

# 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

Jennifer Harge and Rodney A. Brown of University of Michigan Black Alumni Network performing "Loss Collaborations: Danced Narratives of Black (or African American) Lives" based off of choreographies "mourn and never tire" by Harge Dance Stories and "Telephone & Transition (2014)" by The Brown Dance Project written with Gary M. Dixon. Members of the University of Michigan Department of Dance Black Alumni Network (BAN) serve as ambassadors for the Department of Dance. Through the Black Alumni Network, they make connections.

This presentation is based off of works by Harge Dance Stories and The Brown Dance Project members of University of Michigan Black Alumni Network, performing "Loss Collaborations: Danced Narratives of Black (or African American) Lives." Telephone & Transition (2014) written with Gary M. Dixon.

*(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

*(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.

*H:* Sean Bell, 23, New York, N.Y.—November 25, 2006

*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

*H:* Tarika Wilson, 26, Lima, Ohio—January 4, 2008  
Oscar Grant, 22, Oakland, Calif.—January 1, 2009  
Shem Walker, 49, New York, N.Y.—July 11, 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

*B:* Pallbearers.

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

(*Brown sings*): But Dirty said it won't be too long.

*H:* Rekia Boyd, 22, Chicago, Ill.—March 21, 2012  
Kendrec 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

*B:* thirty six hundred seconds to be exact.

*B:* That's the final hour

*H:* 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

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

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

*B:* The

*H:* McKenzie Cochran, 25, Southfield, Mich.—January 28, 2014

B: Day  
Is  
Gone.

H: Eric Garner, 43, New York, N.Y.—July 17, 2014  
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

H: Romain Brisbon, 34, Phoenix, Ariz.—Dec. 2, 2014  
Artago Damon Howard, 36, Union County, Ark. - Jan. 8, 2015  
Jeremy Lett, 28, Tallahassee, Fla. - Feb. 4, 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  
Bobby Gross, 35, Washington, D.C. - March 12, 2015  
Brandon Jones, 18, Cleveland, OH - March 19, 2015  
Eric Harris, 44, Tulsa, OK - April 2, 2015  
Walter Scott, 50, North Charleston, S.C. - April 4, 2015

*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

Christian Taylor, 19, Arlington, Texas - Aug. 7, 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  
Levonina Riggins, 22, Tampa, FL - August 30, 2016  
Terrence Crutcher, 40, Tulsa, OK - September 16, 2016.

END.