Speech From Loss Collaborations

Performed September 9, 2016 at the
Dillard University-Harvard’s Hutchins Center
Black Arts Movement Conference

by

Jennifer Harge and Rodney A. Brown
jennifer@hargedancestories.com; brown@browndanceproject.org


(Space is open with Jennifer Harge onstage. Rodney Brown enters the space. Harge and Brown stand adjacent to each other. Artists step forward like emerging from a shadow they then begin speaking and singing the Bible verse simultaneously.)

Hear my voice, O God, in my prayer: preserve my life from fear of the enemy. Hide me from the secret counsel of the wicked; from the insurrection of the workers of iniquity.

Harge: Amadou Diallo, 23, New York, N.Y.—Feb. 4, 1999
Malcolm Ferguson, 23, New York, N.Y.—March 1, 2000
Patrick Dorismond, 26, New York, NY—March 16, 2000
Ronald Beasley, 36, and Earl Murray, 36, Dellwood, Mo.—June 12, 2000

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Brown and Harge continue to speak and perform movement simultaneously

Brown: Telephone & Transition. Ya know
when we roll into this world
(that's when we are born)
it doesn't matter what color
we are. We are all
bones.

And when we leave this world
(God Bless)
it doesn't matter then either.
We are just bones then too.

(Harge continues speaking names and running)

Prince Jones, 25, Fairfax County, Va.—Sept. 1, 2000
Timothy Thomas, 19, Cincinnati, Ohio—April 7, 2001
Orlando Barlow, 28, Las Vegas, Nev.—February 28, 2003
Ousmane Zongo, 43, New York, N.Y.—May 22, 2003
Alberta Spruill, 57, New York, N.Y.—May 16, 2003
Timothy Stansbury, 19, New York, N.Y.—January 24, 2004

B: But while we are here
(ya know)
in this world as these bones.
We are working, and
working, and working.
Until someone says, "work more."
And work, and work, and work,
and work. These bones into the ground.

[SOUND: Bell]

B: It is time to go. I hope you are ready.
H: Ronald Madison, 40, and James Brisette, 17, New Orleans, La.—Sept. 4, 2005
B: It's time to go.
B: Telephone. It's Ole Dirty
H: DeAunta Terrel Farrow, 12, West Memphis, Ark.—July 22, 2007
B: Big Mike! He wants to give you directions...{(drawn out)Home

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Tarika Wilson, 26, Lima, Ohio—January 4, 2008
Oscar Grant, 22, Oakland, Calif.—January 1, 2009
Victor Steen, 17, Pensacola, Fla.—October 3, 2009
Kiwane Carrington, 15, Champaign, Ill.—October 9, 2009
Aaron Campbell, 25, Portland, Ore.—January 29, 2010
Steven Eugene Washington, 27, Los Angeles, CA—March 20, 2010
Aiyana Jones, 7, Detroit, Mich.—May 16, 2010

Pallbearers.

Repeat 4x Gather on the Hill.
Two hearts up in the sky.
Celebrate your life (oh),
Say I love you.

(Brown sings): ButDirty said it won't be too long.

Rekia Boyd, 22, Chicago, Ill.—March 21, 2012
Kendrecc McDade, 19, Pasadena, Calif.—March 24, 2012
Ervin Jefferson, 18, Atlanta, Ga.—March 24, 2012
Tamon Robinson, 27, New York, N.Y.—April 18, 2012
Sharmel Edwards, 49, Las Vegas, Nev.—April 21, 2012
Shantel Davis, 23, New York, N.Y.—June 14, 2012

thirty six hundred seconds to be exact.

That's the final hour

Malissa Williams, 30, and Timothy Russell, 43, Cleveland, Ohio—November 29, 2012
Johnnie Kamahi Warren, 43, Dotham, Ala.—December 10, 2012
Kimani Gray, 16, New York, N.Y.—March 9, 2013

And I'll be,
dancing
a brand new song.
The day,
Is gone.

