

ALONZO KING BIOGRAPHY

Alonzo King has been called a visionary choreographer who is altering the way we look at ballet. King calls his works 'thought structures' created by the manipulation of energies that exist in matter through laws that govern the shapes and movement directions of everything that exists.

King has works in the repertoires of the Swedish Royal Ballet, Frankfurt Ballet, Joffrey Ballet, Alvin Ailey, Hong Kong Ballet, NCDT, and Washington Ballet. He has worked extensively in opera, television, and film, and has choreographed works for prima ballerina Natalia Makarova and film star Patrick Swayze. Known for collaborations, seminal works include 2001, People of the Forest choreographed with Baka artists from Central African Republic, and Long River High Sky, 2007, with China's Shaolin Monks. He has collaborated with actor Danny Glover, legendary jazz saxophonist Pharaoh Sanders, Hamza al Din, Pawel Szymanski and tabla master Zakir Hussain. In December of 2009 King's brand new interpretation of Scheherazade opened the Monaco Dance Forum Festival, part of a multi-year project.

Renowned for his skill as a teacher, Mr. King has been guest ballet master for dance companies around the globe. He is the director of the international touring company, Alonzo King LINES Ballet housed in San Francisco with the AKLB School, Training Program, Dance Center, and BFA program in Dance in partnership with Dominican University of California.

In 2005 King was named a Master of Choreography by the Kennedy Center. In 2005, he received New York's Bessie Award for Choreographer/Creator and in 2006, he received the US Artists award. In June 2008, Alonzo King was honored with the Jacob's Pillow Creativity Award in recognition of his contribution to "moving ballet in a very 21st-century direction." San Francisco Mayor Gavin Newsom presented the Mayor's Art Award to Alonzo King in October 2008, calling him a "San Francisco treasure." He is also the recipient of the NEA Choreographer's Fellowship, Irvine Fellowship in Dance, National Dance Project and the National Dance Residency Program, as well as an Isadora Duncan Award. He has received the Hero Award from Union Bank, the Los Angeles Lehman Award, and the Excellence Award from KGO, and was chosen a recipient of the San Francisco Foundation's 2007 Community Leadership Award.

A former commissioner for the city and county of San Francisco, and a writer and lecturer on the art of dance, King's contributions appear in the books Masters of Movement: Portraits of American Choreographers and in Dance Masters: Interviews with Legends of Dance. He was awarded the Green Honors Chair Professorship from Texas Christian University, and holds an honorary Doctorate from Dominican University of California and California Institute of the Arts.