

**STEP AFRiKA!**

# STEP

**CLASSIC**



## **STEP AFRIKA! STEP SHOW**

**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 16 at the WARNER  
THEATRE in WASHINGTON, DC**



# TABLE OF CONTENTS

Welcome..... (pg. 2)

Run of Show..... (pg. 3)

About Step Afrika!..... (pg. 5)

Administrative, Creative, and  
Production Teams..... (pg. 8)

Step Afrika! Artists..... (pg. 9)

Special Guests..... (pg. 11)

Step Teams..... (pg. 13)

Sponsors Acknowledgement (pg. 21)

## WELCOME TO THE FINALE OF THE STEP AFRIKA! STEP CLASSIC

Over the past three days, the **Step Afrika! Step Classic** has honored the legacy of stepping—from its roots in the Divine Nine to its evolution as an art form that bridges generations.

As we come together at the historic **Warner Theatre** for the **Step Afrika! Step Show**, get ready to experience the power of stepping like never before. Hosted by the dynamic **LaLa Milan**, with beats from Jeeda the DJ, this grand finale brings the Company and the country's top step teams together on stage for an electrifying showcase of community and culture.

Thank you for commemorating **Black History Month** with Step Afrika! and celebrating the art form of stepping all weekend long.



PC: LINDSAY STAYTON



## RUN OF SHOW

### **Welcome**

Jeeda the DJ

### **Step Afrika! Celebrates the Divine 9**

featuring Michaela Taylor, Eric Astrop Jr, Dunbar Stewart,  
Justin Bates, and Ilana 'Illy' Warner

### **Introducing...**

LaLa Milan

### **Omega Lamplighters Mighty Light Team**

(Tallahassee, FL)

### **Controlled Chaos**

(Baltimore, MD)

### **The ETA Chapter of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity Inc.**

(Greensboro, NC)

### **QuaDrew Step Team**

(Washington, DC)

**Tha S.W.A.G.G. Boiz**  
(Houston, TX)

**The Federal City Alumnae Chapter of  
Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.**  
(Washington, DC)

**Taken By Surprise**  
(Lakeland, FL)

**Dem Raider Boyz Step Squad**  
(Greenbelt, MD)

**Closing Remarks**  
C. Brian Williams and Mfoniso Akpan

**Finale**  
Step Afrika!





## ABOUT STEP AFRIKA!

Founded in 1994 by C. Brian Williams, Step Afrika! is the **world's leading authority on the art form of stepping**. Under Mr. Williams' leadership, stepping has evolved into one of America's cultural exports, touring more than 60 countries across the globe and ranking as one of the top 10 African American Dance Companies in the US.

Step Afrika! blends percussive dance styles practiced by historically African American fraternities and sororities, traditional African dances, and an array of contemporary dance and art forms into a cohesive, compelling artistic experience. Performances are much more than dance shows, they **integrate songs, storytelling, humor, and audience participation**. The blend of technique, agility, and pure energy makes each performance unique and leaves the audience with their hearts pounding.

Step Afrika! promotes stepping as an educational tool for young people, focusing on **teamwork, academic achievement, and cross-cultural understanding**. The Company reaches tens of thousands of Americans each year through a 60-city tour of colleges and theaters and performs globally as **Washington, DC's one and only Cultural Ambassador**.

Step Afrika! has earned Mayor's Arts Awards for Outstanding Contribution to Arts Education, Innovation in the Arts, Excellence in an Artistic Discipline, and was inducted into the **National Association of Campus Activities (NACA) Hall of Fame**, the first Dance Company to earn this honor. Step Afrika! headlined President Barack Obama's Black History Month Reception and performed at the first-ever Juneteenth Celebration at the White House. The Company is **featured prominently at the Smithsonian's National Museum of African American History & Culture** with the world's first interactive stepping exhibit.

