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Yerba Buena Center for the Arts presents

The World Premiere of

Dearest Home

by Kyle Abraham / ABRAHAM.IN.MOTION



Photo: Matthew Baker and Connie Shau in Dearest Home. Courtesy of Tim Barden

***A world premiere exploring love, longing, and loss in an intimate setting,
leaving the audience to choose between music and ambient noise***

Tuesday–Saturday, May 16–20, 2017

YBCA Forum, 701 Mission St., San Francisco CA94103

SAN FRANCISCO – (March 29, 2017) Yerba Buena Center for the Arts (YBCA) is pleased to welcome back YBCA 100 honoree, MacArthur “Genius,” and Doris Duke Award–winning choreographer **Kyle Abraham** for the world premiere of his newest work, the YBCA-commissioned ***Dearest Home***.

Presented by Abraham’s company, **ABRAHAM.IN.MOTION**, *Dearest Home* is at its core about love, longing, and loss. Performed in YBCA’s intimate **Forum**, audience members will have the choice to watch the performance **with a composed score playing through headphones or with no score, instead listening to the ambient sound of bodies moving through space**. “The dancers have never rehearsed to music for this work, and won’t hear the music before or after they perform it,” explains Abraham. He adds, “In creating a show centered around **love, longing, and loss**, I felt it necessary to divorce myself from my

first love, music. Music is what brought me to dance. Specifically it was the music of Prince, whose life was taken all too soon—actually when I was in San Francisco for a creative residency for *Dearest Home*.”

The piece is comprised primarily of solos and duets generated through Abraham's YBCA residency activities since January 2016. He engaged in conversations and workshops with diverse groups here in San Francisco and Oakland, as well as in his own hometown in Michigan. The work also includes **a collaborative effort with UCLA to quantify audience empathy**, inviting the viewers to frame their viewing experience in different ways before the start of the performance. *Dearest Home* weaves together movement and vulnerability with cross-cultural conversation, scientific research, and community action.

The Chicago Tribune applauds Abraham's piece as “an exercise in attraction and repulsion. . . [*Dearest Home*] isn't floating but earthbound, monumental, stark.”

A breathtaking performer who is pioneering a unique choreography that combines his training in music, visual arts, and dance, Abraham has collaborated with artists ranging from the **Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater** to **Beyoncé**. His work fuses the youthful energy of **hip-hop** and urban dance with a strong grounding in modern and **contemporary dance**.

The ABRAHAM.IN.MOTION dancers are **Matthew Baker, Tamisha Guy, Catherine Ellis Kirk, Marcella Lewis, Jeremy “Jae” Neal, and Connie Shiau**. Choreography by **Kyle Abraham** in collaboration with the dancers. Original score by **Jerome Begin**. Set and lighting design by **Dan Scully**.

Dearest Home was commissioned by the Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, The Hopkins Center for the Arts, and with a grant from The O'Donnell-Green Music & Dance Foundation. Additional generous support was provided by the New England Foundation for the Arts' National Dance Project, with lead funding from the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation and the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, Princess Grace Foundation-USA Special Project Grant, and The MAP Fund, supported by the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation and the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation. Public support for *Dearest Home* was provided by The New York State Council on the Arts, and The National Endowment for the Arts. *Dearest Home* was developed during residencies at ASU Gammage, The Hopkins Center for the Arts, University Musical Society, and Yerba Buena Center for the Arts.

About Kyle Abraham, Artistic Director of [ABRAHAM.IN.MOTION](#)

2016 Doris Duke Performing Artist Award recipient and 2015 City Center Choreographer in residence Kyle Abraham (b. 1977, Pittsburgh) is a 2013 MacArthur Fellow. He was a 2012 USA Ford Fellow and received a 2012 Jacob's Pillow Dance Award, and is a Creative Capital grantee. In 2010 Abraham received the prestigious Bessie Award for outstanding performance in dance for his work in *The Radio Show*, and a Princess Grace award for choreography. He was named one of *Dance Magazine's* “25 to Watch” in 2009. In 2011, *OUT Magazine* called Abraham the “best and brightest creative talent to emerge in New York City in the age of Obama.”

About Yerba Buena Center for the Arts

Yerba Buena Center for the Arts (YBCA) is one of the nation's most innovative contemporary arts centers. Founded in 1993, YBCA's mission is to generate culture that moves people. Through powerful art experiences, thoughtful and provocative content, and deep opportunities for participation, YBCA is committed to creating an inclusive culture that awakens personal and societal transformation. YBCA presents a wide variety of programming year-round, including performing arts, visual arts, film/video and civic engagement. YBCA venues include the Forum, Screening Room, Galleries and the Yerba Buena Center for the Arts Theater. For tickets and information, call 415.978.ARTS (2787).



FACT SHEET

Kyle Abraham / ABRAHAM.IN.MOTION

Dearest Home

WHO/WHAT: Yerba Buena Center for the Arts (YBCA) welcomes back award-winning choreographer **Kyle Abraham's** company **ABRAHAM.IN.MOTION** to perform the **world premiere** of his newest YBCA-commissioned work, *Dearest Home*. *Dearest Home* is a dance exploring the universal subjects of love, longing, and loss, performed in YBCA's intimate Forum. Audience members will have the choice to watch the performance with a composed score playing through headphones or with a silent score and the ambient sound of bodies moving through space.

The ABRAHAM.IN.MOTION dancers are **Matthew Baker, Tamisha Guy, Catherine Ellis Kirk, Marcella Lewis, Jeremy "Jae" Neal, and Connie Shiau**. Choreography by **Kyle Abraham** in collaboration with ABRAHAM.IN.MOTION. Original Score by **Jerome Begin**. Set and lighting design by **Dan Scully**.

WHERE: Yerba Buena Center for the Arts Forum, 701 Mission Street, San Francisco, CA 94103

WHEN:

Tuesday, May 16, 7:30pm

Wednesday, May 17, 7:30pm

Thursday, May 18, 8pm

Friday, May 19, 8pm

Saturday, May 20, 2pm & 8pm

No late seating

TOTAL RUN TIME: approx. 65 minutes, with no intermission

TICKETS: <https://ybca.org/whats-on/dearest-home> / 415.978.2787

COST:

General: \$20–\$35 advance / \$25–\$40 at the door

Seniors, teachers, and students: \$18–\$31 advance / \$22–\$36 at the door

YBCA members: \$16–\$28

All Access members: Free (limit 1)

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