

The Creative Team:

Vincent E. Thomas, dancer, choreographer and teacher, received his MFA in Dance from Florida State University and a BME in Music from the University of South Carolina. His choreography has been presented at various national and international venues including DUMBO Festival (NY), Velocity Festival (DC), Philly Fringe (PA), Barcelona and Madrid, Spain, Edinburgh Fringe Festival (UK-Scotland), Avignon, France, Athens, Greece, and Bari, Italy. Vincent is a 2012-13 American Dance Institute Incubator Artist (MD), an Urban Bush Women BOLD Facilitator, co-artistic director and faculty member for the UBW Summer Institutes (NY and LA), and an Associate Professor of Dance at Towson University (MD). Thomas was awarded his first NPN Creation Fund in January 2015 in support of *What's Going On*.

Ralph Glenmore is a former principal dancer with The Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater. He has performed in several Broadway productions, including *A Chorus Line*, *Bob Fosse's Dancin'*, *Reggae* and *Bubblin' Brown Sugar*. He served as Resident Dance Supervisor for *The Lion King - Los Angeles Production*. He has worked on several productions with Debbie Allen and The Debbie Allen Dance Academy, The Lula Washington Dance Theater, The Liz Lerman Dance Exchange, The Duke Ellington School of the Arts, The Dance Institute of Washington as Instructor. He has recently been awarded The Legend of Dance Award presented by The Black College Dance Exchange. He is now Professor of Jazz Dance at American University and an instructor at The Washington Ballet @ Thearc.

Sylvia Soumah's formal training began in Cincinnati, Ohio, where she majored in Modern Dance and Vocal Music with various modern, jazz and voice instructors at the school for Creative and Performing Arts. In those early years, she performed with the Cincinnati Opera. Further studies in modern dance and creative movement led Ms. Soumah to expand her interest to Early Childhood Education at the University of Cincinnati. In 1992, she began her extensive study of West African Dance under the tutelage of Aidoo Holmes, Founder/Artistic Director of Wose Dance Theater. With Wose, she had the privilege to study and tour with some of the best African artists of the National Ballet of the Republic of Guinea, Moustapha Bangoura, Mabinity Bangoura, Legendary Fadiba Olare, Djembe Fola Mamady Keita and Yamousa Soumah.

The Company:

Heinz Adjakwah began his dance training in his senior year of high school and has since been affiliated with companies such as Morgan State Modern Dance Ensemble, Baltimore Dance Project, Howard County Ballet and many other dance projects. He was featured in a duet by Alexis DeVance, which was presented at the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts during the American College Dance Conference in 2014. His outstanding performance with his duet partner won the Outstanding Student Choreography Award from the American College Dance Conference and *Dance Magazine*. The following year, his choreography was chosen to showcase at the

American College Dance Conference. He is very excited to be a part of *What's Going On* and cannot wait to hear the audience response to the company's hard work with this captivating project.

Ronya-Lee Anderson holds a BA in Dance, a BA in English and a Masters in Divinity. A former member of the Chuck Davis African American Dance Ensemble and Liz Lerman's Dance Exchange, Ronya-Lee has travelled extensively performing and choreographing. Her work has been commissioned by Duke University, PG Community College, PG Arts Council, Dance For All Youth Company in South Africa, DancEthos and Joy of Motion's Youth Dance Ensemble. Ronya-Lee is currently on the Dance Department faculty at Northwestern High School and serves as Artistic Director for her company, Dancing by the Power: Movement Matters. She is entering her second season with RebolleDance and is thrilled to be a part of *What's Going On*.

Rita Jean Kelly Burns is originally from Williamsburg, VA, was inspired by the movie *Flashdance* and has been training, performing and choreographing ever since. Rita's background is in jazz / modern dance, musical theater and in the dance music culture. She has performed and worked with several well-known, respected artists including, Adrian Bolton, Bill T Jones, Nicholas Leichter Dance Company, Gesel Mason, Monstah Black, Ultra Naté, Poji Records, Tony Powell, Deborah Riley, David Rousseve, Helanius Wilkins as well as with former House Majority Leader and *Dancing With the Stars* contestant, Tom Delay.

