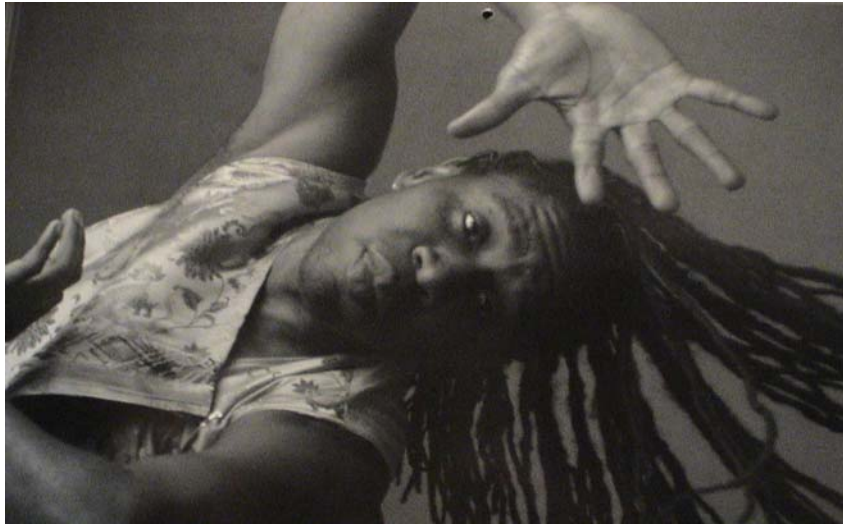


Anthony 'Prime' Guerra



Biography of Anthony Guerra (Prime)

Anthony brings 15+ years of experience as a professional dancer, actor, and choreographer. Anthony is originally from Trinidad and Tobago where he learned and studied dances of his culture. He also studied theatre and music at the University of the West Indies.

Anthony has performed with a number of well-known dance troupes in Trinidad including Malick Folk (traditional dance), Noble Douglas, Carol La Chappelle, Nrityanjali Dance Theatre (Indian dance) and Astor Johnson Dance Company (fusion modern and traditional).

Anthony has been in Toronto since 1996 and has performed with Ballet Creole, C.O.B.A. (Collective of Black Artists), Canbouley, Dance Caribe, Caribbean Folk Performers, Hummingbird Dance, Janak Khendry Dance Company (Indian dance) and OMO Dance Company (modern dance).

He has worked with many independent Toronto artists and choreographers as a performer or actor or/and choreographer. To name a few; such as, Jeffery Chan, Rhoma Spencer, Esmeralda Emerita, Muhtadi, Leeliana and is currently still performing with OMO and Janak Khendry dance companies, and he has also pursued dance theatre via his association with Sur Theatre (Tango) and Swizzle Stick Theatre (stilt walking dance).

His dream is to open a Canadian National Theatre Dance school based on “Prime Dance”. “Prime Dance” means form, feeling and meaning are one...form, feeling and healing are one which a person’s identity is expressed in the way he or she moves or dances; dancing reveals ones character.

In addition to performances, Anthony has been actively involved in researching the African contribution to many of today’s dances, history and tradition. This interest has led him in pursuit of the African roots of Argentinean tango. Since 2000 Anthony has been performing Canyengue, a form of Argentine tango, which dates back to the turn of the last century retaining African roots and feeling through rhythm and posture. He has performed and choreographed Canyegue with Lisandro Gomez’s company Tango Sur at *Toronto’s First International Tango Festival 2005* and many other engagements throughout Toronto.

His profound knowledge of dance has made him highly sought after by many educational institutions. He has lectured at York University (2003-2006), other institutions, corporations,



and Toronto public and private schools. His passion to “edutain”(means to simultaneously educate and entertain) people on the origins and the relationships of past, present and future cultures and today’s widely accepted dance forms and movements to Black heritage and rhythms is evident in his eloquent speeches. His ability to perform and vividly show exactly what he is talking about has led this dancer, with an incredible dance vocabulary, to dance with many other ethnic dance companies here and abroad from Indian, Chinese, European, Spanish, etc...

Anthony has been very active in developing himself as a **mentor** of dance life. He focuses primarily on Afro-Caribbean/modern. His historical knowledge of dance helps students relate to movement in a contextual manner, respecting cultural origins of the given dances and in keeping with his sense of giving back to the community, Anthony teaches children and

youth the dances of Trinidad, Caribbean and African Diaspora with a focus on making dance an accessible part of a live heritage.

Hence his classes, Black Heritage performances/workshops and artistic contribution as a performer and teacher/mentor to many youths and adults in Toronto’s downtown Parkdalian neighbourhood from Masaryk-Cowan Community Center has as a result enriched and educated a community by creating a positive image of Parkdale through the arts and at the same time provided self identity, Black cultural knowledge through the arts and confidence to Black youths.

Anthony Guerra’s dance vision and artistic mission is to give to everyone regardless of income, race, creed or culture the opportunity to experience global dance to improve their skills and lives be it socially or artistically, and obtain happiness in the field of the arts.

As a global visionary artist, Anthony wants everyone around the world to understand that the diversity of cultural dance can shine, but that there is also unity and similarities rooted with common elements. If only the celebration of diversity can mean unity, but sadly it’s not always so; however, his dance participation with the international multimedia project called *Planetarium* (aims to bring together artists from around the world into a new art movement) hopes to help bring healing and peace to our world with compassion and respect to all.

Anthony has been working on the dance side of this ambitious project (Planetarium) and under this special international work it has gone inside and outside Toronto with performances at the Premier Dance Theatre and shows around the world, such as, Macedonia, Geneva, etc... and currently Ankara, Turkey. Through works like these Anthony is proud to be a world ambassador for Canada as his talent graces many international stages.



In fact, it was the first time any dance company has ever performed inside the United Nations building in Geneva, Switzerland for its 60th anniversary celebration; and we can proudly say that it was a local Toronto, Canadian company that had the honour to perform in front of distinguished dignitaries from around the world.

Therefore, Anthony as a humanitarian understands the importance of mentorship and building 'a sense of belonging' in marginalized communities in order to help his people and today's youths. He is currently trying to keep community based organizations like Afro-Caribbean Dance Group alive and flourishing in order to continue giving everyone the experience of high-quality arts program in neighbourhoods outside the Toronto downtown core; such as, the Warden Avenue and Finch Avenue (Scarborough area) and with the increase of youth violence and gun related issues in these communities there is a pressing urgency for these programs. Torontonians everywhere can benefit both economically and spiritually by investing in its youths.

Artistic Director and Choreography Credits

He is serving as the Artistic Director/Choreographer for the Afro-Caribbean Dance Group. He is a choreographer for Shadow Land, the Ward Island Dancers, Miss Chinese and Miss Guyana Ontario Beauty Pageants, Parkdale's Community Center, and assisted in OMO productions.

Acting

In addition to his focus on dance, Anthony has TV acting experience, largely in Trinidad (TV series "No Boundaries" and short movies). In 2004 he was on a Discovery Channel documentary featured as a dance teacher (no acting needed).

TV Choreography Credit

He received credit for his choreography in 2003 Toronto's Film Festival for the movie '*In My Father's Hand*'. As a multitalented dancer and actor he strives to incorporate more soul and drama into dance. Dance is art, soul, expression and not just steps or a number of university credentials after ones name.

