

Acia Gray

Contact Information

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Location: Austin, TX 78745

PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

Accomplished dancer, choreographer, and educator with over 45 years of experience in tap and contemporary dance. Renowned for blending artistic direction, education, and performance. Founder of Tapestry Dance Company and the Soul to Sole Festival, with a legacy of innovative work in dance and public art. Known for exceptional leadership, creating cultural bridges, and promoting the art of tap dance globally.

Education:

Associate of Occupational Studies / Advanced Acting Technique
American Academy of Dramatic Arts, NYC, 1981 Graduate

Inaugural Member of the First A.A.D.A. Repertory Company, NYC, 1981-1982

Training Residencies:

First Creative Residency / Tap Dance, Colorado Dance Festival
w/ Charles 'Honi' Coles, 1989
12 professional dancers chosen worldwide
Second Creative Residency / Tap Dance, Colorado Dance Festival
w/ Jimmy Slyde, 1990
11 professional dancers chosen worldwide

Tap Training:

Charles 'Honi' Coles, Brenda Bufalino, Sarah Petronio, Steve Condos, Eddie Brown, Buster Brown, Cholly Atkins, Jimmy Slyde, Sam Weber, Dianne Walker, Debra Bray
Numerous International Master Classes

Modern/Jazz/Ballet Training:

Bruce King (Cunningham), Bruce Wood (Lar Lubovitch), Sharon Marroquin (Horton)
AADA Faculty / Cunningham and Graham techniques, classic jazz, ballet (1979-1982)
Numerous International Master Classes

Positions Held:

Arts Commissioner / Austin, TX - District 6 (2021- present)
Arts In Public Places Commissioner / Austin, TX (2021-2023)
Co-Founder, Executive/Artistic Director, Tapestry Dance Company
Austin, TX 1989 – Present / www.tapestry.org
Artistic Director, *The Soul to Sole Festival* / Austin, TX (1993 – Present)
Faculty / Texas State University / Theatre & Dance Department (2024-Present)
Solo Artist, Choreographer, Master Teacher
Author: *The Souls of Your Feet*
Grand Weaver's Publishing Company
ISBN# 0-9667445-0-0
International Tap Plan / Steering Committee, 2008
President – The International Tap Association (2008-2018) / Archive Holder

Grants:

National Endowment for the Arts/American Masterpieces (2007, 2008)
– *The Souls of Our Feet / A Celebration of American Tap Dance*

Texas Commission on the Arts, Artist in Education & Arts Create (1990 – present)
Texas Commission on the Arts Touring Roster (1990 – 2020)
NEA Choreography Initiative (2003) / Bowling Green, KY
NEA Excellence (2004-2009)
Heartland Touring Roster (1990-present)
Hegardt Foundation (2008, 2009)
Mid America Arts Alliance Touring Roster (1990 – present)
3M Arts in Education Grant (2002/2001/2000)
Motorola, Applied Materials, Texaco Project Grants
Meredith Foundation Grant (2006)
Kleberg Foundation Grant (2007)
Dougherty Foundation Grant (1992 / 1994)
#1 Ranking, City of Austin Cultural Contracts / Tapestry (1990-2009)
#1 Ranking, City of Austin Cultural Contracts / Austin on Tap (1983-1987)

Committees: The International Tap Association Steering Committee (1990)
Create Austin (2007)
The National Tap Plan / NEA (2007)
Austin Theatre Alliance Award (2005)

Honors: Inaugural member of the Austin Critics Table *Austin Arts Hall of Fame*, 2002
2017 Dance USA Honoree
2016 Hoofer Award (NYC Tap Festival / American Tap Dance Foundation)
2008 Texas Tap Legend (Dallas Dance Council)
2008 Legacy Award (Third Coast Rhythm Project)
2007 Tapology Award (Flint, MI)
Chosen to pay to tribute to Buster Brown, Eddie Brown, Charles ‘Honi’ Coles
& Sarah Petronio, NYC Tap Festival (2001/2002)
Publication *the Souls of Your Feet* – Category Bestseller, Amazon.com, 1999
Best of Austin Critics Table Awards (Samples)
Best “Casual Grace”, Austin Chronicle Critics Table Award, 2001
Best Ensemble & Best Dance Company, *the Souls of Our Feet*, Critics Table Awards, 2007
Best Casual Grace, Austin Chronicle Critic’s Awards, 2001
Best Large Dance Performance *Stayin’ Alive*, Critics Table Award, 1999
Best Choreographer, Austin Chronicle Critics Award, 1999
Best Dancer, Austin Chronicle Reader’s Poll, 1999
International Tap Association / Lincoln Center Archive Profiles
The Souls of Your Feet, by Marda Kirn, 1998
Tap Composers, by Brenda Bufalino, 1999
Best Dance Company (Tapestry), Austin Chronicle, 1994
Featured Soloist, Dance Magazine Calendar, 1989
A Taste of Texas, Texas Agricultural Department Expo/NYC, 1986
2019 Austin Creative Alliance Award

