

Convergence Initiative
Curating Artist
Adia Whitaker

ALBANY SYMPHONY



Artistic Director of the Àşę Dance Theatre Collective, Adia Tamar Whitaker, has performed contemporary vernacular movement, modern and Afro-Haitian dance in the U.S. and abroad for 16 years. Adia completed a BA in Dance at San Francisco State University (2000), the Professional Division U.S. Independent Studies Program at The Ailey School (2001), was Choreoquest Resident Artist @ Restoration Dance Theater (2004), a Ford Foundation Special Initiative for Africa Grant Recipient (2004), an Urban Bush Women Apprentice (2005) and a

Maggie Allesee National Center for Choreography @ FSU Creative Entry Point Choreographic Fellow (2006). She is a former Artist-In-Residence of the counterPULSE Performing Diaspora (2009/2010), a recipient of the Theater Bay Area CA\$H Grant and the Zellerbach Family Foundation Grant (2009). In 2011, Whitaker along with her other cast members received an Isadora Duncan Award for her performance in a choreopoem she wrote, directed, choreographed and costumed called "Ampey!" Adia was a co-choreographer and touring cast member of "Scourge", a choreopoem written by Marc Bamuthi Joseph, featuring choreography by Rennie Harris and Stacey Printz. "Scourge" toured in the U.S. and abroad for two years. She has received grants from the Brooklyn Arts Council (2007), The Puff!n Foundation (2008), the Hip Hop Theater Festival (2008) and the Jerome Foundation (2008). She has been teaching Afro-Haitian Dance Workshops throughout the U.S. and abroad for the past ten years. Adia's work has been featured (Off-Broadway) in the International Dance Festival (NY, 2002), Scourge @ Yerba Buena Center for the Performing Arts (S.F., 2005) and ODC (S.F., 2007), Oberon's Macbeth (NY, 2008) and several other national and international dance festivals. These include Super Sabado and the Museum Mile Festival @ El Museo Del Barrio (NY, 2012), The Tizita Talks @ NYU (NY, 2011), Global Africa @ The Museum of Art & Design (NY, 2011), Meet the Artist @ Lincoln Center (NY, 2009, 2010), The Living Word Festival at Dance Mission & YBCA (S.F., 2007, 2010), the Cuba Caribe Festival (S.F., 2010), the counterPULSE Performing Diaspora Festival (S.F., 2009, 2010), Kwanzaa @ the World Financial Center (NY, 2009), Target First Saturday's at the Brooklyn Museum of Art (NY, 2008), City Parks Foundation Summerstage @ Von King Park (NY, 2008), The African Caribbean Concert at FAMU and TCC (Tallahassee, FLA 2008), Native Tongue at ODC (S.F., 2007), Summer of Love @ The Whitney (NY, 2007), V-Day at the Brooklyn Museum of Art (NY, 2007), Spring Dance Festival @ Stadsschouwburg (Utrecht, Holland 2007) & Lantern Venster (Rotterdam, Holland 2007), Festival De Liege (Liege, Belgium 2007), Festival De Les Pyrenees (France, Spain, & Germany 2002), E-Moves at Aaron Davis Hall and Harlem Stage (NY, 2006, 2009), A Tribute to Dunham @ the Museum of Natural History (NY, 2006), and the International Association of Blacks in Dance; Dance Conference at Symphony Space (NY, 2006).

Adia has traveled to Cuba (1997, 2000), Haiti (1999), Brazil (2003), Ghana, West Africa (2008) and Jamaica (2009) to study traditional African dance styles in cultural, contemporary, and performance context. She has also been presented by; Young Audiences (2010), Ron Brown's "Evidence" (2006 & 2008), Arts Connection (2006 – current), Thelma Hill Performing Arts (2002, 2005, 2008), Dancing in the Streets (2002-2007), NYC Hip Hop Theater Festival (2005-2007), Community Works (2005 – current), The Kitchen (2004), The Caribbean Cultural Center (2007, 2009) and The Schomburg Center (2003-2009). She is currently a Dance Teaching artist for Brooklyn Academy of Music.