

arvada  center
MAIN STAGE THEATRE



THE CLEO PARKER ROBINSON DANCE
ENSEMBLE & CLEO II TOGETHER

IN | TANDEM



AUGUST 2, 2025 • arvada  center • 7:30PM

SENIOR SEATING AVAILABLE



THE PERFORMANCE

Cleo Parker Robinson Dance Ensemble

Michael Battle, Caeli Blake, Adrian Dominguez, Jasmine Francisco,
Corey Jamel, DJ Jefferson, Gabriela Maduro, Max Nelson-Steinhoff*,
Lamar D. Rogers, Lauren Slaughter, Nasira Watson*

**Apprentices to the Ensemble*

Cleo II

Katie Carothers, William Davis, Kayla Massey, Jesús Muñoz,
Melvin Sutton, Koura Wright

...the way, I AM on.

Cleo Parker Robinson Dance World Premiere, May 2025

"...the way, I AM on. shares the story of (H)ope—working, knowing, and ever reaching for clarity. The path, narrow and correct, will lead way to understanding, where and how my Help meets me."

– Hope Boykin

Choreographer	Hope Boykin
Music	Ali Jackson, Bill Laurance
Lighting Design	Anasztazia Coney
Costume Concept & Construction	Caeli Blake, DeBorah Powell
Dancers	Caeli Blake, Jasmine Francisco, DJ Jefferson, Gabriela Maduro, Lamar D. Rogers, Lauren Slaughter

ARRANGED

Cleo Parker Robinson Dance World Premiere 2010

A contemporary ritual dedicated to the passion and beauty of the iconic Marceline Freeman.

Choreographer	Milton Myers
Music	Philip Glass "The Funeral" from "Akhenaten"
Opening Section	Corey Jamel, Kayla Massey, Jesús Muñoz, Max Nelson-Steinhoff, Koura Wright Michael Battle, Katie Carothers, William Davis, Adrian Dominguez, India Johnson, Melvin Sutton, Nasira Watson
Duet	Adrian Dominguez, Corey Jamel
Quartet	Michael Battle, William Davis Jesús Muñoz, Melvin Sutton
Duet	Koura Wright, Max Nelson-Steinhoff
Solo	Kayla Massey
Closing Section	Cleo Parker Robinson Dance Ensemble and Cleo II

15-minute Intermission



The MOVE/ment

World Premiere 2019

This incredible opportunity brings together a diversity of dancers, in both culture and genre, creating a work reflective of these powerful times in our community and the world. The arts have always been a powerful catalyst for positive social transformation. My challenge, as the choreographer, has been to awaken my personal memories of the Civil Rights Movement, while finding new ways for the dancers to develop their own voices, in recognition of social change that is yet to come. When my Ensemble performed In Montgomery, AL in commemoration of the 50th Anniversary of Dr. King's assassination, I was inspired by his words "We have no other choice but to keep moving with determination. We've gone too far now to turn back. We can change the world with non-violence."

- Cleo Parker Robinson

Choreographer	Cleo Parker Robinson
Original Lighting Design	Lloyd Sobel
Costume Designers	Shirin Lankarani, Alex J. Gordon
Costume Assistant	Ralaya S. Goshea
Vocals and Spoken Word	Cleo Parker Robinson and the Ensembles
Dancers	Cleo Parker Robinson Dance Ensemble and Cleo II

I Turbulent Times

Music "Tears for Johannesburg" Max Roach

II Ain't Gonna Let Nobody Turn Me 'Round

Music "Wade In the Water"
"Ain't Gonna Let Nobody Turn Me 'Round"

III Father to Son: A Change Is Gonna Come

Music "A Change Is Gonna Come" Brian Owens and Thomas Owens
The Father Lamar D. Rogers
The Son DJ Jefferson
The Men Michael Battle, Adrian Dominguez, Corey Jamel,
Jesús Muñoz, Max Nelson-Steinhoff, Melvin Sutton

IV Healing Waters

Music "By the Waters of Babylon" Bettye Miller and Milt Abel

V We Rise

Music "We Rise" Groove Junkies, Opolopo & Solara

VI Dream the Dream

Music "I Dream a Dream" Aretha Franklin
Solo Caeli Blake
The Women Jasmine Francisco, Gabriela Maduro, Lauren Slaughter,
Koura Wright

Program selection, order, and casting are subject to change without prior notice.