Andy Lopez, 13, Santa Rosa, Calif.—October 22, 2013

The
B: Day
Is
Gone.

   Tyree Woodson, 38, Baltimore, Md.—August 2, 2014
   John Crawford III, 22, Beavercreek, Ohio—August 5, 2014
   Michael Brown, 18, Ferguson, Mo.—August 9, 2014

B: I've been.
You've been.
He's Been.
A short time (coming)
transitioning into growing.

H: Laquan McDonald, 17, Chicago, IL - October 20, 2014

B: Dirty says, it's now time for me to begin.
H: Akai Gurley, 28, Brooklyn, NY—Nov. 20, 2014
   Tamir Rice, 12, Cleveland, Ohio—Nov. 22, 2014

B: Tran
   Transition
   Si
   Transition
   Tion

   Artago Damon Howard, 36, Union County, Ark. - Jan. 8, 2015
   Lavall Hall, 25, Miami Gardens, Fla. - Feb. 15, 2015
   Thomas Allen, 34, Wellston, Mo. - Feb. 28, 2015
   Charly Leundeu Keunang, 43, Los Angeles - March 1, 2015
   Naeschylus Vinzant, 37, Aurora, Colo. - March 6, 2015
   Tony Robinson, 19, Madison, Wis. - March 6, 2015
   Anthony Hill, 27, DeKalb County, Ga. - March 9, 2015
   Brandon Jones, 18, Cleveland, OH - March 19, 2015
   Eric Harris, 44, Tulsa, OK - April 2, 2015

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B: Transition. Transition from this world to the next.
   From this world to your rest.
   From this world to your,
H: Frank Shephard, 41, Houston, TX - April 15, 2015
   William Chapman, 18, Portsmouth, Va. - April 22, 2015

B: Gather on the Hill.
   Two hearts up in the sky.
   Celebrate your life (oh),
   Say I love you.

Put in a good word for me

Take the White bus.

   H: Albert Joseph Davis, 23, Orlando, Fla. - July 17, 2015
   Darrius Stewart, 19, Memphis, TN - July 17, 2015
   Samuel DuBose, 43, Cincinnati, OH - July 19, 2015
   Felix Kumi, 61, Mount Vernon, NY - August 28, 2015
   Keith Harrison McLeod, 19, Reisterstown, MD - September 23, 2015
   Junior Prosper, 31, Miami, FL - September 28, 2015
   Bennie Lee Tignor, 56, Opelika, AL - October 31, 2015
   Nathaniel Harris Pickett, 29, Barstow, CA - November 20, 2015
   Jamar Clark, 24, Minneapolis, MN - November 15, 2015
   Michael Noel, 32, Breaux Bridge, LA - December 21, 2015
   Kevin Matthews, 23, Dearborn, MI - December 23, 2015
   Betty Jones, 55, Chicago, IL - December 26, 2015

   Keith Childress, 23, Las Vegas, NV - December 31, 2015
   Randy Nelson, 49, Athens, AL - February 3, 2016
   David Joseph, 17, Austin, TX - February 8, 2016
   Jessica Williams, 29, San Francisco, CA - May 19, 2016
   Antwun Shumpert, 37, Tupelo, MS - June 18, 2016
   Clarence Mahogany X Howard, 25, Palm Bay, FL - June 19, 2016
   Deravis Rogers, 22, Atlanta, GA - June 23, 2016
   Delrawn Small, 37, New York, NY - July 4, 2016
   Alton Sterling, 37, Baton Rouge, LA - July 5, 2016
   Philando Castile, Falcon Heights, MN - July 6, 2016
Dalvin Hollins, 19, Tempe, AZ - July 27, 2016
Paul O’Neal, 18, Chicago, IL - July 28, 2016
Donnell Thompson, Jr., 27, Compton, CA - July 28, 2016
Levonia Riggins, 22, Tampa, FL - August 30, 2016
Terrence Crutcher, 40, Tulsa, OK - September 16, 2016.

END.