

JUL 25 - AUG 5  
**2025**

A . I . M  
**BY KYLE ABRAHAM**

Sunday, August 3, 2025  
Vilar Performing Arts Center

---

*Generously Underwritten by  
Ginny Gold, Alexia & Jerry Jurschak, and Vickie Morris.*

# A.I.M by Kyle Abraham

*Artistic Director:* Kyle Abraham\*\* (he/him)

*Executive Director:* Emily Waters (she/her)

*Producing Director:* Vernon Scott (he/him)

*General Manager:* Anne Dechêne (she/her)

*Rehearsal Director:* Jessica Tong (she/her)

*Company Manager:* Bridget Caston (she/her)

*Production Stage Manager:* Meredith Belis (she/her)

*Lighting Supervisor:* Dan Stearns (he/him)

## PERFORMERS

JAMAAL BOWMAN, AMARI FRAZIER\*, MYKIAH GOREE,  
ALYSIA JOHNSON\*, FAITH JOY MONDESIRE, DESTIN MORISSET,  
WILLIAM OKAJIMA, MORGAN OLSCHESKE (SWING),  
NIYA SMITH, KETURAH STEPHEN,  
GIANNA THEODORE, OLIVIA WANG

*\*Princess Grace Award Recipient / \*\*Princess Grace Statue Award*

**A.I.M by Kyle Abraham** has, for nearly two decades, been at the forefront of contemporary dance, becoming one of the most acclaimed touring companies in the world. Celebrating its 20th anniversary in 2026, the company exemplifies “lush movement, infectious music and magnetic dancers...” as noted by The New York Times. A.I.M has been featured in *Vogue*, *Essence*, among many other publications, and was on the April 2025 cover of the *Harper’s Bazaar*. The company is described as a “postmodern gumbo” with an ardent voice and artistic process informed by robust conversations with people from diverse perspectives. A.I.M collaborates with renowned choreographers including Bebe Miller, Doug Varone, Trisha Brown, Keerati Jinakunwiphat, Maleek Washington, Rena Butler, Paul Singh and Andrea Miller, ever expanding its repertory. A.I.M is based in New York City.

For more information, to get involved, or to purchase your A.I.M merchandise, please visit <http://aimbykyleabraham.org>.

Follow A.I.M on Instagram @aimbykyleabraham

## SHOW PONY

*Music by Jlin*  
*Choreography by Kyle Abraham*  
*Lighting by Dan Scully*  
*Costume by Fritz Masten*

ALYSIA JOHNSON

## MOTORROVER (2023)

*Choreography:* Kyle Abraham in collaboration with A.I.M  
*Lighting Design:* Dan Scully  
*Costume Design:* Harriet Jung and Reid Bartelme

JAMAAL BOWMAN    MYKIAH GOREE

*MotorRover* was created in part during a “bubble” residency at Kaatsbaan Cultural Park and LUMBERYARD, made possible by the Mellon Foundation.

*MotorRover* was commissioned by Baryshnikov Arts Center through its 2021 Commissioning Initiative. This initiative was made possible with generous from Anonymous, Bloomberg Philanthropies, Howard Gilman Foundation, Danny Kaye and Sylvia Fine Kaye Foundation, and Jerome Robbins Foundation. *MotorRover* was choreographed in response to an excerpt from Merce Cunningham’s 1972 dance *Landrover*, and first shown digitally as part of “*In Conversation with Merce*,” an online program co-produced by Baryshnikov Arts Center and the Merce Cunningham Trust.

Additional support for *MotorRover* generously provided by Michèle and Steve Pesner, and Peace. Touring support for *MotorRover* provided by the Ed Bradley Family Foundation.