Patrick Casimir is a Boston native, who began to hone in on his love and appreciation of the performing arts in his early years of junior high. While finishing a degree in Business at Florida State University, Patrick directed a Tallahassee dance company that created evening length productions and toured throughout Florida. Patrick moved to Orlando where he earned a MA in Business Administration, as well a BA in Dance, which brought him to perform throughout the United States and abroad. Patrick augmented his training with faculty and choreographers including Michael Foley, Andee Scott, Jeanne Travers, Kevin Iga Jeff, Gary Abbott and Jennifer Archibald.

Stephanie Crockett is currently a senior at Towson University majoring in Dance Performance along with K-12 Certification. She has trained all over the United States including Dance Theater of Harlem and Alonzo Kings' LINES Ballet. Stephanie loves dancing and can't wait to show her passion in *What's Going On*.

Sara Herrera hails from Fort Worth, Texas where she received extensive training from the Booker T. Washington High School for the Performing and Visual Arts in Dallas, TX. Sara holds a BFA in Modern Dance from the University of the Arts in Philadelphia, PA. Currently, Sara is a freelance artist in DC, the director of her own company, ArasDance and runs the Petworth Dance Project, an outdoor dance series in DC. Sara is extremely excited to be working with the talented cast and choreographers of *What's Going On*, she is constantly inspired and challenged by this experience.

Jessica Emily Peasant Mncube has a BFA from California Institute of the Arts (CALARTS) in California and studied at London Contemporary Dance School in England. She was a member of several community-based companies in the Columbia, South Carolina area including a founding member of Eboni Dance Theatre and a member of Columbia City Jazz Company and The Power Company (POCO). Jessica has danced professionally with Paul Brown's La Sparizione, Moonlight Gypsy Productions, the Los Angeles-based Kin Dance Company, Louise Reiche's LA Choreographers and Dancers, Zadonu Music and Dance Company, Michelle Zeitlin's MORE ZAP Production and Lesole's Dance Project. She has performed commercially with Summer Jam Hip-Hop and R & B 100.3 The Beat, a nationally-syndicated radio station, Los Angeles and internationally at Crossover Bali and the Payangan Festival in Indonesia.

Tarik O'Meally is a native of Prince George's County. He recently received a B.F.A in Dance and Choreography from Virginia Commonwealth University. Tarik is super excited to be performing in *What's Going On*.

Christie Bartholomew (Apprentice) a native New Orleanian, has been involved in the professional dance, cheerleading and sports entertainment industry for over 10 years. She acquired her BA in Mass Communication and Dance Theatre from Louisiana State University. Subsequent work includes Walt Disney World, Universal Studios and the Orlando Magic, where she toured with Armed Forces Entertainment throughout Europe and Asia. Since relocating to DC, she performed in Atlas INTERSECTIONS, Velocity Festival, Breaking Glass Project (NYC), WAVE Rising Series (NY) and at The Howard Theatre with DEVIATED THEATRE, Taurus Broadhurst Dance, Derek Brown and VanHook Productions. As Instructor, Choreographer and Arts Manager, she worked with Joy of Motion Dance Center, featuring a solo work in Douglas Yeuell's Summer Stock. She is Associate Director of African Music & Dance at Bishop McNamara High School (BMHS) and Instructor at The Washington Ballet @ Thearc. Her upcoming work will be featured in BMHS's SANKOFA Production of *MO, the deliverer*.

Rosalynd Harris (Apprentice) Born in Hawaii and raised in Prince George's County, Maryland, Rosalynd began dancing at the age of 6. Highly involved in all types of recreational activities including dance, theater, orchestra and basketball, she finally consolidated her attention to dance in high school. She studied modern dance performance at The University of the Arts in Philadelphia where she was taught by the likes of Karen Brown, Zane Booker, Kim Bears-Bailey, Roni Koresh and many more. Being a part of *What's Going On* is a dream come true for Rosalynd, who actually shares a birthday with Marvin Gaye!