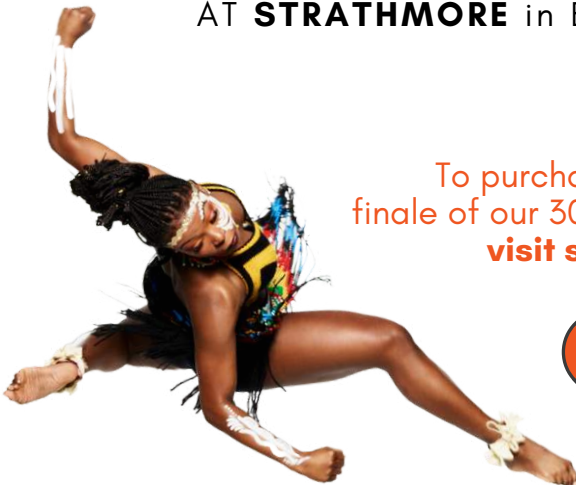
30 **STEP AFRIKA!**  
1994 | CELEBRATING THIRTY YEARS | 2024



# STEP AFRIKA!

## CELEBRATING 30 YEARS

JUNE 27 - 28, 2025 at THE MUSIC CENTER  
AT **STRATHMORE** in BETHESDA, MD



To purchase tickets to the grand  
finale of our 30th Anniversary Season,  
visit [stepafrika.org/events](https://stepafrika.org/events)

**BUY TICKETS**

**STRATHMORE**



# ADMINISTRATIVE, CREATIVE TEAM

**C. Brian Williams**, Founder & Executive Producer

**Lamar Lovelace**, Executive Director

**Mfoniso Akpan**, Artistic Director

**Conrad R. Kelly II**, Assistant Artistic Director

**Margo Cunningham**, Senior Marketing Manager

**Pascha Barnwell**, Company Manager

**Chrystal Vaughan**, Manager, Events and Special Projects

**Joe Murchison**, Project Manager, Arts Education and  
Community Programming

# PRODUCTION

**Melissa Brown**, Production Manager

**Marianne Meadows\***, Lighting Designer

**Zavier A.L. Taylor**, Projection Designer

\*MEMBER OF THE UNITED SCENIC  
ARTISTS LOCAL USA 829

**C. BRIAN, MFON, AND LAMAR**



# STEP AFRIKA! ARTISTS



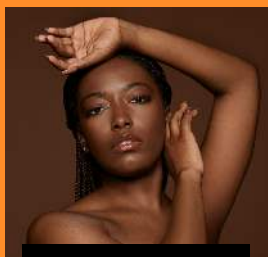
**KENNETH L.  
ALEXANDER**



**NYIA CHRISTIAN**



**JEROD COLEMAN**



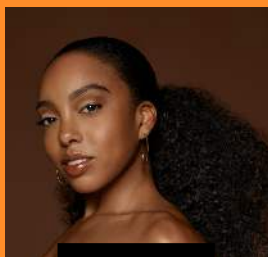
**ARIEL DYKES**



**KEOMI  
GIVENS JR.**



**LEANDER GRAY**



**KAMALA  
HARGROVE**



**TERRENCE  
JOHNSON**



**JEMEEMA S.  
MONTROSE**



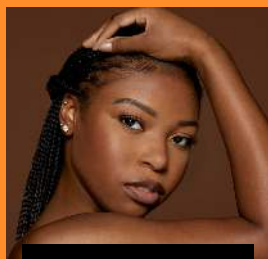
**ISAIAH  
O'CONNOR**



**KEANU POWELL**



**VALENCIA  
SPRINGER**



**ERICKA STILL**



**BRIE TURNER**



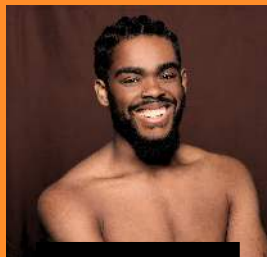
**JOSEPH  
VASQUEZ**



**PELHAM  
WARNER JR.**



**ROBERT  
WARNSLEY**



**TRESHAWN  
WILLIAMS**



**CONRAD R. KELLY II**

**ASSISTANT ARTISTIC DIRECTOR**

HEADSHOTS OF THE  
COMPANY BY KEITH MAJOR  
AND JATI LINDSAY

# SPECIAL GUESTS

**LALA MILAN, CELEBRITY EMCEE** is a bilingual social media influencer, actress, and comedian. Known for her unique YouTube parodies and skits, she has cultivated a strong social media following that has opened doors to opportunities in television, film, and brand collaborations. LaLa was a recurring cast member on the BET series Boomerang and has made guest appearances on Claws and A Black Lady Sketch Show. Most recently, she starred in the rom-com film The First Noelle.