# IF WE WERE A LOVE SONG (2021)

*Choreography:* Kyle Abraham in collaboration with A.I.M

*Music:* Nina Simone\*

*Lighting Design:* Dan Scully

*Costume Design:* Kyle Abraham and Karen Young

AMARI FRAZIER, FAITH JOY MONDESIRE,

DESTIN MORISSET, KETURAH STEPHEN, NIYA SMITH,

GIANNA THEODORE, OLIVIA WANG

## **Black is the Color of My True Love's Hair**

JAMAAL BOWMAN, AMARI FRAZIER,

FAITH JOY MONDESIRE, DESTIN MORISSET,

KETURAH STEPHEN, NIYA SMITH, GIANNA THEODORE

## **Keeper of the Flame**

KETURAH STEPHEN

## **Little Girl Blue**

GIANNA THEODORE

## **Don't Explain**

DESTIN MORISSET, NIYA SMITH

## **Wild is the Wind**

AMARI FRAZIER

## **Images**

FAITH JOY MONDESIRE

**INTERMISSION**

# IN THE ACT OF UNDOING (World Premiere)

*Choreography:* Jermaine Spivey in collaboration with A.I.M

*Music:* Original Sound Composition by Jermaine Spivey

*Costume Design:* Karen Young

*Lighting Design:* Dan Scully

JAMAAL BOWMAN, AMARI FRAZIER, MYKIAH GOREE,  
ALYSIA JOHNSON, FAITH JOY MONDESIRE, DESTIN MORISSET,  
WILLIAM OKAJIMA, MORGAN OLSCHEWSKE, KETURAH STEPHEN,  
GIANNA THEODORE, OLIVIA WANG

*Lead commissioning support provided by Sarah Arison.*

---

**KYLE ABRAHAM** (Founder and Artistic Director, A.I.M by Kyle Abraham; He/Him) has premiered his work to international audiences and acclaim since 2006. Abraham has been profiled in Document Journal, Vanity Fair, Ebony, Harper's Bazaar, Kinfolk, O Magazine, Paper, Surface, Vogue & Vogue UK, W Magazine, among many other publications. He was recently nominated for an Olivier Award for Best New Dance Production (2025 – An Untitled Love at Sadler's Wells); Rose Prize for International Dance nominee (2025 – An Untitled Love); the proud recipient of a National Dance Critics Award for Choreography (2024 – Are You in Your Feelings / Alvin Ailey Dance Theater); Dance Magazine Award (2022); Princess Grace Statue Award (2018); Doris Duke Award (2016) and The MacArthur Fellowship (2013). In addition to performing and developing new works for his company, Abraham has been commissioned by a wide variety of dance companies, including American Ballet Theatre, Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, The National Ballet of Cuba, New York City Ballet, Paul Taylor American Modern Dance, and The Royal Ballet. In 2024, Abraham premiered three new works to much acclaim, the evening-length work, *Cassette Vol. 1* in Hamburg, Germany; *Mercurial Son* for American Ballet Theatre in October and in December, "Dear Lord, Make Me Beautiful" at the Park Avenue Armory, which Jennifer Homans of *The New Yorker* called an "Extraordinary Dance Memoir."

Abraham has led and curated several performance series including the *Danspace Project* (2024 / 50th anniversary season) and *Lincoln Center's Summer for the City* (2023, 2022), among others. In 2020, Abraham was the first ever guest editor for *Dance Magazine*.

He serves as the Claude and Alfred Mann Endowed Professor in Dance at The University of Southern California Gloria Kaufman School of Dance (2021-).

Abraham sits on the advisory board for Dance Magazine and Hubbard Street Dance Chicago. He is a member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, the inaugural Black Genius Brain Trust, and the inaugural cohort of the Dorchester Industries Experimental Design Lab, a partnership between the Prada Group, Theater Gates Studio, Dorchester Industries, and Rebuild Foundation.

IG: @kyle\_abraham\_original\_recipe

**JAMAAL BOWMAN** (he/him) began his dance training at the age of 14 in Maryland, where he was born and raised. In 2021, he graduated from the University of the Arts in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, as a Director's Scholar, under the direction of Donna Faye Burchfi eld. Over the years he has collaborated with Nora Chipaumire, Tommie Waheed-Evans, Maleek Washington, Helen Pickett, Fana Fraser, Jocelyn Cottencin, Nacera Belaza, and Sidra Bell. In November 2021, Bowman toured with Von Howard Project to Ecuador to perform in the International Living Arts Festival of Loja. Most recently, he has performed as a company member with Kun-Yang Lin/Dancers for their 2021-2022 season. His personal practices are centered around queer Black joy, theater, improvisation, and comedy. He hopes to reshape the future for queer Black people like him, to give them more opportunities to shine. Bowman joined A.I.M by Kyle Abraham in 2022.

