



The African American Dance Ensemble

Dr. Chuck Davis
Founder and Artistic Director

Dancers

Venita Allen*	Stafford C. Berry, Jr.**	Ivy Burch*	L.D. Burris*
Toya J. Chinfloo**	Carlita Ector***	Jimmy Green*	Toni K. Hall*
Fatima Logan***	Kamu Mimy**	Sherone Price*	McDaniel Roberts (Alayanfe)
Gail Rouse*	Stephanie Hope**	Tricia Taitt***	Ava LaVonne Vinesett*

Musicians

Kwabena Osei Appiagyei***	David Alston***
Beverly Botsford*	Jubal Creech (guest)
Atiba Rorie (guest)	Khalid Saleem (founding musical director)

Note: *Founding Member; **Alumni; ***Current Season

Special Guests

Shana Adams
Fruit of Labor
Zayd Malik Shakur (Alayanfe)

Administrative/Artistic Staff

Interim Executive Director: Beverly Cureton
Office Manager: Jean M. Whitaker
Director of Programs: Normadien Gibson-Woolbright
Associate Artistic Director: Stafford C. Berry, Jr.
Musical Director: Kwabena Osei Appiagyei
Board President: Donald Baker
Consultant: Andrea Lawson
Technical Director: Elizabeth Droessler

June 12–13, 2007, 8 pm
Page Auditorium, Duke University

SANKOFA: DIVERSE RECOLLECTIONS

The African American Dance Ensemble's association with the American Dance Festival has spanned nearly three decades. Classes. Collaborations. Commissions. All Creative. All Diverse. All invigorating the future of Dance.

REMEMBRANCE

STAGING/CHOREOGRAPHY: Baba Chuck Davis

MUSIC: Khalid Saleem

DANCERS: Ensemble

The AADE remembers family members Jimi Williams, Stephanie Reinhart, Ethel Davis, Tony Davis, Annie Davis, Joe Nash, and many others who made the transition to the ancestral grounds.

We honor your spirit and want you to know you will never be forgotten.

Ase! Ase!! Ase!!!

ODUNDE (ADF Premier 1984)

MUSIC: David Alston, Osei Appiagyei, Beverly Botsford, Atiba Rorie, Khalid Saleem

DANCERS: Venita Allen, Stafford C. Berry, Jr., Thaddeus Bennett, Ivy Burch, L.D. Burris, Toya Chinfloo, Jimmy Green, Toni K. Hall, Kamu Mimy, Sherone Price, McDaniel Roberts, Gail Rouse, Yah-I Tafari, Ava LaVonne Vinesett

The original was choreographed in 1937 by Asadata Dafora. Baba Chuck learned it from Olatunji in 1963, and taught it to the founding members of AADE in 1983. It was taught and restaged for this production by founding member, Ivy Burch, who has shared it with alumni and the community unit.

JALIBAH

GRIOT: Baba Chuck Davis

Greetings and welcome from Baba Chuck Davis, Founder & Artistic Director of the AADE.

We greet you in peace.

DJEMBE CONCERTO

MUSICAL ARRANGEMENT: Osei Appiagyei

MUSIC: Ensemble

Kwabena Osei Appiagyei and his powerful drum villagers will treat you to their sensational concerto of djembes, djun-djun, bells and sekere. Akan Proverb: "Ti koro nko agyina."

Translation: "One head does not constitute a council."

LAMBAN/BANTABA (suite from the past and present)

CHOREOGRAPHY: Baba Chuck Davis

STAGING: Stafford C. Berry, Jr., Ivy Burch, Baba Chuck Davis

DANCERS & MUSIC: Ensemble

Lamban, the Jalibah's rhythm/dance is indigenous to the Old Mali Empire!

Used on many occasions it serves, tonight, to introduce alumni and present AADE family members.

INTERMISSION

IMPINYUZA

STAGING/CHOREOGRAPHY: Baba Chuck Davis
MUSIC: Osei Appiagyei, Beverly Botsford, Khalid Saleem
DANCER: Stafford C. Berry, Jr.

