

# DANCE THEATRE OF HARLEM

## Letter from DTH School Director Tai Jimenez

### Dear Families,

We are at the start of another school year, a rhythm I know well as both an educator and a parent. This moment always invites reflection—looking back on the previous year and allowing those lessons to guide us forward.

As a dancer, I learned the discipline of always striving toward one's goals. As a director, I have learned to celebrate growth—whether grand or subtle. The steady unfolding of progress, like the growth of a seed, may seem ordinary, yet it is nothing short of miraculous. Each year, I am reminded to honor the wisdom of the present moment, to recognize how far we have come, and to dream of what is yet to be.

This past year brought meaningful milestones for the DTH School. A highlight was the second iteration of *Harlem Mouse/Country Mouse*, in which I recognized growth in both our choreography and performance. The narrators, Darryl Quinton and Yaya Da Costa, brought an extra layer of polish, and I will never forget the moment the audience realized the story was not only about them, but for them. By the second act, during “Dr. Love”, they were laughing, a true measure of success.

The DTH Summer Intensive was another win. More of our year-round students participated, deepening their technique, strengthening their community, and broadening their perspective on the art form.

As I enter my fourth year as DTH School Director, I see the steady growth of our students beginning to bear fruit. Patience and faith remain my daily practice, and I am reminded that without that sacred balance, progress cannot truly take root.

Dance Theatre of Harlem was built on faith in the audacious vision of Arthur Mitchell. Each time our students dance, I believe they affirm that vision and the sacrifices that made it possible. Just recently, I observed our Level Five class with Rachel Sekyi. Among them, some already carry “the gaze”—that unmistakable spark. It confirmed for me what I already know: this is going to be a good year.

With warmest regards,

**Tai Jimenez**

**Director Dance Theatre of Harlem School**