



FORTITUDE PERFORMANCES & EVENTS

● DANCE PLACE

# *Let 'im Move You: This Is an Invitation*

*Wednesday, June 16th at 5pm EST*



Photo by jumatatu m. poe

## PERFORMANCE CREDITS

**Direction and Editing:** jumatatu m. poe

**Choreography:** Jermone Donte Beacham, jumatatu m. poe

**Performance and camerawork:** Jermone Donte Beacham, jumatatu m. poe, Sebastião Abreu, Uoston Di Alcântara

**Poetry:** Anderson Feliciano

**Choreographic Consultancy:** Davi Pontes

**Management Production:** Mar'ya Wethers

**Commissions:** Dance Place and Institute for Curatorial Practice in Performance (Wesleyan University)

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# ARTIST BIOGRAPHIES

**JUMATATU M. POE** I am a dance/performance-based artist, educator, organizer, and voyager based in Philadelphia (though frequently “on the road”) who grew up dancing around the living room and at parties with my siblings and cousins. My early exposure to concert dance was through African dance and capoeira performances on California college campuses where my Pan-Africanist parents studied and worked, but I did not start formal dance training until college with Umfundalai, Kariamuwelsh’s contemporary African dance technique. My work continues to be influenced by various sources, including my foundations in those living rooms and parties, my early technical training in contemporary African dance, my continued study of contemporary dance and performance, my movement trainings with dancer and anatomist Irene Dowd around anatomy and proprioception, and my sociological research of and technical training in J-sette performance with Donte Beacham. Through my artistic work, I strive to engage in and further dialogues with Black queer folks, create lovingly agitating performance work that recognizes History as only one option for the contextualization of the present, and continue to imagine pathways toward artists’ economic and emotional sustainability.

**JERMONE DONTÉ BEACHEM** Dancing has been in my blood since I can remember. It started off with hip hop dancing for my high school — I began to recognize my skill and talent. After 4 years of that, I was introduced to the world of J-Sette by women. J-Sette historically refers to Jackson State University’s female drill team that began in the 1970s. They “created” the dance style, and thus far have made it a distinctive form of dance. I was interested in this type of dance, but not entirely until I saw a group of males performing it. At that point, I claimed the style for myself and perfected it on my body. Currently, I have my own J-Sette line, Mystic Force, and plan to increase our already considerable renown in this style of dance in our community, and eventually internationally. Previously, I served as co-captain of Dallas’ Texas Teasers. I have participated and competed in several events and competitions, including 2 SetteltOff video challenges, Atlanta Pride 2010, Tennessee Classics 2009, and Memphis Pride 2008. In 2015, I was named New Legendary by the Meet Me on the Dance Floor J-Sette council, and have gained many titles since then, such as, Best Dancer and Most Entertaining.

**SEBASTIÃO ABREU** I’m BIXA, based in Salvador, Bahia (Brazil), and an active agent in the dance field. I dance as if it were a weapon to legitimize mine existence — i live for that. Officially a member of the HOUSE OF AFROBAPHO CULTURA BALLROOM.

**UOSTTON DI ALCÂNTARA** I am a dance artist from the railroad suburb of Salvador, my artistry raised through the preparatory course at the School of Dance of the Cultural Foundation of the State of Bahia (FUNCEB) and graduated in the professional course. For 22 years creative ideas have been popping out of my head; I am art.

**ANDERSON FELICIANO** Playwright and Performer. Master’s degree student in playwrighting, he is curator of the Mostra Polifonica Negra. Author of Tropeço (2020)

## ARTIST BIOGRAPHIES (cont.)

**DAVI PONTES** lives and works in Rio de Janeiro. He graduated in Arts from the Universidade Federal Fluminense (UFF), and is a Master's student in the Postgraduate Program in Arts (Contemporary Studies of the Arts) at the same institution. He studied at the ESMAE Superior School of Music and Arts (Porto, Portugal), and at the Parque Lage School of Visual Arts (EAV, Rio de Janeiro). Among his most recent works, the trilogy "Repertório" in partnership with the dancer Wallace Oliveira stands out. The artist has dedicated his practice to deepen the concept of representation and its operation from the idea of the archive contained in the production of History.

**MARÍA WETHERS** (she/her) has lived and worked on Lenapehoking (NYC) since 1997. She is a contemporary dancer and works as an Independent Producer, Creative Strategist and Curator. She currently works with jumatatu m. poe as Managing Producer, with Movement Research as the Director of the GPS/Global Practice Sharing program, and with Edisa Weeks/DELIRIOUS Dances. As a Curator she conceived and created the three-week performance series "Gathering Place: Black Queer Land(ing)" at Gibney Dance and curated for Mount Tremper Arts Watershed Lab Residency (2019 & 2018), the Queer NY International Arts Festival (2016 & 2015) and Out of Space @ BRIC Studio for Danspace Project (2003-2007). Her writings have been published in Configurations in Motion: Performance Curation and Communities of Color (2016 & 2015) organized by Thomas F. DeFrantz at Duke University and the Movement Research Performance Journal 25th Anniversary Issue #27/28 (Spring 2005). As a dancer, María received a 2017 NY Dance & Performance ("Bessie") Award for Outstanding Performance with the Skeleton Architecture collective and she performs with iele paloumpis. She graduated from Mount Holyoke College with a BA in Dance, minor in African-American Studies, 1997.