The Legacy continues. We witness The Royal Ntore that honors the Noble Watusi Warriors of Rwanda and Burundi. This dance excites audiences today as much as it did in the early 1950's when first presented by the future founders of the Earth Theatre, Papa Percival Borde and Mama Pearl Primus. Taught to Baba Chuck in 1964, this version features brother Stafford C. Berry, Jr. . . . and the legacy continues. . .

WORSHIP (ADF Premier 1999)

CHOREOGRAPHY: Stafford C. Berry, Jr.
SOLOIST: Toya Chinfloo
DANCERS: Carlita Ector, Fatima Logan, Kamu Mimy
COSTUMES: Ronald "Bilal" Mills, Stafford C. Berry, Jr.
MUSIC: Yolanda Adams

This solo from a larger ballet explores spirituality and religion.

The JALIBAH'S JOURNAL (I)

POET: Zayd Malik Shakur

Words of wisdom fall with elegant screams as they penetrate our silence and become active.

JUDGE YE NOT! (ADF Premier)

CONCEPT, CHOREOGRAPHY & MUSIC: Stafford C. Berry, Jr.
COSTUMES: Stafford C. Berry, Jr., Baba Chuck Davis
MUSICAL ARRANGEMENT: David Alston, Osei Appiagyei, and '06-'07 Musicians
VOICES: Stafford C. Berry, Jr., Fruit of Labor, Shana Adams
DANCERS: Carlita Ector, Stephanie Hope, Fatima Logan, Tricia Taitt
MUSIC: David Alston, Osei Appiagyei, Beverly Botsford, Jubal Creech, Atiba Rorie, Rhalid Saleem

Sometimes cruel and sometimes unintended, judgment is at the root of much hatred. Consider carefully how you react and what you say to others. Your opinion—by itself—is only that. It is valuable. . . but its worth diminishes when used to conceal shortcomings and ignorance.

THE JALIBAH'S JOURNAL (II)

Words of wisdom continue to flow from our historians. Listen. Absorb. Enjoy.

KASSA/SOKO (ADF Premier)

STAGING /CHOREOGRAPHY: Stafford C. Berry, Jr.
MUSIC ARRANGEMENT: Osei Appiagyei, Stafford C. Berry, Jr.
DANCERS & MUSIC: Ensemble

These two dances are from Guinea, West Africa. The first, *Kassa*, depicts farming and the second, *Soka*, is a pre rites-of-passage dance for young people. Both dances are based on traditions passed down from the Mandinko people.

FINALE

We, the African American Dance Ensemble family, comprised of Elders, alumni, and now you, are truly blessed with love seen and unseen. Thanks for being here with us.

OUR MISSION

The African American Dance Ensemble (AADE) seeks to preserve and share the finest traditions of African and African American dance and music through research, education and entertainment. With our motto, "Peace, Love, Respect For Everybody," we celebrate traditional African culture, aesthetics and values as resources for all people and utilize these resources to encourage interracial cooperation, cross-cultural understanding and societal analysis.

ORIGINS OF THE AFRICAN AMERICAN DANCE ENSEMBLE

The Early Years

The story of AADE begins with Dr. Chuck Davis, a native of Raleigh, North Carolina. His path from Raleigh's all black Ligon High School through Howard University's Theater and Dance Program eventually led him to New York City and the world of professional dance.

Chuck's first job as a regular member of a professional troupe came in 1959 when he joined the Klara Harrington Dance Company. From that point through 1968 he danced professionally with a number of modern, jazz, Afro-Cuban, and African companies. Among these are the Olatunji Dance Company, the Eleo Pomare Dance Company, and the Bernice Johnson Dance Company. These were learning years and Chuck learned from the best. His list of mentors is long and impressive. Thelma Hill, Eleo Pomare, Jean Leon Destine, Katherine Dunham, and Pearl Primus are among those who make the connections between African and Western experiences.

The African Connection

Dr. Chuck Davis' connection to Africa began with his birthright, but the artistic connection began with a performance of the Sierra Leone National Dance Company at the New York World's Fair in 1964. Study in Africa became a goal. The opportunity came in 1977 when the Chuck Davis Dance Company participated in FESTAC, an international exposition and celebration of African culture, held in Lagos, Nigeria. Each year thereafter, he has returned to the continent for further study of traditional dance styles and music.

