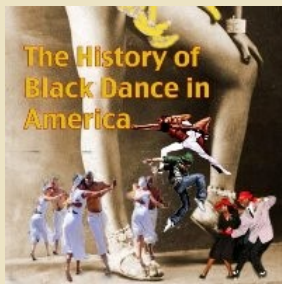


**From:** Warren Lanier, Sr. [mailto:wlanier001@columbus.rr.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, June 15, 2015 9:52 AM  
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**Subject:** The Lanier Report, June 1st, 2015 Edition

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### African-American Dance Performances at California State University, Dominguez Hills, June 19-21 to Commemorate 150th Anniversary of the Ending of Slavery



Carson, California - Returning to the stage after performing to sold-out crowds, Ron Parker, Chester Whitmore, and The Central Avenue Dance Ensemble present "The History of Black Dance in America," a spectacular multi-media dance concert showcasing the African-American contributions to American social dance ([www.HistoryOfBlackDance.org](http://www.HistoryOfBlackDance.org)). Starting from the late 1800s and progressing to the modern era, audiences are mesmerized by authentic renditions of vernacular dances such as Zulu, Work Songs, Cakewalk, Spiritual Dances, Shim Sham, Lindy Hop, Foxtrot, the African inspired Latin-American dances, plus live singing and tributes to Nat King Cole and Sammy Davis Jr. The 2015 performances were funded by a successful Kickstarter campaign, and observe the 150th anniversary of Juneteenth, the oldest known celebration commemorating the ending of slavery in the United States.

The goal of the History of Black Dance in America is to educate the public about the black cultural influence on American social dance in exciting and entertaining way. While most of the dances to be performed are recognized as an integral part of American culture, many Americans may not know of their history. For example, the Cakewalk began as a plantation dance danced by slaves to mimic high society Whites. The dance was so amusing that plantation owners held competitions, and the winning slaves would receive cake as their prize, hence the name, "Cakewalk." This story and many more will be told through live performances and narrated video, starting with the plantation dances of the slavery era through today.

[Read More](#)

#### Additional News and Notices In This Edition

The Gospel Guild Is Moving Forward  
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**TICKETS:**  
[www.HistoryOfBlackDance.org](http://www.HistoryOfBlackDance.org) June 19th & 20th @ 7:30pm  
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**Philly Street Performer and Former 'Voice'  
Contestant Anthony Riley Dead at 28**



Philadelphia, PA – According to a recent Philly.com/NBC report, Philly street performer and former 'The Voice' contestant Anthony Riley died on **Tuesday, June 2nd**, at the age of 28, according to a report from Philly.com. (NBC. The news source is also reporting that Riley committed suicide.

Riley took his life, and was found **Friday** in the basement of the Center City apartment where he was staying, said Tootsie Iovine, a co-owner of the Iovine Bros. produce store in Reading Terminal who said she was like "a second mother" to Riley. A favorite on 'The Voice', Riley left the show early to enter rehab for substance abuse and has since completed the program.

Riley **sat** down with The Voice's production staff in January after his first Battle Round victory and shared his ongoing struggle with substance abuse. That night, NBC producers flew him out from Los Angeles, where The Voice is shot, back to Philadelphia so he could enter Clarity Way, a drug and alcohol rehab facility in Hanover, Pa. Riley said NBC footed the bill. NBC did not return a request for comment.

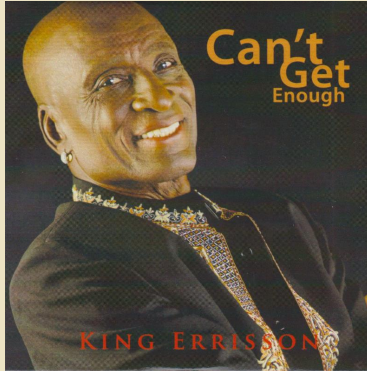
"The Voice has been a really great source of support," Riley said. "At the time, [being on the show] wasn't working for me and I felt like I needed to go, instead of taking on more responsibility than I could handle." "Prior to joining 'The Voice', Riley was a Philly street performer and was named Philadelphia's best street performer by Philadelphia Magazine in 2014.

**Serena Williams Captures 20th Grand Slam  
Singles Title at Recent French Open In Paris**



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Serena Williams captured her 20th Grand Slam singles title recently by defeating Lucie Safarova, 6-3, 6-7 (2), 6-2, at the French Open in Paris. Williams, the top-ranked player in the world, has won the French Open three times. But when Williams plays her best, no one is better. Putting aside a lingering illness, a mid-match lull and a feisty opponent, Williams won her third title at Roland Garros and 20th Grand Slam singles trophy by beating 13th-seeded Lucie Safarova of the Czech Republic.

**Toni Laudermilk Mosley's Hollywood Report**



As many of you may have heard, famous comic Reynaldo Rey, passed away on [May 28th](#), and in Los Angeles the day before his funeral, local Los Angeles comics gathered at landmark Maverick's Flat to pay tribute to the famous icon. Hosted by Rey's close friend, Michael Colyar, the evening was full of laughter and heartfelt testimonies about Mr. Rey's connection to emerging talent. Actress, Marla Gibbs, was special guest and shared with the audience how Rey influenced her success as an actress.

If this had been a paying event, it would have cost a fortune to get in. The level of comedians on stage that night was phenomenal. They were full of jokes and stories about their friend giving the audience both humorous and serious glimpses into the heart of Mr. Rey. Each comedian said Reynaldo played an important role in their comedic success and that he would be sorely missed by all. White comic, Honest John, told the story about being in a fancy restaurant with Rey and ordering Cold Duck. That was the night Rey gave him a bit of advice about the differences in Cold Duck and Moet champagne. "The man had class" he said, "and I didn't." The list of entertainers included: "Hurricane," a 300-pound comedian, who was proud to have been discovered by Mr. Rey. Melanie Camacho, who is currently opening for Martin Lawrence on his comedic tour, didn't disappoint and Joe Torrey who elected not to do humor but instead gave honor to the man who had helped them all.



May he rest in peace?  
 Toni Laudermilk Mosley


**PHOTO NEWS & VIEWS**



Dorothy R. Leavell who has served as editor and publisher of the Crusader Newspaper Group The Chicago Crusader and the Gary (Indiana) Crusader since 1958, was in the spotlight recently when The Chicago Crusader celebrated its 75th anniversary with a gala at the new Loews Chicago Hotel.



Rayva L.G. Harrell died [Saturday](#) morning, [June 6, 2015](#) after a gutsy, fearless battle with cancer. She touched so many lives along the way to met her maker. Quincy Jones, the late Don Cornelius, Russell Simmons and Steve Harvey were just a



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La'Stephanie Brandon former XO Communications Client Service Manager where she specialized in assisting residential and first-time home buyers in Shelby County welcomed to Crye-Leike REALTORS® Midtown Memphis office as affiliate broker.



Christopher Pringle, a music industry veteran suffered a cardiac arrest and passed away at Loma Linda Hospital, Sunday, June 8, 2015. More recently he formed his own marketing company, CM3 Media Group, Inc, with his partner and wife, Anita Wilson-Pringle.



Jocelyn K. Allen and Chandra S. Lewis, with a combined four decades of experience have announced the creation of their Metro Detroit-based full-service Allen Lewis Agency that's dedicated to helping clients build their brands, commemorate their experiences, etc.

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