



TE AHUREI TOI O TĀMAKI  
AUCKLAND  
ARTS FESTIVAL



# Lula Washington Dance Theatre

**45 years of Creativity & Innovation**

 Digital Show Programme



# Lula Washington Dance Theatre

## Credits

### **Board of Directors**

Dr. Bede Ssensalo

Michelle Flewellyn-Wiggins

Jane Dawson

Lula Washington

Erwin Washington

Tamica Washington-Miller

### **LWDT Company Dancers**

Danny Guerrero

Lainey B. Brooks

Ongelle Johnson

Kozue Kasahara,

Michael Tomlin, III

Micah Moch

COMPANY ASSOCIATE

Thomas Davis & Company

APPRENTICE

Khaleela Jones

? **2hrs approx inc interval**

Suitable for all ages.

# Lula Washington Dance Theatre

## Credits

### *LWDT STAFF*

#### **Co-Founder/Artistic Director**

Lula Washington

#### **Co-Founder/Executive Director**

Erwin Washington

#### **Associate Director**

Tamica Washington-Miller

#### **Executive Assistant**

Phelencia White

#### **Lighting/Technical Director**

Milton Tatum

#### **Musical/Media Director**

Marcus L. Miller

#### **Production Assistant**

Nelan-Ay Miller

#### **Audio & Production Assistant**

Xavier Muepo



# Lula Washington Dance Theatre

Programme – Schools Performance, Fri 14 March





# Lula Washington Dance Theatre

Programme – Schools Performance, Fri 14 March

## LIFT EVERY VOICE AND SING

CHOREOGRAPHED BY

Lula Washington

MUSIC PERFORMED BY

Ongelle Johnson,  
Kozue Kasahra &  
Khaleela Jones

MUSIC BY

Melba Moore  
& Friends

*Lift Every Voice And Sing* was written in 1900 by James Weldon Johnson and composed by his brother John Rosamond Johnson. The song was first performed on 12 February 1900, at the segregated Stanton School in Jacksonville, Florida to celebrate Abraham Lincoln's birthday. The song is often called the "Black National Anthem." The song was adopted by the NAACP as its official anthem in 1919. It continues to a prominent rallying cry within African American communities.

## ROCK-N-ROLL MUSIC

CHOREOGRAPHED BY

Tamica Washington-Miller

PERFORMED BY

Thomas Davis &  
Lainey B. Bowers

MUSIC BY

Chuck Berry & Etta James

# Lula Washington Dance Theatre

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## **NATURE BOY**

CHOREOGRAPHED BY

**Tamica Washington-Miller**

PERFORMED BY

**Ongelle Johnson &  
Danny Guerrero**

MUSIC BY

**Nat King Cole**

— *AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION* —

## **REIGN (2009)**

CHOREOGRAPHY BY

**Lula Washington**

MUSIC BY

**James 'JT'  
Wilconson**

PERFORMED BY

**The Company**

Originally created for LWDT, *Reign* represents Rennie Harris' personal struggle with love. He explains, "I fell from the grace of heaven and although my heart hurts I know I will one day return. So until then, I will continue to create work about love. The love of family, friends, lovers, husbands, wives, humans. These relationships are designed to ultimately bring us back to God and the glory of heaven."



# Lula Washington Dance Theatre

About the Company





# Lula Washington Dance Theatre

## About the Company



**Lula Washington Dance Theatre (LWDT) is a 10-member contemporary modern dance company**

**founded in 1980 by Lula and Erwin Washington.**

Since its beginnings in South Los Angeles, California, LWDT has risen to become one of the most admired African-American contemporary dance companies in the West — known for powerful and high-energy dancing, unique choreography and exceptional educational residencies. LWDT's mission is to build a world-class, professional, contemporary modern dance company in South Los Angeles that reflects the many aspects of African-American culture and history, and that celebrates and uplifts the human spirit through innovative, evocative, exciting, educational and accessible dance.