The Chuck Davis Dance Company

In 1968, the Chuck Davis Dance Company was founded in New York City with Dr. Chuck Davis as the Artistic Director. The company performed to rave reviews in the New York area and elsewhere in the United States, gradually establishing itself as one of the nation's premier Afro-American dance companies. This was the company that came to Durham, North Carolina in 1980 at the invitation of the ADF. It was a case of "love at first sight." There was no letting go. Dr. Chuck Davis, the ADF, and the local community have generated a synergy larger than any of them alone could have achieved. Stages and auditoriums could not contain the performances. The environment became the stage, and the audiences became the performers. "Peace, love, respect for everybody," became the simple but powerful message the art was bringing to the community.

The African American Dance Ensemble

Each season from 1980 to 1984 the Chuck Davis Dance Company was in residence with the ADF's Community Services Program. Each season, the participants in this outreach program grew. By 1983 it had become obvious that there was a developing core of local dancers whose level of proficiency were approaching those of the professionals from whom they were learning. The AADE was born. The Ensemble's "arrival" came in February 1984 when they gave their first full concert as an independent professional company. In the 1985 season of the ADF, the AADE stood on its own and took its place among the other established companies when it premiered two new Chuck Davis works, *Saturday Night*, *Sunday Morning*, and *Drought*, both of which were commissioned by ADF. Today the Ensemble is comprised of nine musicians and dancers under leadership of Artistic Director, Dr. Chuck Davis.

BIOGRAPHIES OF THE ENSEMBLE

DR. CHARLES "CHUCK" DAVIS, (Founder and Artistic Director) of the AADE and the New York based DanceAfrica is a native North Carolinian. He attended Howard University and majored in Theater/Dance and continued his study in African dance under the guidance of Babatunde Olatunji, Eleo Pomare, and the Bernice Johnson Dance Company. His growing reputation as one of the foremost and accomplished choreographers and teachers in the traditional techniques of African dance compelled ADF to recruit him for the position of Artist-in-Residence and to head up its outreach program. His desire to reach the young people of Durham who shared his enthusiasm and discipline for dance was the fountainhead from which sprung the AADE. He has nurtured and led the Ensemble on a course to

become one of the truly premier dance companies of any kind touring the nation today. Dr. Davis keeps a full schedule including appearances with the Ensemble, guest artist directorships, choreographer assignments, and research and travel excursions to Africa and international points. He also is the founder and facilitator of the Cultural Arts Safari, which makes an annual pilgrimage to the continent of Africa. He has been a panelist for several programs of the NEA, and the recipient of the AARP Certificate of Excellence, the North Carolina Dance Alliance Award, North Carolina Artist Award 1990, and the North Carolina Order of the Long Leaf Pine. Since 1991 he has served as a Governor appointed member of the Board for the North Carolina Arts Council where he chairs the Dance panel. In 1992, he was the recipient of the North Carolina Award in Fine Arts for his impressive and unique contribution to African American culture; this is the highest honor the state can bestow in the Arts. Dr. Davis is a recipient of the NY Bessie Award and the very prestigious Brooklyn Academy of Music Award for distinguished service to the arts world and beyond. He also received special mention during Duke Dance's annual recognition banquet. In December of 1998, he received an honorary Doctorate of Fine Arts from Medgar Evers College of NY. In the year 2000, he received the Kathryn H. Wallace Award for Artists In Community Service through the Triangle Community Foundation and has received the Dance for the Planet award in 1998 and 2001. In 2000, Dr. Davis was recognized by the Dance Heritage Coalition as one of the first 100 Irreplaceable Dance Treasures in the United States. In February 2002, Dr. Davis was presented The Advocacy Award in recognition of dedication and commitment to Civil Rights advocacy, especially on behalf of People with Developmental Disabilities, by the Durham Human Relations Commission. The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Legislative Black Caucus, awarded Dr. Davis with a citation for his years of distinguished service, loyalty and commitment to the arts as well as lauding him as a foremost, distinguished and accomplished choreographer and teacher in the traditional techniques of African American Dance. Dr. Davis has been selected artist of the Year by DanceUSA. He has also received the 2002 National Governors Association Award for Distinguished Service to the Arts for artistic production recognizing outstanding service to the arts, focusing on contributions that improve the quality of life and bring distinction to the state or a community. The award was presented July 21, 2002 in Boise, Idaho. The City of Durham declared August 5, 2002 as Chuck Davis Day in recognition of his accomplishments and contributions to the arts. NC Dance Alliance has chosen Dr. Davis as the recipient of their 2002 award in recognition of his years of dedication to the advancement of dance in North Carolina, the nation, and the world. March 20, 2003, Dr. Davis was presented the Spirit of Hayti Trail Blazer Award in recognition of his major contributions to the betterment of the Hayti community, close ties to the community and excellence in his field. On April 26, 2004, Dr. Davis was honored with a prestigious Dance Magazine Award. This honor was bestowed upon him for his major and lasting contributions to the art of dance. Dr. Davis was also honored when his biographical profile was chronicled in *The North Carolina Century, Tar Heels Who Made a Difference 1900-2000*. The North Carolina Century is a comprehensive look at the people whose life's work shaped the state during the most dynamic period since colonial times, published by Levine Museum of the New South. June 2, 2006, Dr. Davis received an Honorary Doctorate of Fine Arts from Williams College, Williams, MA, where he delivered the commencement address; he was also bestowed with the Balasaraswati Joy Ann Dewey Endowed Chair for Distinguished Teaching by ADF on June 17, 2006.

