

# Acia Gray

## Contact Information

Phone: 512.695.6560 | Email: soulsfeet@mac.com

Website: [www.aciagray.com](http://www.aciagray.com) / [www.tapestry.org](http://www.tapestry.org)

Location: Austin, TX 78745

---

## PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

Accomplished dancer, choreographer, and educator with over 30 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](http://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 Hooper 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 &amp; Light</i>	2021

<i>A Jazz Tap Holiday (livestream)</i>	2020
<i>Austintatious (reprise)</i>	2019
<i>April Foois (reprise)</i>	2018
<i>Sound &amp; 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 &amp; Reality</i>	2013
<i>Time</i>	2012
<i>April Foos</i>	2012
<i>Are You Listening to Me</i>	2011
<i>Of Mice &amp; 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 &amp; 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 &amp; Body</i>	2000
<i>Swingin' Then &amp; 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*  
*42<sup>nd</sup> 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.