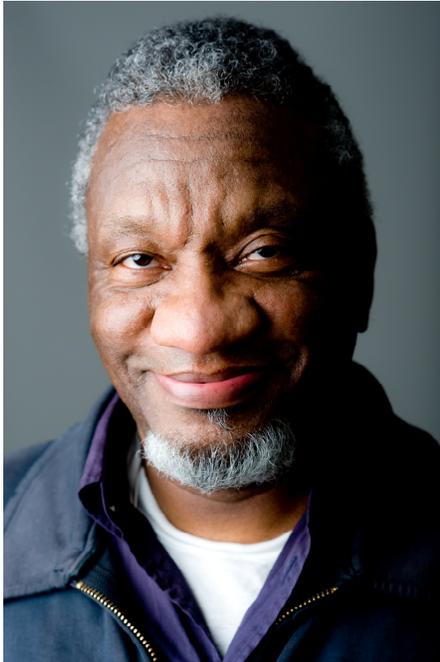


AMERICAN ACADEMY

IN JERUSALEM



Donald Byrd is the artistic director of Spectrum Dance Theater in Seattle. He is a Bessie Award winner (*The Minstrel Show*) and received a Tony award nomination for choreography on the Broadway musical *The Color Purple*. Recently, he directed and choreographed the premiere of the Broadway-bound musical *White Noise* (New Orleans) as well as a production of the Tim Rice/Elton John musical *Aida* (Big Easy Award nominee for best choreography). His recent work with Spectrum includes *A Chekhovian Resolution* (2008), *Farewell: A Fantastical Contemplation on America's Relationship with China* (2010), and *The Mother of Us All* (2011) all three part of Spectrum's innovative three-year programming initiative PAMU (Beyond Dance: Promoting Awareness and Mutual Understanding) that produces dance/theater works that promotes dialogue around geo-political themes.

To many he is probably best known for *The Harlem Nutcracker*, which was lauded as a classic. He has worked at many of the leading American theaters including The Public Theater/New York Shakespeare Festival, Los Angeles Center Theatre Group, Intiman Theater, Centerstage (Baltimore), and La Jolla Playhouse; choreographed for Seattle Opera, San Francisco Opera, Dutch National Opera, and New York City Opera, and collaborated with the great American theater artists Anna Deavere Smith and Peter Sellars as well as with the late jazz great Max Roach. His work has been seen in many modern dance and classical repertory companies including The Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, Dayton Contemporary Dance Company, Pacific Northwest Ballet, MaggioDanza diFirenze, Aterballetto and The Joffrey Ballet.

Donald's proposed research project for the fellowship is to use the performing arts to explore the Palestinian-Israeli conflict as a perpetual machine of failed attempts and disillusionment, a concept developed by writer Amos Oz. He writes, "The fellowship will allow me the opportunity to revisit, return to and build on my personal investigation of one of the most disquieting and deeply saddening human disconnects. This time I can do it not from afar, but at the center.

<http://spectrumdance.org/company/director.php>

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