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**THE NATIONAL CENTER FOR CHOREOGRAPHY-AKRON AND
THE UNIVERSITY OF AKRON SCHOOL OF DANCE, THEATRE, AND ARTS
ADMINISTRATION ANNOUNCE
2024 COMMUNITY COMMISSIONING RESIDENCY ARTIST**



Fist and Heel Performance Group (photo Paula Court) and Reggie Wilson (photo Aitor Mendilibar)

AKRON, OH (November 1, 2024) — **The National Center for Choreography - Akron** (NCCAkron) and **The University of Akron School of Dance, Theatre, and Arts Administration** (DTAA) are proud to announce the 2024 Community Commissioning Residency artist, as a part of the Ideas in Motion program. Revered choreographer **Reggie Wilson** (Brooklyn, NY) worked with UA dance students on a piece that will be performed November 22-23 as part of the University of Akron Dance Company Fall Concert.

Reggie Wilson, founder of Reggie Wilson/Fist and Heel Performance Group and director of that company for 35+ years, was selected for the NCCAkron/DTAA **Ideas in Motion** initiative to share wisdom and opportunities with The University of Akron arts community. Reggie Wilson/Fist and Heel Performance Group is a Brooklyn-based dance company whose mission is to create, research, develop, and present new performance work that investigates the intersections of culture and movement practices. The company's body of work draws from the

spiritual and mundane traditions of Africa and its Diaspora; Fist and Heel believes in the potential of the body as a valid means for knowing.

From October 7-18, Reggie Wilson was in residence in Akron working with students from the University of Akron DTAA program, with support from Fist and Heel company members. He rehearsed with the dancers every day for two weeks, adapting an earlier duet from his repertory and setting it on eight dancers. This work will premiere as part of UADC's Fall Concert, November 22-23, 2024.

Working with the dance students and reexamining the foundational ideas from his very early dances then informed another piece Wilson is developing for his company; that work, *The Reclamation*, will premiere in New York City in April 2025.

Performance Details

University of Akron Dance Company Fall Concert

November 22-23, 2024

Sandefur Theatre, Guzzetta Hall, University of Akron

Tickets: \$15 general admission / \$5 University of Akron students

<https://ci.ovationtix.com/36772/production/1216418>

“Reggie Wilson is an incredibly respected artist in the dance field; his choreographic wisdom and artistry are singular,” shared Christy Bolingbroke, Executive/Artistic Director of NCCAkron. “Describing himself as a ‘dance ethnographer,’ Reggie aligns with one of NCCAkron’s goals to feature research and development in dance at an urban research university and be a bridge to the world at large.”

“The University of Akron is fortunate to have a collaborator and partner in the National Center for Choreography-Akron,” commented **Buchtel College of Arts and Sciences Dean Mitchell McKinney**. “As a national hub for innovation, research, and development within the dance and arts administration fields, NCCAkron programs like Ideas in Motion and Community Commissioning Residencies augment the UA student experience by providing meaningful engagement and invaluable real-life interactions for our dance students.”

NCCAkron is an independent non-profit organization with offices based at the University of Akron.

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About NCCAkron

The National Center for Choreography-Akron supports the research and development of new work in dance by exploring the full potential of the creative process. In addition to offering studio and technical residencies to make new work, activities focus on catalyzing dialogue and experimentation; creating proximity among artists and dance thinkers; and aggregating resources around dance making. For more information, visit nccakron.org.

A discrete organization of its own, separate from the University, the establishment and general operation of NCCAkron are made possible by the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation.

About Ideas in Motion

Ideas in Motion is a joint initiative supported by NCCAkron, The University of Akron, The University of Akron Foundation, and the Mary Schiller Myers Lecture Series in the Arts. The annual fall phase of Ideas in Motion is the Community Commissioning Residency, where a nominated and selected artist engages and works across the community. The spring phase of Ideas in Motion is a capsule series called “21st Century Dance Practices”, where working dance artists are invited to guest teach classes in a dance course at The University of Akron.

About Reggie Wilson

Reggie Wilson is Executive/Artistic Director, Choreographer, and Performer of Fist and Heel Performance Group. His work draws from the cultures of Africans in the Americas combined with post-modern elements to create “post-African/Neo-HooDoo Modern dances.” Wilson has lectured, taught, conducted community workshops, and has been presented nationally and internationally. He is the recipient of awards including a Doris Duke.

Performing Artist Award, and a Joyce Foundation Award for his work Moses(es) which along with his critically acclaimed works CITIZEN, and POWER, are three works that continue to tour. He is currently developing *The Reclamation* to premiere in April 2025 at the NYU Skirball in New York City. fistandheelperformancegroup.org

About The University of Akron School of Dance, Theatre & Arts Administration

The University of Akron School of Dance, Theatre, and Arts Administration (DTAA) prepares students for successful performing, academic, and administrative careers in the arts. Its diverse student body works with distinguished, award-winning faculty in classes that offer technical training, theoretical study, practical experience, and creative skill-building. The Dance Program offers both a B.F.A. and a B.A. with Business Cognate. The school’s M.A. in Arts Administration provides students the education necessary to work in all disciplines of the non-profit arts. DTAA is headed by Todd Gaffke, D.M.A. For more information, visit uakron.edu/dtaa.

About the Mary Schiller Myers Lecture Series in the Arts

Ideas in Motion is made possible by the support of The University of Akron Foundation’s Mary Schiller Myers Lecture Series in the Arts. NCCAkron is grateful to Stephen E. Myers, trustee of the University of Akron Foundation and the Myers Foundation and son of Mary Schiller Myers, for his support. Established in 1979 under the sponsorship of the Mary and Louis S. Myers Foundation, this endowed lecture series brings significant representatives of the arts to campus and community annually, to share their particular talents with students, faculty, and residents of the community. These events can include performances, lectures, and masterclasses.