



**"To Be Young, Gifted And Black"**

To be young, gifted and black,  
Oh what a lovely precious dream  
To be young, gifted and black,  
Open your heart to what I mean

In the whole world you know  
There are billion boys and girls  
Who are young, gifted and black,  
And that's a fact!

Young, gifted and black  
We must begin to tell our young  
There's a world waiting for you  
This is a quest that's just begun

When you feel really low  
Yeah, there's a great truth you should know  
When you're young, gifted and black  
Your soul's intact

Young, gifted and black  
How I long to know the truth  
There are times when I look back  
And I am haunted by my youth

Oh but my joy of today  
Is that we can all be proud to say  
To be young, gifted and black  
Is where it's at

*- song by Nina Simone  
with lyrics by Weldon Irvine*

**FOR MORE INFORMATION REGARDING THIS TOUR  
PLEASE CONTACT**

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**DAYTON CONTEMPORARY DANCE COMPANY**

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**DAYTON CONTEMPORARY DANCE COMPANY**



*Young, Gifted  
& Black*  
**A TRANSFORMATIVE EXPERIENCE**

# THE COMPANY

Founded in 1968 Dayton Contemporary Dance Company (DCDC) is one of very few performing arts organizations of international reputation located outside a major urban area.

The company's mission statement: *Rooted in the African-American experience, Dayton Contemporary Dance Company is a culturally diverse contemporary dance company committed to reaching the broadest audience through exceptional performance and arts-integrated education.*

Working with some of the world's most renowned choreographers, DCDC holds the world's largest archive of classic African-American dance works and one of the largest of any kind among contemporary dance companies. Noteworthy choreographers who have worked with DCDC include Alvin Ailey, Talley Beatty, Ronald K. Brown, Donald Byrd, Rennie Harris, Bill T. Jones, José Limón, Diane McIntyre, Donald McKayle, Ray Mercer, Bebe Miller, Sir William Spears, and Doug Varone.

DCDC has toured the world including taking the stage in front of full houses in Bermuda, Canada, Chile, France, Germany, Poland, Russia, and South Korea. In August 2012 DCDC performed at the grand opening of University of Dayton's China Institute at the Suzhou Industrial Park in Jiangsu Province, China.



# THE TOUR

*Young, Gifted and Black: A Transformative Experience* is a tour that showcases works of dance by leading choreographers of color. The tour targets Historically Black Colleges and Universities to further enrich the liberal arts experience of young African-American students.

Why contemporary dance and HBCUs? With the nation in recent turmoil from the events in Ferguson to voter disenfranchisement, sometimes art serves as an antidote. Art allows one to sit back and contemplate. Far from burying one's head in the sand, art restores energy and renews purpose and drive. *Young, Gifted and Black: A Transformative Experience* offers a chance to look inside and explore feelings, values, and experience and to inspire personal testimony. It is the starting point for action informed by contemplation and learning, one of the key purposes of higher education.

For example, Donald Byrd's *The Geography of the Cotton Field* mines the history of exploitation and transcendence, exhibiting a tour de force of abstract and vivid narrative of cotton's controversial role in the making of today's America.

In Kiesha Lalama's *Shed* individuals are isolated and uncertain yet growing slowly, then ever more rapidly, into an awareness of unity and individuality. Freedom explodes by the end of the dance, lifting the audience with it.

Bridget L. Moore's *To Marvin-From Love* is a soul-stirring "love letter" to Marvin Gaye from all those who have loved his music through the years. Gaye's music and Moore's loving tribute reset the unquiet mind as informed agent for change in the name of cultural pride.

*Young, Gifted and Black: A Transformative Experience* represents some of the greatest talent in modern dance among artists of color both established and up and coming. In addition to the presentation of three or four of the works selected for each HBCU, the tour entails a pre- or post-performance discussion of the content of the performed dance works, inviting campus professors and other experts to guide the spectators to a better understanding of the works and their implications across various disciplines.

There may also be a master class for students of dance taught by a DCDC dancer. *Young, Gifted and Black: A Transformative Experience* is a versatile medium for deepening a liberal arts education and illuminating endless possibilities of expression, success, and options for African-American youth. The visiting tour is also open to the public.

Dayton Contemporary Dance Company, 840 Germantown Street, Dayton, Ohio 45402, 937-228-DCDC (3232) | [www.dcdc.org](http://www.dcdc.org)

# THE CHOREOGRAPHERS

**Donald Byrd** is a critically acclaimed and highly regarded choreographer. Since 1976, Donald Byrd has created over eighty works for his former company and for Spectrum Dance Theater.

**Rodney A. Brown** is an emerging choreographer, performer, educator, and activist. He received his MFA in Choreography and Performance from the University of Michigan.

**Ronen Koresh** is an Israeli choreographer, teacher, and collaborator, employing a unique blend of ballet, modern, and jazz. He formed Koresh Dance Company in 1991.

