

# HEIDI YANCEY

DANCER \* ACTRESS \* CHOREOGRAPHER \* TEACHER

Heidi Yancey is originally from Newark, Delaware, she was raised by Joe and Diane Yancey. Heidi has four brothers and she is the only girl. At the age of five years old, Heidi would watch the television show "Fame". She became inspired by the well known performer, Debbie Allen. Heidi started taking her first dance class which was ballet. Heidi was the only African American girl in her class, so she faced many difficult challenges. By the age thirteen, Heidi was taking ballet, tap, and jazz. Heidi later became **Delaware's first African American Ballerina to dance as a soloist in the ballet "Cinderella."**

At the age of thirteen, Heidi was selected to attend **Duke Ellington School of the Arts**, located in Washington, DC. There were only fifteen students chosen, out of three hundred. During her junior year of high school, Heidi ran for "Ms. Washington DC Teen USA 1988" and was chosen first runner up. After graduation, she went straight to New York City to dance with **The Alvin Ailey Dance Company**. Heidi loved her experience with the company, but she made a decision to go to college and study ballet. Ballet has always been her first love. Heidi studied at **The Philadelphia University of the Arts**, where she then became the **first African American dancer to major in ballet.**

Heidi went on to perform with many different shows and companies such as "**Bubbling Brown Sugar**", **The Russian Ballet Company**, **Oberlin Dance Company**, and many more. Heidi has been recognized twice as "Delaware's Most Accomplished Achiever" in 1999 and 2000. This recognition helped to pave the way for many African American dancers in Delaware. Heidi also started the first spiritual dance company in Delaware named "God's Children". This company traveled throughout the tri-state area extensively, and helped to start many different dance ministries in the churches. Throughout her years of traveling, Heidi had special appearances on well known television shows such as "**Grey's Anatomy**" and "**Private Practice**".

Heidi has been teaching for thirty years in the Performing Arts now. She opened her own Performing Arts School in July of 2001, called "Heidi's Academy of the Performing Arts" which consist of all the forms of dance. HAPA also offers summer camp, home school, before and after care, and pre-school. Heidi now has a second location for HAPA located in Clermont, Florida. Heidi has choreographed for many musicals and shows, as well being a judge for a plethora of competitions and pageants. Heidi was honored to even be able to **choreograph for the legendary Chaka Khan**. Her work extended to professional athletic teams such as; **NBA Philadelphia 76ers and the NFL Philadelphia Eagles.**

Heidi believes she will have schools all over the world. Heidi has faced many difficult trials and tribulations throughout her life. She fought to become a ballerina, she lost her mother, she was diagnosed with MS (Multiple Sclerosis) which resulted in her losing mobility in her body and was not expected to walk or live. Heidi lives by the scripture "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me" Philippians 4:13. Heidi is a survivor, and she wants to share with the world that all things are possible!