

SOULWORKS/Andrea E. Woods & Dancers



Andrea E. Woods, Dorothy N. Clark, Chanelle Croxton, Aya Shabu, Kara M. Simpson, Jessica Burroughs

“...Ms. Woods’ dances looked like rituals for beautiful, young, black goddesses.”

The New York Times

The Amazing Adventures of Grace May B. Brown is a soulful, spirit-filled, dancing, musical folk performance. Represented by her cousin sidekicks, *Mercy, Indeed, Um Hm* and *Well*, Grace retells history and folklore through dance, music and song, whispers and shouts. Her stories are also told through *Nanadwoa* and *Sister Seychelles*, the storyteller wimmin to whom Grace entrusts with her memories and her magic. Her adventures time travel in and out of generations of folk who direct her toward a sense of belonging. Grace May’s story is one of praise and laughter, kin and dust. The world opens to her lovely, sassy wings: “Who are you and where do you belong?” “I am Grace and I belong everywhere.”

THE AMAZING ADVENTURES OF GRACE MAY B. BROWN (2014)

The Amazing Adventures of Grace May B. Brown is a 50-minute work with a cast of 6 performers. A musical praise dance/folk performance in several acts written, choreographed and directed by Andrea E. Woods. Dance, song, music, video and narration are used as multilayered story telling.

[Watch Trailer](#)

[Watch Full Performance](#)



COLLABORATORS

Shana Tucker is a singer/songwriter and cellist whose self-described Chamber-Soul style of music is an eclectic blend of soulful, jazz influenced acoustic pop and contemporary folk. Her performance and composition credits include Cirque du Soleil's *KÁ* and the Washington Ballet. (www.shanatucker.com/live)

Julia Price, flutist and composer is a young musician who works through the sonic lens of jazz, classical, world, electronic, improvisation, philosophy and multi-medium collaboration. Most recently she appeared with SOULOWORKS at the North Carolina Museum of History's 13th African American Cultural Celebration. (www.juliaprice.org)

Pamela Bond is a costume designer whose credits include *The Color Purple* (University of North Carolina) and *Dreamgirls* (ANFO Productions). Bond is currently the costume designer for the Department of Theatre at North Carolina Central University.

Quilts by **Heather A. Williams** have been exhibited in New York, Connecticut, and Massachusetts. Her commissioned quilts are in the collections in the American Studies Department at Yale University, the Kahn Institute at Smith College, the School of Social Work at Smith College, and the Stone Center at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. (history.unc.edu/people/faculty/heather-williams/).

Kathy A. Perkins, lighting designer, has designed lighting for productions throughout the U.S. including the American Conservatory Theatre, Berkeley Repertory, Carnegie Hall, and St. Louis Black Repertory. Perkins is also editor of six anthologies focusing women from Africa and the Diaspora. (www.kathyaperkins.com)

PERFORMERS

Jessica Burroughs, Chanelle Croxton, Aya Shabu, Kara M. Simpson, Dorothy N. Clark (narrator), and Andrea E. Woods.

ABOUT SOULWORKS



**"This show touches the heart,
stimulates the mind,
uplifts the spirit."**

The Herald Sun

SOULWORKS has performed in a variety of settings, such as New York City venues: Dance Theater Workshop, Aaron Davis Hall, Thelma Hill Performing Arts, Lincoln Center Out-Of-Doors, Symphony Space, Neuberger Museum of Art, The Studio Museum, Wave Hill, Atlanta National Black Arts Festival and national colleges and universities. International venues include Cannes International Dance Festival, the International Festival for Dance and Movement on the Volga in Yaroslavl, Russia and Lublin Festival, Poland.

Andrea E. Woods creates works with dance, music, spoken word and multimedia as contemporary African American folklore. Woods works with live or original text and music whenever possible. The dances draw on themes such as family, nature, community, spirituality and African American history and culture. Woods' creative choreographic process is inspired by folk traditions such as blues, jazz, folk music, African American literature, family folklore and movement reflective of the African Diaspora social and cultural experience. Woods calls her dances SOULWORKS because they are works from the heart, works from the Soul.

SOULWORKS is committed to performing and teaching in the African American community via colleges, universities, theaters, schools, places of worship or community centers as well as national and international concert theaters or site-specific locations.

ABOUT THE ARTISTIC DIRECTOR



Dancer/choreographer/video artist Andrea E. Woods is Artistic Director of SOULWORKS/Andrea E. Woods & Dancers and Associate Professor of Dance at Duke University. She is a native of Philadelphia, where she began her dance training with Jean Williams at Germantown Dance Theater. She graduated magna cum laude from Adelphi University and has since danced with Clive Thompson, Leni Wylliams and Saeko Icinohé. Andrea is a former dancer and rehearsal director of Bill T. Jones/ Arnie Zane Dance Co. (1989-1995).

Woods has received grants from: The Jerome Foundation, (NEFA) The National Dance Project, National Performance Network and Arts International. Andrea is an American Antiquarian Society Fellow and her work and research have taken her to, The Cannes International Dance Festival, Taiwan, Russia, Senegal, Morocco, Korea, Poland, Singapore, Belize, Cuba and throughout the US. She has done collaborative works with musicians: Randy Weston, David Pleasant, Tiyé Giraud, Madeleine Yayodele Nelson and Philip Hamilton and spoken word artist, Hattie Gossett. Andrea was part of the American Dance Festival Faculty 2000 - 2007.

In 1999, she completed her MFA in dance technology at The Ohio State University and currently creates live performance works as well as video dances. Her video works have been screened at BRIC (Brooklyn Information and Culture), Brooklyn Arts Exchange, BAAD, Brooklyn Museum of Art, MassMoCa and the Wexner Center. She has been guest faculty and choreographer at: Medgar Evers College, Howard University, Ohio University, Rhode Island College, California State University Long Beach, North Carolina School of the Arts, Hollins University, Spelman College and Goucher College. She was adjunct faculty at New York University Tisch School of the Arts, teaching modern dance and Dance for the Camera (2002-2007). Andrea also holds an MAH from SUNY Buffalo in Caribbean Cultural Studies.

WHAT'S BEING SAID ABOUT
SOULWORKS/Andrea E. Woods & Dancers

Woods is a marvelous mover. Dancing for Bill T. Jones may have helped mold her beautiful slippery style . . . but everything she does looks original.
- Deborah Jowitt, *The Village Voice*

(Lincoln Center Out-Of-Doors) There were discoveries like the bold, evocative dances of Andrea E. Woods...Ms. Woods' dances looked like rituals for beautiful, young, black goddesses...
- Jennifer Dunning, *The New York Times*

"Sweet Willie Mae", an innovative ensemble romp . . . what seems like chaos one minute turns into perfect unison at a blink... we still could have asked for more.
- Lynn Felder, *Winston- Salem Journal*

...I would pay to see Woods do most anything... This virtuoso possesses a pure elasticity that transcends conventional dance techniques.
- Wyatt Townley, *Kansas City Star*



SOULWORKS/Andrea E. Woods & Dancers

2014 Performances

January 2014

13th Annual African American Celebration
North Carolina Museum of History
Raleigh, NC

February 2014

Collegium for African Diaspora Dance Conference
Duke University
Durham, NC

May 2014

The Adventures of Grace May B. Brown (World Premiere)
Durham Arts Council PSI Theater
Durham, NC

July 2014

Afto-Latin Summer Dance Intensive
Columbia College
New York, NY



**For information or
booking
inquiries contact:
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