



AFRICAN AMERICAN DANCE ENSEMBLE

Dr. Chuck Davis

FOUNDER & ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

Stafford C. Berry, Jr.

ASSOCIATE ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

MUSICAL DIRECTOR Kwabena Osei Appiagyei

DIRECTOR OF PROGRAMS Normadien Woolbright

OFFICE MANAGER Jean M. Whitaker

TECHNICAL MANAGER Elizabeth Droessler

DANCERS

Toya Judith Chinfloo

Jerri Dorsey

LaShaunda "Afi" Gunter

Nicole Shaliah Haith-Ince

Toni K. Hall

David R. Johnson

Heather Lee

Kamu Mimy

McDaniel Roberts

Gail Rouse

Dorinda Thomas

MUSICIANS

Greg Ince

Atiba Rorie

Fredrick "Ibrahim" Strauther

Thursday, June 10 – Saturday, June 12, 2010 at 8 pm
Reynolds Industries Theater at Duke University

TREASURED REFLECTIONS: AFRICAN DANCE IN MOTION

DRUM ALERT

Rhythmic call relayed throughout the community announces the start of this evening's event.

KILAMBAN

AADE, accompanied by their Elders, make their way onto the Bantaba where many important events take place.

ISEOLUWA/MEMORIAL

This segment salutes those who have made the transition to the Ancestral grounds.

YADO

After the Memorial, the YADO will pay homage to all of The Community Elders, 55 and above, who are here with us.

DJALIBAH

The oral historian comes forth to greet and welcome all to the Bantaba or dancing ground.

BLUEGRASS/BROWNEARTH

This excerpt, from the full length BlueGrass/BrownEarth Ballet introduces the Akonting.

This instrument from the Jola people, Senegal, West Africa, is considered by ethno musicologists to be the Grande Ancestor of the banjo.

Poetry by Poetik Mic, read by Baba Chuck Davis.

INTERMISSION

MHANDE

This traditional dance from the Karenga people, a subgroup of the Shona and Ndebele from Zimbabwe, depicts the ritual which calls for rain. We ask the forces to send rain to clear all negative vibrations that are blocking the showers of peace.

MUSICAL INTERLUDE

You said you could dance all night. Did you ask the musicians?

SEE THE RHYTHM/HEAR THE MOVEMENT

The sharing of dance and music traditions coming forth from our Motherland, Africa, is a blessing to all who love art.

- I. The force behind the shaking of an object is superior to it. (Men and Women)
- II. It is the head that dances to the beating of the drum. (Men)
- III. If dancers return to the place they've been before, it's because they enjoyed the rhythm. (Women)
- IV. You cannot be drumming and scratching your butt at the same time. (Musicians)
- V. If you are not proud of who you are, it's because you have lost the essence of your heritage. We are more than proud of our strength. (Men)
- VI. Cultural Celebrations of Rhythmic Foundations. This section is a tribute to President Obama and Family. It features Sister Gail Rouse as 'Mother Africa' and the poetry of Brother Fuze.

FINALE

Dance style, Sinte, from Guinee, serves to introduce the performing artists who render "THANK YOU" TO ALL PRESENT.

THE ARTISTS

DR. CHARLES R. "CHUCK" DAVIS (Founder & Artistic Director) Heralded as one of America's First "One Hundred Irreplaceable Dance Treasures", Baba Chuck's awards and accomplishments are many and include Honorary Doctorates from Medgar Evers College, New York; Williams College in Massachusetts; and University Of Massachusetts at Amherst. He is the founder and Artistic Director of DanceAfrica America now celebrated in many cities across the US. His Cultural Arts Safari is deemed one of the best Arts In Education resource programs existing anywhere. Give thanks to GOD for all blessings seen and unseen.

STAFFORD C. BERRY, JR., (Associate Artistic Director) is a Master Performing Artist and Teacher and has been called "a real standout among many talented individuals." Originally from Chester, Pennsylvania, Mr. Berry received formal education in theatre, dance, and music. He is eternally grateful for the knowledge imparted to him from several masters in the US and in Africa. In 1997 he co-founded the Berry and Nance Dance Project (of which he is Managing Director) with dance partner C. Kemal Nance. He received his MFA in dance from Hollins University/American Dance Festival. Mr. Berry is currently Visiting Assistant Professor of Dance at Denison University.

