



KAREN GAYLE
Artistic Director & Choreographer

Originally from Toronto, Karen received her early training from the Claude Watson School for the Arts, and received her degree from Ryerson University. After moving to New York, she furthered her studies at The Ailey School. Karen has had the honor of working with such choreographers as Earl Mosley, Ronald K. Brown, and three time Tony award winner Hinton Battle.

Karen has taught at Ballet Hispanico, The Joffrey Ballet School, The School at Columbia University, Horace Mann, New Dance Group, Central Park Dance and is currently a faculty member at Steps on Broadway, Montclair State University and The Ailey Extension. She has had the opportunity to guest teach and choreograph across the U.S. and abroad, including Canada, Mexico, Bolivia, Italy, Cyprus and Israel.

As artistic director of the **xodus dance** collective, her choreography has been showcased at such venues as: The Ailey Theatre, Riverside Theatre, American Dance Guild Festival, DUMBO DANCE FESTIVAL, Movement Research at Judson Church, the Downtown Dance Festival, the Inside/Out Festival at Jacob's Pillow and the Queen Elizabeth Theatre in Toronto.

THE COLLECTIVE

TO TOUCH THE SENSES

The **xodus dance** collective is a magnet of dancers drawn together to fuse several voices into one body. An eclectic blend of ideas and concepts, the xodus dance collective seeks to merge extreme forms of movement into one integrated language.

Established in New York in 2006, the collective merges dancers of diverse experiences and backgrounds into one shared experience. Artistic director, Karen Gayle's 'slice of life' choreographic approach explores both unique and common perspectives of life. Offering a glimpse from a wide shot or close up angle on scenarios that affect the human journey and day to day living, Gayle continues to create different methods that touch audiences through their senses. Sculptural, pedestrian, athletic, fluid, spoken dance theatre, the collective fuses all styles and techniques into one unified movement.

The collective has had the opportunity to perform on many stages and venues across the nation including; Jacob's Pillow-Inside/Out Festival, The Riverside Theater, The Ailey Citigroup Theater, Manhattan Movement Arts Center, Steps Studio Theater, Movement Research at the Judson Church, The Downtown Dance Festival, The John Ryan Theater, Governor's Island and The Queen Elizabeth Theatre in Toronto.

"xodus dance collective performed... with aplomb and panache."

W. R. | HARLEM WORLD MAGAZINE

THE COMPANY

BIOS

ELIZABETH DOUGLAS, a founding member of xodus dance collective, graduated from the University at Buffalo with a Bachelor of Arts in Dance. She followed her heart to New York where she earned her Master of Arts in Dance and Dance Education from New York University. While in New York, Elizabeth has performed in several modern, dance theater, and improvisation groups throughout the city including Randy James Danceworks, Rettocamme and T. Lion BodyStories. Elizabeth is continuously inspired and renewed by the students she teaches in programs across New York and New Jersey. The beauty of dance, for her, lies in its ability to connect with people.

SAM TURNER, a Florida native, began his training in music and dance at the Alexander W. Dreyfoos Jr. School of the Arts; the Academy of Ballet Florida and summer intensives at Boston Ballet. Sam decided to further his academic and dance education by attending Indiana University, where he was mentored and coached by Violette Verdy and graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Ballet. Immediately after college, Sam went on to join and perform with reputable dance companies such as the Lyric Opera of Chicago; American Repertory Ballet; ArchDance Company; Elisa Monte Dance Company; the Metropolitan Opera and xodus dance collective. While with these companies, he performed in works by Graham Lustig, Twyla Tharp, Mark Morris, Lisa de Ribere, Jennifer Archibald, Karen Gayle and Elisa Monte, with whom he has had the opportunity to tour throughout Europe. Sam has also had the opportunity to have performed in the ensemble cast of Radio City's Christmas Spectacular alongside the famous Radio City Rockettes. Most recently, Sam was one of the featured artists performing *you hear me see we feel*, choreography by Karen Gayle, at the 2012 International Association of Blacks in Dance festival in Toronto, Canada.



