

# DANCE THEATRE HARLEM

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## **DANCE THEATRE OF HARLEM** **ANNOUNCES** **UPDATED PROGRAMMING FOR** **ANNUAL NYC HOMECOMING SEASON** **AND VISION GALA**

Thrilling Lineup Includes a World Premiere from **Jodie Gates**,  
Company Premieres from **George Balanchine** and **William Forsythe**,  
NY Premiere from DTH Artistic Director **Robert Garland**

**Ava DuVernay, Ben Vereen, D-Nice, Kenny Burns** Join the Vision Gala

**Janai Nelson**, President of the Legal Defense Fund to Orate during a special performance

Tickets for All Performances

[On Sale Now](#)

**New York City Center**  
**April 10-13, 2025**

(New York, NY – February XX, 2025) – The extraordinary artists of **Dance Theatre of Harlem** (DTH Robert Garland, Artistic Director; Anna Glass, Executive Director) are set to electrify **New York City Center** once again for its annual homecoming season and Vision Gala. Featuring the Company’s visionary artistry and unparalleled dynamism, DTH invites new and returning audiences to experience a thrilling lineup that highlights the extraordinary range and bold spirit of its dancers. As **Dance Theatre of Harlem** continues to inspire a new generation of classical and contemporary ballet artists and enthusiasts worldwide, the Company remains deeply rooted in the groundbreaking vision of its founder, **Arthur Mitchell**, more than 56 years later. This spring, DTH will present four captivating performances featuring an exciting blend of company premieres, a world premiere, a New York premiere, and cherished works, offering audiences a dynamic journey from ballet’s storied past to its vibrant future. Tickets start at \$45 (including fees) and are available now at [www.nycitycenter.org](http://www.nycitycenter.org). New York City Center is located at 131 West 55th Street, between 6th and 7th Avenues.

Photos are available [here](#).

**Dance Theatre of Harlem's** home season at **New York City Center** kicks off in exciting fashion with the Company premiere of **William Forsythe's** *The Vertiginous Thrill of Exactitude*. Set to the soaring final movement of Franz Schubert's Symphony No. 9, this electrifying work pays homage to Petipa and Balanchine with its dazzling partnering and lightning-fast allegro. Yet, it's unmistakably modern, a bold celebration of the dancers' ability to transform technical challenges into exhilarating feats of physical mastery. Adding to the evening, the Company brings **George Balanchine's** *Donizetti Variations* to its repertoire for the first time—a lively, effervescent series of dances set to Donizetti's Don Sebastian opera. While the tone is bright and cheery, the technical demands on the dancers are anything but, showcasing two bravura performers in a masterclass of elegance and endurance.

For his second New York City season as Dance Theatre of Harlem's Artistic Director, **Robert Garland** delivers two works that showcase his unique choreographic style. Headlining the weekend is the ever-popular *Return*, a soulful, high-octane celebration to the timeless sounds of James Brown and Aretha Franklin. But that's just the beginning—this season marks the New York premiere of Garland's *The Cookout*, a tribute to joy, drawing inspiration from DTH co-founder Arthur Mitchell and his reflections on our shared struggles and triumphs and the dignity and passion of Harlem's legacy.

Rounding out the company's season is *The Passage of Being*, a world premiere from the revered **Jodie Gates**. Expect nothing less than a dazzling display of artistry that promises to captivate and delight. This season is a must-see celebration of dance at its most exhilarating.

### **Dance Theatre of Harlem's 2025 New York City Center Performance Schedule**

#### **THURSDAY, APRIL 10 at 7:30pm**

##### **Dance Community Night**

*The Cookout* (NY Premiere)—Robert Garland

*The Vertiginous Thrill of Exactitude* (Company Premiere)—William Forsythe

*The Passage of Being* (World Premiere)—Jodie Gates

*Donizetti Variations* (Company Premiere)—George Balanchine

Pre-show and post-show DJ and dancing in the Grand Tier Lobby.

