



THE FLAME FOUNDATION AND B. MOORE DANCE PRESENT
FLAMENCO BLACK

Provided in support from The City of Dallas Office of Arts and Culture

**UNRAVELING THE MYSTERY OF
FLAMENCO BLACK HISTORY
AND AFRO-ANDALUSIAN ROOTS**



YINKA ESI GRAVES is a British Flamenco dancer, practitioner and educator whose choreographic work explores the links between Flamenco and other forms of corporeal expression in particular from an African diasporic and contemporary perspective. Having studied ballet and afro-cuban dancing in her youth Yinka has dedicated the last 13 years of her life to flamenco studying at Amor de Dios in Madrid and later in Seville with artists such as La Lupi, Andres Marin, Yolanda Heredia and Juana Amaya. Graves also has a first-class degree in Art History (Sussex-2005). Having performed extensively in both the UK and Spain Yinka co-founded contemporary flamenco company dotdotdot dance in 2014. The company presented Yinka's work *I come to my body as a question*, a reimagined Guajira with spoken word artist Toni Stuart, in *SAMPLED 2017* at Sadler's Wells and The Lowry, following their *Wild Card* at the Lilian Baylis.

In 2015 Yinka began a collaborative creation with former principal Alvin Ailey dancer Asha Thomas: *CLAY*, this work has participated in various European festivals including Dance Umbrella's 'Out of the System' in 2017 (UK). Yinka was also featured in Miguel Angel Rosales' documentary film: *Gurumbé: Canciones de tu Memoria Negra* (2016) the first Spanish film to highlight the influence its African population had on Spanish culture, particularly Flamenco. Yinka has subsequently performed alongside the film on its tours to the US, Africa, Latin America and Europe.

Yinka is currently involved in a number of major productions Chloé Brulé and Marco Vargas' *Cuerpos Celestes* and *Origen* and Dorothée *Disappearing Act*, which will premiere at the Nimes Flamenco Festival in early 2023.



ANTONIO ARREBOLA (Artistic Director-The Flame Foundation) was born in Málaga in 1981 and began dancing at the age of eight. He began his dance studies at the Conservatorio Superior de Danza in Málaga, where he was trained in flamenco, ballet clásico and clásico español and studied with Susana Lupiañez, Ricardo Caña, and Valentina Letova. Antonio has been dancing professionally since the age of fifteen. He has danced in many prominent tablaos in Andalucía, such as the Christina Hoyos Flamenco Museum and many more. Antonio has also been recognized on the international scene, elating audiences in the Netherlands, Switzerland, Germany, Poland, Italy, Morocco, Canada, the United States and Japan. He also worked with the Maria Serrano Company in the show Flamentango in Canada, and, in addition, has toured in Europe with his own company. He headlined the Dallas Flamenco Festival in 2010, 2012, and 2013 and was featured in the Dallas Flamenco Festival and Ochre House Theater's productions of Perro y Sangre, El Conde Drácula, and Buñuel Descending and Picasso: Matador de Málaga.



BRIDGET L. MOORE (Founder/Artistic-Executive Director-B. MOORE DANCE) a native of Dallas, TX, has received national and international recognition for her choreography. Moore's choreographic works provide both cultural and kinesthetic experiences rooted in African-American and global dance aesthetics. Her most recent commissions include, *The Sound of Music* and *Public Works—The Odyssey*, produced by Dallas Theater Center. Moore is a recipient of a 2016 Princess Grace Professional Development Award-Arts Administration, and a 2012 Princess Grace Foundation Choreography Fellowship Award. Moore has also been featured in *Dance Magazine's* "25 to Watch" for her NYC-Co-Directorship project, *This Woman's Work*. In addition, she has received commissions from Ailey II, Dayton Contemporary Dance Company, Urban Bush Women, TITAS, DBDT, Bruce Wood Dance, and Red Clay Dance, to name a few. Moore's work has been presented at New York's—Fall for Dance Festival, Jacob's Pillow "Inside/Out" series, Ailey Citigroup Theater, Winspear Opera House, Moody Performance Hall, and Wyly Theatre, among others. Moore's professional dance performing career includes Ronald K. Brown/*EVIDENCE* (1999-2009). Moore was a Visiting Professor at Sungkyunkwan University, Seoul, South Korea, Artistic Director of Dallas Black Dance Theatre, Joffrey Ballet School Texas, and Tri-Cities High School for the Performing and Visual Arts, Atlanta, GA. She also served on faculty at her alma mater Booker T. Washington HSPVA, and was the Director of the African and World Dance Ensemble. Moore holds a BFA in Dance from The Ohio State University and an MFA from New York University, Tisch School of the Arts.