IG: @carefreeblackboy

**AMARI FRAZIER** (he/him) is a Chicago native and Chicago Academy for the Arts graduate. He earned his BFA in Dance from The Juilliard School, where he performed works by esteemed choreographers, including Sonya Tayeh, Ohad Naharin, Jawole Willa Jo Zollar, Spenser Theberge, and Jermaine Spivey. Frazier has attended summer programs at Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, Springboard Danse Montreal, and Nederlands Dance Theater. He worked with Ballet Collective during the summer of 2021 and has continued collaborating with the company on various projects. Frazier's choreographic skills have been showcased in several Juilliard performances, and he will premiere a new work in April 2023 for Juilliard's Senior Production. Frazier joined A.I.M by Kyle Abraham in April 2023.

IG: @amari.frazier

**MYKIAH GOREE** (he/him), a native of Houston, Texas, received his early dance training from Houston Ballet Academy and Kinder HSPVA under the direction of Melissa Bowman and Janie Carothers, respectively. He attended summer programs with Ballet Austin, BodyTraffic, and Peridance. While at Juilliard, he performed works by Tiler Peck, Rena Butler, Jamar Roberts, Ohad Naharin, Trisha Brown, Camille A. Brown, and Omar Román De Jesús. Mykiah's choreographic work was selected for Juilliard's Choreographers and Composers 2022, MOVE|NYC's summer intensive, Juilliard's Senior Production 2024 and Juilliard's Choreographic Honors. He is a certified Pilates instructor and has served on the Juilliard Black Student Union board. Mykiah is very grateful to all who have built him into the human being and artist that he is today. Mykiah joined A.I.M by Kyle Abraham in January 2024. IG: @my.ki.ah

**ALYSIA JOHNSON** (she/her), a native of Dallas, Texas, Alysia began her training at Dallas Black Dance Theatre and Booker T. Washington HSPVA under Lily Weiss. She expanded her skills through summer programs at renowned institutions

like Joffrey Ballet, Alvin Ailey, LINES Ballet, and Jacob's Pillow. Alysia launched her professional career with Bruce Wood Dance Company before attending The Juilliard School, earning her BFA. She has since taught and choreographed for institutions including Princeton University, Hubbard Street Dance Chicago, and Jacob's Pillow. In 2021, Alysia received the Princess Grace Honoraria Award for Dance through Hubbard Street, where she was a company member. Known for her versatility, Alysia has been featured in campaigns with Tory Burch and Adidas. She recently joined Boom Crack Dance Company and continues producing genre-bending, community-centered events. Alysia credits her success to the support of her community and her mother, Galen Johnson. IG: @my.ki.ah

**FAITH JOY MONDESIRE** (she/her) Brooklyn-born dancer Faith Joy Mondesire joined A.I.M by Kyle Abraham in 2023. Her roots in dance started as a liturgical dancer at her local church. Later she worked with choreographers such as Joseph Hernandez, Sidra Bell, Kristen Foote, Melanie Gambino, Doug Varone, and Abdel R. Salaam and Dyane Harvey (Forces of Nature Dance Theater), among others. She has performed at Dance Africa BAM, NJPAC, The Apollo, and elsewhere. Dance Magazine published her feature, "I'll Never Forget My First Pair of Flesh Tone Tights" in 2020. Training: Edge School of The Arts, Brooklyn Dance Project, Restoration Youth Arts Academy, LaGuardia High School, SUNY Purchase, Alonzo King Lines Ballet Summer Intensive. IG: @\_faithjoy\_

**DESTIN MORISSET** (he/him) Born and raised in Queens, New York. Destin is a graduate of LaGuardia Arts High School and SUNY Purchase Conservatory of Dance. He has trained at MOVE|NYC and French Academie of Ballet. Destin is a recipient of the 2021 Gregg Burge Award and 2025 Outstanding Senior in Dance at SUNY Purchase. He has performed works by choreographers such as Alvin Ailey, Norbert De La Cruz III, Chanel DaSilva, Greg Lau, Roderick George, Jie-hung Connie Shiau, LajaMartin, Doug Varone, Kevin Wynn, and Yue Yin. Destin was formerly a company artist with The Dash Ensemble led by Gregory Dolbashian. Morisset joined A.I.M by Kyle Abraham in 2025. IG: @dest.ino\_

