

# FirstWorks ARTS LEARNING

Study Guide - Celebrate Black History Month!

Rennie Harris Puremovement



## Student Arts Learning Matinee

Friday, February 24, 2017, 10:00 - 11:00 am  
The Vets, 1 Avenue of the Arts, Providence

# About FirstWorks ARTS LEARNING

Welcome to the FirstWorks Arts Learning program! You are joining students from across Rhode Island who participate in our program to connect our audiences with the arts. This includes the development of relevant, customized study guides, teacher training, in-school workshops, and daytime "edu-matinees." We are one of the only organizations in the state that creates direct, sustained, and goal-oriented connections between youth and leading artists, with the goal of improving academic achievement, broadening world views, and expanding career possibilities. FirstWorks Arts Learning has grown from serving 125 students to reaching 4,300 students annually.

Teacher Study Guides, such as this one, relating to each artist are provided to educators, giving them the opportunity to use the student lecture/demonstration matinee experience as an educational tool in their classrooms. Question and answer sessions are frequently offered after these student matinees, providing an opportunity for students to interact directly with the performers.

FirstWorks Arts Learning Programs run from the start of the school year through PVDfest in early June. The program is generously made possible through the continuous support from businesses through our Adopt-A-School Program, local and national foundations, and community donors.

For more information about our Arts Learning Program please contact Kathleen McAreavey, Education and Community Coordinator, at 401-421-4278, or by e-mail: [kathleenm@first-works.org](mailto:kathleenm@first-works.org). To learn about our Adopt-A-School Program or support our Arts Learning Program please contact Isabelle Tadmoury, Director of Development, at 401-421-4278, or by e-mail: [isabelle@first-works.org](mailto:isabelle@first-works.org).

Thank you for connecting your students to these unforgettable, powerful, live performance experiences. Enjoy the show!

## 2016 / 2017 SEASON EDUCATION SPONSORS



# What to Expect

## Rennie Harris

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Dr. Lorenzo (Rennie) Harris is the Founder, Artistic Director and Choreographer, Director of the Rennie Harris Puremovement hip hop dance company, founded in 1992. Puremovement is the longest-running touring hip hop dance company in the world. Rennie was born in North Philadelphia and grew up in an African American community. Dr. Harris and his company are dedicated to preserving and disseminating hip hop culture, rooted in the belief that hip hop is the most important original expression of a new generation, one that expresses universal themes that extend beyond racial, religious, and economic boundaries, and that can help bridge these divisions. Harris is committed to presenting a sincere view of the essence and spirit of hip hop rather than the commercially exploited stereotypes portrayed by the media. Puremovement was chosen as 1 of 4 American dance companies for President Obama's "Dance Motion USA," serving as cultural ambassadors. Harris remains at the forefront of hip hop culture and continues to challenge misconceptions and assumptions about hip hop.



### What to expect

An ensemble of dancers demonstrating various styles of hip hop dancing, as well as styles that influenced the genre.

Discussion about the origins of the genre and the impact hip hop has had on our society and culture.

Video of key elements from hip hop culture and the history that informed it.

A live DJ spinning beats for the performers.

# "Getting" Dance

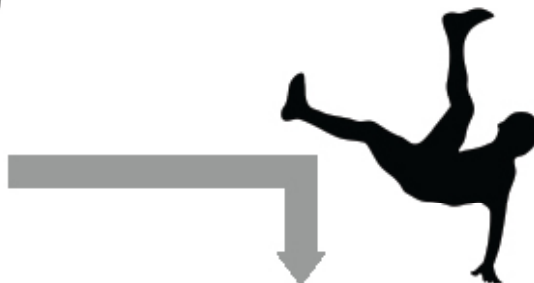
(also, things to explore while watching)

## A STEP BY STEP GUIDE TO "GETTING" DANCE (ALSO, THINGS TO EXPLORE WHILE WATCHING)

(ADAPTED FROM THE PERFORMING ARTS SOCIETY OF ACADIANA)

### WATCH THE PATTERNS CREATED BY THE DANCERS ON STAGE

- What groupings do you see?
- Which dancers seem to be working together or in opposition?
- How many dancers do you see in the movement?
- Are the dancers all moving or are some using stillness?
- Do the dancers form any shapes with their bodies?
- Do the dancers seem to be imitating any moves or actions from everyday life?



### CHECK OUT THE COSTUMES, SET, LIGHTS

- What structures or fabrics are on stage with the dancers? Do they make the stage look like another place?
- How do the lights change in the different pieces? What colors do you see in the lights? Do you see any patterns in the lights or shadows?
- How do the costumes contribute to the performance? Do the colors, shapes, or textures the dancers wear tell you anything?

### LISTEN TO THE MUSIC

- Is the music fast or slow?
- Is the rhythm even, or choppy? Does it change?
- If you close your eyes and just listen to the music, what do you picture? What images do you see?



### QUESTIONS TO EXPLORE, POST-PERFORMANCE

- What kind of emotions did you have when you were watching the show? What kind of emotions did you see being expressed by the performers?
- What kind of movements did you see? Fast or slow? High or low? Smooth or jumpy?
- How did the performers hold their bodies during the dances? How was their positioning different or similar to other dance you have seen?
- What did the music feel like? What effect did it have on you as an audience member? How did the rhythms affect you?
- Did you see any elements of storytelling or narrative in this performance? If yes, in what way?
- Were there any moments in the performance that made you think of a different art form or a different kind of expression (performance-based, visual art, literature, etc.)? What was it and why?

# Timeline...

## HIP HOP MUSIC: A TIMELINE



### KEY PLAYERS IN HIP HOP MUSIC

- SUGARHILL GANG
- GRANDMASTER FLASH AND THE FURIOUS FIVE
- LL COOL J
- RUN DMC
- BEASTIE BOYS
- PUBLIC ENEMY
- SALT-N-PEPA
- N.W.A
- QUEEN LATIFAH
- DE LA SOUL
- A TRIBE CALLED QUEST
- NAS
- WU-TANG CLAN
- THE NOTORIOUS B.I.G.
- MOS DEF
- TALIB KWELI
- JAY-Z
- THE FUGEES
- LAURYN HILL
- MISSY ELLIOT
- OUTKAST
- KANYE WEST
- NICKI MINAJ
- KENDRICK LAMAR

### MID 1960S

Breakbeats, a break where everything in the song stops (except drums/percussion), rise in popularity following the success of James Brown's album, *Live at the Apollo* and his song, Funky Drummer. Breakbeats would go on to provide the basis for hip hop music.

### LATE 1960S

Last Poets and Gil Scott Heron begin recording poetry over jazz influenced music. These recordings, which were politically charged, would go on to influence many socially conscious rappers.

### 1971

Aretha Franklin releases Rock Steady, a funk/gospel song that provides a basis for hip hop.

### MID 1970S

African American and Latino teenagers in the poorest districts of New York City begin developing hip hop; a subculture that produced music, breakdancing and graffiti art. At this time, hip hop was typically performed at discos and block parties in local neighborhoods and consisted of DJs and MCs. DJs would use two turntables and a DJ mixer to play two records non-stop. To make things more entertaining, MCs would rhyme to the beat of the music when introducing a DJ, which led to the creation of rapping.

### 1979

Rapper's Delight by The Sugarhill Gang is released and becomes a top-ten hit. The song is regarded as one of the first popular hip hop records, as well as, one of the first to be recorded.

### 1982

Grandmaster Flash and the Furious Five release *The Message*, one of the earliest socially-conscious hip hop recordings. The song addresses poverty, crime and living in a dangerous city.

### MID 1980S

Rappers, such as LL Cool J and Run DMC, begin adding melodic hooks to their music and producing hip hop singles. This is regarded as the beginning of hip hop's golden age.

