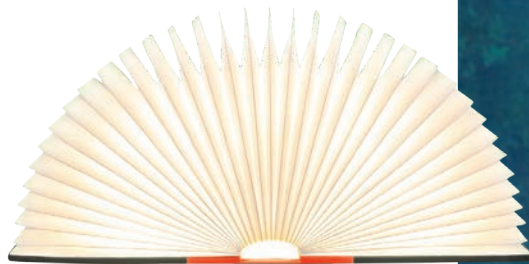




1. Muji Notebooks

I use these to write out my choreography and to-do lists. The combination of spiral and elastic band design is classy and stylish.



2. Lumio Book Lamp

When this lamp is fully open, it's like a little piece of wonder. I take it with me when I'm on tour, to have a bit of home.



3. Reverence Aromatique Hand Wash

This soap is an experience. Vetiver and bergamot make a grown-and-sexy scent.



4. Carhartt WIP Backpack

I feel age-appropriate and cool when I wear this backpack. And the other week, I got a compliment on it from someone 20 years younger than me.



Kyle Abraham.

Kyle Abraham

THE DANCER AND IN-DEMAND CHOREOGRAPHER SHARES **EIGHT THINGS** THAT FAN HIS CREATIVE FLAME.

BY VANESSA LAWRENCE

In the 15 years since founding his company A.I.M., choreographer and dancer Kyle Abraham has created works that tackle police brutality (2012's "Pavement"), mass incarceration ("Untitled America" in 2016), and masculinity (2006's "Inventing Pookie Jenkins"). For his recent piece, "To Be Seen," a commission for American Ballet Theatre principal dancer Calvin Royal III set to Maurice Ravel's "Boléro" and shown as part of New York City Center's 2020 digital Fall for Dance Festival, Abraham explored the weight of Black identity and representation.

"There is an expectation that exists for a Black choreographer, especially, and ironically, in these times," says Abraham, who describes his aesthetic—a mix of hip-hop, ballet, modern, West African, and voguing movements—as "postmodern gumbo." "If I'm not making work addressing what is going on culturally and racially in our country, then I'm not speaking to our culture. But why can't I make a dance about foliage? My white counterpart can." Growing up in Pittsburgh, Abraham studied classical music. He fell for dance when, at 16, he saw the Joffrey Ballet perform to songs by Prince. "It shook me to my core," Abraham explains. "Dance was something I couldn't do fully in my room; I needed to go outside of my own space to really explore it." aimbykyleabraham.org



5. Sign o' the Times

The more I listen to this, the more I think of how all-encompassing it is of Prince's artistry. This album was a rebirth of his creativity.



6. Fiddle-Leaf Fig

I have one in my apartment. It's a beautiful plant. In these times, it's nice to have a bit of life and hope in your surroundings.



7. West Elm Throw

There's something about this faux-fur throw that gives me a sense of comfort. I have it on my sofa and I like to pet it.



8. The Vanishing Half

My mother used to tell me stories of people in our family who passed for white. My fascination with that is what drew me into this book.

PORTRAIT: TATIANA WILLIS; ALBUM COVER: © THE PRINCE ESTATE, JEFF KATZ; PLANT: SHUTTERSTOCK