Lula Washington is artistic director, choreographer, teacher, and dancer, and hails from Watts, California. The oldest of eight children, Lula grew up in poverty. She was too poor to take dance lessons and worked nights in hamburger stands, a skating rink and a movie theater in order to buy clothes for school. Lula did not experience modern dance until she was a nursing student at Harbor Community College in Los Angeles. There, a teacher took Lula and other classmates to see the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater at UCLA. Lula



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## About the Company

was so mesmerised by the beauty of Ailey's dancers that she decided to pursue dance as a career.

Later, Lula applied to UCLA's dance programme and was rejected because the school said she was too old to begin a dance career at age 22, but Lula appealed the decision and was admitted to UCLA. After graduation, Lula established the Los Angeles contemporary Dance Theatre, later renamed Lula Washington Dance Theatre.

Since founding the dance company, Lula has gained national and international respect as a dance leader, teacher, entrepreneur, and choreographer. Her choreographic style is a unique and highly theatrical blend of African, modern, ballet and performance art. She has received numerous awards, including a National Endowment for the Arts choreography fellowship, the California Dance Educators Award of Excellence, and a Woman of the Year Award from the California State Legislature.

The African-American Experience, current events, and local events to the Los Angeles area are often reflected in the dances that Lula creates. Lula has created works about being homeless, 9/11, police brutality, the Civil Rights movement and the Underground Railroad. Lula has also choreographed for movies, such as Walt Disney's *The Little Mermaid* and *Avatar*. She has created classic works to Bach and Vivaldi, along with African dance and hip-hop pieces.



# About the Festival

## Who We Are

**Te Ahurei Toi o Tāmaki Auckland Arts Festival is a melting pot of shared experiences, whakaaro, live entertainment and kōrero every March.**

Our lifeblood is arts and culture in contemporary Tāmaki Makaurau. We care deeply about celebrating artists both here in Aotearoa and from around the world, serving the creatives and communities behind the works we present, honouring te reo and te ao Māori in all that we do, and contributing to a better city and society. That's us.

Every March you'll see a big reunion with our city's arts community — many of whom we consider our whānau whānui, our extended family — alongside our mahi towards better accessibility and education opportunities for our audiences. We're also passionate about the works we curate and our collaboration with the many people who make those experiences happen. We strive to celebrate with generosity; human connection and manaakitanga will always be at the heart of what we stand for.

When we're on, we're on a mission to make Auckland an amazing place to socialise and be entertained in. Whether you're discovering the city for the first time or rekindling your love for its hidden gems, we truly believe there's something for everyone at the Festival.

**The Auckland Festival Trust** Ph +64 09 309 0989 Email [info@aaf.co.nz](mailto:info@aaf.co.nz)

Ground Floor, 48 Greys Avenue, Auckland 1010

PO Box 5419, Victoria Street West, Auckland 1142, Aotearoa New Zealand



# About the Festival

## Who We Are

### Core Funders



### Creative Partners



### Funding Partners



### Presenting Partner



### Experience Partners



### Engagement Partners



### International Partners



### Accommodation Partners



### Sustenance Partners



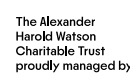
### Travel Partner



### Venue Partners



### Operations Partners



### Platinum Patrons

Sir Roderick & Gillian, Lady Deane  
Janet Clarke & John Judge  
Andrew & Jenny Smith

### Silver Patrons

Cadzow Family Trust  
Jeremy Collins Family  
Kent Gardner & Ngaere Duff  
John & Jo Gow  
Sir Chris & Lady Dayle Mace

### Bronze Patrons

John & Sarah Barnett  
John Billington KC  
Kirsten & Carl Blanchard  
Graham Cleary  
Dame Jenny Gibbs  
Andrew Gelonese & Michael Moore  
Robert Hucker  
David Inns & Sally Woodfield  
Sonbol & Farzbod Taefi

### Jade Patrons

Jenny Anderson  
Frances Bell  
Mark & Angela Clatworthy  
Lindsey Dawson  
Dale & Joan Furbish  
Tracey Haszard & Phil Sargeant  
Jason & Sarah Judkins  
Vanessa Morgan  
Kate Plaw  
Shona Roberts & David Hay  
Christopher Simcock & Camilla Hope-Simcock  
Stevenson Foundation  
Sharon van Gulik  
Noel Vautier & Kerrin Vautier CMG  
Fred & Nicky Ward  
Alan G. Wilcock