DELILAH BUITRÓN ARREBOLA (Artistic-Executive Director-The Flame Foundation) is a native Texan from Laredo and received her BA in Theatre and Television Communications from the illustrious Hofstra University in New York. Upon graduation, Delilah moved to Spain where she studied Spanish Classical and Flamenco at the Isabel Quintero Conservatory as well as at the internationally acclaimed Amor de Dios school of Flamenco. Delilah has since performed in Mexico City's production and tour of Carmen, The Dallas Opera's production of *La Vida Breve* under the direction of Maria Benitez, as well as portrayed the Cuban Salsa Legend "La Lupe" in Martice Enterprise's musical production of *La Lupe: My Life, My Destiny*. Other Dallas theater credits include her portrayal of Gerarda in SMU's production of *La Discreta Enamorada*, Shakespeare Dallas' musical production of *A Midsummers Night's Dream* and *As you Like It*. She has been seen in Ochre House productions *Ex Voto: The Immaculate Conceptions of Frida Kahlo*, *MEAN*, and *Cicerone* and was featured in the Dallas Flamenco Festival and Ochre House Theater's productions of *Perro y Sangre*, *El Conde Drácula*, *Buñuel Descending* and *Picasso: Matador de Málaga*. Delilah was a recipient of a 2013 "Dallas Observer Mastermind Award" for excellence in artistic endeavors.

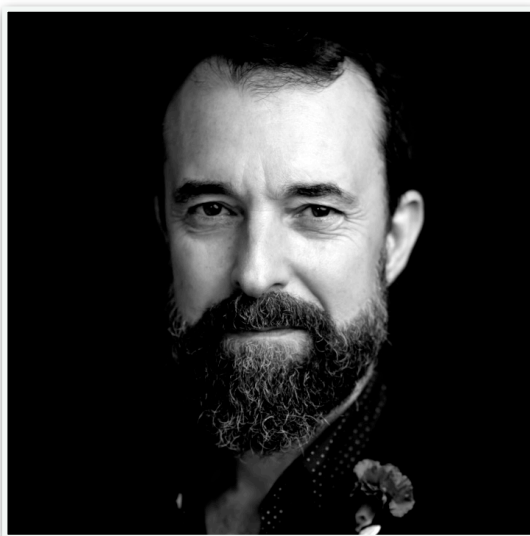
VOCALIST



MIREK. E. L Flowing from urban contemporary pop, gospel, jazz, classical and R&B, Mirek.e.l's voice expresses the essence of every song with a soulful spirit and sound. A native of Dallas, TX, Mirek.e.l began singing in the church choir at a very young age. She is an alumna of Booker T. Washington HSPVA, where she studied vocal performance. Mirek.el performs nationally and internationally, and is a featured vocalist with RC & the Gritz Band (Dallas).

Mirek.e.l has participated in The Black Academy of Arts and Letters' (TBAAL) prestigious Summer Arts Intensive Education Program where she performed solo pieces in productions such as Hallelujah Gospel, Michael Jackson - The Musical, and Aretha Franklin - The Musical. She was also a featured vocalist with Jennifer Holliday and Erykah Badu in TBAAL's Hip Hop Broadway. In the Summer of 2022, Mirek.e.l was awarded the pleasure of playing the role of Deena Jones in Jubilee Theatre's production of the musical *Dreamgirls* at Bass Performance Hall. In addition to musicals, she has also participated in stage plays such as *For Colored Girls Who Have Considered Suicide/When The Rainbow Is Enuf* (Lady in Purple) and *I Prayed and I Stayed* (Stacy).

