



## *Everything Remains Raw: Hip Hop's Folkloric Lineage* Tuesday, October 27 at 7 pm

### **About Moncell Durden**

E. Moncell Durden, an active dancer, historian, ethnographer, author, and documentarian. An assistant professor of practice at the University of Southern California Kaufman International School of Dance, he specializes in the pedagogical practices of what he calls the Morphology of Afro-Kinetic Memory (African American social dance forms over the last four centuries)

Durden's knowledge and practice of social dances date back to his early childhood learning dances of the early 20th century from his parents and other elders. Durden performed with Rennie Harris Puremovement for 10 years; held a seven year appointment at Drexel University, a five year appointment at Wesleyan University, and a two year appointment at the Yale School of Drama, and the Balletakademien Stockholm in Sweden, just to name a few. His published works appear in *Jazz Dance: A History of the Roots and Branches* and *SAGE Encyclopedia of African Cultural Heritage in North America*.

His first book, *Beginning Hip-Hop Dance* is published by Human Kinetics. His first documentary *The History and Concept of Hip-Hop Dance* was published by Dance-Time Publication, His documentary appearances include *Uprooted*—a new documentary on jazz dance; *The Choreography of Comedy*, a look at the history and influence of eccentric dance; and *Why We Dance*, a documentary that explores our nature and desires to dance. Durden's second documentary will go deeper in the roots of African American dance. He recently created a six week hip hop online course for NDEO (National Dance Educators Organization), started his own online course called *Intangible-Roots*, and is writing a new book titled *Dancestry: The Dance, the People, and the Culture*. Moncell is also writing a new article titled "The Morphology of Afro-Kinetic Memory" for a new book called *21st Century Jazz*.

### **About Ephrat Asherie**

Artistic director, choreographer, and dancer Ephrat "Bounce" Asherie is a New York City-based b-girl, dancer, and choreographer and a 2016 Bessie Award Winner for Innovative Achievement in Dance. Asherie has received numerous awards to support her work including *Dance* magazine's Inaugural Harkness Promise Award, a Jacob's Pillow Fellowship at the Tilles Center for the Performing Arts, and a Jerome Foundation Travel and Study grant. As artistic director of Ephrat Asherie Dance, her work has been presented at the Apollo Theater, Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival, The Joyce Theater and New York Live Arts, among others. In 2017, Asherie received a National Dance Project award to support the development and touring of her work, *Odeon*. She is a 2019 NYFA Fellow and a 2018-19 City Center Choreography Fellow. Her new work *UnderScored* was awarded a 2019 Creation and Development Award from the National Performance Network and will premiere at Works & Process at the Guggenheim in 2021. She is honored to have been mentored by Richard Santiago (aka Break Easy) and to have worked and collaborated with Dorrance Dance, Doug Elkins, Rennie Harris, Bill Irwin, Gus Solomons Jr., and Buddha Stretch, among others. Asherie has created work for various university dance programs, including Lehman College, Smith College, SUNY Brockport, and the University of California Santa Barbara, among others. She earned her B.A. from Barnard College, Columbia University in Italian and her M.F.A. from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee where she researched the vernacular jazz dance roots of contemporary street and club dances. Asherie is a co-founding member of the all-female house dance collective MAWU and is forever grateful to NYC's underground dance community for inspiring her to pursue a life as an artist. For more information, please visit [ephratasheriedance.com](http://ephratasheriedance.com) or follow EAD on Instagram @ephratasheriedance.