KWABENA OSEI APPIAGYEI (Musical Director) was born and raised in Ghana, West Africa. As a youth having been surrounded by rhythms and instruments, Osei decided to follow the footsteps of his family and become a traditional musician. He served as a master musician and educator for the Ghana Dance Ensemble of the University of Ghana-Legon and The Institute of African Studies. Osei is also a master drum maker. He has been with AADE for eleven years.

TOYA JUDITH CHINFLOO (Dancer) is an alumni member of the AADE (1991-1995). Toya was introduced to the company during her studies at ADF in 1991. She received her BFA from Montclair State University and is a native of Newark, New Jersey. She is a recipient of the following honors: MSU Senior Dance Award 1991, Emerging Artist Grant 1994, and City Arts Grant 2000. She is currently on faculty at RN Harris Magnet Elementary. Her greatest blessing is her loving family, her husband and their five beautiful children. Loving dance with all her heart, she uses her God given gift to glorify and praise God.

JERRI DORSEY (Dancer) is a graduate of Hampton University and proud parent of a beautiful daughter, Taylor. She is a Lead Program Analyst at EPA but finds joy in dancing. She is a former member of the Playmaker Theater Co., Collage Dance Co., and Alayanfe. Her most recent performances include AADE's premiere of BlueGrass/BrownEarth and Mhande, as well as AADE's 2009 home season performance. She currently works with children as the co-founder of The Studio.

ELIZABETH DROESSLER (Technical Director) holds a BS degree in dance and a M.ED in Theatre from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro. She is the administrator for Wake County Public Schools and has enjoyed her association with Baba Chuck Davis for many years.

LASHAUNDA "AFI" GUNTER (Dancer) is a graduate of NCCU and a proud mother of an eight year old son. She is an accountant but recognizes that true happiness can only be maintained when dance is a part of her life. She has been dancing since she was four years old. She is a founding member of Collage Dance Company and began studying with Dr. Chuck Davis at the age of nine with his children's unit, Alayanfe.

NICOLE SHALIAH HAITH-INCE (Dancer) was born in NYC. At the age of three she went to the LaRoque Bey School of Dance, Dance Theatre of Harlem and Harlem School of the Arts. Shaliah's experience led her to work with Kowteff, Opus, Gallman Newark, Djoule African, Mamadou Dahoue, Harambee, and Nommo Contemporary. She has also choreographed for pop artists such as "Musique" and toured ten cities in Italy with a traveling ministry. She is also the Co-Founder of a family cultural organization called...NEWINCENTIVE.

TONI K. HALL (Dancer/Founding Member) is an original founding member of the AADE; co-founder of SA-TO's Dance Academy, and an Artistic Director of Collage Dance Company. Ms. Hall began her career when she met Papa Chuck through the ADF's outreach program and under his guidance has studied with numerous dance masters over the years. In 2004 she had

the pleasure of performing with Ballethnic Dance Company in *The Leopard Tale* and served as a rehearsal director. She has choreographed for Collage Dance Company, Sa-To's Dance Academy, and "Tekere Duafe" Dance & Theatre Company. Toni is the proud mother of a teenage daughter, Sakarah, who is also a choreographer.

DAVID R. JOHNSON (Dancer) is a 27 year old from Charlotte, NC. He is a graduate of North Carolina Central University with a major in Family and Consumer Science with a concentration in Textiles and Apparel. David "Jingle Bells" Johnson has been a member of House Arrest 2 National Championship Dance Team Inc., Chapter 3 "Juke Squad" since Fall 2004 (NCCU). He is a former member of DanceVisions at NC State University. He has begun studying under Stafford C. Berry Jr. (Contemporary African). He has also studied with C. Kemal Nance, and Nancy Pinckney. He has performed with The Berry & Nance Dance Project (Philadelphia, PA). David has only been dancing four years and says "I'm going to dance until I can't dance anymore."