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ABOUT CLEO PARKER ROBINSON DANCE

CLEO PARKER ROBINSON DANCE – INSPIRING MOVEMENT!

Currently celebrating its 55th Anniversary Season, Cleo Parker Robinson Dance is an international performing arts and educational institution rooted in African American traditions and the Diaspora, dedicated to excellence in providing cross-cultural performances, and enrichment programs, cultivating healthy mind, body, and spirit development for intergenerational students, artists, and audiences.

Viewing dance as a universal language of movement that transcends boundaries of culture, class, and age, Cleo Parker Robinson Dance is committed to honoring all people throughout the global community.

CLEO PARKER ROBINSON DANCE

www.cleoparkerdance.org

Located in Denver's Historic Five Points District
119 Park Avenue West, Denver, Colorado 80205
Ph # 303 295 1759

Scan the QR code to learn more!



CLEO PARKER ROBINSON

Founder / Artistic Director / Choreographer / Producer



CLEO PARKER ROBINSON is founder and artistic director of the 55-year-old Denver-based artistic institution, CLEO PARKER ROBINSON DANCE (CPRD), leading a professional Ensemble (CPRDE), Cleo II (her 2nd company), a Youth Ensemble, an Academy of Dance, an International Summer Dance Institute, a 240-seat theatre, and numerous community outreach programs nationally and internationally. CPRD's current home in the 100-year-old Shorter Building in Denver's Historic Five Points District is about to expand with an adjacent 25,000 square foot extension, scheduled to open in January 2026 with new studios, theatre, and office facilities.

Ms. Robinson has received honors and awards from corporate, civic, community, and artistic entities worldwide, bringing CPRDE to myriad organizations and venues for performances, teaching residencies and community engagement programming. A master teacher/choreographer and cultural ambassador, she and CPRDE have

performed nationwide and throughout Europe, the Caribbean, Asia, and the African continent, with their most recent international tours taking them to Bogota, Colombia in Spring of 2019 and Mexico in Fall 2019 and again in Fall of 2024. In early summer of 2025, Ms. Parker Robinson joined an artistic consortium in Bahia, Brazil, for seven weeks as a guest of the internationally renowned Sacatar Institute.

Ms. Parker Robinson's awards and honors include the Colorado Governor's Award for Excellence (1974), Denver Mayor's Award (1979), induction into the Colorado Women's Hall of Fame (1989) and the Blacks in Colorado Hall of Fame (1994). Recognized in Who's Who in America Colleges and Universities she holds an Honorary Doctorates from Denver University (1991), an Honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters from Colorado College (2003), an Honorary Doctorate of Public Service from Regis University in Denver (2008), an Alumni Award from University of Denver (2021), the 2020 Honorary Degree, Doctor of Humane Letters, Honous Causa from CU Boulder, and was named an Honorary Member of the International Association of Dance Medicine and Science (2021).

In 1991, Ms. Parker served on the task force creating a permanent location for the Denver School of the Arts (DSA), Denver's first performing arts magnet school, and was subsequently honored In September 2017 at their 7th Annual Fall Gala, in recognition of her long-term commitment to excellence in arts education. She is also co-founder of the National Bahamian Dance Company, based in Nassau. In 2011, Ms. Parker Robinson was voted an Honorary Lifetime Trustee of the Denver Performing Arts Complex, in recognition of her longtime commitment and lasting impact. In June 2017, she received the highly prestigious DanceUSA Honor Award and in September 2017, the Randy Weeks Arts Leadership Award from the Denver School of the Arts. In March 2023, Ms. Parker Robinson, along with the other four founders of the International Association of Blacks in Dance (IABD), was honored at the White House as the IABD received the 2021 National Medal of the Arts. In 2024, she was named as the Professor for the Rachel B. Noel Distinguished Visiting Professorship.

