

## Abraham.In.Motion to dance emotional 'Pavement' for AU audience

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Alfred University's (AU) Marlin and Ginger Miller Dance Residency Program welcomes dancer/choreographer Kyle Abraham's company, Abraham.In.Motion presenting "Pavement," Friday, Sept. 6 at 8 p.m. in Miller Theater, Miller Performing Art Center.

The performance is open to the public; tickets are required. General admission is \$10 and \$2 for students; admission is free for senior citizens. Please note that the work contains graphic language and violent themes. Tickets may be reserved by emailing [performs@alfred.edu](mailto:performs@alfred.edu) or calling 607.871.2828.

"Pavement" comes to the AU campus with the support of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences and the Performing Arts Division.

Set in the historically black neighborhoods of Pittsburgh, "Pavement" is a dance work strongly influenced by the writings of W.E.B. Du Bois and John Singleton's 1991 film "Boyz N the Hood." The work is geared at creating a strong emotional understanding of a culture plagued by a history of discrimination, genocide, and an overbearing desire and need for freedom and equality.

"Pavement" premiered at Harlem Stage in November 2012. Many were drawn to the show's wide variety of music, ranging from Bach to Sam Cooke, to express the themes of violence, love, and pain. However, the most striking feature of the show, in the opinions of its critics, is the perspective which is seen from a group of friends struggling to stay together while their community is being torn apart. Andrew Boynton of The New Yorker magazine described the play as "a hard, unforgiving thing, but for some people it is also home."

The mission of Kyle Abraham/Abraham.In.Motion is to create an evocative interdisciplinary body of work. Born into Hip Hop culture in the late 1970s and grounded in Abraham's artistic upbringing in classical cello, piano, and the visual arts, the goal of the movement is to delve into identity in relation to a personal history. The work entwines a sensual and provocative vocabulary with a strong emphasis on sound, human behavior, and all things visual.

In 2010, Abraham received a prestigious Bessie Award for Outstanding Performance in Dance for his work in The Radio Show and a Princess Grace Award for Choreography. He was selected as one of Dance Magazine's 25 To Watch in 2009. In 2011, OUT Magazine labeled Abraham as the "best and brightest creative talent to emerge in New York City in the age of Obama." His choreography has been presented throughout the United States and abroad.