MUSICIANS



ALFONSO CID, Flamenco singer and flute player, was born and raised in Sevilla, the heartland of flamenco music. His mother, an amateur singer from Triana, a flamenco enclave in Seville, and his grandfather, an aficionado of flamenco, were his earliest influences. He also had the opportunity of attending the activities of one the most significant flamenco clubs in Andalusia, the Peña Flamenca Torres-Macarena in Seville. He was awarded two scholarships to attend the intensive summer course at the Cristina Heeren Foundation for Flamenco Art in July 2007 and 2008. He had the honor of recording backing vocals in the song titled "Mi Santa" by popular Latin artist Romeo Santos featuring the great flamenco guitarist Tomatito. Alfonso has toured extensively throughout the USA, Latin America, Israel and Europe, and toured Spain, France and Italy in 2017 and 2018 with the jazz/flamenco band New Bojaira by pianist Jesús Hernández from Granada, Spain. This band released a new album titled "Zorongo Blu" in 2018, in which great



DJELI MOUSSA DIABATE was one of the finest dancers with the National Ballets of Guinea (Africa) and was artistic director for National Ballet Silimbo of Senegal for many years. He is a master dancer, drummer and musician and has toured Africa, Europe, Asia and the U.S.A. He also performed on Broadway (New York City), at Yale Repertory Theater and at Brooklyn Academy of Music.

Diabate is the son of the Chief of the Djelis, El Hadj Komba Ansou Diabate of Conakry, Guinea in West Africa. El Hadj Komba Ansou Diabate for more than 35 years was a founding member of the National Instrumental Ensemble and composer of the Guinea National Anthem.

Diabate has trained and toured with the National Ballet Djoliba and the National Theatre of Dakar's Ballet Silimbo. He was a lead dancer for the Troupe Federale de Conakry III National Ballet of Guinea,

Diabate came to the United States teaching traditional performing arts and worked on Broadway in George C. Wolfe's production of *The Tempest* and worked as assistant choreographer and consultant for Savion Glover's hit show, "**Bring in Da Noise, Bring in Da Funk.**"

Diabate's life and membership with the great ballets of Guinea, such as Les Ballet Africain has made him one of the most respected teachers in the world. Since 1987 Mr. Diabate has choreographed, performed, lectured and taught extensively in the U.S., Japan, France and West Africa.

Diabate is the founder and artistic director of Djely Kunda West African Dance Company, and currently maintains residency in Dallas, Texas.



GUILLERMO GUILLEN is an exquisitely artful and eclectic flamenco guitarist, composer and arranger whose sensitivity and creativity make him a highly sought-after musical collaborator for live performances and studio work, from the most traditional flamenco to adventurous experimental projects. Born and raised in France, Guillén trained in Spain, and has performed and taught flamenco internationally for over 20 years. He currently lives in the New York City area.

Guillermo Guillén is the founder of **FlamencoMaps**, the **online educational and teaching resource center** and **YouTube channel**. Thousands of flamenco lovers from around the world have benefited from his highly effective classes and instructional videos.



FRANCISCO J. OROZCO “Yiyi” is from Andalusian family, born in Barcelona, and was introduced to Flamenco rhythms at the tender age of four. Yiyi was trained by Flamenco singer and father– “Joselón de Jerez” in his Spanish peña named “Peña Fosforito”. Considered a child prodigy of percussion Yiyi began his professional career at the age of twelve. By 17 years of age and one CD later, he became more involved with singing, particularly for dancers, and left Spain for Germany on a long-term contract with the company “Flamenco Rubio”. Since that time he has performed with “Compañía Flamenca Alhama” throughout Europe and Japan; with internationally known María Benitez “Teatro Flamenco” on Broadway and throughout the U.S.; Domingo Ortega in Venezuela as well “Casa Patas” in Madrid; Jose Greco II in the United States of America and Taiwan; and world-renowned guitarist Serranito . He has also performed with Nino de los Reyes, Alejandro Granados, Raquel Heredia (La Repompilla) , Jesús Carmona, María Serrano, La Tania, and Antonio Granjero. Critics, worldwide, have toted



