEATER

City of Rain (2010 /Ailey Company Premiere 2019)

Choreography: Camille A. Brown

Rehearsal Associates: Mayte Natalio, Trey Smith, Mora-Amina Parker & Maleek Washington

Music: Jonathan Melville Pratt

Costume Designer: Mayte Natalio

Lighting Designer: Burke Wilmore

Camille A. Brown's quietly lyrical, yet powerful *City of Rain* honors the struggles and grace of a close friend, Greg 'Blyes' Boomer, who passed away due to an illness that paralyzed him from the waist down. The piece shows a different facet of the choreographer than Ailey audiences have seen in her previous works for the Company (*The Groove to Nobody's Business* and *the Evolution of a Secured Feminine*). Set to an original composition by Jonathan Melville Pratt entitled "Two Way Dream", this re-staged production utilizes the vulnerable physicality of 10 dancers to pay tribute to Boomer's story.

"...an **expansive, eloquent dance... a gorgeous symphony of sound and movement.**"

Medium

"A storytelling choreographer who listens to her audience"

The New York Times

Camille A. Brown

Camille A. Brown is a prolific Black female choreographer reclaiming the cultural narrative of African American identity. Founded in 2006, Camille A. Brown & Dancers tours nationally and internationally inviting audiences into stories about race, culture and identity. Her bold work taps into both ancestral stories and contemporary culture to capture a range of deeply personal experiences. Ms. Brown's work has been commissioned by Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, Broadway theaters, and other prominent institutions.

She has earned nominations for a Tony Award for Best Choreography and a Drama Desk Award for Outstanding Choreography for her work on "Choir Boy", and nominations for Outer Critics Circle, Drama Desk, and the Chita Rivera award for her choreography in the Tony Award Winning Revival of "Once on This Island". Ms. Brown's additional choreography credits include "Much Ado About Nothing" – directed by Kenny Leon, "ONCE the Musical" and "Toni Stone" for RoundAbout Theatre. She also choreographed the Emmy Award-winning television special "Jesus Christ Superstar Live in Concert" as well as the forthcoming film "Ma Rainey's Black Bottom"- directed by George C. Wolfe for Netflix. Her fall 2019 projects include: "Porgy and Bess" at the Metropolitan Opera, "For Colored Girls Who Have Considered Suicide/ When The Rainbow Is Enuf" at Public Theater, and the national tour of "Once on This Island". In addition, she will be choreographer for Broadway's upcoming "Soul Train" musical in 2021.

Ms. Brown is a four-time Princess Grace Award winner, a Ford Foundation Art of Change Fellow, Jacob's Pillow Dance Award winner, Guggenheim Fellowship recipient, and TED Fellow, among others. She is a graduate of the LaGuardia High School of the Performing Arts, received a B.F.A. from the University of North Carolina School of the Arts and is an Ailey School alumna.

Jonathan Melville Pratt

Jonathan Melville Pratt is a composer, singer, percussionist, multi-instrumentalist, and producer living and working in Brooklyn. Jonathan graduated at the top of his class in Voice and Percussion from the School for Creative and Performing Arts in Cincinnati, and went on to earn his Bachelors degree in Classical Vocal Performance and "Interdisciplinary Composition" from The North Carolina School of the Arts. Jonathan has been commissioned to compose and perform original music in Modern Dance, Ballet, Theater, Film, Commercials, Performance Art, and Pure Music. His acclaimed scores and collaborative works have been presented at venues such as Lincoln Center, The Kennedy Center, The Brooklyn Academy of Music (BAM), The Joyce Theater, American Dance Festival, The Guggenheim Museum, Yerba Buena Center, The Lobero Theater, The Old Globe Theater, The Public Theater, The Abbey Theater, Symphony Space, City Center, Dance Theater Workshop, The Joyce Soho, The Kitchen, LaMama, Chez Bushwick, and The Bushwick Starr, among many others.



Camille A. Brown. Photo by Whitney Browne.

City of Rain
Music Credit Information

Song: "Two Way Dream"

Written and Composed by: Jonathan Melville Pratt