### Amber Patrons

Amber Coulter & Andrew Lewis  
Peggy & Richard Greenfield  
Dr Lesley McTurk  
Neha Patel  
Clare Wynn-Williams



Digital Show Programme

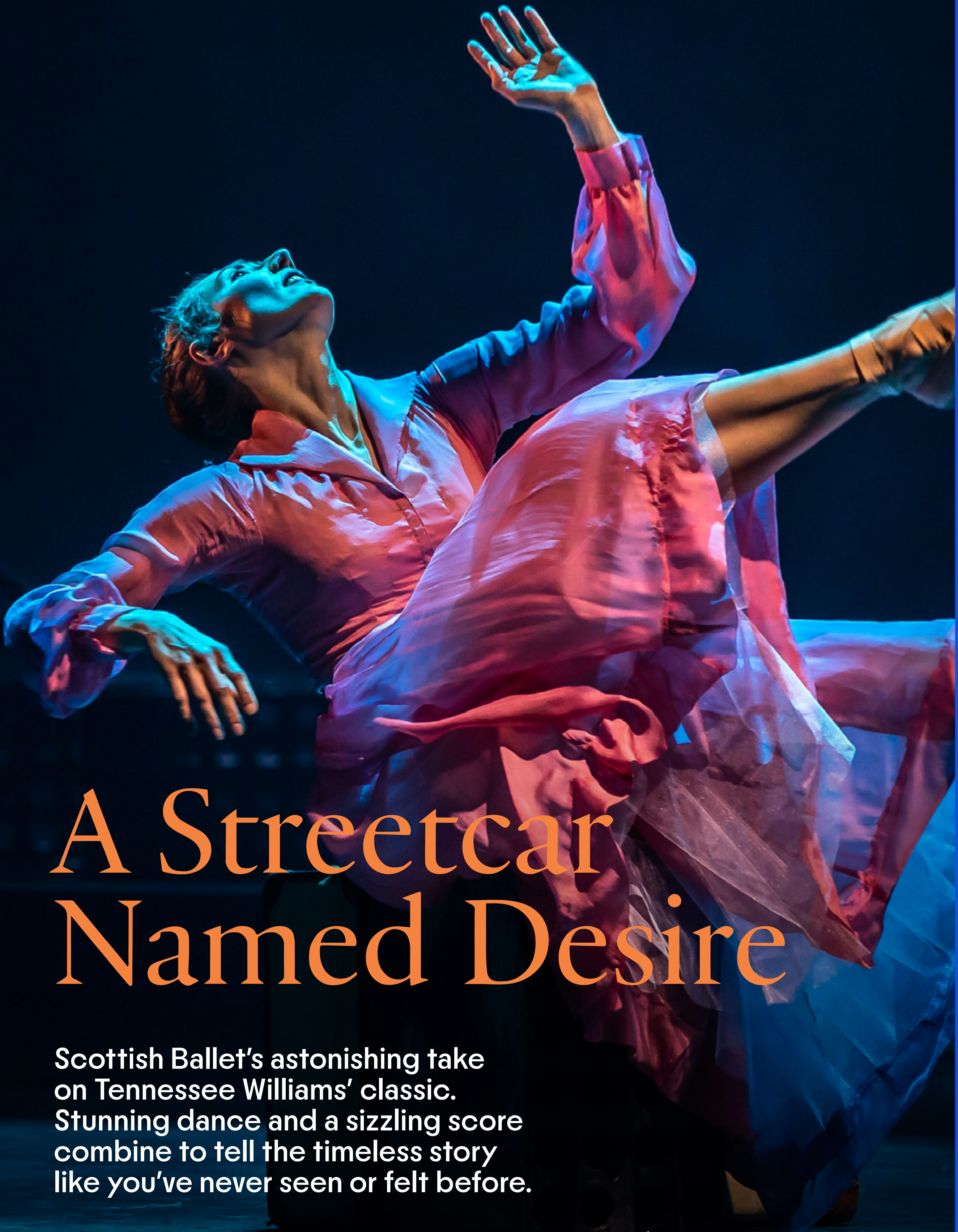






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AUCKLAND ARTS FESTIVAL

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