**WILLIAM OKAJIMA** (he/him) Originally from Irvine, California, William Okajima's love for music and dance originated from a young age, growing up in a household full of artists. Will's extensive training began at Orange County School of the Arts, and supplemented his dance training at both Westside Dance Project and Dmitri Kulev Classical Ballet Academy. At just age 13, Will obtained his first professional dance role in Sia's The Greatest music video, and fell in love with the commercial world. Since, he continues to be a part of Los Angeles' vibrant commercial dance scene, featuring in nationwide advertisements (Honda, Apple, Pull & Bear), as well as international campaigns. Most recently, Will traveled to Dubai to feature in the country's latest tourism film. A recent graduate from the USC Gloria Kaufman School of Dance, Will received a BFA in Dance under the guidance of individuals including Kyle Abraham, Bret Easterling, Jermaine Spivey, Jodie Gates and William Forsythe. At Kaufman, Will has performed featured roles in works by Jiri Kylian, Micaela Taylor, Tyce Diorio, Desmond Richardson, Dwight Rhoden and Hope Boykin. Will also received a minor in entrepreneurship through the USC Marshall School of Business. In doing so, Will hopes that his studies of the

intersections between dance performance and personal branding will allow him to tackle the demands of the commercial and concert dance world with a uniquely informed academic perspective. Okajima joined A.I.M by Kyle Abraham in 2024. IG: @williamokajima

**MORGAN OLSCHESKE** (she/her), is a Korean-American movement artist raised in Jacksonville, Florida. She began her training at Arts Edge School of Dance and Florida Ballet Conservatory under the direction of Linda Reifsnnyder-Jenkins. She graduated with her Bachelor of Fine Arts in Dance from George Mason University. Throughout her educational and professional career, she has had opportunities to perform works by Doug Varone, Manuel Vignouille, Robert Battle, Rena Butler, Sidra Bell, and Antoine Vereecken. Her passion for learning and moving has led her to study at Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival as a part of their Contemporary Dance Ensemble in 2022, and Ballet BC's inaugural 44 Summer Intensive. IG: @morgzee

**NIYA SMITH** (she/her), is an Atlanta, Georgia native. She began her training at Dancemakers of Atlanta under direction of Denise Heard Latimer and Lynise Heard. She has attended summer programs with BODYTRAFFIC, Alonzo King Lines Ballet, Complexions Contemporary Ballet and A.I.M by Kyle Abraham. She received her BFA in Dance from The Conservatory of Dance at Purchase College. During her time at Purchase, she performed works by George Balanchine, Yue Yin, Alvin Ailey, and Kevin Wynn. Niya gives thanks and gratitude to those who have helped shape her into the person and artist she is today. Smith joined A.I.M by Kyle Abraham in 2025. IG: @niyasmith

**KETURAH STEPHEN** (she/her), a Brooklyn native, began her dance journey at Restoration Youth Arts Academy, where she trained in modern, African and hip hop. She attended Brooklyn High School of the Arts, as well as The Ailey School. She is a graduate of the Conservatory of Dance at SUNY Purchase College. Stephen attended the MOVE|NYC Young Professionals Program, led by Co-Directors and Co-Founders Chanel DaSilva and Nigel Campbell. Throughout the course of her training, she has worked with and performed works by Earl Mosley, Loni Landon, Roderick George, Trisha Brown, and Antonio Brown. Stephen appeared in the movie "In the Heights", under the direction of Ebony Williams in 2019. Stephen joined A.I.M by Kyle Abraham in 2022. IG: @\_turahh\_

