



Dudley Williams in photos from the world-wide-web

September 2024

Happy New Year!

And here's hoping this finds you well!

Yes, it's the beginning of our fiscal year, as we wade through the second part of the calendar, and our 30th year strong!

OPINION – I do support the @dancersofdbdt. Having been a dancer from the ground up, having achieved professional status in both Ballet and Modern Dance companies, and having run professional companies for over 41 years ... I do think that firing a whole company because of a video they made is incredibly suspicious to me! Dancers are what make a company, and it's a shame that they are so "disposable". It is way past time dancers get a voice at the table!! *Loris.*

Dudley Williams -

Dudley Williams' (1938-2015) birthday was last month. I still want to celebrate him, though! Alvin Ailey said to me "Dudley is a poet". I had the privilege of making "Anjour: Ruminations on Dudley" with him in 1984 at Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater. Quite a joy! Oddly, or not so oddly (we didn't have cellphone cameras everywhere then), we never made photos together. There is one professional photo of Dudley in Anjour in an Ailey book, though it's mistitled. But I think warmly of him, his career, his artistry, his coaching and, of course, his jokes to me on email. He danced!!

In his obit, I learned that his mother's name was Beckles. Were we related?

Upcoming

- 1 Sep ... Early giving began on 1 Sep, runs through 19 Sep!
If you don't donate earlier, **get up and give**
and additional funds will be donated by Communities Foundation of Texas!
- 19 Sep North Texas Giving Day. 12:01 am to 11:45 pm!
- 12 Oct BDC as part of DBDT's DanceAfrica Marketplace (Time: TBA)
- 15-16 Nov South Dallas Dance Festival,
honoring Aakhu Shetet and Mary Lois Sweatt (1939-2016)
After back-and-forth about the name of SDDF, we decided to go back to its original name, with honors added afterward. Aakhu had suggested the festival, and Mary Lois made sure that it was in our bylaws. We are happy to recognize their contributions to dance in the area!



Old pix: Dudley by Johan Elbers; Kathy M. Thomas and Loris by Mr. Paul H. Daiter; BDC (2018, after Pomare Plus) by Kendrix Wesley

In the next issue, you will see pix of the new dancers, engaged after our last audition to augment BDC for our *Thirtieth Anniversary Celebration!* in May. Meanwhile, Beckles Dancing Company has already begun rehearsing for the year before us. Our first performance series will be the South Dallas Dance Festival. For several years, the festival was called the Sweatt Dallas Dance Festival, but we returned to that original name to reinforce the geography and avoid misspellings of the Sweatt name. It will honor Aakhu Shetet and Mary Lois Sweatt (1939-2016), and include performances, the SDDF Scholarship recipient, an Open Class, Youth Dance Showcase and a Roundtable Discussion.

Some of our sponsors

Delores Browne (1935-2023) .. Carol A. Crowe .. Sally Hansen ..
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Thank you!



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Beckles Dancing Company is a component of ARGA NOVA DANCE, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation.