

M A R K M O R R I S



D A N C E G R O U P

## **DARRYL PINCKNEY AND ONAY PAYNE JOIN MARK MORRIS DANCE GROUP BOARD**

**BROOKLYN, NY** – The Mark Morris Dance Group (MMDG) welcomes two new members, Darryl Pinckney and Onay Payne, to its board. Pinckney is an acclaimed writer and fan of MMDG since the early 1990s. Payne is a portfolio manager with over twenty years of experience in the real estate and finance industries.

“We are honored to have Ms. Payne and Mr. Pinckney joining our leadership team at such a pivotal moment in our history,” says Board Chair Judith R. Fishman. “Both are extraordinary leaders in their respective fields and add exponentially to our knowledge base. Their guidance, combined with that of our full board, will be invaluable as we head into the Mark Morris Dance Group's 40th Anniversary amid significant challenges as we navigate the pandemic. We will continue growing our board across the next few years, seeking out people who are extremely passionate about our work, who represent the communities we engage, and who have expertise to share.”

Darryl Pinckney is a longtime contributor to *The New York Review of Books* and the author of two novels, *High Cotton* and *Black Deutschland*, and three works of non-fiction, *Out There: Mavericks of Black Literature*, *Blackballed: The Black Vote and US Democracy*, and *Busted in New York and Other Essays*. He has adapted texts and written for Robert Wilson's productions of *The Forest*, *Orlando*, *Time Rocker*, *The Old Woman*, *Letter to A Man*, *Garrincha*, and *Mary Said What She Said*. A fan of MMDG for thirty years, Pinckney is a recipient of a Harold D. Vursell Award for Distinguished Prose from the American Academy of Arts and Letters.

Onay Payne, equity owner and Managing Director of Clarion Partners, is a Portfolio Manager responsible for several billion dollars in assets under management for multiple separate accounts and comingled vehicles. She joined the firm in 2003 and began working in the real estate and finance industries in 1997. Onay is an active member of the Urban Land Institute (Commercial Retail Council, Women's Leadership Initiative, ULI NY Advisory Board), serves as Vice Chair of the Robert Toigo Foundation Alumni Endowment Board, is a member of the Advisory Board of Project Destined, and is also a member of the Harvard Alumni Real Estate Board and WX New York Women Executives in Real Estate. From her early dance training, she is passionate about dance and youth community engagement, particularly for Black and Latinx youth without equitable access to the arts.

The addition of Ms. Payne and Mr. Pinckney follows nearly two years of steady board expansion engaging professionals in a broad range of fields including director and producer Nicholas Ma, private investor Marc James, lawyer York-Chi Harder, and President and CEO of Getting Out and Staying Out Jocelyne Rainey, Ed.D.

### **About the Mark Morris Dance Group and the MMDG Music Ensemble**

Founded in New York City in 1980 by artistic director and choreographer Mark Morris, lauded by *The New York Times* as “the most successful and influential choreographer alive, and indisputably the most musical,” the Mark Morris Dance Group has been called “the preeminent modern dance organization of our time” (Yo-Yo Ma). Its members have received the “highest praise for their technical aplomb, their musicality, and their sheer human authenticity.” (*Bloomberg News*). Live music and community engagement are vital components of the Mark Morris Dance Group, which has toured with its own musicians, the MMDG Music Ensemble, since 1996. The Mark Morris Dance Center, opened in Brooklyn in 2001, is the home of the Dance Group and provides educational opportunities in dance and music to people of all ages and abilities.

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