

2009 STATEWIDE DANCE DAY SCHEDULE

9:00am-9:45am: Registration
10am-10:30am: Welcome/Warm-Up Class with Michael Means
10:30am-12noon: Morning Master Classes
12noon-1pm: MDC Annual Meeting/ Networking Lunch (*Bring Your Own Lunch*)
12:30pm-1:20pm: Noontime Master Classes
1:30pm-3:00pm: Afternoon Master Classes
3:30pm-5:00pm: Showcase Concert and Maggie Allesee New Choreography Award at Knickerbocker Theatre



ABOUT THE SPECIAL GUEST INSTRUCTORS

TASSIA HOOKS – JOHNSON

Former Associate Artistic Director of Wealthy Theatre Contemporary Ballet, began her dance training with the Jane Stamps School of Dance and continued her training on scholarship at the prestigious San Francisco Ballet School. In 1984, Tassia joined The Dance Theatre of Harlem where she performed feature roles in the Dance Theatre of Harlem's Signature work-- Jeffery Holder's, "Douglas." She also performed in Valerie Bettis's "A Street Car Named Desire," Billy Wilson's "Concerto in F," Ron Cunningham's, "Etosha," John Tyrus's, "Fire Bird," Alvin Ailey's "The River," Robert Garland's, "Joplin Dances," Alonzo King's, "Signs and Wonders," and George Balanchine's, "The Four Temperaments."

As a choreographer she has produced many dance pieces from the dramatic to the abstract that cross all styles and disciplines ranging from ballet to jazz to contemporary lyrical and modern. She has produced pieces for the Dance Institute of Washington, including their production of A Soulful Christmas which was performed at the world famous Kennedy Center, the Grand Rapids Symphony, School of Grand Rapids Ballet, Kansas City Friends of Alvin Ailey, and many other dance studios.

Her ballet "Belinda-O" was a winner in the New York City based New Choreographers on Point competition and was performed at the Lincoln Center in 1995. She continues to be in demand and has been commissioned to do choreography for competitions and performances. The Flint Youth Ballet requested Tassia to be a part of their Color Line Project in 2003, which explored racism past and present called "Episodes at the Mall". It was a huge hit with the PRESS, dancers and audiences alike. Her works have always been well received and have won many awards. In addition to her accomplishments as a dancer and choreographer she is also know for her work as a teacher and dance coach. Tassia has taught at Blue Lake Fine Arts Camp, staging excerpts from Sleeping Beauty and choreographing a neo-classic work for the campers. Most recently she co-choreographed "The Door" for the Hearts In Step Christian Dance Academy for their debut performance. Tassia Johnson is co-owner of PT Arts, LLC a Performing Arts Consultation Company. ***Mrs. Johnson will teach Repertory Workshop (intermediate-Advanced Students Only) and a Contemporary Choreographer's Workshop.***

PATRICK JOHNSON

Born in Nassau, Bahamas, Mr. Johnson has reached hundreds of thousands of people of all ages and nationalities as a performer, teacher and choreographer. His dance studies include work with the critically acclaim Alvin Ailey American Dance Theatre, New York Conservatory, Broadway Dance Center, Steps on Broadway and the world famous Dance Theater of Harlem. In 1988, Mr. Johnson joined the Dance Theatre of Harlem's professional company, quickly becoming one of its leading dancers. He has worked with internationally renowned choreographers such as Agnes de Mille, Glen Tetley, Michael Smuin, Billy Wilson, Louis Johnson, Garth Fagan and Alonzo King, and performed works by George Balanchine, Alvin Ailey, Valerie Bettis, John McFall and Robert North. Mr. Johnson has given command performances for Nelson Mandela, Vice President Al Gore, Her Royal Highness Queen Elizabeth II, and the late Princess Diana. Mr. Johnson has been held in the highest regard by dance critics of major newspapers and magazines such as The New York Times, New York Daily News, The New York Post, Los Angeles Times, The Washington Post, The Washington Times, Dance Magazine, Back Stage and other publications around the world. His television and film credits include Dance Theatre of Harlem's "Creole Giselle," "Basketball/Dance" for Sports Illustrated, the PBS-Children's Television Workshop's "Mr. Roger's Neighborhood" and Sesame Street. Mr. Johnson's Broadway credits include: The Metropolitan Opera production of "Porgy and Bess" and the Joseph Papp/Shubert Organization's "A Celebration of Paul Robeson." Mr. Johnson has been the recipient of many grants and awards including two Grand Awards for choreography in 2001 and 2004. By special invitation, he has been a guest lecturer at both Columbia University in New York and Grand Valley State University in Michigan, in addition to being co-owner of Bahamas Dance International and the founder of West Michigan Flight Academy.

Mr. Johnson serves as a faculty member at Grand Rapids Community College's Theatre Department. He also works with local public schools in Grand Rapids and Muskegon helping to find new ways to educate through the arts. He maintains a busy schedule with theatre groups in the Grand Rapids area, making it possible to further his mission of bringing the arts to as many people in the community as possible. ***Mr. Johnson will teach Intermediate Ballet and Men's Class Variations.***



ABOUT THE MASTERCLASS TEACHERS

SHAWN T BIBLE - MODERN

Shawn T Bible received a B.A. degree in Social Science and Dance from Michigan State University and a M.F.A. degree in Dance Choreography and Performance from the University of Michigan. His research interests into the integration of Modern Dance and film/video technology has resulted in many outstanding productions, including his video dance *Dominique* which won a Rackham Scors Film Festival Award in 2005. Mr. Bible joined the faculty of Grand Valley State University in Fall 2008. Prior to accepting this position, he served on the faculty of Texas Tech University. Mr. Bible has danced professionally with I~Move, People Dancing, and Ann Arbor Dance Works. Very active as a choreographer throughout the United States, he is also the artistic director of the modern dance company, stbdance which is the recipient of the Maggie Allessee New Choreography Award.

ALICIA DIAZ – CONTEMPORARY DANCE (*non-traditional*) AND NON-TRADITIONAL PARTNERING

Jazz/Ballet Novice: Alicia holds an M.A. in Dance and Chorography for The Gallatin School of Individualized Studies at NYU, She has danced and presented her works both nationally and internationally. Along with her husband Matthew Thornton, she has founded *Agua Dulce Dance Theater*. She is also a Body Conditioning Instructor and a certified Thai Yoga Massage Therapist.

MATTHEW THORNTON – CAPOEIRA AND NON-TRADITIONAL PARTNERING

Modern/Capoeira: Matthew is a movement artist who has studied and trains across a diverse field of disciplines; dance, theatre, martial arts, and mind-body work. He has traveled the world with the renowned modern dance company, Pilobolus Dance Theater. He performed with Pilobolus in the 79th Academy Awards Ceremony. He continues to perform both nationally and internationally.

MICHAEL WOODBERRY-MEANS – MORNING WARM-UP SESSION

Michael Woodberry-Means is a native of Detroit, Michigan where he is a mathematics instructor at the Detroit Academy of Arts and Sciences and currently teaches dance at the Boll Family YMCA in Downtown Detroit. Mr. Means, as he is affectionately called, received his dance training from Dance Theatre of Harlem, Alvin Ailey American Dance Center, Martha Graham Center for Contemporary Dance, American Dance Festival and both his MFA and BFA degrees from the University of Michigan. He has performed with the Dallas Metropolitan Ballet, Dallas Black Dance Theatre, the Dance Theatre of Harlem Ensemble, Martha Graham Dance, and Ballethnic Dance Company of Atlanta, GA. Michael has worked with Donald McKayle, George Faison, Kevin `lega` Jeff, Carlos Orta, and Talley Beaty.