

FRANCESCA HARPER blends original choreography, dance, music and film to create category-defying, groundbreaking works. The New York City native studied at The Ailey School, School of American Ballet and Joffrey Ballet School. After performing with the Dance Theater of Harlem, she danced as a principal in William Forsythe's Ballet Frankfurt from 1994–99. Harper has performed in Broadway productions including *Fosse*, *The Producers*, *The Frogs* and *The Color Purple*. She played the role of Helene opposite Molly Ringwald in a national tour of *Sweet Charity*. A singer and lyricist, Harper has released her debut album, "Modo Fusion," a blend of soul-inspired R&B and electronica. She was a ballet consultant for the feature film, *Black Swan* starring Natalie Portman, who went on to win an Oscar for her work.

Harper has choreographed works for the Holland Dance Festival, Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, Ailey II, Dallas Black Dance Theater, Oakland Ballet, Hubbard Street II, Tanz Graz and her own company, The Francesca Harper Project, which features classical dance forms deconstructed and fused with cutting-edge text, music, film and video. She premiered her critically acclaimed one-woman show *The Fragile Stone Theory* at the 2002 Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival. Judith Jamison performed Harper's *Documotion: ONE-Rave* at the 50th Anniversary of the Alvin Ailey American Dance Center at the Apollo Theater.

The Francesca Harper Project has been featured at The Ailey Citigroup Theater, 92nd St. Y Harkness Dance Festival, Solstice: Dancing at the Crossroads in Times Square, Apollo Theater, Bloomberg Culture Series, Central Park Summerstage and Venice Biennale, among others.