

Meet the Dance Artist/Choreographer Roshanda D. Spears

Multi-talented, award-winning dance artist/choreographer Roshanda Spears, has been moving to her own beat since the age of five when her structured dance career began in African, Tap, Jazz, Ballet and Modern Dance under the direction of her second eldest sister, dancer/actress and grass roots leader, Felicia B. Spears. A native of Los Angeles, California, Ms. Spears, the daughter of the late John L. Spears, Sr. and Fannie Joyce Spears was raised in a family extremely gifted in the arts, business and civil rights. Tapping into her pursuit of higher education, Ms. Spears received a Bachelor and two Masters Degrees from Grambling State University. During this time, her dance career continued to blossom under the direction of Dianne Maroney-Grigsby with the Orchesis Dance Company. She later became the Assistant Director of the Orchesis. Ms. Spears has performed in various venues, including commercials, plays, musicals and movies.

Since migrating to Shreveport, LA in 2001, Roshanda's career has stayed on "pointe" working in a host of community venues (Shreveport Regional Arts Council-SRAC), schools, dance studios, and universities teaching dance. She is the owner of *Shufflin' Along, LLC* where she instructs private dance lessons and fitness training sessions along with choreographing for churches, weddings, plays, dance lines, dance studios, special events, commercials and movies. A Northwest Louisiana Roster Artist, Roshanda has received awards on the state and regional level including a Professional Artist Mini Grant, SRAC Artist Fellowship in dance for 2007-2008 and 2014-2015, Outstanding Choreography and Excellence in Choreography for the 2011 Louisiana and Regional American Association of Community Theatres (AACT) Festival. In April 2012, she was a dancer for the CD release *Musical Revival* by National Recording Artist **Forever Jones**. She is certified by the American Sports and Fitness Association as a Certified Group Fitness/Boot Camp Instructor.

Currently, Ms. Spears is a dance instructor at Christian Dance Center. She also provides fitness/exercise/dance with Shreveport Parks and Recreation (SPAR) and is the resident choreographer for Mahogany Ensemble Theatre. She also sits on a number of arts affiliated boards and organizations in Shreveport. Ms. Spears is also the founding executive director of the Shufflin' Along Foundation and Performing Arts Scholarship Fund. She previously served as the Dance Professor at Southern University at Shreveport for nine years. Future projects include, national choreography projects as well as working toward her doctoral degree. Her motto, "If you can walk, you can dance." She is also a member of Greenwood Acres Full Gospel Baptist Church, where Bishop Fred A. Caldwell, Sr. is pastor/teacher.

What Others are Saying about Roshanda...

“5, 6, 7, 8!...”

-Tiffany Burden, Manicurist

"I've witnessed 'Shufflin' Along and its owner Roshanda Spears be an inspiration to so many! I hope more people will share the experience!"

-Dave Dickinson, Media Relations Specialist

“I have two daughters who have fallen in love with the world of dance thanks to the mentoring of Ms. Spears. I knew they were gifted, but her loving guidance has caused them to see their talents for themselves. They are both interested in pursuing private dance instruction thanks to her "lead by example" love for dance and excellence!”

-Karen Hooks, Claims Adjuster

“Roshanda dances with grace of water and passion of fire. She steams up the room!”

-Leia Lewis Henderson-Founding Director, Sankofa Vision, Inc.

“Thank you, Ms. Spears for putting in overtime with my child to help him perfect his dance routines for his college audition tape. You are simply the best!”

-Shannon Livingston-Radio Station Manager

“Roshanda has not only been a dance role model for my daughter Jaclyn but she has been a tangible community leader and role model for her through accepting no less than the best. She encourages her dancers to work hard and give 110% in everything that they do.”

-Crystal Brown Tatum, CEO/President, Crystal Clear Communications

“Thank you! Thank you! THANK YOU for all you have done for the girls of Greenwood Acres Full Gospel Baptist Church *Praise Dancers*! Grace has enjoyed many years as a Praise Dancer! We appreciate all your hard work and dedication to the girls! Grace will have many, many fun memories of being in this Ministry! Keep pushing for Excellence!

Keep Moving Forward!!! Keep the Faith!!!”

-The Dodd Family. 2012

“Roshanda Spears is a *phenomenal* dance instructor with a passion for the art of dance. I thank God for her gift and ability to train my daughter, Amber and many other young girls with a spirit of excellence.”

