

PLAYBILL

CAN YOU BRING IT

BILL T. JONES AND D-MAN IN THE WATERS

"GOES TO THE VERY HEART
OF THE VITAL ROLE ART PLAYS
...DURING TIMES OF SOCIAL CRISIS."
— HENRY LOUIS GATES JR.

A FILM BY ROSALYNDE LEBLANC AND TOM HURWITZ

A DANCING/TON AIR PRODUCTION FEATURING BILL T. JONES AND THE BILL T. JONES/ARNIE ZANE COMPANY
DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY TOM HURWITZ, ASC COSTUME DESIGNER ANN COLLINS ORIGINAL SCORE THOMAS DUTTSCHAUER
PRODUCED BY ROSALYNDE LEBLANC PRODUCER DIANA C. BUTLER DIRECTED BY TOM HURWITZ, ASC AND ROSALYNDE LEBLANC
FUNDING PROVIDED BY THE ANDREW W. MELLON FOUNDATION IN ASSOCIATION WITH JUST FILMS / FORD FOUNDATION



KINO LORBER

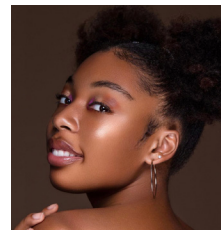
“Roz and Tom succeeded in telescoping the story of ‘D-Man in the Waters’ into the future. I look forward to the journey of this film. Because this film should not let people forget — you’re lucky in your life if you have one moment where you’re at once strong enough, brave enough, and resourceful enough to throw down and make something like ‘D-Man in the Waters’ come into being. This work is not about anybody’s epidemic. It is about the dark spirit of what is happening in the world and how you push back against it.”

— Bill T. Jones

Synopsis

“CAN YOU BRING IT: BILL T. JONES AND D-MAN IN THE WATERS” brings to life the creative process that culminated in choreographer-dancer-director Bill T. Jones’s tour de force ballet, “D-Man in the Waters,” one of the most important works of art to come out of the AIDS crisis. In 1989, “D-Man in the Waters” gave physical manifestation to the fear, anger, grief, and hope for salvation that the emerging Bill T. Jones/Arnie Zane Company (both partners at the time) felt as they were embattled by the AIDS epidemic. As a group of student dancers from Loyola Marymount University re-interpret the work, they deepen their understanding of its power — exploring what is at stake in their own lives in order to commit and perform it successfully. Through an extraordinary collage of interviews, archival material, and uniquely powerful cinematography, this lyrical documentary uses the story of this iconic dance to illustrate the power of art and the triumph of the human spirit.

Who’s Who

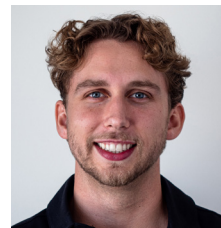


Gabriella Alleyne '24

Dance major with a minor in public relations

Film role: Social Media Coordinator for Theatrical Release

Gabriella aspires to get a master’s in public relations and advertising, and start a social media and public relations agency for creatives as well as dance professionally. Gabriella is currently the founder and editor-in-chief of an online magazine made for and by girls of color called Kaleidoscope Teen Magazine.

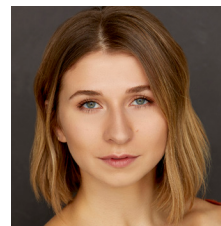


Hayden Blaz '20

Film and television production major

Film role: Production Assistant

Hayden strives to live and learn the true craft of an intended life. Professionally, Hayden is currently a freelance photographer and production crew member.



Samantha Blaz '17

Dance major with a minor in political science

Film role: Performer

Samantha is currently working as a freelance dancer and certified holistic health coach based in New York City. Samantha has had the pleasure of performing at Sundance Film Festival, Walt Disney Concert Hall, LA Dance Project and more, as well as dancing for ClairObscur Dance Company based in Los Angeles.

**Anna Chorneyko '17**

Dance major

Film roles: Performer, Social Media Marketing

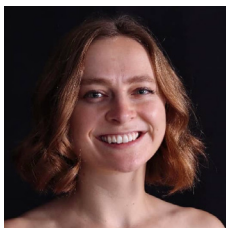
Anna is a professional dancer and is currently on tour with Kim Petras and is the choreographer's assistant for Doja Cat. Other credits include working with Lady Gaga, Dua Lipa, J.Lo, Lil Nas X, Miguel, Apple, MTV, Disney and more.

**Nicole Closson '17**

Dance major

Film role: Performer

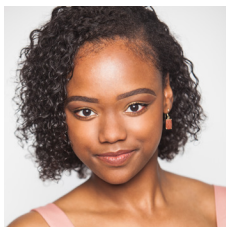
Nicole is currently working as a dancer and choreographer in Los Angeles, CA. Nicole is also a sales representative for Unity Software, managing small to mid-sized businesses and helping creatives work from anywhere. Nicole's recent work can be found on nicoleclosson.com.

