

PROGRAMME

“Dancing Through The Flames: How DC’s Dance Culture Survived 1968”

1968 was a pivotal year in America. The Civil Rights Movement was making strides in severing the ties of racial segregation and social injustice. On April 4, 1968, the leader of the Civil Rights Movement, Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., was assassinated. Following the assassination of Dr. King, a backlash in urban cities across the country occurred. There were protests which evolved into riots, which consisted of protesting, looting, and burning down of buildings and stores in African American communities. Washington, DC was one of the riot torn areas. The riots in Washington, DC erupted April 4-8 in NW, NE and SE.

While African American communities in Washington, DC were being destroyed because of the riots, teenagers continued to dance daily on the Teenarama Dance Party television show on WOOK-TV. The Teenarama Dance Party was created for African American teenagers in Washington, DC during a time of racial segregation and social injustice. Teenarama was the jewel of the community.

During the riots, teens made their way to the WOOK-TV studio at 5321 1st Place, NE in Fort Totten, passing through areas with burning buildings and National Guards armed with rifles. While at Howard University, college students were not allowed off campus during the time of the riots. The administration allowed the college students to have dance parties on campus as a way of occupying them while they were on “lock down”.

Dancing was a way to ease these young people’s minds despite the destruction going on around them.

SCHEDULE:

11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. – Screening of the Emmy Award Winning documentary “Dance Party: The Teenarama Story” (2006 Producers/Directors Beverly Lindsay-Johnson and the late Herb Grimes)

1:00 p.m. – 2:15 p.m. – Discussion “Dancing Through The Flames”

2:15 p.m. – 2:30 p.m. – Showcase, The National Hand Dance Association Classic Hand Dancers

2:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. – 1968 Dance Party! Music by DJ Scooter Magruder

2:30 p.m. – Light Refreshments (while they last)

1:00 p.m.

WELCOME – Jenelle Cooper, Community Service Coordinator, Smithsonian's Anacostia Community Museum

MISTRESS OF CEREMONY – Beverly Lindsay-Johnson, Documentary Producer

GREETING – Yvonne Mills, President, Teenarama Incorporated

DISCUSSION: “Dancing Through The Flames”

Discussion Moderator – Jiiko Ozimba Caldwell, Playwright/Producer

As a young person, Jiiko Ozimba (Caldwell) was privileged to travel to many countries and see a lot of oppression. From that time, she has always had the drive to bring positive change to the world. In pursuing this vision, she became a political science major, hoping to become a diplomat. As a student at the University of Maryland, European Division in Munich, Germany, Jiiko learned the power the media and arts to affect change in the world. During her course of study, she also received training in Howard's historic School of Fine Arts in theater. She received her Bachelor of Arts Degree in 1995. Jiiko has written six musicals, three for children as an arts educator and three adult plays produced independently. Her signature is stunning musical scores that involve a fusion of musical genres, including Rhythm and Blues, Pop, Gospel, Rock, Inspirational, Hip Hop, and others. She launched her first professionally produced musical, **Good luv'n**, in 2000. In 2006, Jiiko released the play, **Saints, Ain'ts and Wannabeez**, which later evolved into the musical, **Pardon** in 2010. Her critically acclaimed musical, **North Capital**, broaches the topic of gentrification in Washington, DC through the eyes of an elder African American gentleman who was among the prominent business owners of Washington, DC in times past and now finds himself obsolete and in financial peril. As a playwright, Jiiko says that she was “so inspired” by the history of the original **Teenarama Dance Party** story that she became the playwright of the upcoming theatrical production, **Teenarama: The Musical**.

Panelists:

Alma Cosey (Danced on Teenarama in 1968)

Elizabeth Clark-Lewis, Ph.D. (Howard University student in 1968)

Monroe Farewell (Danced on Teenarama in 1968)

Christine Liddell (Danced on Teenarama in 1968)

Joan Riggins (Danced on Teenarama in 1968)

Leon Isaac Kennedy (by Skype) (Hosted Teenarama from 1968-1969)

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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Lori Yarrish | Jenelle Cooper | Sharon Reinckens | Alma Cosey
Jiiko Ozimba (Caldwell) | Desiree Urquhart | Tommy Crockett
Ashtyn Hannon | Elizabeth Clark-Lewis, Ph.D. | Yvonne Mills
Dorothy Clanagan | Christine Liddell | Lita Gray | Joan Riggins
Donna Waters | Leon Isaac Kennedy | Michael Goodwin | Dene Chinn
Joseph "Tex" Gathings | Reginald Lockett | Chas Hall | James Preston
Tommi Childs | Albertis McCray | Patsy Fletcher | Monroe Farewell
Louis Hicks | Darlene Wallace | Joy Austin | Marya-Montez Wallace
The National Hand Dance Association Classic Hand Dancers
Sound Engineer - RCM Productions
Catering by: Denise Keeling (o So Nice Catering)
Music by DJ Scooter Magruder | DJ Slow Roll
Photography - Lloyd Franklin | Videography - Larry Law

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TEENARAMA, INC. AND SMITHSONIAN'S ANACOSTIA COMMUNITY MUSEUM



Smithsonian
Anacostia Community Museum

DANCING THROUGH THE FLAMES: HOW DC DANCE SURVIVED 1968

**SATURDAY, MAY 19, 2018
11:30AM - 3:30PM
SMITHSONIAN'S
ANACOSTIA COMMUNITY MUSEUM
1901 FORT PLACE SE
WASHINGTON, DC 20020**

**LORI YARRISH, DIRECTOR, SMITHSONIAN'S ANACOSTIA COMMUNITY MUSEUM
YVONNE MILLS, PRESIDENT, TEENARAMA INCORPORATED
BEVERLY LINDSAY-JOHNSON, PROJECT DIRECTOR**