Jimmy Payne Jr. is a tap dance teacher, choreographer, and performer from Chicago. He began his tap dance lessons at Jimmy Payne School of Dance. His teacher and father was legendary dancer, Jimmy Payne, who taught tap and Afro-Caribbean dance to thousands of dance enthusiasts and professionals for over seventy years. Jimmy Payne Jr. continues the tradition by performing and teaching in Chicago and abroad. Jimmy has performed at Chicago Jazz Festival, with Jazz legend Von Freeman, with Bill Russo and Chicago Jazz Ensemble, with jazz great Orbert Davis at the Arts Club in Chicago, with jazz singer Lawrence Walden, and with Bradley Williams 21st Century Jazz Review, whom he accompanied on a trip to India for a series of concerts. Performances also include shows at Spurlock Museum, Davis Elkins College, and Hope College where he performed “Jimmy Payne’s Rhythm of Life”, a documentary and stage performance that celebrates the life of Jimmy Payne Sr. For this project Jimmy interviewed tap greats, Lavaughn Robinson, Dr. Prince Spencer, Ludi Jones, and eccentric dancer and entertainer Rudy Horne. Critics have described Jimmy as "a tap classicist with a composers mind," (Chicago Sun Times) "the real deal," (Maui Times) and the Chicago Tribune referred to him as "smoking virtuosity." Jimmy also won an award from Black Theater Alliance for best performance in concert. He currently teaches at Columbia College Chicago and Chicago Public Schools. Jimmy describes his style of tap as traditional tap rooted in rhythm and movement.