A savvy businesswoman and licensed cosmetologist, LaLa Milan continues to expand her creative pursuits, including authoring a bilingual educational book for children and creating her own female wellness brand. Her explosive popularity has led to partnerships with brands such as Target, Juvia's Place, Meta, and Fenty. As a multi-faceted entertainer and entrepreneur, LaLa inspires and entertains her ever-growing audience across various platforms, staying true to her innovative spirit.

**JEEDA THE DJ** aka Jeeda Barrington is a native of Glenarden, MD, and a graduate of Bowie State University where he earned his Bachelor's in Music Technology and Master's Degree in Human Resources. A member of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc., Jeeda has served as the choreographer for various traveling step and "partywalk" teams. He continues his love for rhythms through disc jockeying at events across the United States





**AUGUST 4 - 9, 2025**  
at ARENA STAGE



## REGISTER FOR SUMMER STEPS

Step Afrika!'s **week-long summer camp for rising 4th to 12th graders** will return this summer!  
For Summer Steps details and registration, please visit:  
**[stepafrika.org/summersteps](http://stepafrika.org/summersteps)**



# CONTROLLED CHAOS STEP TEAM



**COACHES:** Andrea Carrington, Brittany Holder, and Jamonte Linthicum

**PERFORMERS:** Armisha Brooks-Brown, Ja'Zeria Chandler, LaBrea Clayborn, Dawntaviar Daney, Janae Davis, Chelsea Hale, Madison Jacobs, Auriel Jackson, Samira Johnson, Janasia Johnson, Makenzie Parker, Tamiyah Shropshire-Fowlkes, Jaidyn Smith, NaVaeh Morton, and A'niyha Wheatley

Founded in 2024, the **Controlled Chaos Step Team** (CCST) is a rising force in the stepping world. Known for its unique mix of precision and creativity, CCST inspires and empowers communities through the art of stepping. Their dynamic performances showcase purpose, pride, and power, redefining what it means to lead through step.

# DEM RAIDER BOYZ STEP SQUAD



GREENBELT, MD

**COACH:** Richard Melvern

**ASSISTANT COACH:** Kevin Murray

**PERFORMERS:** Ire Adeniran, Seth Anderson, Andrew Ba, Jin Feng Cao, Jin Sheng Cao, Fernando Cruz, Jonathan Dixon, Danson Fon, Grayson Hough, Kingston Jones, Justin Jones, Mark Mitchell, Chikwubuike Offor, Elysson Resurreccion, Brett Taylor, Marco Vaughn, Hamed Wurie, and Esongkuo Ayompe

Founded in 2001 at Eleanor Roosevelt High School, **Dem Raider Boyz Step Squad** is the DMV's premier all-male step team. With 10 undefeated seasons, 4 National Championship titles, and appearances on World of Dance and Game of Talents, they combine precision, energy, and creativity. Their commitment to excellence extends beyond the stage, maintaining a 3.9 team GPA.

# THE ETA CHAPTER OF PHI BETA SIGMA FRATERNITY INC.



**COACH:** Matthew Johnson

**ASSISTANT COACH:** Kevin Murray

**PERFORMERS:** Bryce Benson, Tyson Dowdell, Anfernee Fortune, Matthew Johnson, Joshua Parris, Asa Patterson, Jayden Posey, Amare Rearden, and Jaramis Whitaker

**STAGE HANDS:** Jared Crawl-Bey, Monterio Mallard, Qujuan Rodriguez, and Xzavier Jacobs

**The ETA Chapter of Phi Beta Sigma's** step team is a high-energy performance group known for its precision, synchronization, and deep connection to African American fraternal traditions. Through intricate footwork, rhythmic stomps, and powerful chants, they showcase teamwork, skill, and cultural pride at community, campus, and Greek life events. As proud representatives of their fraternity's values, they honor the rich stepping heritage of historically Black Greek-letter organizations with every performance.



# THE FEDERAL CITY ALUMNAE CHAPTER OF DELTA SIGMA THETA SORORITY, INC.



**TEAM SUPPORT:** Kristine Andrews, Kelly Crawford, Nia Gholston, Vanessa Grant, and Sandra Rice

**PERFORMERS:** Janell Hemby, LaToya Jones, Tia Mitchell, Erin Smith, Wilma Tilson, Camille Tucker, Michelle Watson-Alston, and Charity Williams

This team of dynamic women, ranging in age from their 20s to 50s, honors **Delta Sigma Theta Sorority's** rich stepping tradition. They use their routines to celebrate Black history and educate audiences about influential figures and events, blending passion and purpose into every performance.