SHANA ADAMS (Guest) is a native of Gastonia, NC. Shana received a B.A. in Music with a concentration in voice and an African-American studies minor at University of North Carolina at Greensboro in 2003. While at UNC-G, Shana was a member of the University's Women's Choir, under the direction of Dr. Welborn Young, and with them performed such works as Walton's *Belshazzar's Feast*, Orban's *Missa Nova*, and Orff's *Carmina Burana* along with the Greensboro Symphony Orchestra. Shana was cast in the chorus of UNC-G School of Music's production of the comical opera *Orpheus in the Underworld*, which placed first in the 2001 National Opera Association Opera Production Competition. She also appeared in the chorus of The Greensboro Opera Companies 2002 production of *La Boheme*. In May 2005, Shana graduated from the University of New Orleans with a Masters in Arts Administration. Currently, Shana resides in Durham where she works as an Education Coordinator for the Durham Arts Council's Creative Arts In Public/Private Schools (CAPS) program. She enjoys performing with diverse musical groups and is a member of the Duke University Chapel choir with whom she recently completed a ten-day tour of Spain.

VENITA ALLEN (Dancer) Founding member of the AADE, playwright, and songwriter began performing with the Weaver Street Dancers in the late 70's and was recognized by Chuck Davis Dance company in the early 80's. Then went on to receive a scholarship to the ADF and became a founding member of the AADE. Now a world renowned playwright and songwriter. You like that world renowned stuff don't you? Ha!

DAVID ALSTON (Musician) was born in Durham. He began his musician studies at nine as a cellist. When he was eleven, David taught himself to play drums. His parents noticed his interest in percussion instruments and enrolled

him Durham School of the Arts. There he continued his study of the cello and began his percussion studies as well. In 2002, after high school David joined the Collage African Dance Company and played the Dun Dun. Since then he has performed with many companies: Balafon West African Dance Company in Washington, DC, Elgeba Folklore Society in Richmond, VA, Magic of African Rhythm in Raleigh, and the Umoja African Arts Company in Pittsburgh, PA. He has participated in many events such as, AframFest, and Leaf Festival in Asheville, NC. He has also performed at the Kennedy Center and United Nations South Day. He is also one of the founding members of Urban African.

KWABENA OSEI APPIAGYEI (Musical Director) was born and raised in a family of traditional musicians in Ghana, West Africa. Being surrounded by the rhythms and instruments used in traditional music during his youth, moved Osei to follow in his family's footsteps. For 13 years, Osei served as a master musician and educator for the Ghana Dance Ensemble of the University of Ghana-Legon and The Institute of African Studies. He was also an instructor in African percussion instruments at the School of Performing Arts in Legon. In addition to being a master musician, Osei is also a master drum maker. Osei most recently performed for the opening reception of the *Lion King* at the BTI Performing Arts Theater in Raleigh, NC. He has traveled extensively in Africa, Europe and Asia, and continues to tour with the AADE. Osei has a CD of traditional and contemporary music available. Don't leave without it!