**GIANNA THEODORE** (she/her) Raised in West Palm Beach, Florida, Gianna began her dance training at Ballet East Studio under the direction of Susan Lyle and Chelsea Nasby. Gianna is a graduate of A.W. Dreyfoos School of the Arts, and a three-time YoungArts Merit Scholar/Honorable Mention. She graduated with a BFA in dance from the Ailey/Fordham BFA program Class of 2020. Throughout the course of her training, she has performed works by Robert Battle, Chuck Wilt, and Bradley Shelver. She attended Springboard Danse Montreal, where she performed work created by RUBBERBANDANCE, and Parts & Labour Danse. Gianna has ventured through many cultures and styles of dance, such as house and African, which has helped land her lead roles in music videos. She has also performed professionally with artists such as Ebony Williams, Mark Caserta, Maleek Washington, and Jennifer Archibald. She recently performed during a residency with Helen Simoneau Danse. Gianna joined A.I.M by Kyle Abraham in 2019. IG: @giannatheodore

**OLIVIA WANG** (she/her), originally from Queens, New York, is a first generation Chinese American artist. She has recently graduated with a BFA in Dance from the Conservatory of Dance at SUNY Purchase College. She has trained at The Ailey School, French Academie of Ballet, and was a part of the inaugural class of MOVE|NYC. Olivia has had the opportunity to perform works by Keerati Jinakunwiphat, Norbert De La Cruz III, Martha Graham, Michiyaya, Nigel Campbell, Kyle Abraham, and Roderick George. Wang has attended summer programs at A.I.M, Martha Graham, MOVE|NYC, and Hubbard Street. She is an Actors Equity and SAG-AFTRA member. Wang joined A.I.M by Kyle Abraham in 2024.

IG: @\_oliviawangg

**JERMAINE SPIVEY** (Choreographer, In the act of undoing) Jermaine Maurice Spivey is a graduate of Baltimore School for the Arts and The Juilliard School. He has performed with Ballet Gulbenkian, Cullberg Ballet, American Repertory Theater, Robyn Live 2016, Hofesh Shecter Company, The Forsythe Company and Kidd Pivot. Jermaine is a YoungArts and Princess Grace Awardee, who instructs dance nationally and internationally, creates and performs interdisciplinary works with partner Spenser Theberge, as well as choreographs and composes his own dance and music works commissioned by companies such as XTINA Hollywood Bowl 2021, LA Dance Project, Rambert 2, Hubbard Street Dance Chicago, NDT 2, Sacramento Ballet, Nashville Ballet and Royal Ballet of Flanders.

IG: @jamsvyv

---

## PROGRAM NOTES

“Black Is The Color of My True Love’s Hair” Courtesy of The Verve Music Group under license from Universal Music Enterprises

“Keeper of the Flame” Written by Charles Derringer, Performed by Nina Simone, Courtesy of The Verve Music Group under license from Universal Music Enterprises; EMI Grove Park Music Inc.; and Ninandy Music. All rights reserved.

“Little Girl Blue” Performed by Nina Simone, Written by Lorenz Hart & Richard Rodgers, Courtesy of The Verve Music Group under license from Universal Music Enterprises

“Don’t Explain” Performed by Nina Simone, Written by Arthur Herzog Jr. & Billie Holiday, Courtesy of The Verve Music Group under license from Universal Music Enterprises and Songs of Universal, Inc.

“Wild Is The Wind” Written by Ned Washington & Dimitri Tiomkin Courtesy of The Verve Music Group under license from Universal Music Enterprises; published by Patti Washington Music (ASCAP), Reservoir Media Management, and WC Music Corp. (ASCAP) on behalf of Warner Chappell Music

“Images” Written & Performed by Nina Simone, Courtesy of The Verve Music Group under license from Universal Music Enterprises and WC Music Corp. (ASCAP) on behalf of Warner Chappell Music

*If We Were a Love Song* was made possible by the National Endowment for the arts. The work was created in part through a residency at the Pillow Lab at Jacob’s Pillow; and during a residency at Kaatsbaan Cultural Park and LUMBERYARD, made possible by the Mellon Foundation. The work is commissioned by ADF with support from the Doris Duke/SHS Foundations Award for New Works. Touring Support is provided by the Ed Bradley Family Foundation.

