



April Berry, dance director, master teacher, educator, choreographer and former internationally acclaimed dancer with the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, is originally from Queens, New York. Berry has worked closely with many of the most celebrated choreographers and dance artists of the 20th century and is a certified Master Instructor in the Katherine Dunham Technique, having successfully completed all certification requirements after extensive work with Dunham herself. Berry has danced the signature works of master choreographers Katherine Dunham, Lester Horton, Alvin Ailey, George Balanchine, Talley Beatty, Todd Bolender, Hans van Manen, Keith Lee, and Donald McKayle, as well as in works by other renowned choreographers from the world of ballet, modern/contemporary, and jazz dance.

Berry's professional dance career began in ballet and she has danced with ballet companies in the United States, Italy and Switzerland. She began her professional training in ballet at the former National Academy of Ballet and Theatre Arts in New York under the direction of Thalia Mara, and at Dance Theatre of Harlem under directors Arthur Mitchell and Karel Shook. Berry studied ballet, modern dance techniques and jazz dance at the Ailey School in New York, and traveled to Cuba to study Caribbean folkloric and popular dance forms at the Escuela Nacional des Arts (National School of the Arts) in Havana and in Matanzas and Santiago, Cuba.

A former principal dance artist with the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, Berry worked under the direction of Founding Artistic Director Alvin Ailey and Artistic Director Emerita Judith Jamison. Berry is featured in several dance books including *Dancing Revelations: Alvin Ailey's Embodiment of African American Culture* by scholar Thomas DeFrantz, *Ailey Spirit: The Journey of an American Dance Company* by Ailey archivist Robert Tracy, *Alvin Ailey: A life in Dance* by former NY Times dance critic Jennifer Dunning, and *The Black Tradition in American Dance* by African-American historian Richard A. Long, among others. She is featured in several Ailey Company videos, performed on two televised Kennedy Center Honors Programs, has represented the Ailey Company on two season posters, and served as guest artist with several ballet companies, including the La Scala Theatre Ballet in Milan, Italy.

Berry has been actively involved in the field of dance education and arts outreach since 1992. She created award-winning community outreach programs as Director of Education and Community Outreach for North Carolina Dance Theatre (now Charlotte Ballet) from 2006 to 2013 and as Director of Education and Community Programs and Founding Director of YouthMet! at BalletMet Columbus in Ohio.

Berry has presented at various conferences, including the 2013 Dance/USA Conference in Philadelphia; National Dance Education (NDEO) Conferences; International Association for Blacks in Dance (IABD) Conferences; and most recently at the 2016 Collegium for African American Dance (CADD) Conference at Duke University. She authored *Building Bridges for Ballet's Future* for Dance/USA's online journal *From the Green Room*, has served on grants panels for the North Carolina Arts Council and the Arts & Science Council in Charlotte, and as a board member and grants chair for the former Edler G. Hawkins Foundation, an African-American philanthropic non-profit in New York.

Berry has been an artist-in-residence, lecturer, and adjunct faculty member at several universities around the country and was formerly on the dance faculty at the University of North Carolina-Charlotte, introducing Dunham Technique into the modern dance curriculum there.

She was appointed Artistic Director for Dallas Black Dance Theatre in August 2014 and served in that capacity during DBDT's 38th season. Currently, Berry serves as a freelance teaching artist and choreographer, a board member of the Dance Council of North Texas, and is Founder and Lead Consultant for Arts 'n Community, a service agency that provides administrative support, consulting, and resources to small, emerging organizations in the United States dedicated to the dance art form. Berry mentors dance artists who are eager to enhance the organizations that they serve and impact the communities in which they live.