STAFFORD C. BERRY, JR. M.F.A. (Associate Artistic Director) has taught, choreographed, and performed African rooted dance and theatre throughout the United States. As a teacher, he is known for his terrific energy, warm spirit and clarity, and as a performer, he has been called "a real standout among many talented individuals" and a performer "with great presence." He has danced in works by Melvin Purnell, Dennis Wayne, David Dorfman, Assane Konte, Dr. Kariamou Welsh Asante, Dr. Bill Banfield, Penny Bridgers, and Dr. Chuck Davis. Originally from Chester, Pennsylvania, Mr. Berry received his education in theatre, dance, and music from Temple University. He is eternally grateful for the knowledge imparted to him from several masters, including Larry Wilson, Ernie Davis, Zadia Ife, Dr. Kariamou Welsh Asante, Dr. Yhema Mills, Jin Wen Yu, Gail Poch, Melvin Purnell, Craig "Spider" Moore, Jeannine Osayande, Hodari Banks, Ed Shockley, Yousouf Koumbassa, Amadou Bangoura, Trazana Beverly, David Hammond (Classical Theatre Workshop), and Dr. Chuck Davis. In 1997 Mr. Berry was Assistant to the Choreographer for Kariamou & Company: Traditions, with whom he'd also been a principle dancer for five years. In 1992 he co-founded the Seventh Principle Performance Company and in 1997 he co-founded the Berry and Nance Dance Project. He was awarded the 1994 Neumann Cultural Enrichment Grant to create a new work, and he was certified in 1996 as a teacher of the Umfundalai Technique. In 2000, Mr. Berry received a choreographers' fellowship from the North Carolina Arts Council, which permitted him to conduct research in Guinea, West Africa with Les Ballet Africains and in 2002, he was the recipient of a Cooper Foundation Grant to collaborate with C. Kemal Nance on a choreographic project. In 2003 Stafford and Kemal received a grant from the Five County Arts Fund in PA to create a new ballet. His work, a combination of dance, theatre, and music can be seen in the archives of the New York Public Library for the Performing Arts.

IVY BURCH aka "**Tina T**" (Dancer) a founding member of the Chuck Davis AADE she served as co-dance captain for AADE. Dance instructor, choreographer, for various organizations and community outreach programs. Studied dance at ADF, with various prestigious artists (past and present), such as: Chuck Davis, Abdel Salaam, Betty Jones, Donald Mckayle, Talley Beatty, David Hochoy, Alvin McDuffy, Ronald K. Brown to name a few. Selected as a principle dancer with the North Carolina Black Repertory Company to perform at the National Black Theatre Festival 1993, and as a guest artist in 1997. Participated as a dancer in the first touring production of the the *Leopard's Tale* (a full length ethnic ballet) 2004. Performed with various, renowned artist and companies throughout the United States.

LAVENDER "L.D." BURRIS (Dancer) is a founding member and former principle dancer with Chuck Davis' AADE for ten years. He has performed throughout the United States in the works of Chuck Davis, Pearl Primus, Donald McKayle, Assane Konte, and Pele Camara. Mr. Burris has also performed with the Jose Limon Dance Company in Mexico, The North Carolina Black Repertory Company, New Performing Dance Company, Ways and Means Dance Company, in the works of Clay Taliaferro, and was a featured cast member of the National Black Theatre Festival's production of *Don't Bother Me, I Can't Cope*. A former marine and a North Carolina native, L.D. attended N.C. A&T State University. He has taught dance to students of all ages in master classes and residencies throughout the United States. An adjunct faculty member at Meredith College, L.D. is the founder and director of the Triangle Center for Contemporary Dance, LLC, where he teaches modern, jazz and African dance styles to children and adults.

