

NAfro Dancers



Nicole Coppens is in her seventh season with NAfro Dance Productions. With the company, Nicole has performed work by Paula Blair, Charmaine Headley, Michele Moss, Patrick Parsons, Lulu Sale and most of all Artistic Director Casimiro Nhussi. Most recently, she performed in NAfro's exciting ten year anniversary showcase, "MOVING INSPIRATIONS Dance Festival". Last June she performed in Paula Blair's newest full-length work "BLOWING KISSES". In previous years she has also danced in Blair's, "CLOSE YOUR EYES", "RUN FOR IT" and "FANCY THAT". Some other recent performances include the International Association of Blacks in Dance Conference (Toronto), and "The Scents of Tang" created by Alexandra Elliot and Renee Vandale (presented in the Winnipeg Fringe Festival). Nicole is a graduate of the Professional Program of the School of Contemporary Dancers and has her Bachelor of Arts degree in affiliation with the University of Winnipeg. She is also a teacher for the School of Contemporary Dancer's General Program, The Royal Winnipeg Ballet Recreational Division and is the Festival Assistant for the Manitoba Provincial Dance Festival.



H el ene Le Moullec Mancini began her journey with Casimiro Nhussi and NAfro Dance Productions in June 2005 after graduating from the School of Contemporary Dancers with a B.A Honours in Dance. Already in her ninth season with NAfro she has had the opportunity to perform in works choreographed by Casimiro Nhussi, Michele Moss, Patrick Parson, Paula Blair, Lulu Sala and Vivine Scarlett. Nationally H el ene has performed at the Canada Dance Festival in Ottawa, the International Association of Blacks in Dance in Toronto (2006 and 2012) and at the Montr el arts Interculturels in Montreal. This past November H el ene had the pleasure of coordinating and administrating the first Moving Inspirations Dance Festival. The festival celebrated NAfro's 10th anniversary with three packed days of classes, workshops and performances. She has also worked independently for choreographers Stephanie Ballard (Landscape Dance), Brent Lott ("Swept from the Sea") as well as with photographers Jeff Friesen and Rodney Braun. Over the past eight years H el ene has had the thrill of working with independent dance artist Paula Blair in her productions of "RAW", "JUST A LITTLE", "FANCY THAT" which was co-produced by the Gas Station Arts Centre and presented at the Winnipeg Fringe Festival, "RUN FOR IT", "CLOSE YOUR EYES" and "BLOWING KISSES". She has also studied voice since the age of three, has been teaching since 1996 (Ballet, Jazz, Tap, Modern and Contemporary African) and has completed two Arts Smarts projects with composer Shirley Grieson. When she is not performing, you can find her working at the Gas Station Arts Centre and the renowned Winnipeg Comedy Festival.