#### **FRIDAY, APRIL 11 at 6:30pm**

##### **Dance Theatre of Harlem Vision Gala**

**Ava DuVernay**, Gala Chair

**Ben Vereen**, Honorary Gala Chair

With **D-Nice** and **Kenny Burns**

##### **Gala Program**

*The Vertiginous Thrill of Exactitude* (Company Premiere)—William Forsythe

Excerpts from *Donizetti Variations* (Company Premiere)—George Balanchine

*We Are All Brown* (Excerpt) – Robert Garland

Commemorating *Brown v. Board of Education*

With Oration from **Janai Nelson**, President of the Legal Defense Fund (LDF)

For Vision Gala tickets and more information, please email [events@dancetheatreofharlem.org](mailto:events@dancetheatreofharlem.org).

#### **SATURDAY, APRIL 12 at 7:30pm**

##### **Divine Nine/HBCU Night**

*Return*—Robert Garland

*Donizetti Variations* (Company Premiere)—George Balanchine  
*The Passage of Being* (World Premiere)—Jodie Gates  
*The Cookout* (NY Premiere)—Robert Garland

Pre-show and post-show DJ and dancing in the Grand Tier Lobby.  
For more information about Divine Nine/HBCU Night, please email [info@dancetheatreofharlem.org](mailto:info@dancetheatreofharlem.org).

**SUNDAY, APRIL 13 at 3pm**

**Meet the Ballerina Matinee**

*The Cookout* (NY Premiere)—Robert Garland  
*The Vertiginous Thrill of Exactitude* (Company Premiere)—William Forsythe  
*The Passage of Being* (World Premiere)—Jodie Gates  
*Donizetti Variations* (Company Premiere)—George Balanchine

Pre-show DJ and dancing in the Grand Tier Lobby.  
Meet the Ballerina event immediately follows the performance.

For tickets, please visit [www.nycitycenter.org](http://www.nycitycenter.org).  
Save on groups of 10 or more! For more information, email [info@nycitycenter.org](mailto:info@nycitycenter.org).

Bloomberg Philanthropies is the 2025 Season Sponsor.

Additional support is provided, in part, by public funds from the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs in partnership with the City Council, by the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of the Office of the Governor and the New York State Legislature, and the National Endowment for the Arts.

**ABOUT THE ARTISTS**

**Robert Garland** is the Artistic Director of Dance Theatre of Harlem, having been appointed to the role in 2023 following the tenure of Virginia Johnson, a founding member of DTH. A former principal dancer with DTH, Garland was named the company's first Resident Choreographer by founder Arthur Mitchell after creating a work for the DTH School Ensemble. His tenure as Artistic Director has ushered in a dynamic era for the company, marked by innovative programming, new commissions, and a commitment to preserving and expanding DTH's legacy. Garland has choreographed numerous acclaimed works for Dance Theatre of Harlem, including *Return*, *New Bach*, *Higher Ground*, a ballet set to the music of Stevie Wonder. His choreography has also been commissioned by New York City Ballet, the Royal Ballet, Oakland Ballet, and many others, showcasing his signature blend of neoclassical technique and African American cultural influences. Beyond the concert stage, Garland's work spans film, television, and commercial projects. He has contributed to "Sesame Street," choreographed for a Nike commercial featuring Derek Jeter, created movement for the NAACP Image Awards, and collaborated on projects for Donna Karan and Procter & Gamble. A dedicated educator and leader, Garland previously directed the Professional Training Program at the DTH School and played an instrumental role in mentoring the next generation of ballet artists. He holds a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree from The Juilliard School.