BEVERLY BOTSFORD (Musician) is a cross-cultural percussionist and educator blending music, movement, and spoken word in solo and ensemble presentations. Embracing drumming traditions and inspirations of Africa, Cuba, South America and her native, North Carolina, she weaves colorful rhythmic tapestries with her infinite array of collected and homemade instruments. A native of Charlotte, NC, Beverly celebrates more than 30-years of full-time,

professional experience, performing and teaching in an infinite variety of situations. Highlights include thirteen years of touring with Chuck Davis and the AADE as well as more than a decade on the faculty of the ADF. Over the years, she has shared her passion for rhythm and culture in hundreds of school and community residencies, workshops and performances, in solo and ensemble presentations. Since 1998, Beverly has toured internationally with Grammy nominated jazz vocalist, Nnenna Freelon in such venues as the Kennedy Center, the Hollywood Bowl, and the Umbria Jazz Festival. In Addition to AADE, she has worked with Donald McKale, Betty Jones, Urban Bush Women, Cleo Parker Robinson and countless others. During the past 2 years her touring with jazz vocalist Nnenna Freelon has included a wonderful collaboration with Ronald K. Brown and Evidence, presenting *Blueprint of a Lady*, a tribute to Billie Holiday. A recent, sold out, performance at the Kennedy Center recieved rave reviews and upcoming presentations include the Apollo theater next November.

TOYA J. CHINFLOO (Dancer, AADE Alum) is a New Jersey native. She met Baba Chuck Davis while on scholarship attending ADF the summer of 1991. She joined the company the following winter upon completing her B.F.A. at Montclair State University. Since that time Toya has danced nationally and internationally performing works by noted choreographers like Chuck Davis, Ronald K. Brown, Mama Kariamu Welsh, H.T. Chen, Mr. Mpongo, Titos Sompá, L.D. Burris, Ava Vinesett, and others. On her own, Toya is the Founder/Producer of M2K – Mothers 2000 an organization focused on celebrating motherhood through dance, art, and music and informative workshops. Mrs. Chinfloo is currently on faculty at Y. E. Smith Elementary and other Durham Public Schools. A wife and mother of five, she thanks GOD continuously for blessing her with dance and all the joys life has to offer her.

JUBAL CREECH (Guest Musician) became enamored by percussion and storytelling at an early age. While traveling in West Africa and Haiti Jubal studied traditional rhythms, dances, and the rich oral traditions of these cultures. Jubal has also traveled to China, Europe and all over the United States Jubal has studied, trained and taken classes with many master drummers and storytellers including Babatunde Olatunji, Madou Dembelle, Mohamed Decosta, Michael Spiro, Khalid Saleem, Beverly Botsford, Bradley Simmons, Heather Forest, and Brother Blue. He dedicates a lot of his time to educational programs in public schools and is a licensed massage therapist. He lives in Raleigh, NC with his dog Mbira and his cat Ima.

ELIZABETH DROESSLER (Technical Director) holds a B.S. degree in Dance and a M.Ed. in Theatre from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro. She is the arts administrator for Wake County Public Schools and has enjoyed her association with Chuck Davis since 1983.

CARLITA ECTOR (Dancer) is a native of Raleigh, North Carolina. In 2006 graduated with a B.F.A from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro. She recieved a teachers license and a minor in Spanish. She trained with Christal N. Brown, Gerri Houlihan, Robin Gee, BJ Sullivan, Eluza Santos, and Jan Van Dyke. Carlita thanks God, her family, and friends for their love and support.

TONI K. HALL (Dancer) is co-founder of SA-TO's Dance Academy and Assistant Artistic Director of Collage Dance Company is an original founding member of the AADE and served as Dance Captain. Toni began her professional dancing career under the tutelage of Ms. Nancy Pinckney at North Carolina Central University. She has studied with numerous dance masters and choreographers over the years including Donald McKayle, Ronald K. Brown, Talley Beatty, Assane Konte, Nafisa Shariff, Kariamu Welsh Asante, and Yhema Mills to name a few. Toni has performed at the ADF, numerous other festivals in North Carolina and across the United States and in Hong Kong with AADE. In 2004 she performed with Ballethnic Dance Company in their production of 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 gives thanks to God for being able to share her love and knowledge of dance. In addition to being 'Mama Toni' to many; she is also the proud mother of a teenage daughter Sakarah, who is a budding dancer and choreographer as well.

