



Press contact:

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Hostos Center for the Arts & Culture presents
SEKOU McMILLER DANCE COMPANY
in
I AM PULSE: Afro Latin Jazz and Soul Experience
Part of the
CUNY Dance Initiative

Friday, November 3, 7:30 PM, Repertory Theater

As part of the CUNY (City University of New York) Dance Initiative, the Hostos Center for the Arts & Culture presents the Sekou McMiller Dance Company in the world premiere of “I am Pulse: Afro Latin Jazz and Soul Experience” and other works on Friday, November 3, 7:30 PM in the Repertory Theater at Hostos Community College, 450 Grand Concourse, Bronx, NY. In addition to the 12-member dance company, special guests include the Firey Strings Sistas, composer Cecil Bridgewater, and Boston-based pianist/composer/arranger Joel Massicot. Reserved seating is \$10, and free for students. Tickets can be purchased at 718-518-4455 or www.hostoscenter.org. The box office is open Monday through Friday, 1 PM to 4 PM, and two hours prior to performance.

According to McMiller, “‘I am Pulse: Afro Latin Jazz and Soul Experience’ engages in a rhythmical exploration through stories and expressions of the black and brown bodies in the Americas.” His intent is “to take the audience on a journey with a series of traditional stories and topics relevant to the current concerns and experiences of today’s African American and Latino communities discovering and highlighting the through-lines that seamlessly melds and connects them via storytelling, movement, rhythm, intention, traditions and spirituality.” “I am Pulse” was “workshopped” through a CUNY Dance Initiative residency this past spring at Hostos Center as well as at the Alvin Ailey Foundation New Directions Choreography Lab, curated by Artistic Director Robert Battle.

Sekou McMiller's diverse career as a choreographer / performer / instructor ranges from performing off-Broadway in both *Celia: the Musical* and *Afro-Tango* to choreographing for Bravo TV, NUVO TV and *Good Morning America*. He has performed and choreographed for top Latin artists including Gilberto Santa Rosa, Willie Colón, Ismael Miranda, Cheo Feliciano, Johnny Pacheco, Tito Rojas, Tito Nieves, PitBull, as well as the pop icon Madonna. McMiller has worked with the Radio City Rockettes and was invited to choreograph in collaboration with two other choreographers for the 2015 Spring Showcase of the Joffrey Ballet School Jazz and Contemporary Program. In addition, he was a special invited guest performer/choreographer for the United Nations' unveiling of the monument, "the Ark of Return" which honors the victims of slavery and lives lost during transit of the trans-Atlantic slave trade. McMiller's choreographic work has been featured at Dance Chicago, New York Jazz Choreographers Festival, The Actors Fund Theater, APAP / New York City Center, Peridance Salvatore Capezio Theater, Ailey CitiGroup Theater, and Symphony Space.

Originally from Chicago, Sekou McMiller has a unique and diverse background as a former CFO/accountant and professional classical flutist as well as an emerging Latin dance artist. He now resides in New York City where he is the artistic director/choreographer of Sekou McMiller Dance Company (SMc Dance Co) and a faculty member at The Ailey School, Joffrey Ballet School: Jazz and Contemporary, Peridance Capezio Center and the Broadway Dance Center.

Established in 2011 by cellist Nioka Workman, the **Firey String Sistas** includes violinist Marlene Rice, bassist Melissa Slocum, vocalist/pianist Mala Waldron with percussionists Dorota Piotrowska and Camille Gainer-Jones. The ensemble presents works that incorporate aspects of women's culture, original compositions, American songbook standards, world music and Jazz in their performances. "Women, Wine & Song" and *JOYOUS*, a chamber Jazz event for the holidays, are two of the ensemble's popular programs.

The CUNY Dance Initiative (CDI) is an unprecedented model for collaboration between the City University of New York (CUNY) — the nation's largest public urban university system — and the NYC dance field. A residency program that opens the doors of CUNY campuses to professional choreographers and dance companies, CDI supports local artists, enhances the cultural life and education of college students, and builds new dance audiences at CUNY performing arts centers. A successful pilot project supporting residencies and performances on four CUNY campuses in 2013 prompted CDI to expand its scope. Since its official launch in 2014, CDI has subsidized and facilitated a total of **82 residencies** — from emerging choreographers to established dance companies at **13 CUNY colleges** in all five boroughs.

About the Hostos Center for the Arts & Culture

Founded in 1982, The Hostos Center for the Arts and Culture, based at Hostos Community College of the City University of New York, serves the cultural needs of residents of the South Bronx and similar inner-city communities who do not have the means or inclination to attend arts events in mid-town Manhattan. The Center, which includes a 900-seat theater, a 357-seat theater, and museum-grade art gallery, creates forums in which the cultural heritages of its audiences are affirmed and nurtured. The Center's programming consists of a performing arts presenting series; a visual arts exhibiting series; periodic festivals promoting cultural traditions, especially Afro-Caribbean; The Hostos Repertory Company; and an individual artists' program with commissions and residencies. Nearly 60,000 partake in the Center's programs each year. www.hostoscenter.org

About Hostos Community College

Eugenio María de Hostos Community College is an educational agent for change that has been transforming and improving the quality of life in the South Bronx and neighboring communities for nearly half a century. Since 1968, Hostos has been a gateway to intellectual growth and socioeconomic mobility, as well as a point of departure for lifelong learning, success in professional careers, and transfer to advanced higher education programs. Hostos offers 27 associate degree programs and two certificate programs that facilitate easy transfer to The City University of New York's (CUNY) four-year colleges or baccalaureate studies at other institutions. The College has an award-winning Division of Continuing Education & Workforce Development that offers professional development courses and certificate-bearing workforce training programs. Hostos is part of CUNY, the nation's leading urban public university, which serves more than 500,000 students at 24 colleges. <https://www.hostos.cuny.edu/>

What: Sekou McMiller Dance Company performs the world premiere of "I am Pulse: Afro Latin Jazz and Soul Experience" and other works

When: Friday, November 3, 2017, 7:30 PM

Where: Repertory Theater, Hostos Center for the Arts and Culture, 450 Grand Concourse, Bronx, New York 10451

How much? \$10 reserved seating (free for students and under 18)

Phone Number: 718-518-4455

Box Office: Window hours are Mon. – Fri., 1 PM to 4 PM and 2 hours prior to performance.

Website: www.hostoscenter.org

Subway/Bus: IRT Trains 2, 4, 5 and Buses BX1, BX2, BX19 to 149th Street and Grand Concourse