CLEO PARKER ROBINSON

Founder / Artistic Director / Choreographer / Producer

Ms. Robinson has served on NEA panels on Dance, Expansion Arts, Arts America, and Inter-Arts panels for the USIS, and for the National Foundation for Advancement in the Arts as well as other national task forces, boards, and committees on the arts. In April 1999, she was appointed by then-President William Jefferson Clinton, with Senate confirmation, to serve for four years on the National Council on the Arts, a 14-member panel advising the Chairman of the NEA on agency policy and programs, evaluating and making recommendations on grant applications.

Since 2011, Ms. Parker Robinson has significantly returned to her greatest passion as a choreographer, creating and presenting *Dreamcatchers: The Untold Stories of the Americas* and the world premiere of her *Romeo and Juliet*, in collaboration with the Colorado Symphony Orchestra. Her work *On the Edge... Reaching to Higher Ground* premiered in October of 2014 in answer to resurging racial and human rights infractions world-wide. In Spring 2017, she re-staged two works, melding classical and jazz composition with the power, passion and beauty of modern dance – *Romeo and Juliet* and *Porgy and Bess*. Fall 2017 saw the premiere of Copacetic: A Tribute to Jonathon “JP” Parker, honoring her late father. In Spring of 2018, she premiered *Lark Ascending* in collaboration with the Boulder Philharmonic. Her *Rhapsody in Black*, created in collaboration with CPRD Associate Artistic Director, Winifred R. Harris, premiered at the Newman Center for the Performing Arts, University of Denver. In January 2019, in collaboration with the Denver Brass, she choreographed an innovative interpretation of Bernstein’s *On the Town* and Spring 2019 saw a collaboration with the Colorado Ballet entitled *The MOVE/ment* as part of the Tour de Force series at the Ellie Caulkins Opera House, Denver Center for the Performing Arts. In 2019, she traveled to UMKC, Kansas City, to set a work on the students of CPRDE alum Gary Abbot, entitled *Check Cashing Day* in tribute to the jazz genius of Bobby Watson and Milt Abel.

In August 2021, she premiered *Standing On the Shoulders*, a work commissioned by the Vail Dance Festival. September 2021 saw the debut of her work *Freedom Dance*, created in collaboration with jazz icon Dianne Reeves and CPRD co-founder and poet, Schyleen Qualls and in October 2021, she premiered *R.I. Power*, an original work commissioned by the Colorado College Fine Arts Center in Colorado Springs. Her newest work, *Sacred Spaces?* set to an original score by Adonis Rose, Director of the New Orleans Jazz Orchestra, premiered in September 2022 at the Denver Performing Arts Complex. September 2023 saw the reprise of her innovative interpretation of *The Firebird*, set amidst the pantheon and legacy of Hawaiian culture. In October 2023, she choreographed and co-produced the production of *Mozart Requiem Evermore* in collaboration with Dr. Dennis Law.

As part of its mission and vision to preserve the legacy of Black Dance in America, the Cleo Parker Robinson Dance Ensemble also proudly holds within its extensive repertoire the works of many of the icons of American dance, including those of Katherine Dunham, Donald McKayle, Alvin Ailey, and Eleo Pomare.

Cleo Parker Robinson remains dedicated to celebrating the human experience and potential through the Arts and Education. Her life-long vision of “One Spirit, Many Voices” remains strong and steadfast, expanding to welcome, embrace, and sustain all people.

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The Arvada Center celebrates and elevates the human condition with engaging arts, humanities, education, and entertainment that expand the cultural landscape for everyone who visits us.

