In this haunting three-part suite *Untitled America*, MacArthur “Genius” Kyle Abraham, shines a light on the impact of the prison system on African-American families. Developed over three seasons, the work features interviews by those impacted by incarceration. Laura Mvula’s touching “Father, Father,” the traditional spiritual “No More My Lord,” contemporary music by Raime, and other musical compositions underscore Abraham’s distinct movement style and signature avant-garde aesthetic. Fusing many facets of dance vocabulary, Abraham’s movement style is decidedly original and contains wealth of physical detail that resonates with the Ailey dancers’ trademark versatility.

“...for an uncompromising choreographic vision that also managed to be a powerful company showpiece, it was Kyle Abraham’s *Untitled America* that triumphed, first to last. ...the sense of isolation, oppression, struggle and hopeless fury remained palpable. ...moments of deep connection to ennoble the participants and confirmed their unvanquished humanity. Abraham is increasingly celebrated these days for such offbeat, indelible dance dramas.”

*Los Angeles Times*

“Untitled America, choreographed by Kyle Abraham, was a show stopper...this piece transcends race and time and provides relevant and poignant commentary on the status quo in this country.”

*The Huffington Post*

“This is something our culture should be looking at, and Abraham has found a way to do that. Kudos to Ailey—and Abraham—for keeping the revelations relevant.”

*Dance Magazine*

“Mr. Abraham’s vocabulary, with its rich mix of street and studio suggesting a body at war with itself, is potent and explosive and wonderfully of the moment.”

*The New York Times*

“...potent...a powerful, poetic portrait.”

*Miami Herald*

**Kyle Abraham**

Recently featured in O, The Oprah Magazine, Kinfolk and Vogue Italia, 2018 Princess Grace Statue Award recipient and Lincoln Center Education Artist in Residence, Kyle Abraham is a 2013 MacArthur Fellow and 2016 Doris Duke recipient who began his dance training at the Civic Light Opera Academy and the Creative and Performing Arts High School in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. He continued his dance studies in New York, receiving a BFA from SUNY Purchase and an MFA from NYU Tisch School of the Arts, an honorary Doctorate in Fine Arts from Washington Jefferson College, and is currently serving as a visiting professor in residence at UCLA. Mr. Abraham is the founding Artistic Director of A.I.M, Abraham.In.Motion., an American contemporary dance company, created in honor his history, experiences and artistic interests.
In 2009 he was honored as one of Dance Magazine’s “25 To Watch,” and over has received tremendous accolades and awards for his dancing and choreography including: a Pennsylvania Council for the Arts Fellowship (2009), a Bessie Award for Outstanding Performance in Dance for his work in *The Radio Show* (2010), a Princess Grace Award for Choreography (2010), Resident Commissioned Artist under New York Live Arts (2011), and a Jacob's Pillow Dance Award (2012). Abraham’s first work for the Ailey company, *Another Night*, premiered at New York City Center in 2012. In 2013, he received the MacArthur “Genius” fellowship, awarded annually to talented individuals who have shown extraordinary originality and dedication in their creative pursuits and a marked capacity for self-direction.

Rebecca Bengal of Vogue writes, “What Abraham brings to Ailey is an avant-garde aesthetic, an original and politically minded downtown sensibility that doesn’t distinguish between genres but freely draws on a vocabulary that is as much Merce and Martha as it is Eadweard Muybridge and Michael Jackson.”

Kyle Abraham has presented work with his company, A.I.M. at venues around the world, such as Jacob’s Pillow Dance Festival, Danspace Project, Dance Theater Workshop, Bates Dance Festival, Harlem Stage, Fall for Dance Festival at New York City Center, Montreal, Germany, Ireland, Japan and The Andy Warhol Museum in his hometown of Pittsburgh, PA.

In addition to performing and developing new works for A.I.M in 2019, he also choreographed and premiered *The Bystander* for Hubbard Street Dance Chicago, *Only The Lonely* for Paul Taylor American Modern Dance Company and *Ash*, a solo work for American Ballet Theater principle, Misty Copeland to rave reviews. Other commissioned works include:, *The Runaway* for New York City Ballet in 2018, *The Serpent and The Smoke*, a pas de deux for himself and former New York City Ballet Principal Dancer Wendy Whelan as part of Restless Creature and choreographed for the feature-length film, *The Book of Henry* with acclaimed director, Colin Trevorrow.

**Laura Mvula**

A native of Birmingham, England who trained at the city's Conservatoire, arrived in late 2012 with a unique orchestral pop sound -- a mix of classic pop, jazz, and soul with creative and accessible twists -- that attracted accolades months before the release of her first album. After Mvula signed to RCA, she had an EP-length document issued in September 2012. The album Sing to the Moon arrived in March 2013 and peaked at number nine in the U.K., while one of its four singles -- "Green Garden" -- reached number 31 on the singles chart. That October, she won MOBO awards in the categories of Best Female Act and Best R&B or Soul Artist. In 2014 she released a session of Sing to the Moon remakes recorded at Abbey Road Studios with the Netherlands' Metropole Orkest. Her sophomore album, *The Dreaming Room*, was released in November 2016.

**Untitled America**

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