

# Lula Washington Dance Theatre

## Interactive School Performance “Reflections In Black”



Above: Tamica Washington-Miller in excerpt from “Rites-2000 at school show performance.

**Duration:** 55 minutes

**Size:** 5 dancers to full 10-member company

**Grade levels:** K-12 (adjustable to fit all ages and grade levels)

**Equipment:** CD playback equipment; speakers; private dressing area

**Space Requirement:** Theater, multi-purpose room, cafeteria.

**Load In time:** One hour

**Fees:** Variable depending on circumstances

**Note:** Lula Washington won the National Education Association’s Carter G. Woodson Civil Rights Award for this school show performances and also a \$25,000 prize from UCLA for the work. It appears annually at UCLA.

**Description:** The program gives children an awareness of African-American history and culture. Lula also introduces students to different dance styles. Lula narrates each performance and engages students in call and response exchanges. She brings students up on stage to demonstrate, or, learn movements as part of the show. The dancers perform short excerpts showing a wide range of dance idioms. Lula includes a “dance styles demonstration. The performance usually includes one or more works or excerpts from works that Lula Washington Dance Theatre is touring at the time. The show includes a trip on the Underground Railroad with Harriet Tubman, and an audience quiz on African-American history. A

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## Master Dance Classes & Workshops



Lula (above) teaching a high school student at workshop. Photo: Erwin Washington

**Duration:** 90 minutes

**Levels:** All levels, beginning, intermediate, advanced

**Ages:** Children, teens, adult professionals, university students, local dancers.

**Size of class:** Generally 30 students for Lula when she teaches solo. However, we can accommodate up to 100 students when the full LWDT company participates in a mass situation.

**Description:** Lula teaches modern dance classes that blend contemporary modern dance with ballet, jazz, hip hop and African dance. Lula will teach for any age, from kids to professionals to senior citizens. Classes can be given for beginning, intermediate or advanced levels. Lula may use company dancers to assist her for larger classes. Lula believes all people can dance no matter what size, or age. She incorporates singing, acting, dancing, and theater in her classes.

**For Teachers:** We have a study guide for teachers to prep them for the School Shows and Master classes.

**Community Outreach:** Lula and her dancers have gone into housing projects, parks, churches, women's shelters, hospitals, community centers, schools, and detention centers to teach dance. Lula speaks at gatherings and will participate in community activities including parades, dinners, etc. We will accommodate the presenters needs.

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## Residencies



**Duration:** Half week, full week, multiple weeks – all are available

**Design:** Open to all ages, levels & specific design choices.

**Number of students:** Unlimited

**Elements:**

- School show performance residencies where LWDT travels to schools
- Bus-in school shows at presenter venue for kids of all ages
- On-going classes with all levels of students
- Choreographic residencies where Lula workshops her new works
- Residencies where Lula leads students in developing their own choreography
- Teaching-only residencies, where Lula and dancers simply teach

Lula brings a minimum of two company dancers with her for all residencies. For long term events, she likes to bring at least six dancers so that she can work on new choreographic projects as part of the residency.

Lula is a specialist at taking the toughest, roughest, most incorrigible students and turning them into fantastic performers. She teaches life skills as part of her dance classes. Lula is great with kids of all ethnicities and backgrounds.