GREG INCE (Musician) a descendent of a Cuban & Panamanian father & mother, and was born & raised in Brooklyn, NY and comes from a family of talented percussionists. Greg's thirst for music led him to work with teachers such as Papa Ladi Camara, Mamady Keita, Abdou Kounta, Abdoul Doumbia and many others. Greg has worked with great artists such as Arthur Mitchell, Marie Brooks, and Alvin Ailey. He is also one of the founding members of the infamous—International Afrikan American Ballet and the Co-Founder of a family cultural organization called ...NEWINCENTIVE

HEATHER LEE (Dancer) has been dancing and performing since she was a little girl. She moved to Durham and began dancing at Southern High. She has taught at Southern High, Ninth Street Dance, and Sato's Dance Academy. She also attended ADF in 2006, 2008, and 2009. She specializes in modern, Hip-Hop, and African dance with some experience in salsa and bellydance. Heather has danced with Bellan Dance Theater, as well as with singing groups and rap artists. She has been a guest artist with AADE on several occasions. Her most recent event was dancing with Dendy Dancetheater at the Grand opening of the NC Museum of Art in Raleigh, NC.

KAMU MIMY (Dancer) is an alumnus of AADE who began her career on stage at the age of four, and at eight, began studying dance and culture in the Senegambia region of West Africa. She has studied with a number of well-known directors and choreographers including Dr. Chuck Davis, Marie Bass Wiles, Alfred Gallman, and has performed with Gallman's Newark Dance Theatre. She thanks her family—but most of all her mother—for her support.

MCDANIEL ROBERTS (Dancer) was born and raised in Durham, NC. He began studying under Dr. Chuck Davis over 24 years ago at 12 years old when he captured the role as Griot in Dr. Davis' production of *Babu's Magic*. He later became a member of Alayanfe (The Chosen Ones). While attending NCCU he performed with the dance group and was Dr. Davis' assistant choreographer in NCCU's Theater Department Productions, *Mama I want to Sing* and *Jelly's last Jam*. He has toured internationally with The Cultural Movement African Dance Company. He is enjoying his third season as a regular with AADE. His inspiration comes from The Almighty God.

ATIBA RORIE (Guest Musician) is a graduate of UNC Greensboro with a degree in music. He has been playing percussion since he was a young child and has spent time in Guinea, West Africa and also in Accra, Ghana. Rorie has performed all across the US including at two Presidential Inaugurations.

GAIL ROUSE (Dancer) is a founding member of the AADE and a native of Walnut Cove, NC. She began studying African Dance with Chuck Davis during summers at the ADF in the early 80's and has had the privilege of studying with a number of professional dance instructors. I thank Baba Chuck Davis for giving me the opportunity of my lifetime to be the best dancer that I can be with my God given talent.

FREDRICK "IBRAHIM" STRAUTHER (Guest Musician) is a former AADE Musical Director. Originally from East St. Louis IL, now resides in Eastern North Carolina. Ibrahim is a former

orchestra member of the Tony Award-winning Broadway production of *The Lion King*. He is currently on faculty in the music department at Johnston Community College. But by far the most important title he has ever held is that of devoted husband to Mrs. Rhonda Strauther and loving father to two beautiful daughters, Aliyah and Naomi Strauther.

DORINDA THOMAS (Dancer) from Sumter, SC has been dancing for 25 years. Currently, she works with Nancy Pinckney and serves the NCCU Dance Group as Assistant Artistic Director. She enjoys all styles of dance and working with other artists. She also loves dancing and serving within the community.

BEVERLY BOTSFORD (Founding Member) is a cross-cultural percussionist and educator who blends music, movement and spoken word in solo and ensemble presentations. Embracing drumming traditions of Africa, Cuba, Brazil and her native North Carolina, she celebrates more than 30 years of professional experience, touring around the world. Highlights include 13 years of touring with AADE, the ADF, and over a decade of touring with Grammy-nominated, jazz vocalist, Nina Freelon. The language of rhythm is universal and her goal is empowerment, enlightenment and inspiration for people of all walks of life.

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