**William Forsythe** began his career as a dancer with the Joffrey Ballet and later the Stuttgart Ballet, where he was appointed Resident Choreographer in 1976. In 1984, he began a 20-year tenure as director of the Ballet Frankfurt. After its closure in 2004, Forsythe established a new ensemble, The Forsythe Company, which he directed from 2005 to 2015 and saw his works performed exclusively by these artists, while his earlier pieces are prominently featured in the repertoire of virtually every major ballet company in the world. More recently, Forsythe has created original works for the Paris Opera Ballet (*Blake Works*

I), English National Ballet (*Playlist (Track 1,2)*), Boston Ballet (*Playlist (EP)*), as well as *A Quiet Evening of Dance* produced by Sadler's Wells Theatre (London) and *The Barre Project (Blake Works II)* created for the digital stage. Awards received by Forsythe and his ensembles include the New York Dance and Performance "Bessie" Award (1988, 1998, 2004, 2007) and London's Laurence Olivier Award (1992, 1999, 2009). Forsythe has been conveyed the title of Commandeur des Arts et Lettres (1999) by the government of France and has received the Hessischer Kulturpreis/ Hessian Culture Award (1995), the German Distinguished Service Cross (1997), the Wexner Prize (2002) the Golden Lion of the Venice Biennale (2010), the Samuel H Scripps / American Dance Festival Award for Lifetime Achievement (2012) and the German Theater Award FAUST for Lifetime Achievement (2020).

**Jodie Gates** is an artistic director, a choreographer, producer, arts educator, stager, and dancer. She was a principal ballerina with the Joffrey Ballet, Philadelphia Ballet, Frankfurt Ballet, and Complexions Contemporary Ballet, as well as an international guest artist. Most recently she was Artistic Director of the Cincinnati Ballet. Currently she is the Founder and Artistic Director of Laguna Dance, a non-profit organization based in Laguna Beach, California, and Founding Director of the University of Southern California's Gloria Kaufman School of Dance in Los Angeles. She is an accomplished choreographer with commissions by dance companies including Staatsballett Berlin, Ballet West, BalletX, Complexions Contemporary Ballet, Colorado Ballet, and the Vail International Dance Festival. Additionally, she choreographs for television commercials and site-specific events including choreography for a special project for singer/songwriter John Legend, and choreography for a global ad campaign for Los Angeles Tourism. She is an artistic collaborator with William Forsythe, staging and teaching ballets for Forsythe Productions internationally with companies including Paris Opera Ballet, San Francisco Ballet, Houston Ballet, Het National Ballet, Scottish Ballet, Teatro alla Scala Ballet, Dance Theatre of Harlem, and Zurich Ballet among others. Ms. Gates' performing career began with the Joffrey Ballet in NYC where she originated many roles and worked with a host of renowned choreographers.

### **ABOUT DANCE THEATRE OF HARLEM**

**Dance Theatre of Harlem** is a leading dance institution of unparalleled global acclaim, encompassing a world class company, a professional studio school, a leading arts education program - Dancing Through Barriers®, and community engagement activities. Each component of Dance Theatre of Harlem carries a solid commitment towards enriching the lives of young people and adults around the world through the arts. Founded in 1969 by Arthur Mitchell and Karel Shook, Dance Theatre of Harlem was considered "one of ballet's most exciting undertakings" (*The New York Times*, 1971). Shortly after the assassination of The Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Mitchell was inspired to start a school that would offer children — especially those in Harlem, the community in which he was born — the opportunity to learn about dance and the allied arts. Now in its 56<sup>th</sup> year, Dance Theatre of Harlem has grown into a multi-cultural dance institution with an extraordinary legacy of providing opportunities for creative expression and artistic excellence that continues to set standards in the performing arts.

**Dance Theatre of Harlem** celebrates its annual homecoming season and Vision Gala from **April 10-13, 2025** with performances held at **New York City Center (131 West 55<sup>th</sup> Street)**. For more information about Dance Theatre of Harlem, please visit [www.DanceTheatreOfHarlem.org](http://www.DanceTheatreOfHarlem.org).

Follow Dance Theatre of Harlem on Instagram and Facebook: @DanceTheatreOfHarlem; and YouTube: Dance Theatre of Harlem.

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