**Kiesha Lalama** has created more than 40 works. Most recently, she choreographed for the film *Perks of Being a Wallflower* and the full-length dance theatre production *The Bench*.

**Ray Mercer** is presently in the Broadway cast of *The Lion King*. He began his dance training at the University of New Orleans and at The Alvin Ailey American Dance School and Broadway Dance Center.

**Bridget L. Moore** received a B.F.A. in Dance from The Ohio State University and an M.F.A. from New York University, Tisch School of the Arts.

**Alvin Rangel**, an emerging choreographer, began his professional career performing ballet and jazz in his native Puerto Rico.

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# THE WORKS

*The Geography of the Cotton Field* by Donald Byrd touches upon slavery and the global cotton industry.

*Shed* by Kiesha Lalama explores psychological states of repression and the striving for liberation.

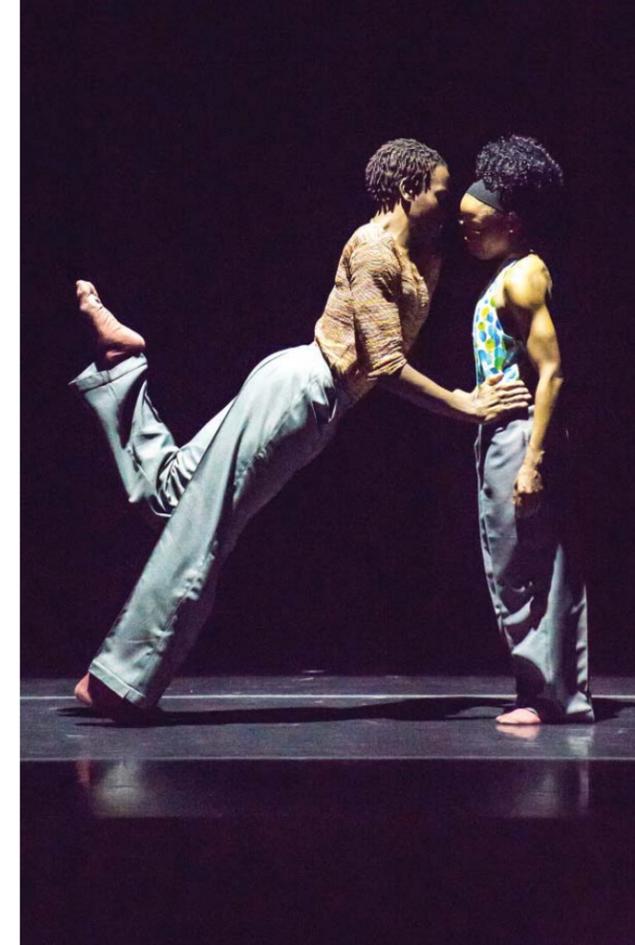
*Urban Milonga* by Alvin Rangel investigates the complexity of human relationships and confronts expectations of who dances with whom.

*The Gathering/weething*, created by Rodney A. Brown for DCDC superstar Sheri "Sparkle" Williams, is a dual conversation between a creator (the "Gatherer") and her creation ("weething").

*To Marvin-From Love* by Bridget L. Moore is a tribute to the great Marvin Gaye and consists of a suite of dances, which are accompanied by his lesser known songs.

*Exit 7* by Ronen Koresh explores the idea that art is absorbed through the skin; the dance goes beyond all technique to be as open as possible as an expression of the beauty of humanity.

*Tossed Around* by Ray Mercer expresses how people go through life being tossed around physically, emotionally, and spiritually, and how these disruptions affect our psyche.



# RESIDENCY SCHEDULE

## DAYTON CONTEMPORARY DANCE COMPANY 3 Day Residency Schedule

DAY 1	9:00 – 1:00	Tech Load @ performance space
	9:00 – 10:15	DCDC Company Class
	10:30 – 12:00	Master Class
	12:30 – 1:30	Lunch Round Table with Dancers
	1:00 – 2:00	Tech Crew Lunch Break
	2:00 – 5:00	Tech/Run Show @ performance space
	5:00 – 6:00	Dinner Break
	6:30 – 9:00	Available for Community Outreach Activities
DAY 2	9:00: - 10:15	DCDC Company Class
	10:30 – 4:00	Available for: Children's Performances, Master Classes, Lecture Demonstrations, Lectures, *Sparkle w/Sheri, Lunch Roundtables, After School Programs.
	4:00 – 5:00	Dinner Break
	5:30	Dancer Call Time @ performance space
	7:30	Performance w/post performance talk back
DAY 3	10:30 – 4:00	Available for: Children's Performances, Master Classes, Lecture Demonstrations, Lectures, *Sparkle w/Sheri, Lunch Roundtables, After School Programs.
	5:30	Depart for next city or home

\* SPARKLE Film Documentary—A showing of the award winning and nationally broadcasted documentary SPARKLE and a Q&A with DCDC's own Sheri "Sparkle" Williams. The film follows Williams as she works to recover from her first major injury in her 38 year career.

