

The Rothrock Family Residency Fund and Middlebury Dance Department present

Omari Wiles

April 21, 2023 · Mahaney Arts Center, Dance Theatre

(THAT'S CUTE)

Omari Wiles, Dancer/Choreographer

Middlebury College participants

Josh Glucksman '24.5

Brys Peralta-Grant '25

Mel Leider '23

Graham Shelor '23

Luke Stovak '23

Michael Abbatiello, Technical Director

Sheila Camacho '25, Video; Jayda Gilyard '26, Light Board

Program

They don't care

solo by Omari Wiles

improvisational piece

Music: Michael Jackson FT Inkie,

They don't really care about Us x Jericho (Mashup Mix)

LBA (*Lincoln Center / Works & Process at the Guggenheim Commissioned Work*)

NEW YORK IS BURNING (*Crossover 'Commercialism'*)

Music: Crossover Commercialism

Artist: Wunmi @wunmi_olaiyaofficial

Jazzy Hands

Omari Wiles and Students

Music: Lalah Hathaway, Remixed by DJ Twinkle Toes *Jazzy Hands HA*

LBA (*Works & Process at the Guggenheim Commissioned Work*)

FT Omari Wiles and Karma Styles

Music: *Corona Virus Healing* by DJ Black Coffee @realblackcoffee

That's Cute Now Walk

runway, improvisational work by students

Music: DJ Twinkle Toes *Drunk N HA*

Please see reverse

LBA

See dancer and member of @lesballetafrik #YuheeYang's #WPAVirtualCommission-

WPA Virtual Commission by Yuhee Yang

Director/Choreographer: Yuhee Yang (@yuheeyang)

Director of Photography: Nen Films (@nen_films)

Shade Fest

Inspired by Rashaad Newsome's Shade Composition

Many thanks to the Rothrock Family Residency Fund, the Mahaney Arts Center staff, and the Middlebury Dance Department: Michael Abbatiello, Kari Wolfe Borni, Christal Brown, Meshi Chavez, Deborah Felmeth, Laurel Jenkins, Ronald Rost, Tiffany Wilbur, and Lida Winfield.

Artist Biography

Ousmane "Omari" Wiles is an African American West African and Vogue dancer. Wiles is best known as, legendary Omari NiNa Oricci, founder of The House of Nina Oricci [est. OCT. 2019] and Creative Director of LES BALLET AFRIK dance company.

Wiles was born in West Africa Senegal. He began his training in West African dance at the age of 6 years old, under the tutelage of his mother and father, who owned a dance company. Wiles joined his mother [Marie Basse Wiles] and father [BaBa Olukose Anthony Wiles] and became the assistant director of the family company, The Maimouna Ketia School of African Dance. Working with master African dancers, Wiles evolved the skills needed to teach the art of traditional African dance. Venturing further into the world of dance, Wiles found himself learning, training and falling in love with other styles such as Hip-Hop, House, Modern, Jazz, and Vogue.

Through his involvement with the ballroom scene, his love and passion for Vogue (dance) grew. As his notoriety in the ballroom scene grew, it began to grow outside of the ballroom scene as well. Wiles has had the opportunity to work with many artists, featuring his range of dance. His choreography has been featured with Janet Jackson, Beyoncé, John Legend, Jidenna, and Rashaad Newsome, and he has worked as a featured dancer, showcasing Afrobeats [with Goldlink, Jidenna, Maleek Berry, and Wunmi], West African dance [with Janet Jackson, Beyoncé, and Forces], and Vogue [with Rashaad Newsome, Lady Gaga, Madonna, and Jennifer Hudson]. Wiles has been published in *Dance Magazine* "Top 25 to Watch", *Korean Vogue*, *British Vogue* in a spread featuring Naomi Campbell, *The Observer*, *Dance Mogul Magazine*, and *The New York Times*. Wiles also appeared with his house [the house of Nina Oricci] as a contestant on *Legendary Season 2* on HBOMax.

Wiles is now evolving his own style of dance with his company LES BALLET AFRIK, blending African, Vogue, Modern, and House as one. He and his company have performed at the Joyce Theater, the Guggenheim, and the New York Metropolitan Museum.

