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# RAY MERCER

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## DIRECTOR, CHOREOGRAPHER, EDUCATOR

My artistry is rooted in the legacy of modern dance and in the power of theatrical storytelling. I enter every environment with the understanding that art has the power to build community, reflect society, and to create change. I generate work that highlights our shared human experiences and that dramatizes the consequences of our actions.

## ONGOING COLLABORATIONS

### ARTIST IN RESIDENCE, OMAHA PERFORMING ARTS – 2019 - PRESENT

Leading Community Engagement and in-school educational programs; Directed & choreographed annual state-wide High School Musical Theater Showcase; Directing & choreographing original musical (premiering 2022)

### RESIDENT CHOREOGRAPHER, ALVIN AILEY AMERICAN DANCE THEATRE – 2010 - PRESENT

Ailey II : Choreographed 2017 premiere of *Something Tangible*, which toured the world as a part of their season

The Ailey School : As Resident Choreographer, I set a new work annually on the company

### DIRECTOR/ CHOREOGRAPHER, BROADWAY CARES/ EQUITY FIGHTS AIDS – 2005 – PRESENT

Red Bucket Follies

Ten-time winner: Onstage Performance

Broadway Bares

Dancers Responding to AIDS:

Fire Island Dance Festival

Hudson Valley Dance Festival

## RESIDENCIES

### RESIDENT CHOREOGRAPHER – 2006 – PRESENT

Philadanco

Philadelphia, PA

Giordano Dance Chicago

Chicago, IL

Dayton Contemporary Dance Company

Dayton, OH

Dallas Black Dance Theater

Dallas, TX

New Jersey Ballet

Florham Park, NJ

Joffrey Ballet School

Chicago, IL

Cleo Parker Robinson Dance

Denver, CO

## DIRECTOR/CHOREOGRAPHER

### DIRECTOR/CHOREOGRAPHER:

"Hamdan Through The Gate Of Tears' Smithsonian Nat'l Museum of Art, 2014

Archived in the Smithsonian Museum  
Winner: Best Documentary, San Deigo  
Film Festival

### CHOREOGRAPHER:

*Ain't Misbehavin'*

Omaha Community Playhouse, 2021

*In Our America*

Broadway for Biden, 2020  
Director: Liesl Tommy

Telemundo up-fronts

2019

"Unbreakable Kimmy Schmidt": "*Sliding Van Doors*"

Netflix, 2019

*Deep Love, The Rock Musical*

New York Theatre Festival, 2016

## SELECT PERFORMANCE

DISNEY'S THE LION KING ON BROADWAY

ENSEMBLE, 2003 – PRESENT

DEEPLY ROOTED DANCE THEATRE

DANCER, 2000 – 2002

"UNBREAKABLE KIMMY SCHMIDT"

NETFLIX, CO-STAR, 2019

## EDUCATION

UNIVERSITY OF NEW ORLEANS – BACHELORS DEGREE IN PSYCHOLOGY

## REFERENCES

TOM SCHUMACHER, PRESIDENT: DISNEY THEATRICALS

THOMAS.SCHUMACHER@DISNEY.COM

LEISL TOMMY, AWARD-WINNING DIRECTOR

LIESLTOMMY@GMAIL.COM

TOM VIOLA, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF BC/EFA

TVIOLA@BROADWAYCARES.ORG