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## **Camille A. Brown, Gabrielle Lamb, Rashaun Mitchell and Silas Riener**

### **Awarded**

## **New York City Center's 2014 Choreography Fellowships**

New York, NY, February 18, 2014 – Choreographers **Camille A. Brown, Gabrielle Lamb, and Rashaun Mitchell** and **Silas Riener**, who will be working together, have been awarded New York City Center's 2014 Choreography Fellowships. The Fellowship supports choreographers at critical stages in their careers and reflects City Center's long history of nurturing dance makers, from George Balanchine to Christopher Wheeldon.

The Fellowship provides choreographers with a creative home at City Center for one year. The Fellows receive a generous stipend in addition to rehearsal space in the City Center studios and a performance opportunity at City Center. Technical and administrative assistance is also available to the recipients, who have full access to City Center's expertise in fundraising, finance, technology and marketing.

The past recipients of City Center's Choreography Fellowship were Brian Brooks, Beth Gill, Emery LeCrone, Pontus Lidberg, Andrea Miller and Shen Wei.

New York City Center gratefully acknowledges support from Frederic and Robin Seegal, the Rockefeller Brothers Fund and the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation.

**Camille A. Brown** is the artistic director of Camille A. Brown & Dancers. Informed by her music background as a clarinetist, she creates choreography that utilizes musical composition and theater as storytelling. She is the recipient of The International Association of Blacks in Dance Founders' Award, Princess Grace Award (Choreography), Mariam McGlone Emerging Choreographer Award (Wesleyan University), and City College of New York Women & Culture Award. Her commissions include Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, Philadanco, Urban Bush Women and Complexions, among others. Camille choreographed the Broadway revival of *A Streetcar Named Desire* and recently choreographed William Shakespeare's *The Winter's Tale* at The McCarter Theater. She is currently choreographing *Myths of The Jailhouse Gods*, a play by Marcus Gardley, and *The Fortress of Solitude - A New Musical* at Dallas Theater Center, co-produced by The Public Theater. She is working on a new piece for her company, currently titled *Black Girl*, which will premiere in 2015.

**Gabrielle Lamb**, a native of Savannah, Georgia, was trained at the Boston Ballet School. She joined Les Grands Ballets Canadiens de Montreal in 2000 and was promoted to soloist in 2003. Her repertoire as a

performer has included principal roles in works by George Balanchine, Jiří Kylián, Mats Ek, Ohad Naharin, Nacho Duato, Pontus Lidberg and Shannon Gillen. In 2009, she was invited by Christopher Wheeldon to join his company Morphoses. She has been choreographing since 2005 and is a self-taught animator and filmmaker. Ms. Lamb's dance works for stage and screen have been presented by Les Grands Ballets Canadiens, Jacob's Pillow, Dance Theatre of Harlem, Dance on Camera at Lincoln Center, and the American Dance Festival. During the 2013-2014 season, her choreography will be danced by Milwaukee Ballet, BalletX, Ballet Austin, Ballet Memphis, and Western Michigan University.

**Rashaun Mitchell** and **Silas Riener** were listed in *Dance Magazine's* "25 to Watch" and were selected for the Lower Manhattan Cultural Council's inaugural Extended Life Development Program in 2013.

**Rashaun Mitchell** graduated from Sarah Lawrence College and since then, he has worked with Pam Tanowitz, Risa Jaroslow, Sara Rudner, Jonah Bokaer, Richard Colton, Deborah Hay, Rebecca Lazier, and Silas Riener. He has received numerous awards including a Princess Grace Award (Dance Fellowship, 2007), a New York Dance and Performance (Bessie) Award for sustained achievement in the work of Merce Cunningham 2004-2012 (2011), and a Bessie for "Outstanding Emerging Choreographer" (2012). He was a member of the Merce Cunningham Dance Company and is a Cunningham Fellow and licensed stager of the repertory. His choreography has been presented in NYC by Danspace Project, Baryshnikov Arts Center, LMCC, La Mama Moves Festival, Skirball Center and at numerous festivals and universities throughout the East Coast. **Silas Riener** graduated from Princeton University with a degree in comparative literature and certificates in creative writing and dance, with a focus on linguistics. As a dancer he has worked with Chantal Yzermans, Takehiro Ueyama, Christopher Williams, Jonah Bokaer, and Rebecca Lazier, and is currently dancing in projects for Tere O'Connor and Wally Cardona. He was a member of the Merce Cunningham Dance Company and received a 2012 New York Dance and Performance Award (Bessie) for his performance in Cunningham's *Split Sides*. Since 2010 he has collaborated with poet Anne Carson and choreographer Rashaun Mitchell, with whom he continues to develop new projects.

**New York City Center** (Arlene Shuler, President & CEO), now in its 70<sup>th</sup> year, has played a defining role in the cultural life of the city since 1943. It was Manhattan's first performing arts center, dedicated by Mayor Fiorello La Guardia with a mission to make the best in music, theater and dance accessible to all audiences. Today, City Center is home to many distinguished companies, including Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, City Center's Principal Dance Company, as well as Manhattan Theatre Club; a roster of renowned national and international visiting artists; and its own critically acclaimed and popular programs. The Tony-honored *Encores!* musical theater series has been hailed as "one of the very best reasons to be alive in New York." In summer 2013, City Center launched *Encores! Off-Center*, a new series featuring seminal Off-Broadway musicals filtered through the lens of today's most innovative artists. Dance has been integral to the theater's mission from the start, and dance programs, including the annual *Fall for Dance* Festival, remain central to City Center's identity. Vital partnerships with arts organizations including Jazz at Lincoln Center and London's Sadler's Wells Theatre enhance City Center's programmatic offerings. City Center is dedicated to providing educational opportunities to New York City students and teachers with programs such as *Encores! In Schools* and the Young People's Dance Series. Special workshops cater to families, seniors and other groups, while events such as the *Fall for Dance* DanceTalk series offer learning opportunities to the general public. In October 2011, City Center completed an extensive renovation project to revitalize and modernize its historic theater.

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