Publications: *The Souls of Your Feet*, 1998 (Grand Weaver’s Publishing Company)
International Tap Association / Lincoln Center - *Closing the Gap*
(Brenda Bufalino & Sarah Petronio), 1999
(Jeni LeGon & Ernie Smith), 2000

Residence Producer: NEA Masterpiece: Dance / *The Souls of Our Feet* (2006, 2007, 2008)
Arthur Duncan, Dianne Walker, Brenda Bufalino, Dr. Jeni LeGon, Dr. Harold Cromer, Sarah Petronio

In Residence:

New York City Tap Festival, *Rim Shot*, 2015
New York City Tap Festival, *Body Music*, 2009
International Festival de Danse Encore (Canada), 2009 (2003-2019)
Tap Legacy Project, restaging *The Chair Dance*, *B.S. Chorus*, 2006
Third Coast Rhythm Project, *Gravy Waltz*, 2006
Chicago Human Rhythm Project, premiere restaging of Charles 'Honi' Coles'
Conglomerations, 2002
Third Coast Rhythm Project, *Anacruses*, 2002
International Summer School / Cyprus, 1995, 1996
T.A.S.I.S. London, 1997
The Famine Project / Dublin, Ireland, 1998
Tanzsommer U.S. Student Project, Austria, 1999

Faculty:

Tapestry Dance Company / Austin, TX, 1989 – present
Texas State University Department of Theatre & Dance (2023-present)
St. Stephen's Episcopal School / Austin, TX (guest artist 2002-2003)
University of Texas at Austin, 2008, 2001, 2000, 1998
Austin Community College, 1990 – 1998

Collaborations:

Zell Miller, III, *Visions in Rhythm / Passing It Forward / All the Notes Are Already Here* (2016 – present)

Modern/Rhythm Tap

Erica Santiago, *Head to Toe*, 2008
Anu Naimpally & Tasha Lawson, *Footprints*, 2007
Bill Evans, *the Space Between Our Thoughts*, 2002
Lambros Lambrou, *Homecoming*, Ballet Austin, 1996
Stephen Mills, *Duel Fuel*, Ballet Austin, 1995
Sally Jacques, *Scaffold Trilogy*, 1999
Andrea Ariel, *Time*, 1993
Bruce Wood, *Intercession of Grace*, 1993
James Clouser, *The Board Dance*, 1993
Dee McCandless, *Reckless Nights & Turkish Twilights (1994) / Waterworks (2002)*
Deirdre Strand (*see choreography*)

Company Dancer:

Tapestry Dance Company (1989 – present)
Touring Company / Holden Arts & Associates (1989-2018)
It's About Time (Tribute to Sarah Petronio) / Düsseldorf (2022), Austin, TX (2023)
Austin on Tap, 1983 – 1987
Touring Company / Siegel Artist Management, Washington, DC

**Full Length Original Concert/Concept Works Choreographed
Tapestry Dance (Modern/Jazz/Tap):**

<i>The Precious Present – Listen</i>	2023
<i>The Precious Present – The Jazz Element</i>	2022
<i>All the Notes Are Already Here</i>	2022
<i>The Precious Present – Listen</i>	2021
<i>Connections (film)</i>	2021
<i>Looking Back/Looking Forward (film)</i>	2020
<i>The Precious Present – In Love & Light</i>	2021

<i>A Jazz Tap Holiday (livestream)</i>	2020
<i>Austintatious (reprise)</i>	2019
<i>April Foois (reprise)</i>	2018
<i>Sound & Silence</i>	2018
<i>Passing It Forward – The American Dream? (national)</i>	2017
<i>Just Tap (includes national tour)</i>	2017
<i>Listen with Ears Wide Open</i>	2016
<i>One Step at a Time – A Journey Forward</i>	2016
<i>In Your Shoes</i>	2015
<i>Esprit! (reprise)</i>	2014
<i>Soul – Sole Connections</i>	2014
<i>Rhythm, Reason & Reality</i>	2013
<i>Time</i>	2012
<i>April Foos</i>	2012
<i>Are You Listening to Me</i>	2011
<i>Of Mice & Music – A Jazz Tap Nutcracker</i>	2009-2019
<i>The Souls of Our Feet (NEA Masterpiece international tour)</i>	2008-2011
<i>Head to Toe</i>	2008
<i>Footprints</i>	2007
<i>Safe & Sound</i>	2006
<i>My Funny Valentine</i>	2004
<i>Ears Wide Open</i>	2004
<i>Rhythm of a Life</i>	2003
<i>In the Pocket</i>	2003
<i>Austintatious</i>	2002
<i>Esprit!</i>	2002
<i>Jass</i>	2001
<i>.com</i>	2001
<i>Almost Virtual</i>	2001
<i>Soul & Body</i>	2000
<i>Swingin' Then & Now!</i>	1997

Individual Dance Works (outside of full-length works or collaborative productions)

