

Lula Washington Dance Theatre – Quote Sheet



PRESS QUOTES

“Live jazz. Athletic bodies, jumping and undulating. Rousing, infectiously enthusiastic performances by fine dancers.” –New York Times.

“Ms. Washington’s choreographic vocabulary comprises modern dance, low crouching and stamping movements inspired by African dance and, occasionally, ballet. It’s a perfectly pleasant and functional mix, and in “We Wore the Mask” Ms. Washington displays a sure theatricality that is captivating.” –New York Times.

“The dancers' acting, dancing and occasional singing slowly transformed their wide-eyed expressions into mirrors for humanity, giving the piece's tragic end a striking power. One girl left the stage, chased by an unseen cop, and returned beaten and disheveled to die in Clark's arms as his singsong turned to a wail.” -- Clare Croft, The Washington Post regarding Games.

“The smart, strong and energetic Lula Washington Dance Theatre, celebrating its 25th anniversary ...**proved that American dance is alive, well and growing out west.** The handsome multi-ethnic company of 10 dancers provided an evening-long explosion of style and attitude.” This is an exciting company that inspires optimism about the future of American dance. -- Sheila Abrams, New Jersey Recorder.

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“Ms. Washington is an original, in part because of the concern for social issues that informs some of her dances and the gentle but persistent way she addresses those issues.” -- Jennifer Dunning, *New York Times*.

LULA WASHINGTON DANCE THEATRE - New Yorkers don't get many chances to see the work and company of this quietly innovative Los Angeles-based modern dance choreographer, whose blend of African and modern dance, ballet and performance art often expresses political and social commentary in the form of a folk tale, with humor and passion. Go for it.” – *New York Times*.



“Washington’s choreography for her talented dancers set aside the “Nutcracker” story in favor of interpreting the music itself. The result was a splendidly diverse set of dances...all of it done with the high quality that is an essential element in the company’s performances.” – Don Hickman, *Los Angeles Times*

“As a choreographer and company director, Lula Washington is doing something more than right. At a time when flashy technique often seduces with surface dazzle, the Lula Washington Dance Theater projects a remarkably vivid mix of purity and dynamism. In short, there is a boisterous and refreshing quality about this marvelous interracial company from Los Angeles.” – *Anna Kisselgoff, New York Times*.

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“...Washington’s troupe is now stronger than ever, able to enliven the choreography with a vivid expressiveness while performing at a level that is often simply jaw-dropping....Hands down this was one of the most profound performances not only of the year, but of a lifetime...” -- *Dance Magazine*

“They are a wonderful company. They are superb working with students.” --*Brian Bemel, Fred Kavli Theatre, Thousand Oaks, CA.*

“Lula and Company provided interactive thought provoking opportunities to nourish and foster change, that only special artists can!” --*Terry Yagura, Arts for the Schools, North Lake Tahoe, CA.*

“Very sincere and talented company. Lula is appealing and excites the audience with her spirit and love of dance.” --*Bill Martin, California State University, Northridge.*

“*Flyin’ With the wind [Dances for McCoy]* was the highlight of this suite. Filled with unabashed joy and a new, more personal movement vocabulary and finally employing some unison phrases, we were, as a group, uplifted and flyin’ with hope and gladness. Ms. Washington does not leave us without her belief in the resiliency and faith of the human heart.” --*Madeleine Swift, Criticdance.com.*



“There is an extraordinary piece within *Om* ...The ensemble performs remarkably with the bloodlust of ancestral imperative colored by memories of their own personal mutilations not so

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far in the past... We are left with an undeniable ember of hope that perhaps a new consciousness has been born within this individual woman and that this will serve to guide others who will come after her.” --*Madeleine Swift, Criticaldance.com.*



“...the unapologetically street-inspired Mahal Dances, could intoxicate any child into loving and appreciating dance as an art form, as it did this audience.” – New York, *Dance Magazine*

“Ms. Washington is a gifted original whose imaginative dance and theater intelligence was evident.” --Jennifer Dunning, *New York Times*

“These abstract pieces treated dancers as objects in motion, yet managed to pull human stories from them all the same.” – *Arizona Republic*

“...her dancers show us pain, fear, anger, joy, reliance and defiance of black American lives...It’s been a long time since I literally got shivers at the theater...” –*Albany, Metroland*

“One of the most culturally and politically conscious dance companies in California...’90’s modern dance at its best. Exciting technique and challenging repertoire that provide food for the heart and mind.” –*Honolulu Weekly*