



**presents**

**Dayton Contemporary Dance Company**

**Jeraldyne Blunden Founder**

**Debbie Blunden-Diggs Artistic Director**

**Ro Nita Hawes Saunders Chief Executive Officer**

**Crystal Michelle Associate Artistic Director**

**Michelle VanHuss Director of Touring & University Initiatives:**

**Audrey Ingram Company Manager**

**Matthew J. Evans Technical Director**

**Dancers Devin Baker, Qarrienne Blayr, Michael Green, Robert Pulido, Nile Alicia Ruff,  
Quentin Apollo Vaughn Sledge, Matthew J. Talley, Countess V. Winfrey**



**BAM**

**Shed (2013)**

CHOREOGRAPHY: Kiesha Lalama

LIGHTING DESIGN: John Rensel

COSTUMES: L'Amour

MUSIC: John de Kadt, Highlight Tribe, and Whicked Hayo

DANCERS: Devin Baker, Qarrienne Blayr, Michael Green, Robert Pulido, Nile Alicia Ruff, Quentin Apollo Vaughn Sledge, Matthew J. Talley, and Countess V. Winfrey

Section One: Escape

Section Two: Discover

Section Three: Empower

Shed your fears. Live your passion. Believe, and you will Become. The idea behind Shed is the shedding of inhibitions, fears, and the impositions of society and environment.

**Rainbow 'Round My Shoulder (1959, DCDC premiere 1987)**

CHOREOGRAPHY: Donald McKayle

LIGHTING DESIGN: John Rensel

COSTUMES: Original costumes by Domingo A. Rodriguez, recreated for DCDC by Ayn Wood

MUSIC: Traditional music arranged by Robert DeCormier and Milton Okun from the Collection of John and Allen Lomax

DANCERS: Devin Baker, Qarrienne Blayr (May 19), Michael Green, Robert Pulido, Quentin Apollo Vaughn Sledge, Matthew J. Talley, and Countess V. Winfrey (May 20)

Men on the Chain Gang: Devin Baker, Michael Green, Robert Pulido, Quentin Apollo Vaughn Sledge, Matthew J. Talley

Solo I: Quentin Apollo Vaughn Sledge

Solo II: Devin Baker (May 19), Michael Green (May 20)

Sweetheart, Mother, Wife: Qarrienne Blayr (May 19), Countess V. Winfrey (May 20)

Donald McKayle's masterwork is acclaimed as a modern dance classic. A searing dramatic narrative, it is set on a chain gang in the American South where prisoners work, breaking rock from "can see to can't see." Their aspirations for freedom come in the guise of a woman—first as a vision, then as a remembered sweetheart, mother, and wife. The songs that accompany their arduous labor tell a bitter, sardonic, and tragic story.

*INTERMISSION***American Mo' (2015)**

CHOREOGRAPHY: Crystal Michelle

LIGHTING DESIGN: John Rensel

COSTUMES: Ayn Wood

MUSIC: Duke Ellington

DANCERS: Devin Baker, Qarrienne Blayr, Michael Green, Robert Pulido, Nile Alicia Ruff, Quentin Apollo Vaughn Sledge, Countess V. Winfrey

American Mo' is a celebration of triumph over adversity. Dancers express freedom, courage and joy to Duke Ellington's "Three Kings," composed in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

**This I Know For Sure . . . (2017)**

CHOREOGRAPHY: Ray Mercer

LIGHTING DESIGN: Matthew Evans

COSTUMES: Elena Comendador

MUSIC: Bongie Duma, Lorde, Olafur Arnalds, Peter Gregson, and Ludovico Einaudi

DANCERS: Devin Baker, Qarrienne Blayr, Michael Green, Robert Pulido, Nile Alicia Ruff, Quentin Apollo Vaughn Sledge, Matthew J. Talley, and Countess V. Winfrey

I. "Genesis: The Preamble"

II. "Trois"

III. "He, Him, Himself"

IV. "A Pair of Connections"

V. "Just Him"

VI. "Omega: The Postscript"

This I know for sure. Art is not absolute. It has different feelings, textures, intentions, and vantage points and I think that's what makes art so beautifully divine. When we allow ourselves to see the difference within ourselves and the differences in others, I think that's what makes art so amazingly beautiful and poignant. This I know for sure.