STEPHANIE HOPE (Dancer), called Sistah Hope in the tradition of family and community, is a dancer and poet. An alum of AADE she is currently a performing artist for Djembe Fire!, and a teaching artist with CAPS and the Mekeye Center. A native of Cambridge, MA, Sistah Hope choreographs locally for Tekere Duafe Dance and Theatre Company. This past summer Stephanie wrote, choreographed, directed, and produced *The "P" Word and Other Fragile Promises*, a performance piece about pregnancy.

FATIMA LOGAN (Dancer) is a Durham native and a graduate of Virginia Commonwealth University in Richmond, holding a B.F.A. in Dance and Choreography. She performed in *Between Ocean and Sky* choreographed by James Frazier, *A Testimony of Three* choreographed by Jasmine Sanker, *Airing It Out* choreographed by Gesel Mason, and *Equus II Dancing with Horses Project* choreographed by Joanna Mendel Shaw; in addition to works choreographed by Diane Gray and Rebecca Jung. She has choreographed *Malemphis*, performed at the Grace Street Theatre in

Richmond and *Stories Untold: Slavery and Medical Experimentation in Virginia* at Virginia Commonwealth University and the Glenn Allen Cultural Arts Center in Glenn Allen, VA. Fatima has attended the American College Dance Festival and the Black College Dance Exchange. She danced with Ezibu Mintu African Dance Company and taught at St. Catherine's Catholic School for Cat's Cap 2006 in Richmond. She is excited to dance with the AADE for this year's touring season.

SHERONE PRICE (Musician, Dancer) is a dancer, teacher, choreographer. He is a current instructor of dance at Agnes Scott College, Moving in the Spirit, in Atlanta, and Georgia Youth Ballet Company. He was a member of John Gamble/Jan Van Dyke Dance Company in Greensboro, NC from 1991–1995, a lecturer at the University of North Carolina-Greensboro from 1988–2001, a dancer and choreographer at the Otesha Performing Arts Ensemble in Greensboro, NC from 1989–2000, Kombankofu Dance and Drum Ensemble in Greensboro, NC from 1996–2001, member and choreographer with the Delou Africa Dance Ensemble in Miami, FL, a visiting instructor of dance at Florida International University in Miami, FL, and an artist-in-residence/Henry Bascom Professor of dance at University of Wisconsin-Madison during the Fall semester, 1997. He received his dance training at North Carolina Central University, Duke University and the ADF and he received his B.F.A. at the University of North Carolina-Greensboro. He was selected by Talley Beatty to perform his classic *Mourner's Bench* at the 1993 Scripps/ADF Award Ceremony. He teaches African-American dance in community outreach programs. Received the 1999 Regional Artist Grant to study West African dance and drumming in Guinea, West Africa. He is a principle with Chuck Davis AADE since 1983 and has been ADF faculty since 1995.

MCDANIEL EMMANUEL ROBERTS (Dancer) was born and raised in Durham, NC. At the age of twelve he auditioned and captured the role as the Griot in the Chuck Davis production of *Babu's Magic*. He along with the cast later became Chuck Davis' Children's Company Alayanfe (*The Chosen Ones*). His performances include local festivals such as the Bimbe, Kwanzaa celebration, Centerfest, and the Festival on the Eno. He has performed at the American Dance Festival and toured internationally with *The Cultural Movement African Dance Company*. He has performed with local companies such as Harambee and has toured and held guest appearances with AADE. While attending NCCU, he performed with the NCCU dance group. He served as the assistant choreographer to Chuck Davis in the NCCU's Theater Department Productions, *Mama I Want to Sing* and *Jelly's Last Jam*. Through his many years of dancing and gracing the stage, he continues to graciously share his talent locally by teaching and conducting workshops. Currently he resides in the Triangle and strives to continue to share his talent around the world with inspiration from the Almighty God.

ATIBA RORIE (Guest Musician) has been playing percussion instruments since he was a young child. He currently holds a BA in Music from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro and has also studied with Babatunde Olatunji, Fahali Igbo, Bradley Simmons, Mohamed DaCosta, Chief Bey, and the National Dance Ensemble of Ghana in a one month intensive in Accra, Ghana. Currently he is an Adjunct Professor at Winston Salem State University and a musician with various professional ensembles. He has performed at many venues including Dance Africa in New York, National Black Arts Festival, and two Presidential Inauguration Celebrations. In 2005, Rorie was invited to participate in a Drums of Passion Tribute to Babatunde Olatunji at the Percussive Arts Society International Conference. Rorie has been a guest artist at CaldCluegh Community Center, Shakori Hills Grassroots Festival, and North Carolina School of the Arts.

