

---

Theses and Dissertations

---

Spring 2015

# Saved, by becoming a slave to the rhythm!

Duane Lee Holland, Jr.  
*University of Iowa*

Copyright 2015 Duane Lee Holland, Jr.

This thesis is available at Iowa Research Online: <http://ir.uiowa.edu/etd/1630>

---

## Recommended Citation

Holland, Jr., Duane Lee. "Saved, by becoming a slave to the rhythm!." MFA (Master of Fine Arts) thesis, University of Iowa, 2015.  
<http://ir.uiowa.edu/etd/1630>.

---

Follow this and additional works at: <http://ir.uiowa.edu/etd>

 Part of the [Dance Commons](#)

SAVED, BY BECOMING A SLAVE TO THE RHYTHM!

by

Duane Lee Holland, Jr.

A thesis submitted in partial fulfillment  
of the requirements for the Master of Fine Arts  
degree in Dance in the  
Graduate College of  
The University of Iowa

May 2015

Thesis Supervisor: Associate Professor Rebekah Kowal

Copyright by

DUANE LEE HOLLAND JR.

2015

All Rights Reserved

Graduate College  
The University of Iowa  
Iowa City, Iowa

CERTIFICATE OF APPROVAL

---

MASTER'S THESIS

---

This is to certify that the Master's thesis of

Duane Lee Holland, Jr.

has been approved by the Examining Committee for  
the thesis requirement for the Master of Fine Arts degree  
in Dance at the May 2015 graduation.

Thesis Committee:

---

Rebekah Kowal, Thesis Supervisor

---

Eloy Barragan

---

Michael Hill

## **PUBLIC ABSTRACT**

*Saved, By Becoming a Slave to the Rhythm!*, is a choreographic work that demonstrates how an individual finds purpose through a rite of passage filled with freedom, music, and movement of the House dancing scene. *Saved*, reveals how DJ Larry Levan gained recognition from the community of the Paradise Garage Club, as one of the best DJs of his time.

The work is split into three sections community, individual, and movement. The community section highlights the universal love, freedom, and multiculturalism of Paradise Garage that was generated by the charismatic control of Larry Levan's DJ mastery. Levan's charismatic mastery is what moved the Paradise Garage community to deem him one of the best DJs in House music history.

The community section transitions into the individual section. The individual section showcases the demons of Levan's life. A solo, performed to the words of Levan's best friend, Frankie Knuckles, displays how his excessive lifestyle of drugs and sex became the key to his demise.

The third section is an homage to Larry Levan, and members of the Paradise Garage community whom have passed on. I title this section the movement section, because it unveils the progression and stability of the House dance community. In addition to this cultural stability, the movement terminology of House dance is solidified.

I want the audience to leave *Saved, By Becoming a Slave to the Rhythm!*, inspired to search for their purpose in life, find it, and live it lovingly, joyfully, and peacefully.

## CONCERT PROGRAM

Title: *Saved, by Becoming a Slave to the Rhythm!*

Concept and Direction: Duane Lee Holland, Jr.

Choreographer: Duane Lee Holland, Jr., in collaboration with the  
dancers

Concert Performance Dates: April 16-18, 2015, 8:00 PM

Concert Venue: Space Place Theatre, University of Iowa North Hall

Music: Grace Jones, *Slave to the Rhythm*; Loose Joints, *Is It All Over My Face*; Sylvester, *Disco Heat & Do You Wanna Funk*; Barbara Tucker, *Beautiful People/ Deep Inside*; Duane Lee, *Hold Tight*; edited and arranged by Duane Lee Holland, Jr., Larry Fowler and Jason Palamara

Text: Provided by the documentary "Maestro"

Slideshow Design: Duane Lee Holland, Jr. and Naoki Izumo

Dancers: Katarina Akridge, Alejandro Garcia, Duane Lee Holland, Jr., Dayna Huor, Raud Kashef, Madeline Korn, Margaret Korn, Devanshi Mishra, Jesus Renteria, Robin Siow, Destiny Washington, Maurice Watson