### 1986

Salt-N-Pepa, one of hip hop's first all women groups, create a new style of hip hop known as hip hop pop.



# Timeline...

## HIP HOP MUSIC: A TIMELINE



### KEY TRACKS IN HIP HOP MUSIC

THE REVOLUTION WILL NOT BE TELEvised

- GIL SCOTT HERON

FUNKY DRUMMER - JAMES BROWN

ROCK STEADY - ARETHA FRANKLIN

RAPPER'S DELIGHT - SUGARHILL GANG

THE MESSAGE - GRANDMASTER FLASH AND

THE FURIOUS FIVE

IT'S TRICKY - RUN-D.M.C.

FIGHT THE POWER - PUBLIC ENEMY

REBEL WITHOUT A PAUSE - PUBLIC ENEMY

PUSH IT - SALT-N-PEPA

STRAIGHT OUTTA COMPTON (CLEAN

VERSION) - N.W.A.

ME, MYSELF, AND I - DE LA SOUL

LADIES FIRST - QUEEN LATIFAH

CAN I KICK IT? - A TRIBE CALLED QUEST

C.R.E.A.M. - WU-TANG CLAN

THIEVES IN THE NIGHT - BLACK STAR

(MOS DEF AND TALIB KWELI)

KILLING ME SOFTLY - THE FUGEES

CAN'T TAKE MY EYES OFF OF YOU -

LAURYN HILL

HEY YA! - OUTKAST

JESUS WALKS - KANYE WEST

GLORY - COMMON FT. JOHN LEGEND

UNTITLED 3 - KENDRICK LAMAR

### LATE 1980S

Public Enemy develops a new style of political hip hop to demand an end to injustice and racism.

### 1988

N.W.A. releases *Straight Outta Compton*, which is now regarded as one of the greatest hip hop albums due to its focus on injustice and police brutality in their neighborhood.

### EARLY 1990S

Producers begin using audio editing software and digital effects to create new styles of alternative hip hop. De La Soul, Queen Latifah and A Tribe Called Quest added jazz and R&B samples, while The Fugees incorporated elements of reggae and soul.

### MID 1990S

Nas, Wu-Tang Clan, Tupac and The Notorious B.I.G. develop gangsta rap - a genre of hardcore hip hop that addresses drugs, crime and other aspects of "gangsta" life.

### LATE 1990S

Common, Mos Def and Talib Kweli further develop socially-conscious hip hop, while rapping about political and social issues over jazz and funk grooves.

### 1999

*The Miseducation of Lauryn Hill* by Lauryn Hill (former member of The Fugees) becomes the first hip hop album to win the Grammy award for Album of the Year.

### EARLY 2000S

Hip hop becomes one of the most popular and successful genres of music worldwide.

### 2004

Kanye West releases *The College Dropout*, the first of a series of chart-topping alternative hip hop albums that helped change the direction of hip hop music. The album's success using alternative hip hop influences led to the decline of gangsta rap and to hip hop artists becoming increasingly experimental with their music.

### 2015

Kendrick Lamar releases *To Pimp a Butterfly*, which receives widespread critical acclaim for its incorporation of funk, jazz, soul and spoken word influences, as well as, its discussion of political and personal themes related to race, culture, identity and discrimination.