**Eva Crystal '19**

Dance major

Film role: Performer

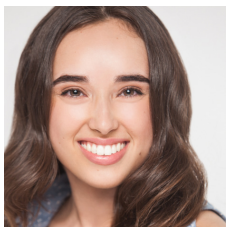
Eva is currently working as a company member with PRICEarts and as a dance educator in Seattle. Eva was a collaborative choreographer in the most recent PRICEarts show and was invited to teach and perform at the University of North Carolina Greensboro.

**Kayla (Hampton) Domingo '18**

Dance and psychology double major

Film role: Transcriber

Kay works as the facilities senior secretary at Downey Unified School District, where she previously instructed middle school physical education and after-school dance. Her ultimate dream is to open a dance studio with her husband after achieving financial independence.

**Halie Donabedian '19**

Dance major

Film role: Performer

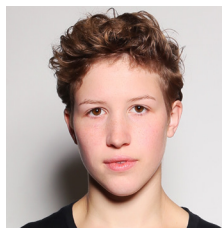
Halie is currently working as a professional dancer, dance teacher and fitness instructor, performing with a contemporary dance company based in Los Angeles called Imprints. Halie performed in tour content for Paula Abdul and is performing in project-based works around the West Coast.

**Tina Dossa '17**

Dance major

Film role: Performer

Tina is currently working as a 4th grade teacher in Culver City and received a master's of arts in teaching from the University of Southern California in December 2019.

**Sydney Franz '16**

Dance and graphic design double major

Film roles: Performer, Rehearsal Director

Sydney is currently working as a dancer, drag king, and graphic designer in New York and San Francisco with an emphasis on improvisation and devised theater. In addition to original works, Sydney has worked with Maurya Kerr, Christian Burns, Detour Dance, and Erica Sobol and taught for the Alonzo King LINES Training Program.

**Kathleen Kenny '17**

Dance major with a minor in theater

Film role: Performer

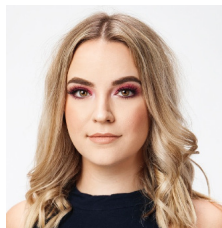
Kathleen is currently working as an actress in Los Angeles. Kathleen's work includes "The Sex Lives of College Girls," "The Terminal List," "American Auto," "Rutherford Falls," and "Liza On Demand," where she guest starred opposite Whitney Cummings as her assistant. Some additional credits include guest starring on "L.A.'s Finest" opposite Jessica Alba and Gabrielle Union, and appearing opposite Sarah Hyland in the feature "The Wedding Year."

**Qinyuan "Yoyo" Li '17**

Film production MFA

Film roles: Assistant Editor, Camera Assistant, Production Assistant, Transcriber

Yoyo is an IATSE Property Master in LA. Since graduation, Yoyo has worked in the art department on numerous film and television shows, and prop mastered on the second season of the popular Netflix series, "I Think You Should Leave."

**Haley Loeffler '18**

Dance and health and human sciences double major

Film role: Performer

Haley is currently working as a professional dancer and plans to attend Columbia University's doctor of physical therapy program this fall. Haley has worked as a dancer for projects for HBO Max, SHEIN, and OpenFit.

**Darren Maser-Katter '19**

Multimedia arts major with a minor in dance

Film roles: Performer, Social Media Marketing, Graphic Design for Promotional Material

Darren is currently working as a gallery attendant at the Museum of Contemporary Art.

**Brandon Mathis '17**

Dance and political science double major

Film role: Performer

Brandon is currently working as a professional dancer, choreographer, creative director, and filmmaker. Brandon has had the pleasure of working with artists and brands such as Beyoncé, Solange Knowles, Tyler, The Creator, Maison Valentino, YSL, Apple, Jordan, and many more.

**Mateo Rudich '19**

Theater arts major with a minor in dance

Film role: Performer

Mateo is currently working as a service technician at Evo Seattle and has worked as the technical director and/or master carpenter for various organizations such as East West Players, The Industry Opera, LA Contemporary Dance Company, Actor's Co-op Theatre Company, LA Contemporary Exhibitions, Pacific Resident Theatre, and Flintridge Sacred Heart Academy.

**Abigail Samson '16**

Dance major with a minor in theater arts

Film role: Transcriber

Abigail works as a senior sales associate in a boutique, as well as teaches creative movement to children and adults. Abigail is also pursuing further education in somatic movement and expressive arts therapies.

**Courtney Sprouse '19**

Dance major with a minor in theater arts

Film role: Performer

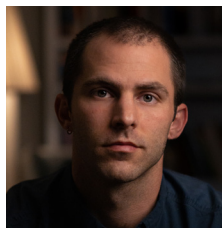
Courtney is currently working as a professional dancer and Barre3 fitness instructor in Portland, Oregon. Most recently, Courtney worked as a program liaison for HAVEN Sanctuary for Dance under Lillian Barbeito.

