

RENNIE HARRIS PUREMOVEMENT AMERICAN STREET DANCE THEATER

Rennie Harris Puremovement is the leading Street dance theater company in the U.S., and for 30 years has been dedicated to preserving and disseminating Hip-hop aesthetics and Street dance culture through workshops, classes, history, lecture demonstrations, long-term residencies, mentoring programs, and public performances. With his roots in the inner-city, Harris and RHPM present unique stories that are riveting, intimate, and honest. RHPM's mission is to re-educate the public about Hip hop culture and Street Dance through its artistic work, sharing the essence and spirit of Street dance rather than the commercially exploited stereotype portrayed by the media.

Dr. Lorenzo "Rennie" Harris is a leading ambassador for Hip-hop. Harris grew up entrenched in Hip-hop culture in all its forms — music, dance, language. Throughout his career, he has embraced the culture and sought to honor its legacy, believing that Hip-hop and Street dance is the purest form of movement in that it honors both African and African American-Latino culture. Harris is well versed in the vernacular of what he calls Hip-hop "proper" as well as the various techniques of B-boy (often mistakenly called "breakdancing"), house, GQ and other styles that have emerged spontaneously from the urban, inner cities of America, like the North Philadelphia community in which he was raised. Harris brings social dances to the concert stage, creating a cohesive dance style that finds a cogent voice in the theater, all while developing works that challenge audiences' expectations about Hip-hop and Street dance. Harris's artistic philosophy reflects a deeper understanding of people that extends beyond racial, religious, and economic boundaries, and he believes that Hip-hop can help bridge these divisions. Harris's work encompasses the diverse and rich traditions of the past, while simultaneously presenting the voice of a new generation through its ever-evolving interpretations of dance.