

A NEW YORK SEASON

A CELEBRATION OF OUR CITY'S ARTISTS

BROOKLYN ACADEMY OF MUSIC PETER JAY SHARP BUILDING 30 LAFAYETTE AVENUE BROOKLYN, NY 11217—1486

BAM presents the New York City Premiere of Reggie Wilson/Fist and Heel Performance Group's *POWER*, Jan 13—15

Award-winning choreographer re-imagines elements of Black Shaker practices

Bloomberg Philanthropies is the Season Sponsor

POWER

Fist & Heel Performance Group
Choreography by Reggie Wilson

Costume design by Naoko Nagata and Enver Chakartash
Lighting design by Jonathan Belcher

Harvey Theater at BAM Strong (651 Fulton St. Brooklyn, NY)
Jan 13—15 at 7:30pm
Tickets start at \$30

“looking back to move forward ... [Wilson's] sprawling movement pieces fold history into the present”—*The New York Times*

“A simple gift indeed, this spare masterstroke ...” —*The Boston Globe*

Brooklyn, New York/Jan 3, 2021— Reggie Wilson brings his Fist & Heel Performance Group home to Brooklyn for a revelatory weekend of “moving into spirit.” In this kinesthetic, propulsive, rhythmic experience connecting American Black and Shaker traditions, Wilson explores the body as a radical tool for illuminating the internal and communal. Following his own visceral, obsessive curiosity, Wilson draws inspiration from Mother Rebecca Cox Jackson, a free Black woman who became a Shaker eldress and formed her own community in Philadelphia—as well as the Shakers' complex relationship to free and enslaved African-Americans. Through his framework of African formalism, applying postmodern, avant-garde movement with Black dance traditions, Wilson discovers what's possible when ecstatic bliss meets structural rigor.

In *POWER*, developed at Jacob's Pillow and the neighboring Hancock Shaker Village, Wilson brings alive the mutual Black-Shaker influence by channeling the refusal of Anglo-Judeo-Christian limitations on the body into utopian energy that manifests through whirling, stamping, and singing. *POWER* coincides with BAM's annual commemoration of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Reggie Wilson/Fist & Heel Performance Group is a Brooklyn-based dance company founded in 1989. Drawing from the cultures of Africans in the Americas, in combination with post-modern elements and his own personal movement style, Wilson refers to his work as “post-African/Neo-HooDoo Modern dances.” An inaugural Doris Duke Artist, Wilson is a graduate of New York University’s Tisch School of the Arts and has served as visiting faculty at universities including Yale, Princeton, and Wesleyan. He toured with Ohad Naharin before forming Fist & Heel and has lectured and has taught workshops and community projects throughout the US, Africa, Europe, and the Caribbean. Fist & Heel has performed at Dance Theater Workshop, New York Live Arts, BAM, Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, and Festival Kaay Fecc in Senegal, among other venues. Wilson’s previous BAM appearances include *CITIZEN* (2016 NWF), and *Moses(es)* (2013 NWF), *The Good Dance: dakar / brooklyn* (Fall 2009).

POWER was made possible by the New England Foundation for the Arts’ National Dance Project, with lead funding from the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation and The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation and was co-commissioned by Jacob’s Pillow.

For press information, contact Cynthia Tate at ctate@bam.org

Credits

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Leadership support for BAM Access Programs provided by the Jerome L. Greene Foundation

Leadership support for dance at BAM provided by The Harkness Foundation for Dance and The SHS Foundation

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BAM is a recipient of a U.S. Small Business Administration Shuttered Venue Operators Grant, made possible by the leadership of Senator Majority Leader Charles D. Schumer.

The BAM facilities are owned by the City of New York and benefit from public funds provided through the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs with support from Mayor Bill de Blasio; Cultural Affairs Commissioner Gonzalo Casals; the New York City Council including Council Speaker Corey Johnson, Majority Leader Laurie A. Cumbo, Finance Committee Chair Daniel Dromm, Cultural Affairs Committee Chair Jimmy Van Bramer, and the Brooklyn Delegation of the Council; and Brooklyn Borough President Eric L. Adams. BAM would also like to thank the Brooklyn Delegations of the New York State Assembly and New York State Senate.

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