**Hailey Transue '18**

Dance and communications double major

Film role: Performer

As well as working as a dancer in Los Angeles, Hailey is now working in tv/film production, having worked for Lucasfilm, Marvel and Disney+.

**Billy Yates '16**

Film and television production, graduate program

Film roles: Additional Camera, Camera Assistant, Production Assistant

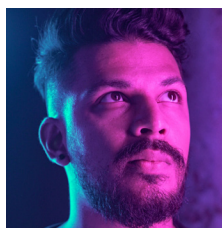
Billy works in camera and lighting departments, including credits for Netflix, Discovery, and HBO, and maintains a passion for documentary. Billy has continued collaborating with Tom Hurwitz, since their introduction on this wonderful project.

**Gianna Todisco '16**

Dance major

Film roles: Performer, Transcriber, Rehearsal Director

Gianna is currently working in both commercial and concert dance realms, trying to bring a love for concert dance ideas and movement into more commercial spaces. Most recently, Gianna co-choreographed and will be performing on a nationwide stadium tour with Grammy Award winning artist Kali Uchis. Gianna's heart and passion still also remains in the concert world as a company member of The TL Collective led by artistic director Micaela Taylor since 2018.

**Varun Chopra '17**

Grad Program MFA Film Production

Film role: Transcriber

Ming-Tzu Le '14

Film and television production major

Film role: Assistant Editor for Promotional Material

Gracie McManus '18

Marketing major

Film roles: Social Media Marketing , Graphic Design for Website

Riley Higgins '19

Dance major

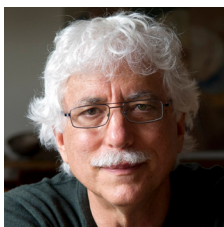
Film roles: Social Media Marketing, Graphic Design for Promotional Material

About the Filmmakers



Rosalynde LeBlanc, Producer and Co-Director

Rosalynde LeBlanc danced with the Bill T. Jones/Arnie Zane Company (1993–99), and Mikhail Baryshnikov's White Oak Dance Project (1999–2002). She has also worked onscreen with film directors Burt Barr, John Turturro, Gretchen Bender, and Matthew Rolston. She can be seen in the short film, "Roz," the PBS Specials, "Still/Here," "Free to Dance," "Dancing in the Light," "A Good Man," and in the feature film, "Romance and Cigarettes." Ms. LeBlanc Loo is a leading figure in the legacy and pedagogy of Bill T. Jones. She restages his work around the country and runs the Jones/Zane Educational Partnership at Loyola Marymount University, where she is an associate professor in the dance department. In 2020, her work in dance research and pedagogy was recognized with an honorary induction into the Jesuit Honor Society, Alpha Sigma Nu.



Tom Hurwitz, ASC, Co-Director and Director of Photography

Tom Hurwitz, ASC, a member of the American Society of Cinematographers, is one of America's most honored documentary cinematographers. Winner of two Emmy Awards and the Sundance and Jerusalem Film Festival Awards for Best Cinematography, Hurwitz has photographed films that have won four Academy Awards and has received several more nominations, recently for "Dancemaker" and "Killing in the Name." Mr. Hurwitz's features and television programs have won dozens of awards, Emmy, Dupont, Peabody, Directors Guild and film festival awards for Best Documentary over the last 25 years. He recently won Emmy Awards for Best Documentary Specials for the PBS show "Jerome Robbins" and the PBS series "Franklin," as well as Sundance Awards for "Queen of Versailles," and "Love Free or Die." Other award-winning films and programs that Mr. Hurwitz has photographed include: "Studio 54," "Cradle of Champions," "Joan Didion: The Center Will Not Hold," "Nothing Left Unsaid: Gloria Vanderbilt and Anderson Cooper," "Valentino: The Last Emperor," "Harlan County USA," "Wild Man Blues," "My Generation," "Down and Out in America," "The Turandot Project," "Liberty," "Dolley," "Faith and Doubt at Ground Zero" for PBS; "I Have a Dream" for ABC; and "Killing in the Name" and "Questioning Faith" for HBO. In addition, films that he has directed have won the Cine Golden Eagle and have been shown in festivals around the world. Mr. Hurwitz is also a founding member of the faculty of the MFA Program in the Social Documentary Film Program at New York's School of Visual Arts.



Clasped hands from D-Man in the Waters performance.

Photo courtesy of Rosalynde LeBlanc

"Critic's Pick! Passionate and moving... an unusually lively documentary experience."

— Glenn Kenny, The New York Times



Bill T. Jones in rehearsal with students with arms raised.

Photo courtesy of Rosalynde LeBlanc.

"'Can You Bring It' is full of vitality and energy, a testament to the power of art in the face of tragedy."

— Kimber Myers, Los Angeles Times



Bill T. Jones in rehearsal with students Brandon Mathis and Nicole Closson.

Photo courtesy of Rosalynde LeBlanc.



Loyola
Marymount
University