

Garth Fagan
DANCE

PRESS KIT



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APAP 2025: Rhinelander Hall, Booth 146
SHOWCASE: Jan 12 | 7:45 PM - 8:15 PM | Ailey Citigroup Theater

Photo c) Mike Micciche



Photo c) Karen Johnstone's Motionography

GARTH FAGAN DANCE

GARTH FAGAN DANCE is Western New York's leading artist-led, predominantly Black cultural institution dedicated to developing young dancers, particularly those of color. Founded in 1970, **GARTH FAGAN** created a unique dance vocabulary known as the Fagan Technique, which forms the foundation of his choreography. This technique draws from various sources: the weight and fluidity of modern dance, the torso-centered movement and energy of Afro-Caribbean dance, the speed and precision of ballet, and the experimental spirit of post-modern dance. This distinctive vocabulary led to Fagan's groundbreaking choreography for Disney's "The Lion King" on Broadway, earning him Tony, Olivier, and Helpmann awards for Outstanding Choreography, and he was recently recognized as the longest-running Black choreographer on Broadway.

After 54 years of innovative choreography and worldwide touring, Mr. Fagan stepped down from leading his eponymous company. Under the new leadership of long-time principal dancers and Bessie Award winners **NORWOOD 'PJ' PENNEWELL** and **NATALIE ROGERS-CROPPER**, Garth Fagan Dance continues to be a beacon of creativity and excellence, committed to creating a process to offset limited opportunities for these dancers with a potential for a professional career. Mr. Pennewell, as Artistic Director, and Ms. Rogers-Cropper, as Executive Director, carry forward Garth's mission to advance, nurture, and sustain his pioneering vision of contemporary dance through the creation, performance, and preservation of his choreography, as well as the commissioning of new works by company dancers. Recently, the company has been honored with inclusion in the "Archives of the Library of Congress" and has been celebrated as a 20th-century dance treasure.

VIDEO LINKS

Click on images to view short excerpts of the above pieces.



Prelude (1981/1983)

Choreography by Garth Fagan
Music by Abdullah Ibrahim (Dollar Brand)
and Max Roach



Gin (2013)

Choreography by Norwood Pennewell
Music by Aphex Twin, performed by
Alarm Will Sound



Senku (2006)

Choreography by Garth Fagan
Music by Oswald Russell, performed
by William Chapman Nyaho



Life Receding (2023)

Choreography by Natalie Rogers-Cropper
Music by DJ Leo Large, Ed Nabb and Brian
Hand, and Laventille Rhythm Section



Willow (Work In Progress)

Choreography by Norwood Pennewell
Music by Adam Rudolph, Yusef Lateef
and Roscoe Mitchell



The Rite of Spring (2024)

Choreography by Norwood Pennewell
Music by Igor Stravinsky, performed by the
Berlin Philharmonic Orchestra

CRITICS REVIEWS

"This present version of Garth Fagan Dance, which both respects the past and molds to the demands of the future, is a promising vision of athleticism, talent, and intention... with mesmerizing rhythms, quick, explosive jumps, long lines and impossible balances."

Sydney Burrows, City Magazine

"The show started, and from the get-go, I was literally hypnotize...All the selected pieces here, were brilliantly and professionally performed, fused with grace, and swift precision within sound, and movement. This is the art of dance at its best".

David Boothman, Trinidad & Tobago Newsday

"Drawing on the grounded strength of modern dance, the vivacity of Afro-Caribbean dance and the meticulousness of ballet, Fagan's technique lends itself to feats of balance, which seem impossible until you see them with your own eyes."

Gia Kourlas, The New York Times

"Garth Fagan is the master of speed, flight, and stillness"

Sid Smith, Chicago Tribune



Photo c) Erich Camping

PRESENTER QUOTES

"[Garth Fagan Dance] has had a resounding impact that will be felt for many years to come. The honor is ours to have had this once-in-a-lifetime moment that we were able to memorialize in a way that created an experience for our students, our faculty, our staff, and our community. Nothing else will ever come close to this opportunity that we were able to collectively create in partnership with Garth Fagan Dance."

Dr. Cephas Archie, former Vice President for Inclusion, Texas A&M

"Garth Fagan Dance is a cultural pillar in New York State and has a longstanding relationship with Chautauqua Institution. At the most recent Garth Fagan Dance performance in Chautauqua's historic amphitheater, our audience was absolutely delighted by the company's work – I heard glowing feedback about the company for several days following the performance."

Laura Savia, VP of Performing and Visual Arts, Chautauqua Institution

"When I think of GFD's visit to Trinidad and Tobago, the word "family" immediately comes to mind...It was because they, as leaders, had imbued the entire company with grace, professionalism and poise - from the many workshops conducted to their awe-inspiring presence on stage. The COCO Dance Festival team was delighted to host them and to return the geniality that we received."

Sonja Dumas, Founder & Co-Director, COCO Dance Festival

"The Master Technique Class had a profound impact on students' artistic development and professional aspirations. By exposing students to high-caliber dancers and industry professionals, the workshop enhanced their technical skills, boosted their confidence, and provided invaluable networking opportunities. The experience inspired students to elevate their performance standards and envision successful careers in professional dance companies."

Lee Walton, Director of School of Dance, UNC Greensboro

NOTABLE PAST PERFORMANCES

Joyce Theater
COCO Dance Festival
University of North Carolina, Greensboro
Eastman Theater
Texas A&M
National Museum of African American
History and Culture
UConn Jorgensen Theater
Jazz at Lincoln Center
Holden Center
Brooklyn Academy of Music
Jacob's Pillow
Stadthalle Neuss
Maison de la Dance
Sadler's Wells
The Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts
Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts
Southam Theater
Emerson Majestic Theater
NJPAC
Ward Theater
Shubert Theater
Spoleto Festival
Wiener International Festival
Aotea Center
UCLA
Open Air Theater
Carre Theater

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FURTHER INFORMATION

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[Cadence Arts Network, Inc.](#)

For More Staff and Contact Info, visit...

www.garthfagan-dance.org/contact-us

APAP 2025

Rhineland Hall Booth 146

Showcase

Date: Sunday, January 12

Time: 7:45pm-8:15pm

Location: Ailey Citigroup Theater
(405 W 55th St, New York, NY 10019)



Technical/Hospitality Rider

*We are flexible and open to adjustments based on venue capabilities.

[Garth Fagan Dance, Inc.](#)

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Photo Credits included in press kit: Mike Micciche, Karen Johnstone's Motionography, Paula Hamada Summit, Nicolina Scibona, Erich Camping and Steven Pisano

THANK YOU!

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