



WILLIAM CHAISON

William Chaison, dancer/choreographer, was an Associate Professor of Physical Education at Kean College. Born in Bakersfield, California, he moved to New York City in 1974. He professionally danced with The Alvin Ailey City Center Dance Theatre of N.Y. in 1972, and returned to the company in 1984 to choreograph "Places" to the music of Bach. Chaison also performed with the Eleo Pomare and Rod Rodgers dance companies of New York. He was the first black to become a member of the Houston Jazz Ballet in Texas, and also danced with the Houston Grand Opera Ballet.

As a National Endowment for the Arts artist, he lectured at the University of Honduras and in Vienna, Austria. He has also served as a guest professor at Brown University, Trenton State, N.Y. University, and the University of Houston. In addition, he taught at conventions of the New Jersey Association of Health, Physical Education, Recreation, and Dance. Chaison was a graduate from Bakersfield Jr. College, California. He received a B.S. degree from University of Houston, and furthered his education receiving his M.F.A. from New York University.

Joining Kean College as an instructor in 1977, he founded Kean Dance Theatre in 1981. Kean Dance Theatre (KDT) established its reputation by participating in the American College Dance Festival. Chaison's work "Reflections" was named best work at the Northern Regionals of the Festival in Philadelphia. "New breed," choreographed by KDT member Jay Jenkins, was chosen to perform in the Informal Performance Presentation at the National Level of the American College Dance Festival in 1983. "Rites and Rituals" was recently named Best Performance in the festival's Northeastern Regionals held in Winston-Salem, N.C. 1988.

Several months ago, he established the William Chaison Dance Theatre of New Jersey, a 12 member modern and jazz dance company. The goals of the company are to provide opportunities for minority choreographers and to bring dance as an art form to N.J. school students. Chaison stated, "We want to reflect the multi-ethnic heritage of the metropolitan area in contemporary dance works performed with exciting staging - as true dance theatre." The Dance Theatre will continue to carry out Chaison's Dream.

The William Chaison Dance Theatre of New Jersey

"The Living Memorial"

ARTISTS

Patricia Carter
Michael Davis
Dawud Jackson
Richard McCurdy

Cindy Nicholson
Barbara Parisi
Lazette Rayford
Stacy Sofman

Ronald Wright

APPRENTICES

Sentheia McLeod

Paula Rauch

Founder	William Chaison
Artistic Directress	Patricia A. Carter
Associate Artistic Director	Ronald Wright
Assistant Artistic Director	Dawud Jackson
Technical Director/Stage Manager	Cynthia Baker
Executive Director	Gail Deutsch
Lighting Design	Lou Hamel
Poster Design, Set Design, Graphic Artist	Bruce McIntyre

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Founder	William Chaison
President	William Collins
Vice President	Marvin Nicholson
Treasurer	Jeanne Goldstein
Executive Director/Publicity	Gail Deutsch
Artistic Directress	Patricia A. Carter
Associate Artistic Director	Ronald Wright
Publicity & Public Relations	Margaret Pasanowic

Elissa Cogan
Christopher Cottle
Dr. Catherine D. Gaines
Janet Hicks
Dawud Jackson

Yvonne Jackson
Sentheia McLeod
Paula Rauch
Daria P. Reilly
Danita Wilson

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Richard Katz
Lauren Mastrobuono
Robyn Rajs

Dolores Shiposh
Susan Weeks
Amanda Wells

PROGRAM

Suite 88

*Carlotta's Moon

*In The Pursuit of Love

- intermission -

*The Changing of Season

Nana

Short Stories

- intermission -

*First Circle

*World Premiere

"Suite 88"

Choreography: Jay Jenkins
Music by: Leon Huff

- THE COMPANY -

"Suite 88 was first premiered by Kean Dance Theatre of Kean College in 1983. Under the direction of Chaison, Jenkin's choreography was introduced and recognized by the National College Dance Festival Association.

"Carlotta's Moon"

Choreography: Stacy Sofman
Music by: Sting

Stacy Sofman

"In The Pursuit Of Love"

Choreography: Ronald Wright
Music by: Nancy Wilson

Cindy Nicholson
Michael Davis
Patricia Carter

Dawud Jackson
Lazette Rayford
Ronald Wright

"The Changing of Season"

Choreography: Lazette Rayford
Music by: Esther Sutherfield

Lazette Rayford

“Nana”

Choreography: Patricia A. Carter
Music by: Paul Winter

Patricia A. Carter Michael Davis
*Sentheia McLeod

This duet is part of a work in progress entitled “Generation Gap”.
*Sentheia McLeod will perform Dec. 16.

“Short Stories”

Choreography: William Chaison
Music by: Crosby, Stills & Nash, Pigalle-Plytas

Ronald Wright Patricia Carter Dawud Jackson

This trilogy was first performed, as a solo work, by William Chaison in 1985. As the artistic staff of his dance theatre, we pay tribute to a great artist, mentor, and friend by performing his work.

“First Circle”

Choreography: Patricia A. Carter
Music by: Spiro Gira, Pat Metheny
Costumes: Davese Jones
Set Design: Bruce McIntyre
Narration: Peggy Dunn
Poetry: Kahlil Gibran

- THE COMPANY -

“First Circle” celebrates the spirit of William Chaison. As we embark upon new horizons, we (WCDDT) are guided by his energy. This creation is generated by love, and combined with the words of Gibran, it becomes a work devoted to a dream. Chaison’s dream.

Special Thanks

I would like to express most sincere thanks to:

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Mary Lewis

Roger Lowenstein
Eleanor McKnight
Ceil Natkins
Linda Bond-Nelson
Ellen Nicholson
Michael O’Casis
Freda Remmers
Jay & Barbara Schwartz
Dolores Shiposh
Nettie Smith
Lucille Weiss
David Yoresh

PATRICIA A. CARTER
Artistic Directress