

British Dance

Black Routes

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Appendix 2

Timeline of significant events 1946–2005 for British-based dancers who are Black

Christy Adair and Ramsay Burt

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Timeline of significant events 1946–2005 for British-based dancers who are Black

This is an ongoing project and we welcome other people to continue to develop it with acknowledgement of its source: www.dmu.ac.uk/bdad

1946

Les Ballets Nègres open at the Twentieth Century Theatre, Westbourne Grove, London, April 30.

1948

Katherine Dunham Dance Company has its first season in London.

The musical *Calypso* opens in London.

The Nicholas Brothers give Royal Command Performance for the King of England at the London Palladium.

1953

Les Ballets Nègres' final season.

1957

Pearl Primus presents her work at the Princes Theatre, London.

1962

The Chubby Checker Show on Associated Television.

1963

Namron joins Willesden Jazz Ballet.

Will Gaines arrives in England. He is the first American jazz dancer to play at the Royal Opera House.

1964

First London performances by Alvin Ailey American Dance Theatre.

1965

The National Dance Theatre Company of Jamaica performs in London as part of the Commonwealth Arts Festival and tours the UK.
Felix Cobbson arrives from Ghana to set up Aklowa.

1967

Donald McKayle's company presents *Black New World* at the Royal Lyceum Theatre, Edinburgh.

1968

Bill Harpe produces multicultural dance performance as part of the opening celebrations of the Metropolitan Cathedral, Liverpool. Namron is one of the dancers.

1969

William Louthier arrives from the United States to join London Contemporary Dance Theatre.

1974

George Dzikunu arrives from Ghana.
Peter Blackman forms Steel 'n' Skin, who offer educational workshops.
Grassroots Dance Company is formed in Leicester.

1975

Ipi Tombi, from South Africa, opens at Her Majesty's Theatre, London, 19 November.
Lanzel is founded by Chester Morrison in Wolverhampton.

1976

Elroy Josephs takes up a post at I.M. Marsh Teacher Training College, Liverpool.
Barrington Anderson founds Ekomé in Bristol.

1977

MAAS Movers, a contemporary dance company, is founded by the Minority Arts Advisory Service.

1978

Patricia Banton wins choreographers award for MAAS Movers.
William Louthier creates a piece for MAAS Movers.
Carl Campbell founds Dance Company 7.
Kokuma, directed by Bob Ramdhanie, is founded in Birmingham.

1979

Steel 'n' Skin's Liverpool residency is the subject of documentary film by Steve Shaw for Arts Council of Great Britain.

Cathy Lewis' choreography for *Kisses Remembered* performed by London Contemporary Dance Theatre.

1981

Maxine Brown is one of the founder members of Delado in Liverpool.
Phoenix Dance Company is founded.

1982

Jazz Defektors is formed.

Danse de L'Afrique established by Bob Ramdhanie and 'H' Patten in Birmingham.

1983

Mama Lou Parks performs in London.

1984

Warren Heyes and Terry Monaghan start Jiving Lindyhoppers, who give their first performance at the Notting Hill Carnival.

First London visit of Dance Theatre of Harlem.

IDJ (I dance jazz) is founded.

1985

Black Dance Development Trust's first summer school is held in Leicester.

Beverley Glean forms Irie! Dance Theatre.

Corinne Bougaard founds Union Dance.

1986

Bode Lawal creates Sakoba Company.

Judith Palmer joins Adzido as a dancer.

Brothers in Jazz come to London (Irven Lewis, Wayne James and Trevor Miller).

1987

Brenda Edwards and Noel Wallace create roles in Ulysses Dove's *Episodes*, commissioned by London Festival Ballet.

Carol Straker Dance Company is formed.

Parallels in Black – two programmes of work by six postmodern African American choreographers – Blondell Cummings, Ralph Lemon, Fred Holland, Ishmael Houston-Jones, Bebe Miller and Jowale Willa Jo Zollar – presented at The Place Theatre, London.

1988

Jackie Guy appointed Artistic Director of Kokuma Performing Arts.

1989

Salut: Black Expression on the South Bank, Rex Nettleford lecture.

1990

Peter Badejo forms Badejo Arts.

Bullies Ballerinas formed.

Five Guys Named Moe, first London production at Stratford East.

1991

Germaine Acogny wins the London Contemporary Dance and Performance Award for her solo *YE'OU*.

1992

Sheron Wray founds JazzXchange.

Closure of Black Dance Development Trust.

Paul Liburd joins Rambert Dance Company.

'H' Patten creates and tours his first solo production *Ina De Wildanis*.

1993

'What is Black Dance in Britain? A meeting for practitioners'. Nottingham Playhouse, March.

RJC Company formed in Leeds.

1994

ADAD is founded.

Kompany Malakhi is formed.

1995

Jonzi D performs *Aeroplane Man*, as part of *Lyrikal Fearta*, at the Place Theatre, London.

Bunty Matthias performs *You Want My Wont* at The Place Theatre, London, as part of SpringLoaded Festival.

Patrick Acogny appointed Artistic Director of Kokuma Dance Company.

1996

Vivien Freakley directs Black Dance Choreographic Initiative.

ACE dance and music established in Birmingham directed by Gail Parmel.

Dollie Henry founded Body of People (BOP), a jazz dance and musical theatre company.

1999

Robert Hylton forms Urban Classicism.
Phoenix Dance Company's Anniversary Tour.
Lion King opens in London.

2000

Hermin McIntosh writes the report *Time for change: a framework for the development of African peoples dance forms* for the Arts Council.
Francis Angol founds Movement Angol.

2001

Brenda Edwards is Artistic Director of first Hip Festival.
Ballet Black is founded.
David Bryan directs *Nubian Steps* at the South Bank.

2002

Hilary Carty appointed Director, Performing Arts, Arts Council of England.

2003

Kenneth Olumuyiwa Tharp is awarded OBE for services to dance.

2004

Bawren Tavaziva forms Tavaziva Dance Company.

2005

Adzido lose their funding.
Robert Hylton presents *Verse and Verses* at Laban.