# OMEGA LAMPLIGHTERS MIGHTY LIGHT TEAM



TALLAHASSEE, FL

**COACHES:** Terence McCray, Kennedy Hughes, Royle King, Janelle Hall, and LaQuindalynn Holmes

**PERFORMERS:** Dezmond Burgess, Elijah Edwards, Joshua Edwards, Kayden Hall, Calvin Ivey, Daron James, Caleb Johnson, Darius Jones II, Kerwin Jones II, Jeremy Legg, Kaiden McLaurin, Malik Webb, Ty White III, James West Jr., and Isaac Williams

The Mighty Light Team, the official step team of **Omega Lamplighters Inc.**, consists of high school males in grades 9–12. Guided by core principles of Leadership, Academics, Maturity, and Perseverance, this nationally recognized team showcases exceptional talent and dedication to the art of stepping.

# QUADREW STEP TEAM



**COACHES:** Dylan Stokes, Hamid Jalloh, Erin Chapman, and Tyla' Woods

**PERFORMERS:** Taylor Bennett, Sarah Chigbou, Olivia Colquhoun, Miles Francisque, Gabrielle Goldstein, Jamie Hollins, Karys Hylton, Courtney Ignibosa, Zavia Jackson, Nate Jackson, Miya Jones, Keshia Marcellin, Kyra Minda, Jaxson Netherly, Shalissa Phillips, Jocelyn Powell, Christian Simms, Sanaa Sobers, Mikayla Tassin, Joshua Taylor, Roy X Vanderpool, Ashanti Williams, Amyah Wright, and Zaria Lewis

**The QuaDrew Step Team (QDST)** is a collaborative effort of Howard University's Quad and Drew Hall Step Teams. Founded in 2013, QDST works to preserve the art of stepping while fostering camaraderie and mentorship among members. More than an award-winning team, QDST serves as a vibrant community for current students and alumni alike.

# THA S.W.A.G.G. BOIZ



**COACHES:** Ryan Shanklin, LaDonte Lotts, and Sade Rollins

**PERFORMERS:** Lakeith Bryant, Demauri Guillary, Jaylin Henry, Trevor Joseph, Elijah Lightfoot, Kaiden McDonald, Anthony Mobley, Bryson Sims, Caleb Wiltz, and Landyn Wilson

**Tha S.W.A.G.G. Boiz**, short for Steppers Working to Achieve Greater Greatness, is a high-energy group of middle and high school boys dedicated to the art of stepping. Crowned Grand Champions at the Dallas Step Show, they have performed in Atlanta and beyond as “Houston’s Hypest Entertainers,” thrilling audiences with their electrifying routines.



# TAKEN BY SURPRISE



**COACHES:** Corey Tumer, Jasmine Morton, and Venesia Rice

**PERFORMERS:** Devanie Adams, Tia Abrams, Milan Benson, Summer Bond, Trinity Brown, Jaliah Burgess, Ki'Yani Coney, Aleyah Davis, Kamari Dennis, Lin'Zariah Feagin, Trechelle Folgle, Za'Riya Gaines, Ahlani Hoskins, Willasia Isaac, Willawna Isaac, Demi Jones, Destiny Joyce, Aniya Louis, Cienna Marine, Braniya McGary, Nashey Mendez, Alana Minton, Tre'Auhne Satchel, Da'Myah Stancil, Da'Nyah Stancil, Jaliyah Smith, Asharie Tillman, Shayra Vazquez, and Miracle Wiggins

**Taken by Surprise (TBS) Step Team** is a dynamic group of innovative female steppers and the longest-running team of its kind in Lakeland, Florida. With 11 national championships, including 5 Stomp Wars USA and 6 Youth Step USA titles, TBS is known for captivating audiences across the southeastern U.S. Their mission is to build character through competition while fostering excellence in every aspect of life.



**STEP AFRiKA!**

# STEP

**CLASSIC**

IS GENEROUSLY SPONSORED BY



WITH ADDITIONAL PROMOTIONAL SUPPORT FROM



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