

"Brown's work is delightfully humane. Approachable, stylistically accessible, his movement signature invites an emotional response, a sense of ideation, as if audience members are somehow so intertwined with the dance that they themselves are up onstage."

– Eugene Weekly

RONALD K. BROWN ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

EVIDENCE

A DANCE COMPANY



"The power of Ronald K. Brown's choreography lies in its myriad layers...There is his agile use of stillness that subtly brushes the surface of raw emotions. And there is the undeniable way his propulsive movement crosses beyond the stage. Yes, this is the rare choreographer who makes you want to get up and dance."

– The New York Times



Honored with the 2018 American Dance Festival Scripps Award this summer, Ron and dancers embrace their upcoming 19-20 season by celebrating the 20th anniversary of *Grace* with a newly-commissioned companion piece, *Mercy*. Ronald K. Brown/EVIDENCE has moved audiences for over 30 years, praised for a "sophisticated amalgam of Afrocentric movement and modern dance" that often makes "spirituality...something vibrant and transformative" (Los Angeles Times). His exquisitely crafted, spiritual blend of African, modern, Caribbean and social dance styles has led to the creation of recent new works, such as *New Conversations*, a soulful, uplifting work set to Afro-Cuban jazz music by GRAMMY-Award winning musician Arturo O'Farrill. The company is working on live music accompaniment options for *New Conversations*, *Grace* and *Mercy*.



Masterclass

Ron is a masterful, giving teacher and workshop leader. EVIDENCE's community class strives to bring dancers of all ages and backgrounds together to participate in a fun and engaging movement class, featuring simplified steps from Ron's diverse style. Themes of strength and celebration are incorporated into the movement that is taught.

Community Engagement

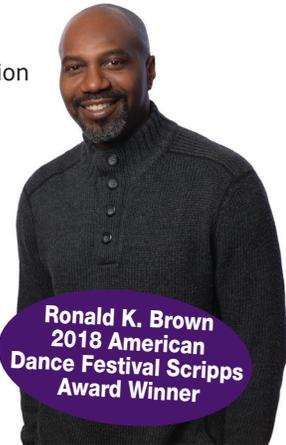
Community-oriented programming and activities that consist of multi-generational workshops and the inclusion of community members into its repertory work *On Earth Together* during performance residencies.

Spirituality through Text & Movement

Meant to help participants explore the intersections of their own life's journey, spirituality and expression of that purpose through dance as a storytelling art form, this workshop begins with basic community building exercise and a simple warm up that brings the group into a circle. Participants pair up, share and document their stories. Each person "acts out their story" and the class describes, "What they see". Music is added to assist in bringing the study to a deeper understanding.

Afro-Cuban Connection

Inspired by Ron's numerous trips to Cuba, this residency highlights the vocabulary and cultural influences connecting Cuba and Africa through movement-based masterclasses, talks and repertory performance programming that emphasizes the Cuban connection in Ron's choreography.



Ronald K. Brown
2018 American
Dance Festival Scripps
Award Winner

UPCOMING PERFORMANCES

July 25-29, 2018

Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival
The Ted Shawn Theatre
Becket, MA

**World Premiere of
New Conversations**

w/Live Music by Arturo 'Farrill
and *Come Ye, Dancing Spirit*

September 21-23, 2018

Restoration Arts Plaza
Brooklyn, NY

**2 Year Old Gentlemen,
Incidents, and Order My Steps**

September 29, 2018

ASU Gammage
Beyond Series
Tempe, AZ

**New Conversations,
Order My Steps,
and Come Ye**

October 27, 2018

College of St. Benedict &
St. John's University
Saint Cloud, MN

**On Earth Together
w/Community,
Subtle One**

October 30, 2018

DANCE Cleveland,
Cleveland, OH

Body of Work: Dialogues on Dance
Salon Conversation & Demo

**New Conversations,
Walking Out the Dark**

November 7, 2018

Lafayette College, Easton, PA

**New Conversations,
March, Four Corners**

March 21, 2019

Bologna Performing Arts Center
Delta State University

**Incidents, Order My Steps,
and New Conversations**

March 23, 2019

Acadiana Center for the Arts
Lafayette, LA

**Incidents, Order My Steps,
and New Conversations**

March 29, 2019

Paramount Theatre
Goldsboro, NC

**Incidents, Order My Steps,
and New Conversations**

May 10 & 11, 2019

Let's Dance
International Frontiers
Serendipity
Leicester, UK

Ronald K. Brown/EVIDENCE Repertory

Four Corners (2016)