LISA NICOLE WILKERSON'S Broadway credits include *The Lion King* (Nala u/s, Shenzi u/s) and *The Gershwin's Porgy and Bess*, winner of the 2012 Tony Award for Best Musical Revival, starring Audra McDonald, Norm Lewis and David Alan Grier. For her role in *Porgy and Bess*, Lisa won the 2012 Fred and Adele Astaire Award for "Outstanding Female Dancer in a Broadway Show." Lisa's performance career, also, includes the national tours of *The Lion King* (Nala) and *Mamma Mia!* (Ali), and off-Broadway productions of *River Deep: Tribute to Tina Turner* at Playwright's Horizons, *Once on This Island* (TiMoune) at The Gallery Players, and *Purlie*, a at City Center ENCORES! production starring Blaire Underwood and Anika Noni Rose. Her television and film highlights include *David Letterman*, *The Jimmy Fallon Show*, *Late Night with Jay Leno*, *The Oprah Winfrey Show*, *The Tony Awards* and *Unconditional Love*. Additionally, Lisa is a storyteller/public speaker and holds a B.S. in journalism from Northwestern University's Medill School of Journalism. lisanicolewilkerson.com

ADELITA HINOJOSA-MARTIN, a native of Denton, Texas, has had the opportunity to work and perform with Tony Award winning associate choreographer Maija Garcia (Broadway Show *FELA!*), Emmy Award-nominee choreographer Brian Thomas, *A Corps Perdu*, Alpha Omega Theatrical Dance Company, *Organic Magnetics*, *The Next Stage Project*, *Battery Dance Company*, *Errol Grimes Dance Group*, *Cecilia Marta Dance Company*, xodus dance collective, *Cirque de Soleil*, and many inspirational musical artists such as Edward "EGO" Martin, Jason Moran and Meshell NdegeOcell. In addition to her professional dance career, Adelita has earned a Bachelor of Science degree in nursing (cum laude) from Texas Women's University and is a registered nurse at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center in NY. In the past, Adelita has worked as a rehearsal assistant for the Cecilia Marta Dance Company, and has assisted in her Latin Jazz classes. Most recently, Adelita has taught and choreographed for the Joffrey Ballet School's Jazz & Contemporary Summer Intensive; in addition to teaching jazz, contemporary jazz, and latin-jazz at Peridance Capezio Center and Broadway Dance Center. With a blessing from The Divine, Adelita became a mother in June of 2012.

MARIELIS GARCIA received her BFA in Dance at Marymount Manhattan College. While attending Marymount she had the opportunity to work with Johannes Wieland, Robert Battle and Jennifer Muller. Professionally, she has danced with ODC of San Francisco, The Carolyn Dorfman Dance Company, City Dance Ensemble. Marielis is currently a member of the Steps Repertory Ensemble, which includes pieces by Larry Keigwin, Benoit-Swan Pouffer, Andrea Miller, Shannon Gillan, Aszure Barton and Cherice Barton. As a choreographer, Marielis has been commissioned by Appalachian State University and Dance Art Creative. Her work has been presented at Dixon Place in NYC, Steps on Broadway, and the Verizon Center in Washington DC. Marielis is a teaching artist for The Leadership Program and The Global Arts Initiative and teaches at various studios around NYC, including Steps On Broadway. She is currently performing with Stefanie Batten Bland Company, Peter Kyle Dance and xodus dance collective.

