

# HARVARD DANCE CENTER

66 Garden Street | Cambridge | Massachusetts 02138 | 617 495 8683 | [www.ofa.fas.harvard.edu/dance](http://www.ofa.fas.harvard.edu/dance)

## PRESS RELEASE

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## RECOGNIZED DEAF DANCER AND CHOREOGRAPHER ANTOINE HUNTER TO LEAD MASTER CLASS AT HARVARD DANCE CENTER

Antoine Hunter, Deaf choreographer, dancer, and founding artistic director of Urban Jazz Dance Company in the Bay Area, will be visiting Harvard University on Tuesday, November 28, 2017, to teach an Afro-Cuban Modern and American Sign Language dance master class at Harvard Dance Center.

A Bay Area native, Mr. Hunter was taught by Maestro Rivero of Santiago de Cuba and Maestro Ramon Ramos Alayo, and performed and taught for Mr. Alayo for many years. He is an award-winning producer, choreographer, dancer, actor, and powerful member of the Deaf community who has developed his own unique fusion of traditional folk dance, modern Afro-Cuban, and American Sign Language dance, also bringing in components from jazz, modern, and classical American dance forms. Mr. Hunter explores American Sign Language (ASL) as both a form of dance and of dance as a language, nonverbal, and gestured. He teaches dance and ASL in both Hearing and Deaf communities and is the founder and artistic director of Urban Jazz Dance Company. He has been producing the Bay Area International Deaf Dance Festival since 2013.

While geared towards the Deaf dance community, the master class at Harvard Dance Center is open to dancers of all abilities. The class will be assisted by Zahna Simon, Deaf dancer of Urban Jazz Dance Company, and additional ASL interpretation will be provided. The class will be accompanied by live music and will be followed by a Q&A session with Mr. Hunter.

"We are tremendously excited to bring Antoine Hunter to the Harvard Dance Center, capping off our fall 2017 master class series. Mr. Hunter's artistry and activism aligns with the Harvard Dance Center's mission to lead through academic, artistic, and civic leadership. We aim to be a site for dignity and inclusion for all, and we seek to create the conditions that foster agency through dance and the arts for our students." Jill Johnson, Dance Director and Senior Lecturer on Theater, Dance & Media.

The Harvard Dance Center Master Class Series brings preeminent artists working in the field today for master classes, workshops, and lectures throughout the year, supported in part by the Office for the Arts (OFA) at Harvard and the Provostial Fund for the Arts and Humanities at Harvard University.

The Antoine Hunter master class takes place on Tuesday, November 28, from 7:30-9:30pm, at Harvard Dance Center, 66 Garden St., Cambridge, MA, 02138. The class is free and open to the public. Register at [ofa.fas.harvard.edu/dance](http://ofa.fas.harvard.edu/dance). Space is limited; first come, first served. ASL interpretation provided. For more information or for additional accommodations contact [dance@fas.harvard.edu](mailto:dance@fas.harvard.edu) or 617.495.8683. To learn more about Antoine Hunter visit [realurbanjazzdance.com](http://realurbanjazzdance.com).

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