Time: 22 Minutes. 6 Dancers

Music: Carl Hancock Rux, Rahsaan Roland Kirk, Yacoub
Mixed by RKB

Dancers depict spiritual seekers amid four angels standing on the corners of the earth, holding the four winds. Brown turned to the song "Lamentations" by his friend, recording artist Carl Hancock Rux. Drawing from West African and modern dance influences, he uses grounded, earthy movements to portray figures who are burdened by grief but ultimately find peace, solace, and freedom with the aid of "the angels in their corners" mentioned in Rux's text. Halfway through the work, there is a palpable shift in energy as the music changes to an undulating, pulsing lullaby by North African vocalist Yacoub, indicating that the winds of change are blowing. Brown also makes use of music by Rahsaan Roland Kirk.

The Subtle One (2014)

Time: 10 Minutes. 6 Dancers

Music: Jason Moran and Tarus Mateen

Set to a jazz suite of the same name by Jason Moran and his trio, this work-in-progress highlights the more contemporary side of artistic director Ronald K. Brown's blended dance vocabulary. *The Subtle One* is an affirmation of how the inspirational presence of another being influences how one moves physically and spiritually in life's dance.

On Earth Together (2011)

Time: 40 Minutes. 6-8 Dancers & optional community component

Music: Stevie Wonder

The piece takes its name from Stevie Wonder's moving ballad, *You and I*. It is a study in compassion and relationships - not just between individuals, but between individuals and the world around them. In several moments, there are pairs dancing with, and to, each other, expressing the theme of connectedness and care. *On Earth Together's* message of making the world a better place has been expanded with a new community element which incorporates local citizens, aged from 7 to 77, as dancers in certain sections.

Grace (1999/2004)

Time: 27 Minutes. 6-8 Dancers

Music: Duke Ellington, Roy Davis Jr., Fela Anikulapo Kuti

Originally choreographed in 1999 for the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, *Grace* became a part of the Evidence repertory in 2003. This piece is an homage and ode to God's grace and the legacy of Mr. Ailey. The dance journey weaves the story of a Woman/God coming down to earth, with angels as aides, to round up those who are behaving as if they don't understand God's Grace.



Come Ye (2002)

Time: 27 Minutes. 6-8 Dancers

Music: Nina Simone, Fela Anikulapo Kuti

Inspired by the music and legacy of Nina Simone, *Come Ye* utilizes a fusion of African, modern ballet, and social dance styles to summon warriors, angels, and activists dedicated to the pursuit of liberation and peace amidst the struggles of human conflict.

Torch (2013)

Time: 18 Minutes. 6 Dancers

Music: Teddy Douglas 7 DJ Zinhle featuring Busiswa Gqulu mixed by RKB *Torch* was created as a celebration of perseverance and self-determination. Set to the music of various artists including DJ Zinhle, this dance of celebration honors the legacy of Beth Young, a phenomenal dance enthusiast and supporter of Evidence. Beth studied with the company for over 15 years before losing her battle with cancer on January 6, 2012.

Lessons | "March" (1995)

Time: 10 Minutes. 2 Dancers

From his larger work *Lessons*, Ron K. Brown brings us "March," an extraordinary duet set to a speech by Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. that speaks to the value of a man. The movement embodies the sentiment of the text to illustrate a physical story of perseverance, dignity, and collective strength and care-taking.

Why You Follow (2014)

Time: 24 Minutes. 6-8 Dancers

Music: Zap Mama, Gordheaven & Juliano, The Allenko Brotherhood, and Heavy Quartz

Developed as part of a cultural exchange between Cuba and the United State, *Why You Follow* is a rousing exploration of the rhythmic pace of Afro-Cuba. To be able to lead, we must first learn to follow - the beat of our hearts, the tides of time, and the call of the drum. The work is divided into four short movements: Open Heart, Commitment, The Path, and Faithfully Forward.

Photo Credits: Matt Karas

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Technical Riders available at www.pmgartsmgt.com