ALISON MANNING is Managing Director & Co-Producer of The Yard on Martha's Vineyard, and has worked for 6 years providing residency opportunities for local, national, and international performing artists while bringing the performing arts to the local Vineyard community through meaningful movement education and community-engagement activities. She is the Co-Artistic Director of DanceTheYard, The Yard's own dance collective of artists, founded in 2011 with her creative and choreographic partner of 5 years, Jesse Keller. After studying with the great Milton Myers at the School at Jacob's Pillow and discovering her love of the Horton Technique, Ms. Manning continued training with Myers, Kristina Berger, Karen Gayle, and Jolea Mafei and now teaches Horton on faculty at The Yard each summer, and as a guest teacher at Peridance Capezio Center, and at STEPS on Broadway. In addition, she works and performs with The Bang Group, The Peggy Spina Tap Company, Xodus Dance Collective and The Next Stage Project, and has toured and performed with Boston-based Kindodance Company, and Naomi Goldberg Haas' Dances for a Variable Population, to name a few, and has a body of her own choreographic work which continues to be presented each year as part of The Yard's summer performance season. Ms. Manning graduated Magna Cum Laude from Marymount Manhattan College under the Direction of Katie Langan, with a BFA in Modern Dance and a Minor in Art History.

SAKI MASUDA, originally from Japan, moved to New York in 2006. Since then, she has worked with such companies and choreographers as the Steps Repertory Ensemble; Ballet Hispanico Ensemble; Staten Island Ballet; Nai-ni Chen Dance Company; xodus dance collective; Heidi Latsky Dance; Benjamin Briones Ballet; Ursula Verduzco; Yesid Lopez, Milton Myers, Monica, Bill Burns and performed in the Musical *CATS*, as Victoria. Saki teaches ballet at Discovery Program and is also an assistant teacher for Debbie Roshe.

CARLOS KERR, JR., a native of Brooklyn, New York, is currently a senior in the Ailey/Fordham BFA program. Carlos' formal dance training commenced upon entering Fiorello H. LaGuardia High School of Music & Art and Performing Arts. In addition, he studied at the Manhattan Youth Ballet, formerly known as Studio Maestro, under the direction of Francois Perron and the Junior Division of The Ailey School. Carlos has received tutelage through several summer intensives including Earl Mosley Institute of the Arts; The School at Jacob's Pillow Contemporary Program; French Academie of Ballet; Complexions Contemporary Ballet; Hubbard Street Dance Chicago and Springboard Danse Montreal. He has performed works by Stijn Celis, William Forsythe, Alvin Ailey, Robert Battle, Barack Marshall, Ronald K. Brown, Paul Taylor, Dwight Rhoden, Victor Quijada, Alejandro Cerrudo, Andrea Miller, Adam Barruch, Loni Landon, Andrew Skeels, Jennifer Archibald, Thang Dao, Malcolm Low and Tony Fabre. He has performed with the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theatre in both *Memoria* and *Revelations*. This fall, Carlos will go on to perform at the Metropolitan Opera in the productions of *Two Boys* and *Prince Igor*, choreography by Hofesh Schecter and Itzik Galili respectively.



Xodus dance collective **dc** **REPERTORY**

52 shades on 125th St. (2006)

Premiere: Steps Theatre
TRT: 5:10

sabotage: (2006)

Premiere: Steps Theatre
TRT: 4:50

bystanders: (2007)

Premiere: Aaron Davis Hall
TRT: 4:40

the waiting room (2008)

Premiere: Uptown Performance Series
TRT: 8:10

yin yang (2008)

Premiere: Downtown Dance Festival Battery Park
TRT: 3:50

you hear me see we feel (2008)

Premiere: Movement Research at Judson Church
TRT: 6:40

press...in case of emergency (2008)

Premiere: NuDance Festival – Riverside Theatre
TRT: 14:30

is this space taken? (2009)

Premiere: Inside/Out Dance Festival - Jacob's Pillow
TRT: 6:50

25th hour (2009)

Premiere: WaxWorks – Triskelion Theatre
TRT: 9:20

wishing well (2011)

Premiere: NuDance Festival
TRT: 7:20

disorder of the obsessive compulsives (2012)

Premiere: Choreographers Canvas
TRT: 4:30

pace (2013)

Premiere: Montclair State University/
Greenspace Blooms
TRT 6:10

trigger (2013)

Premiere: Dorothy B. Williams Theatre at HERE
TRT 40 min (full evening)

xodus dance

"I commend choreographer Karen Gayle for creating a dance work void of cliché or convention."

Walter Rutledge

