

# *Eleone* DANCE THEATRE

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Eleone Dance Theatre, a Philadelphia-based professional dance company, ushered in the new millennium with new and resurrected cutting edge works that challenged traditional boundaries. The company embodies exceptional artistry and a profound sense of spirituality that evokes an aura of healing in the audiences whose souls they touch. Eleone Dance Theatre is an exhilarating and “soul-stirring” dance company presenting a spectrum of works that are multicultural, intergenerational, and socially and visually appealing to all audiences.

Eleone has presented at jury paneled showcases in Pennsylvania and North Carolina and made its debut at the Association of Performing Arts Presenters in NYC at City Center, Studio 4 in 2008. *Eleone is a PENNPAT Roster Artist* presenting modern dance that is “*passionate, spirited, and totally urban.*”

Eleone Dance Theatre, a non-profit corporation incorporated in 1995, was founded by the late E. Leon Evans, II and has been under the co-direction of Shawn-Lamere Williams and Sheila A. Ward, two founding company members, since 1998. The company has a 12-member core of professional dancers, 2-3 apprentice dancers, and a second company called “Eleone Connection.” Eleone may be enjoyed year round in a Spring Repertory Concert, its annual holiday dance production, “*Carols in Color,*” and “*From These Roots,*” a historical journey with dance highlighting the emergence of African-Americans.

Eleone Dance Theatre has received funding from the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts, the Philadelphia Cultural Fund, and Dance Advance, a program of the Philadelphia Center for Arts and Heritage, funded by The Pew Charitable Trusts. The company has completed residencies with New York Choreographer and Master Horton Teacher, Milton Myers and New York choreographer Abdel R. Salaam (*Forces of Nature*) and well as, Christopher L. Huggins, Wayne St. David, Tommie Waheed Evans, and Abdur R. Jackson among others.

The company is committed to perpetuating the legacy of American dance through affordable dance training and performances, the creation of dance works, lectures, Eleone Connection, and arts-in-education partnerships which celebrate varied American dance forms, addresses diverse social issues through dance, and enriches the quality of knowledge in the dance arts. Eleone strives to bring the live performing dance arts to new and underserved communities. Therefore, Eleone actively seeks collaborations and has forged relationships with organizations and institutions in Philadelphia and throughout the Delaware Valley, Virginia, Maryland, and North Carolina to provide performing, teaching, and choreographic opportunities.

Eleone dancers provide not just a dance performance, but a dance “experience” that inspires and energizes its audiences. The company has a diverse repertoire of works that are contemporary modern, spiritual, rhythm and blues, African, as well as hip-hop in theme inspiring critical, intellectual thought from the community and requires the community to look at both historical and contemporary issues from a variety of viewpoints. This diversity enables audiences from many backgrounds and of all ages to enjoy dance creations and modern dance that’s “*Passionate, Spirited, and Totally Urban.*”