GAIL ROUSE (Dancer) Founding member of the AADE and native of Walnut Cove, NC. Began studying African dance with Chuck Davis during the summers of the ADF in the early 80's. Having 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.

KHALID SALEEM (Musician) is a percussionist, musician, and former musical director for the AADE. He lived, worked, and studied in the Ivory Coast; worked and studied with Rose Marie Guiraud, Babatunde Olatunji of Nigeria, Ladji Camara of Guinea, West Africa, Titos Sampa of Zaire and Les Ballet Africaines; on faculty of SUNY-Brockport dance department; ADF faculty since 1985.

TRICIA TAITT (Dancer) holds a M.B.A. from Duke University and a B.S. Degree in Finance from the Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania. Tricia was born and raised in Brooklyn, NY, where she began her dance training in ballet and jazz, with Mrs. Ricky's Dance School at the age of five; she later studied modern and tap. In college she was introduced to dances of the African Diaspora. Tricia has since studied with well known artists and choreographers including Vena Jefferson, Stafford C. Berry, Jr., Mama Dottie Watson, Youssof Koumbassa, and Mounatou Camara. She was a member of African Rhythms Drum and Dance Ensemble. Tricia expresses her gratitude to her family for their support and to God for his love and grace and "for roads less traveled by."

YAH-I TAFARI (Guest) is a native of Brooklyn, New York. Yah-I started out taking community dance with the Uhuru Dance Company in Atlanta in 1992. In 1995 he performed West African Dance for the first time under the Artistic and spiritual direction of the late Baba Kwame Ishange. Baba Ishange formed the Iya Ile Folkloric Dance Company in 1995 and invited Yah-I as the sole male member. Iya Ile performed throughout the Atlanta for the next years singing, dancing, drumming and playing the Shekere for many audiences. In 1997 Yah-I joined the Harambee Dance Company based out of Harlem, NY under the Direction of Frank and Sandella Molloy. Harambee Dance Company included stilt walking experience. Yah-I attended the Allsfaith Seminary International where he was ordained as a spiritual counselor. While in Philadelphia, Yah-I earned a B.A. in Organizational Management from Eastern University, and Approved Mediator status from the Center for Mediation based in Washington, DC. Most importantly, he married and saw the birth of his daughter. Yah-I now resides in Durham, NC working in Human Resources for Whole Foods Market. He attends the community class at the Hayti Center where he enjoys sharing his energy.

AVA LAVONNE VINESETT (Dancer) In 1983 Ava began a professional dance career as one of the founding members of the Chuck Davis AADE. During her tenure with Chuck Davis, Ava served as a principle dancer, Assistant Artistic Director and Educational Coordinator for the troupe. With a methodical approach, Ava studies the cultural origins and thus the continuous evolution of dances of Africa. She uses the term *dance translator* to describe her scholarship on the process of communicating existing legacies of danced religious, spiritual and cultural beliefs from one cultural group to another. Performance credits include world premieres by Donald McKayle, Ronald K. Brown, Assane Konte, Titos Sompá, Abdel Salaam, and Nafissa Shariff. Ava serves as an assessor and dance consultant for several organizations. Ava is the founder of *Artistic Visions of Axé*, a research focused coalition committed to invoking cultural understanding and celebrating the unified presence of all beings seeking a peaceful existence. She recently completed a six-month study in Salvador da Bahia, Brazil researching the dances associated with Candomblé. As a Patricia Roberts Harris fellow, she received her MFA in dance from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro. Ava, is the 2002 recipient of the Duke University Alumni Distinguished Undergraduate Teaching Award, is on faculty at Duke University, where she instructs studio and lecture courses, and is the founder and director of the Duke African Repertory Ensemble. *Axé!*

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The taking of photographs or any other recording is strictly prohibited.

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