

BERNARD BROWN is an international performing artist, choreographer, educator, scholar and arts activist who situates his work at the intersections of blackness, belonging and memory. As Artistic Director of Bernard Brown/bbmoves, a social justice dance theater company, his choreography has been presented in Seoul, South Korea and across the US including Los Angeles, San Francisco, Chicago, Dallas, Minneapolis, Phoenix and New York City, to great acclaim. A sought after choreographer, his choreographic work has been commissioned by Royce Hall (via Kenny Burrell), Institute of Contemporary Art Los Angeles, Nuetra VDL Studio and Residences (via HomeLA), South Chicago Dance Theatre, University of Wisconsin – Milwaukee, Texas State University, Queering Dance Festival, Suarez Dance Theatre, Heidi Duckler Dance, Lula Washington Dance Theatre School, El Camino College, Pasadena Dance Theatre School. The dances are often described as “thoughtful,” “captivating,” and “powerfully exquisite.” Through athletic, evocative movement and socially relevant themes, the work coheres the visceral and the cerebral which aims to catalyze change and liberation for all people. This work has been supported by Dance/USA, the International Association of Blacks in Dance, California Arts Council, California Humanities, and Department of Cultural Affairs of the City of Los Angeles. A Lester Horton Award and Westfield Emerging Artist Award recipient, Brown has performed with distinguished artists and companies including David Rouseve/REALITY, TU Dance, Shapiro & Smith Dance, Doug Elkins Dance Company, Donald McKayle, Rennie Harris, Kamasi Washington, Vincent Patterson, Rudy Perez, and was invited to perform with Mikhail Baryshnikov in Robert Wilson’s “Letter to a Man” with choreography by Lucinda Childs. Bernard had a twenty-year tenure at Lula Washington Dance Theatre, where he was principal dancer, rehearsal director and assistant to the Artistic Director, Lula Washington. Other career highlights include restaging McKayle’s canonical “Games” for the Kennedy Center’s Masters of African American Choreography, performing on the Daytime Emmy’s, in Penumbra Theater’s “Black Nativity,” Donald Byrd’s “Harlem Nutcracker,” and being the titular principal dancer in Nike’s “12 Miles North: The Nick Gabaldon Story,” the first documented Afro-Mexican American surfer. Bernard earned his MFA from UCLA’s Department of World Arts and Cultures/Dance and BFA from SUNY Purchase. He is published in the peer-reviewed dance journal, *Dancer-Citizen*, with a recent publication in *The Activist History Review*. He has presented his scholarship on blackness, queerness and post-modern dance at conferences across the US and in Europe. Bernard has been featured in the *New York Times* and *Los Angeles Times* for his activism. Previously, Bernard has been faculty at UCLA in the Department of World Arts and Cultures/Dance and the School of Theater, Film and Television, Tisch School of the Arts at New York University, and University of Minnesota, Twin Cities. A recent Artist-In-Residence at the University of Wisconsin - Milwaukee, Bernard has also conducted residencies and master classes in Israel, Brazil and across the US including American College Dance Association, the International Association of Blacks in Dance conference and at a multitude of public schools throughout Los Angeles Unified School District. He is an Assistant Professor of Dance at Sacramento State University and a Certified Dunham Technique Instructor candidate. The *Los Angeles Times* has called him "...the incomparable Bernard Brown..."