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Dance Place Announces LightLines Residency Program In Partnership With BlackLight Summit

Inaugural Resident to Host Masterclass At Close of Residency

WASHINGTON, DC (January 9, 2025): **Dance Place**, DC's hub for dance, and **BlackLight Summit** are excited to announce a new residency partnership: The *LightLines Residency Program* is a new residency program from BlackLight Summit in partnership with Dance Place, designed to illuminate pathways for emerging dance artists as they develop their artistic practice and build their careers. The program's name evokes multiple meanings: the lines of light that map our understanding of the world, the ways light reveals what was hidden in darkness, and the bright threads that connect artists to resources, community, and possibility.

LightLines centers artists who are themselves sources of illumination - those charting new aesthetic territories and building innovative practices at the intersections of dance traditions. The program recognizes that artistic development isn't linear but rather acts like light itself: refracting, reflecting, bending around obstacles and sometimes needing to travel through darkness before emerging transformed.

This inaugural residency is supported by Alternate ROOTS Partners for Change Program and the IABD Black Art Fund. The first artist in residency is Claude "CJ" Johnson. A Chicago native, Johnson is a dancer, choreographer, and movement director based in Brooklyn NY. After completing his studies at The Chicago Academy for the Arts and SUNY Purchase College, where he was awarded the Adopt-A-Dancer Scholarship, Johnson has had the opportunity to perform works by Merce Cunningham, Trisha Brown, Twyla Tharp, Mark Morris, Aszure Barton, Zoe|Juniper, Johannes Weiland, Kevin Wynn, Princess Madoki, and many more. He was also a full-time company dancer with A.I.M. by Kyle Abraham from 2017 to 2022, during which he became a 2021 Princess Grace nominee.

Johnson is currently a guest dancer for companies and choreographers such as Trisha Brown Dance Company, NVA & Guess, Doug Varone and Dancers, Rashawn and Silas, Keerati Jinakunwiphat, and many others. He has also participated in his own choreographic residencies through the Baryshnikov Arts Center, The Joyce Theater, Motive Brooklyn, Cuny Dance Initiative, and many more. As a performer, choreographer, and Black queer artist, Johnson dances to translate the human experience for audiences, recognizing dance as the most powerful catalyst for self-expression and social change. In any artistic space, he believes his responsibility is to expand the knowledge and perspective of his community's vast experiences.



In addition to the residency, Johnson will be teaching an open-level class at the Edgewood Arts Center (3415 8th St NE, Washington, DC 20017) on Saturday, January 17 from 2:30-4 PM. Registration for the class can be completed [here](#).

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About Dance Place

Rooted in Washington, D.C., Dance Place supports movement artists by creating opportunities for creative development, performance, and education. The organization strengthens the dance field by investing deeply in artists and centering those who have been systemically excluded from it.