DANCERS



CRISTINA AGUAYO



SASHA BOWMAN



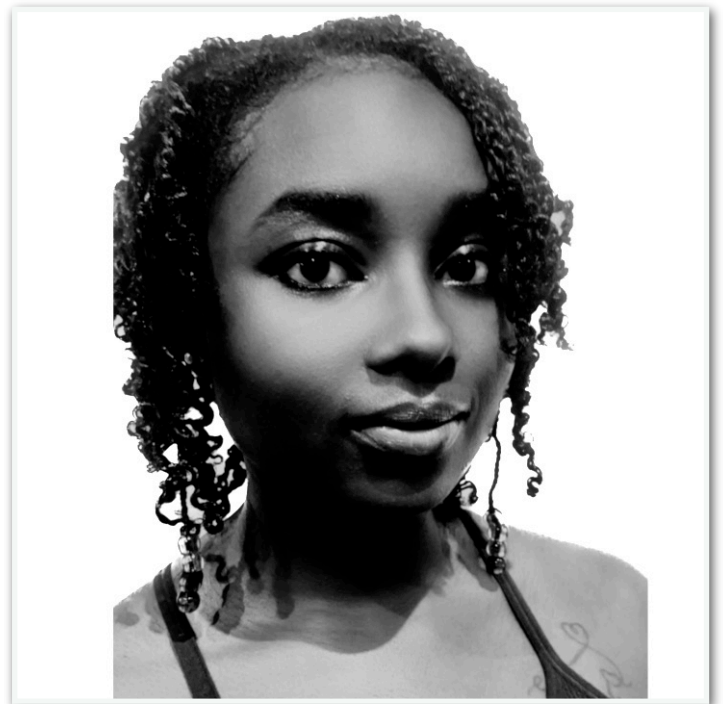
KIANDRA BROOKS



SIABHAN BROWN



JOEL CORTEZ



CERONCIA JESSIE



J. ALEXANDER LANGLEY



DANIEL NEGRETE



JADA SPRIGGS



ANTHONY WADE



ARPEGE WALLACE



CHRISTOPHER M. HAM works in all technical areas professionally, designing costumes, lighting, projection, scenery and sound. After completing his Master of Fine Arts at Meadows School of the Arts, Ham traveled to New York, where he designed and produced trade shows for SONY and HASBRO. He also spent close to 10 years freelancing in the Washington, D.C. area, working in design, production and technical direction for dance and theatre companies all along the eastern shore. In the Dallas-Fort Worth area, Ham has worked as a production manager, designer, technician and producer for several companies big and small. Ham has contributed his dance lighting designs to the American College Dance Festival, both at the regional and Kennedy Center national level; the International Choreographers' Showcase in Spain; the Meadows Dance Ensemble at Southern Methodist University; the Division of Dance at Kansas State University; the St. Louis Ballet; The Center of Creative Arts (COCA) in St. Louis; and the Shenandoah University Dance Ensemble, where he was an adjunct assistant professor teaching dance production and color theory classes; at Shenandoah, he also held the position of lighting designer/technical director for the dance division. Ham designed for Harford Community College Dance Theatre's "Kinetic Canvas," an annual performance series inspired by the works of Salvador Dali, and toured and designed for Flying Lions Dance Company of Winchester, Va., while living in the mid-Atlantic region. He is also the production designer/technical director for the Doniphan Project Dance Company based in Tupelo, Miss., and designs/consults with Ekilibre Dance Company of Winchester, Va., which premieres new works both regionally and internationally. In the Dallas-Fort Worth area, Ham has designed for Hathaway Academy of Ballet, Plano, Texas; Repertory Company Theatre, Richardson, Texas; Upstart Productions, Dallas; Cara Mía Theatre Company, Dallas; Shakespeare Dallas; WaterTower Theatre, Addison, Texas; Big Thought/Creative Solutions, Dallas; and various dance companies for studio recitals and dance graduation ceremonies.



FERNANDO HERNANDEZ is a native of Monterrey, Mexico, where he was introduced to costume design. His professional career started in architectural design, Ballet, and Folklórico dance. He formed Fernando Costume Designs, creating several designs for Instituto Tecnológico de Monterrey and dance companies throughout Mexico. In the United States, he has created costume designs for B. MOORE DANCE, The Flame Foundation, Orchestra of New Spain, Dallas Black Dance Theatre, Bruce Wood Dance/METdance, Flamenco DNA, Ballet Dallas, Dayton Contemporary Dance Company, and Red Clay Dance Company. Hernandez serves as a consultant as dance faculty, choreographer, and costumer at Booker T. Washington HSPVA. Currently, he is performing with Compañía Folklórica Alegría Mexicana.



JUSTIN LOCKLEAR is an artist who specializes in theatrical and phenomenological performance. Interested in audiences at a human scale, Locklear creates and collaborates on works which merge traditional forms with experiments in technology, spectacle, and public space. Locklear is the current Artist-In-Residence at The Ochre House Theater, an experimental theatre producing a season of new works each year, including a bilingual Flamenco show. As a Theatrical artist, Locklear is an actor, playwright, director, composer, and scenographer. He is also a Producer and the Conceptual Artist of the award-winning contemporary dance theatre company, the Danielle Georgiou Dance.



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