# THANK YOU

The Vail Valley Foundation extends its sincere gratitude to all patrons whose commitment has made it possible for the 2025 Vail Dance Festival to achieve an extraordinary level of success, with special thanks to:

## MARQUEE PRESENTER

Jody & John Arnhold | Arnhold Foundation

## PREMIER PRESENTERS:

Susan & Jeff Campbell; Jill & Kevin Plancher;  
Tina & David Wilson and The Carol F. Storr Endowment for Classical Ballet

## SEASON PRESENTERS:

Priscilla Brewster; Oscar Tang & Agnes Hsu-Tang, Ph.D.;  
Jonna Mackin, Ph.D



## WINTER 2026 SNEAK PREVIEW

**JAN. 15, 2026 | AILEY II**

The Next Generation of Dance

**FEB. 14, 2026 | COMPAGNIE HERVÉ KOUBI**

Absolutely unique and utterly original

**MAR. 17, 2026 | LANG LANG IN RECITAL**

One of the world's most influential figures in classical music

**MAR. 26, 2026 | BALLETS JAZZ MONTRÉAL**

*DANCE ME: Music by Leonard Cohen*

**PRESENTED BY**

Vilar and Vail Dance Festival

**TICKETS ON SALE NOW | [www.vilarpac.org](http://www.vilarpac.org) | 970-845-8497**

# A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO OUR MOST RECENT 2025 VAIL DANCE FESTIVAL DONORS\*

## PLATINUM DRESS CIRCLE

Argie Ligeros  
Rella & Monroe Rifkin

## GOLD DRESS CIRCLE

Andrea Labov Clark  
Stacey & Foster Gillett  
Diane Sullivan

## SILVER DRESS CIRCLE

The Dance Archive  
Jennifer & John Kelly  
Leslie Nolte

## BRONZE DRESS CIRCLE

Praveen Madella & Patrick Galvin  
Jill & Dean Mitchell  
Laurie & David O'Connell  
Perch Vail

## FAN CLUB

Anonymous (2)  
Erin Hall & Eric Blitzstein  
Whitney Harper & Jen Mason  
Gerry & Edmund Palmer  
Stephanie Rudnick  
Christian Zimmermann

## HEATHER WATTS EMERGING ARTS FUND

Jeffrey D. Byrne  
Susan & Jeff Campbell  
Andrea Labov Clark  
Renee & Jeffrey Epstein  
Theresa Jeevanjee  
Jonna Mackin, Ph.D.

Jill & Kevin Plancher  
Ronnie Potter  
Rosalind Reed  
Fran Schulman  
Linda Waterhouse  
Tina & David Wilson

\* Since May 31, 2025

## CELEBRATE THE BEAT SUPPORTERS

Lead support by Jill & Kevin Plancher

Hennessy-Allen  
Dierdre & Ronnie Baker  
Jeffrey D. Byrne  
Susan & Jeff Campbell  
Andrea Labov Clark  
Allie Coppeak  
Holly & William Elliott  
Shelly & Chris Jarnot  
Anne-Marie & John Keane

Joyce & Paul Krasnow  
Cynthia & Robert LeBreton  
Eugenia Lubell  
Jennifer Mason  
Jane & Skip Netzorg  
Renée Okubo  
Rosalind Reed  
Suzanne Westmoreland  
Tina & David Wilson

**SUPPORT THE FESTIVAL**  
at [www.vaildance.org/support](http://www.vaildance.org/support)



# UPCOMING PERFORMANCES

MONDAY, AUGUST 4 // 7:30PM

**NOW: PREMIERES**

GERALD R. FORD AMPHITHEATER // VAIL

The Festival's annual showcase of new commissioned dance works, all making their debut on one legendary night, performed by an extraordinary cast of dancers and musicians.

TUESDAY, AUGUST 5 // 6:00PM

**DANCE FOR \$20.25 WITH BALLETX**

GERALD R. FORD AMPHITHEATER // VAIL

An evening of dance at special prices, featuring Philadelphia's premier contemporary ballet, BalletX, celebrating its 20th anniversary season.

VISIT **VAILDANCE.ORG** FOR THE FULL SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

**SIGN UP FOR OUR EMAIL LIST  
TO BE IN THE LOOP WITH ALL  
FESTIVAL ANNOUNCEMENTS.**

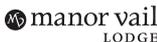


## THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS

### MARQUEE PRESENTER

Jody & John Arnhold | Arnhold Foundation

### FESTIVAL SPONSORS



EMPOWERED BY

**VAIL VALLEY FOUNDATION**