

SummerStage/Clark Center Dance Classes

Clark Center Celebrates 60th Anniversary With 4 Days Of Programming

By: Julie Musbach July 30, 2019

Clark Center NYC continues its series of events celebrating the 60th anniversary of the initial founding of the Clark Center for the Performing Arts. For 30 years Clark Center trained dancers, encouraged emerging companies, provided opportunities for dancers of color and identified and developed new choreographic talent under the inspired leadership of **Louise Roberts** and Kathy Grant. Sadly, the center became the victim of gentrification and was forced to officially close its doors in 1989. Clark Center NYC, now a 501c3 nonprofit, was created in 2013 by a handful of dancers to preserve the history and legacy of their beloved Center. Clark Center NYC presents the following anniversary events.

The First Ailey Dancers ~ In Conversation

Ella Thompson, Nat Horne and Dorene Richardson



El Barrio ArtSpace | Wednesday, August 14, 2019

On Sunday, March 30th, 1958 **Alvin Ailey** gave his first NYC concert at the 92nd St. Y where he debuted one of his signature pieces, 'Blues Suite'. Many of the best dancers in the city performed that day. Don't miss the opportunity to hear three of these amazing artists - **Ella Thompson** Moore, **Nat Horne** and **Dorene Richardson** - share memories of this auspicious (incredible) performance. Moderated by Clark Center NYC Executive Director **Jill Williams**.

West African Dance with Nafisa Sharriff

Thursday, August 15, 2019

7:00 pm

Marcus Garvey Park

18 Mt. Morris Park West

Manhattan, NY 10027

West African Dance with Nafisa Sharriff

Friday, August 16, 2019

6:00 pm

El Barrio's Artspace

215 E. 99th Street

New York, NY 10029

Nafisa Sharriff - Reverend Nafisa Sharriff is a master teacher and choreographer of traditional West African folklore from the Old Malian Empire. She met Baba Chuck Davis when she was 17 years old and went on to become a principal dancer in his company for 10 years. Throughout her illustrious 40-year career, Reverend Nafisa has performed with **Stevie Wonder**, **Whitney Houston**, **Spike Lee**, TC Carson, C&C Music Factory, and Kairaba West African Dance Company. Her television credits include performances on The **Richard Pryor** Show, Dance Black America, and Positively Black. Beyond her dance career Reverend Nafisa Sharriff is an ordained Interfaith Minister and the founder and CEO of Entering the Holy of Holies, An Institute of Learning and Healing, Inc. (ETHOH). Through ETHOH Reverend Nafisa conducts classes, workshops, seasonal cleanses, a Woman's Rite of Passage, and retreats in meditation, stress management, inner healing, and Spiritual Tools for Transformation. She teaches a free traditional West African dance class in Harlem, New York where everyone is welcomed into her family of Love.

<https://www.broadwayworld.com/off-off-broadway/article/Clark-Center-Celebrates-60th-Anniversary-With-4-Days-Of-Programming-20190730>