-LaKeesha Bishop-Darty, Administrative Assistant

“....5,6,7,8!!! Your enthusiasm and energy brings out the best in dancers.”

-Mrs. Terry Jackson-Owner/Director, Christian Dance Center

“Roshanda embodies the qualities of a true professional and teaching artist—talented, focused, knowledgeable, determined, and in constant pursuit of excellence in her craft. She continues to raise the bar of artistic excellence in dance.”

-Angelique Feaster Evans, Founding Artistic Director, Mahogany Ensemble Theatre

“Ms. Roshanda Spears has been a motivator and inspirational person to me. Every since our first time working together on the CMM Starline Danceline, she has never given up on me. She has helped me improve my attitude, mind set, become a stronger dancer and has broken me out of my shy shell. I am forever thankful for her and grateful that she has stepped into my life. Ms.

Spears will always be my Coach Spears! I now instruct a dance aerobics class with my mom and I am in the process of being certified as a Zumba instructor....”

-Devin Sibley, College Student

“Roshanda, you are loving, helpful, and inspiring. Your actions inspire others to dream more, learn more, do more, and become more. You are a leader!”

-Yolanda Gales, Owner, Benote' Hair Salon

“Ms. Spears was very instrumental in helping with my productions of Dance His High Praise. She is the scholarship chairperson for this event. The scholarship is named in memory of my mom, Ms. Helen Horton. Ms. Spears is my mother’s soror.”

-Vincent Williams, Founding Artistic Director, Extensions of Excellence Performing Arts, Inc.

“I have been very impressed with Roshanda Spears; she is a remarkable and talented young woman. She has class. Roshanda reminds me of actress Loretta Young who was a very elegant lady. Ms. Spears can dance as well as act. She is a team player and a leader as well. Ms. Spears can be on my team any day. I am one of her biggest fans. She is the daughter I never had. May God send her to the top of stardom where she belongs!”

-Minister James W. Lane, Jr., Owner, Around The Clock Bailbonds

“My Dearest Ro, You are an excellent encourager and instructor. You took the dance I knew and made it a part of an award winning performance for myself "Lady in Brown" with the cast of Mahogany Ensemble Theatre @ The AACT Festival in Louisiana and Texas. Thanks for all you do. You are a blessing.”

-Neverlyn Townsel, RN

“Roshanda, I have come to know you on a number of levels. What is constant is that you have a love for helping people. Second, you possess a deep passion for your craft, and the comprehensive art of dance. Third, you have a canning ability to transfer your knowledge and skills in a non-threatening manner. Your energy is contagious to those around you. Be encouraged and just keep doing what you do.”

-Zazell Dudley, Owner, Dudley Enterprises, Inc. World Wide

“You are a joy to work with! Not only do you love your art-form, but you also love and respect others as well. I have never had an unpleasant experience working with you. Thank you for including me in some of your wonderful programs.”

-Thelma Harrison, Storyteller

"Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ" Philippians 1:6

-Bishop Fred A. Caldwell, Sr., Pastor/Teacher, Greenwood Acres Full Gospel Baptist Church

“When my daughter first started dancing under Roshanda's instruction I thought it was "just" a praise dance team. Since then, she has learned so much about dance, different styles, proper techniques and the art. It's far more than I ever could've expected.”

-Joslin Pickens-Denson, Speech Instructor/Coach/Specialist

“The definition of a beautiful, intelligent, AFRICAN AMERICAN WOMAN! Always dreaming BIG!!! A heart that is pure as Gold! Ms. Spears is always faithful and committed to whatever she does! And whatever it might be, it has to be close to perfect! I love you for who you are! Continue to be who you are. God only made one Ms. Spears!”

-Coach Gerald D. Brown, Manager, Airport Park Recreation Center

“Working with Ms. Roshanda has made me not just a better dancer but a better person. I’ve been challenged, pushed and encouraged in a way that will benefit me in every area of my life.”

-Zhalion Levingston, 2012 Graduating High School Senior, AMDA student in Los Angeles, CA

“Watching Roshanda dance, I felt like I was watching a ‘Broadway Show.’ Her grace, beauty and focus while on stage, were mesmerizing. While I have known Roshanda for years as a personal friend, I have never seen her perform on stage in full make-up. I was awestruck at the professionalism, presence and energy when she danced. I could not take my eyes from her and was thankful to have an opportunity to be entertained by this top-notch performer.”

-Pamela Viviano, Yoga Teacher/Public Speaker