<i>Locomotion</i>	1995
<i>Pentimento</i>	1995
<i>The Souls of My Feet</i>	1994
<i>Musical Chairs</i>	1994
<i>Biorhythms</i>	1993
<i>Menage a Trois</i>	1993
<i>Anacruses</i>	1990

Collaborations with Tapestry Co-Founder Deirdre Strand (mixed repertory performances)

<i>The Sign of the Times</i>	2000
<i>Stayin' Alive</i>	1999
<i>The Games People Play</i>	1995
<i>Ballet Eireann</i>	1996
<i>Genesis</i>	1994
<i>Listening For Esperanto</i>	1994
<i>Rhythmic Influences</i>	1993

Short Works: *Available Upon Request*
(under 5 minutes)

Solo Performance
Master Teacher:

(Sample List)

Stockholm Tap Festival / Sweden, 2025
Monterrey Tap Festival / Monterrey, Mexico, 2017-Present
RIFF Dallas / Dallas, TX, 2015-2023
Tap Breizh / Rennes, France, 2024
Keanne Sense of Rhythm – National Tap Dance Day / St. Paul, MN, 2023-2024
Tanzhaus – Tap Dance Days / Dusseldorf, Germany, 2023
New York City Tap Festival / Tap City, 2002-2024
Women in Tap (UCLA) / Los Angeles, CA, 2008
Tap Legacy Project, 2007, 2009
Southeastern Tap Explosion / Atlanta, GA, 1999 – 2006
Chicago Human Rhythm Project, 2002, 2006
Rhythm Explosion / Bozeman, MT, 2005, 2007
Los Angeles Tap Festival / CA, 2007
Vancouver Tap Festival, 2010
Third Coast Rhythm Project / San Antonio, 1999 – 2012
St. Louis Tap Festival, 1997 – 2004
Columbus Tap Festival / Columbus, MO 2002
New Mexico Rhythm Tap Festival, 2002, 2004
Broadway Dance Center, 2002, 2008, 2024
Chicago on Tap / Columbia College, Chicago, IL, 1996
Dance Educators of America, 1997, 2003
Texas Association of Teachers of Dance, 1999
Pineapple Studios, London, 1998, 2024
Texas Association of Health, Recreation & Dance, 1995, 2002
Dallas Dance Council, 2001, 2008
Panoply / Atlanta, GA, 2002
Dance Masters of America / Seattle, WA & Biloxi, MS, 1995
International Summer School, Cyprus, 1995, 1996
Ballet Austin Summer Intensive, 1993, 1994
Colorado Dance Festival, 1992

Additional presenters available upon request

**TDC Company
Performances:**

Mainstage Premieres (*see choreography*)
The Long Center, Austin, TX / 2008 - Current
Paramount Theatre, Austin, TX / Touring (1989 -2007)
Helm Fine Arts Center, Austin, TX / (2006-2008)

Tapestry Dance Company – Touring
presenters available upon request
USA, Canada, Spain, Brazil, Austria, Czech Republic and Republic of China
Austin Festival of Dance (1992-2001)
Austin on Tap – National Touring
Theatres, Colleges & Universities throughout the U.S.

Documentaries / Featured:

Tap or Die
A Class Act: The Magic of Honi Coles.
Thinking on Their Feet - Women of the Tap Renaissance (UCLA produced)
A Vision in Rhythm (Matt Ryan Productions)
Passing it Forward produced by PBS.

**Musical Theatre
Choreography:**

Equity

Live Oak Theatre / State Theatre, Austin, TX (1996-2005)

Cabaret
Damn Yankees
Pump Boys & Dinettes
The Tempest
My Fair Lady
Dark of the Moon
Nunsense
A Christmas Carol
She Loves Me

Non-Equity

Zilker Hillside Productions / St. Stephen's Stages, Austin, TX (1998-2006)

South Pacific
Big River
42nd Street

Theatre/Acting:

<i>Vagina Monologues</i>	Zachary Scott Theatre / Austin, TX / 2007
<i>Key Exchange</i>	Capital City Playhouse / Austin, TX
<i>Cabaret</i>	Live Oak Theatre / Austin, TX
<i>Oedipus, TX</i>	Studio 29 / Austin, TX
<i>The Glee Club</i>	Improv Comedy Troupe, NYC
<i>Passing Game</i>	NYC / AADA Rep Co / 1981
<i>The Shadowbox</i>	NYC / AADA Rep Co / 1981
<i>The Dutchman</i>	NYC / AADA Rep Co / 1981
<i>The Women</i>	NYC / AADA Rep Co / 1982
<i>Royal Gambit</i>	NYC / AADA Rep Co / 1982
<i>Lilly the Felon's Daughter</i>	Cabaret Theatre / Austin, TX (1981)
<i>Star Wars</i>	Melodrama Theatre / Austin, TX / 1980
<i>Once Upon a Mattress</i>	Zachary Scott Theatre / 1979

Showcases / NYC (1980 – 1982)

The Museum
Antigone
I Am a Camera
The Rimers of Eldritch

FINAL NOTES

- References, additional collaborations, and full choreography and solo presentation list available upon request.