

contributors

These notable artists are featured in "The Life Rhapsodic" (page 554), a celebration of bohemian style.

JOHN LEGEND

Hip-hop poet J. Ivy bestowed the last name "Legend" on John Stephens when he first heard him in a studio session. After singing for Kanye West, Jay-Z, and Alicia Keys, the recording artist released his own albums, most recently with the Roots. "Anyone who believes in artistry is always looking to grow," he notes. "The challenge of commercial success is to be true to your muse."



SAVION GLOVER

"The great hoofers" inspired the Newark, New Jersey-based dancer and choreographer. "People like Gregory Hines. People like Sammy Davis, Jr. People like Jimmy Slyde, Buster Brown, Ralph Brown, the great Dianne Walker..." The list goes on, a review of American masters, some of whom Glover danced with himself. "Tap dancing is something you learn to do, but individualism can't be taught," he explains. "Tap dancing is interesting, but to cross over into the realm of self-expression through tap dancing is more interesting."



ANTONIO DOUTHITT

"'Sinner Man' is a dance that touches people on so many levels," says the Alvin Ailey dancer about his part of *Revelations*, currently on national tour. "It touches your spirit—and everything you are as a human. Every night I do it, a different emotion comes up. I forget what happened during the day. I am just dancing for the sake of dancing."

COLSON WHITEHEAD

Author Colson Whitehead is not afraid to explore the dark side of life, and praises Samuel Beckett as a "high realist." "The way Beckett weaves between the comic and the tragic," he says, "the way people like George Carlin and Richard Pryor did, people who I latched onto early on—to embrace both sides of our existence."



ANTHONY MACKIE

Acting, for Anthony Mackie, started with George Bernard Shaw, around 1993. "Back when public schools were amazing, they used to put kids on a bus for four hours to go see plays," he remembers. "I went to see *Heartbreak House*, and I was blown away by the amount of charisma and emotion the actors displayed in such a small space. It was a game-changer for me." *contributors >248*



KENNY LEON

Director Kenny Leon's revival of 1982's *Extremities*, with Katie Holmes, opens later this year. After a summer directing two films (*Babylon* and *Cotton*), he will also be back on Broadway this fall to direct *The Mountaintop*, a play based on the imagined last night of Martin Luther King, Jr., starring Halle Berry. "It's gonna be exciting," Leon says. "Halle's never done Broadway before."



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ANTONIO DOUTHIT ON THE MOVE

At sixteen, Douthit was given tickets to see the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater at the Fox Theater in St. Louis. "I didn't know how it was going to happen," he says, "but I knew I wanted to be a dancer in that company." This month, the now-30-year-old will dance in *Revelations* back in St. Louis at the Fox Theater.

From far left, on Deng: Donna Karan New York shirt and skirt. Oscar de la Renta belt. On Mali: Roberto Cavalli python jacket and silk dress. Donna Karan New York sandals. On Sosa: Michael Kors cotton cardigan. Dolce & Gabbana silk chiffon dress. On Dunn: Tom Ford hand-painted silk georgette dress. Details, see In This Issue.