# HIP HOP COLORING PAGE

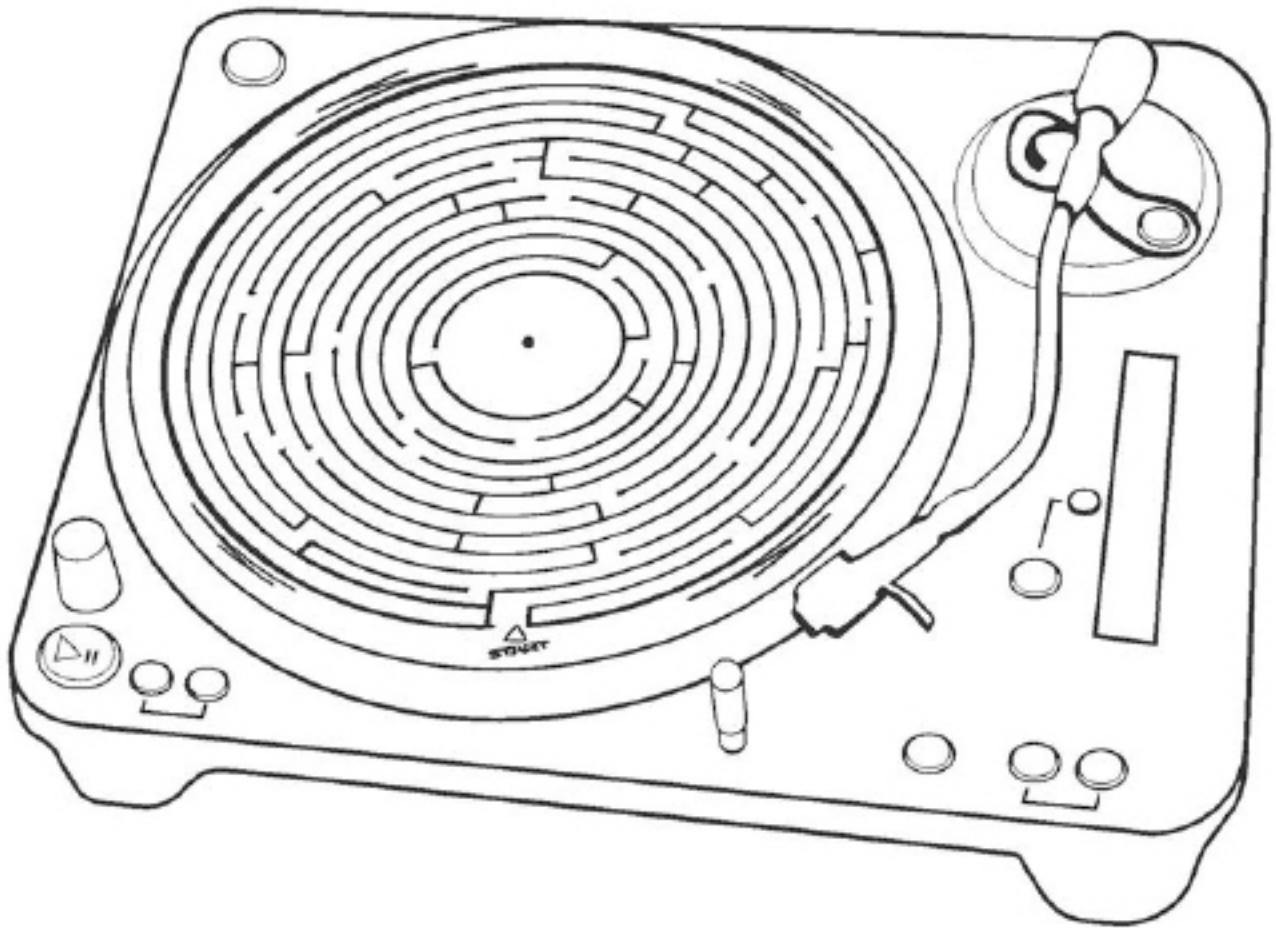
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# RECORD PLAYER MAZE COLORING PAGE

Can you find your way to the center of the record?

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## DJING:

A major component of hip hop in the early 1970s was DJing. Using multiple turn tables with the same record, the DJ would be able to change a song - make it repeat, make it longer or even scratch. They may be backing one or more MCs who would rap along side the music.





**FirstWorks Arts Learning** programs help K-12 students build connections between art, their academic subjects, and their lives.

These school-based **Arts Learning** programs meet grade-level standards and model pathways to the future through exposure to cultural firsts.

**FirstWorks Arts Learning** enables K-12 youth to interact directly with some of the most inventive, creative minds of our time, bolstering student achievement and broadening career possibilities.

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